

Securing America's Future: Federal Child and Family Policy and the 2024 Election



Questions Congressional Candidates Need to Address

Prepared by VoteKids2024
www.2020visionforchildren.com

Federal Child and Family Policy

Every election should be about how we secure our future through the policies elected officials advance for children and families.

Parents have the fundamental right and responsibility to raise their children according to their values and faith and must be their child's first teacher, nurse, safety officer, and guide to the world. Families and communities play the most important role in raising the next generation. At the same time, parents, families, and communities cannot do it alone. Society and government have an undergirding responsibility to ensure all children have the opportunity to succeed and realize their dreams.

Raising children today presents new challenges as well as opportunities. Economic progress has meant that children require greater attention and family investments to prepare them for the 21st economy. Working families often require two incomes to fulfill their breadwinning as well as caregiving roles.

Child advocates have long advocated for federal leadership to support families in doing so through expansion of the child tax credit, paid family leave, affordable child care and preschool, and home and community-based health services for children and family members with special health care needs. Advocates have recognized that these require a better resourced care and education workforce and a tax system that supports it and them.

Over the last four years, Congress and the President have taken significant steps to enact such a care agenda that supports families and their children in these areas. The next Congress and President will determine what further actions will be taken to realize it.

While not everything Congress and the President need to do to ensure all children have the opportunity to succeed, this care agenda,

really a **pro-child and family care agenda**, represents the foundation needed to do so.

Candidates for Congress need to address what they will do on each of the following elements of that pro-child and family care agenda. As voters and advocates, we can act to make sure that they do and these inform how voters make their electoral choices.

CORE QUESTIONS CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS NEED TO ADDRESS

If elected, what actions will you support for each of the following:

CHILD TAX CREDIT: *Ensure that the costs families need to raise their children are recognized and supported in the federal tax code?*

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE: *Ensure that families can be with their newborns and during times of illness without jeopardizing employment or experiencing financial hardship?*

CHILD CARE AND PRESCHOOL: *Make child care and preschool affordable and available?*

HOME AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES: *Provide comprehensive health care services to respond to children and families with special health care needs.*

SUSTAINABILITY: *Provide federal financing to implement these actions and ensure the workforce needed for it?*

Additional information is available about proposed Congressional policies in each of these areas at www.2020visionforchildren.com. At their best, elections help mold public opinion and provide candidate accountability to core roles of government to its citizens.

About Securing America's Future

VoteKids2024 produced this guide based upon earlier versions produced for Presidential elections dating back to 2012. VoteKids2024 encourages child advocates and others to make use of this guide or adapt it as best suits their needs.

Six Steps We All Can Take

1. Discuss the importance of federal child policy and the pro-child and family care agenda with family, friends, and co-workers, drawing upon the information here and at www.2020visionforchildren.com
2. Ask candidates and their staff to address these questions and
3. Ask them specifically about their positions at events or forums.
4. Identify and join local or state organizations advocating for children.
5. Consider what candidates say about children when voting.

