



The Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth exists to provide leadership in developing community-wide strategies that enhance the well-being of children and youth in Coconino County.

CCC&Y is non-partisan. Visit www.coconinokids.org to view candidate responses.

CCC&Y 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Wade Carlisle

Office: State Senator

1. What do you think the two most pressing issues are for youth and their families?

The most pressing issue for our youth and their families would be the state of our public education. Our public education has lost over \$3 billion over the past decade. Textbooks from the 1970s are still being used in our schools. Class sizes have risen causing teachers to lose time they could spend teaching to instead use that time to control classrooms with more than 35 distinct personalities. As a substitute teacher whose wife is a teacher of two decades, I have witnessed the degradation of our public schools first hand. As the senator for LD-06, I will fight for our public education so that our children receive the education they deserve.

2. What do you believe the role of elected officials is in their communities when it comes to serving and advocating for children and youth?

It is the role of elected officials to think about the future when it comes to serving and advocating for our youth. We need to think about what kind of work force we want; a competitive work force or one that's starving for jobs. We need to think about the world we leave behind for our children when it comes to the environment. Do we want to live in a world that doesn't act responsibly on climate change, or one that recognizes climate change as a serious issue? Elected officials need to think about the world they leave behind for our children. As an elected official, I will work to build a better future for our children by fighting to fund our public education as well as renewable energy jobs.

3. Within the duties of your elected office, how can you support the children and families of our community? If elected, how will this be expressed in your agenda?

Once elected, I will vote for and create legislation that will adequately fund our public education system. Over 95% of Arizona children attend public schools. With a statistic such as that, we have to invest in our public education system. I will oppose any legislation that will remove funding from public education, whether it be vouchers or flat-out cuts. Our youth deserve the best education we can give them.

4. How would you, as an elected official, support an equitable school system for ALL students, cradle to career? As 90% of human brain development happens by age 5, please additionally share your thoughts on early childhood education and its role in the educational system.

Early childhood education plays an extremely crucial role in a child's development. My daughters went through pre-school and impressed me with all that they learned at the young ages they were. Their time in pre-school was so important in their lives, as it is for all children in Arizona. As state senator I will advocate to expand our public schools to better serve our children in early childhood education.

5. As childhood abuse, neglect and foster care continue to be major issues in Arizona, what prevention and trauma response strategies do you support for our child welfare system, the Department of Child Safety and/or our local communities? How would you propose using local, state and federal funds to improve outcomes for youth experiencing foster care or additionally, work toward prevention of child abuse in our communities?

I believe that there should be more oversight in the Department of Child Safety. The past Arizona Child Protective Services failed from lack of oversight and underfunding. We need to work to prevent the Department of Child Safety from going down that same path by legislating more funding for the organization. I also support programs for youth that create peer groups that assist children through traumatic events in their lives. We can utilize our public schools to create these groups that aid our children. Another solution that can assist the welfare of our children will be to expand our adoption requirements that make parenting more accessible to the LGBTQ community. In Arizona, it is legal for LGBTQ parents to adopt. However, according to the law "preference must be given to a married man and woman." I will advocate to repeal the preference so that our

children will have more opportunities to be adopted by a wider pool of safe parents.

6. Lastly, please feel free to share any further information with voters.

I am running for the state senate to fund our public schools, protect our children, and to create a better future for the next generation. I believe that the role of a legislator is to pass laws that will create a better future society. There is nothing more important than the safety and betterment of our children's lives. As a parent, I think about my daughters every day. I want to create an Arizona for them where their children have the best education we can give them in the safest possible environment. Everyone's children, no matter what their backgrounds are, deserve the best our society can give them.