



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](http://www.coconinokids.org) to view candidate responses.

## CCC&Y 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Office:

**Ted S. Reed**

**Judge of Superior Court, Division 1**

1. What do you think the two most pressing issues are for youth and their families? **In my experience over the past thirteen years working in the criminal justice system as a Superior Court Judge *Pro Tem*, prosecutor, criminal defense and family law attorney, I have observed that a significant majority of criminal defendants have experienced (1) childhood trauma, and (2) early-onset substance abuse. I believe these are two very pressing issues concerning the welfare and success of our youth and their families.**
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? **Our youth are our future. Elected officials serve different roles in the community according to their position, but each can and should find opportunities to support and advocate for the welfare of our children and youth.**
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? **As a Juvenile Court judge for the past eight years, I have been honored to lead the extraordinary and creative efforts of the Coconino County Juvenile Probation Department to promote pro-social development of our youth who become involved in the criminal justice system, and to create strong diversion programs to help youth avoid becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system. It has also been my privilege to support the youth of our community by serving on a local school board, founding a non-profit organization providing no-cost fitness activities and nutrition education for at-risk youth, presiding over Teen Court and Regional Mock Trial tournaments,**

**participating in Law Day activities, and speaking at local schools and community organizations. As a Family Court judge, I have supported the development of programs to help parents and their children successfully navigate the difficulties of family disruption.**

4. 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? **A significant problem exists in the low pay for Department of Child Safety caseworkers, resulting in fewer qualified and motivated applicants and high turnover to the detriment of children in dependency cases. Their job is extremely difficult and their caseload very heavy. More funds need to be allocated for the compensation and training of DCS caseworkers to improve outcomes for youth experiencing foster care. Additionally, DCS needs to be provided more ground-level resources for helping families to be reunited quickly (or to avoid removal entirely) in a manner that supports the welfare of the children, such as intensive substance abuse treatment and monitoring, domestic violence treatment, parenting education, employment services and positive activities/supports for DCS-involved children. Additionally, our government has a strong interest in *preventing* childhood abuse, neglect and foster care involvement entirely. Many community service organizations already recognize this as a primary mission, creating a valuable opportunity for more public-private partnerships to increase the effectiveness and scope of child abuse prevention and positive youth activity programs.**