



**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: REGINA SALAS      Office: FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL

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

*Economic security is important. Families need to make a good living to provide food, shelter and healthcare for their children, and of course education. This is the reason why I am for small businesses and local nonprofits to thrive in Flagstaff.*

*Quality accessible education is integral to economic and community vitality. Education is the springboard for workforce development, career exploration, and entrepreneurship. I would like to see our high school graduates ready for college, career, certification, start their own business, or serve in the military.*

*I also believe that parks and recreation are important for the overall balance and wellness of our youth and 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 children are the future leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, changemakers and workforce. We need to seek public/private partnerships to provide more and lasting opportunities for youth to succeed in our communities for recreation, education and economic security for families.*

*We need to seek good paying jobs for families that provide benefits so that their children not only survive, but also thrive. We also need to find ways for our teenagers to participate in the workforce.*

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?
- *Help small businesses and local nonprofits thrive*
  - *Advocate for recreational opportunities for children and youth*
  - *Seek public-private partnerships that will strengthen education and extracurricular activities for children and youth*
  - *Seek public-private opportunities to support early childhood development and education*
  - *Seeking economic opportunities for families that will help them make more than minimum wage so that they can support a family*
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.

*Supporting an equitable education system for all is unfortunately dependent on more state and federal funding. I would pursue for the City Council's to direct the City's Intergovernmental Relations staff to advocate for early childhood education and our children and seek more funding at the state and federal levels. We can strengthen and expand programs and services at our Flagstaff-Coconino County Public Libraries and secure more funding.*

*Early childhood education is critical. We need to support efforts at Coconino Community College to bring back Early Childhood Education program and work collaboratively with Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), the community college and nonprofits like United Way to seek funding to support and strengthen Head Start in our community.*

*It is also imperative to seek and create opportunities to empower families, parents and caregivers to provide a healthy learning environment for our children to grow, thrive and flourish.*

*We can build up on programs like Fit Kids of Arizona, part of Northern Arizona Healthcare, helping kids and their families learn about healthier ways to live. Support and strengthen United Way's Kindercamp, Weekend Backpack Program and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Kindercamp is an innovative school readiness program that has been helping children and families make the transition to kindergarten for more than a decade. Weekend Backpack Program is an initiative collaborating with many partners to provide backpacks to chronically*

*hungry children. More than 2,100 backpacks delivered in one school year. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is an early childhood literacy book gifting program mails free, high-quality books to children from birth until they begin school.*

*On a personal note, I read to my sons from birth until they started reading by themselves at the age of 2. Reading with them at bedtime was our habit until they turned 7. The love for reading and passion for learning and exploration was instilled in their young minds.*

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?

*It's imperative to work and partner with nonprofits and agencies to advocate for the prevention child abuse at the state and federal level. Locally, we can continue to support law enforcement by providing the resources they need to investigate and prevent child abuse in our communities. We can strengthen support for agencies and nonprofits that provide programs and services for our vulnerable children to prevent abuse or neglect and to provide effective trauma response strategies toward safety and healing. Support agencies and programs like Victim Witness Center, Northland Family Center, Family Resource Center, Sharon Manor, Sunshine Rescue Mission shelters and Hope Cottage.*

*I would also seize opportunities to explore and secure funding from grants from national foundations and international agencies such as United Nations Children's Fund.*

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

*I am the only female and the only independent candidate for Flagstaff City Council,. I'm a mother, an Army mom, a businesswoman, and an immigrant naturalized US Citizen, living and thriving in Flagstaff for over 12 years.*

*I come from a family of teachers in the Philippines. My grandma often told me, "Your lifetime inheritance is education, not wealth or property." I earned my bachelor's degree from a college that produced the country's first woman president in the Philippines. I was invited back to teach at my alma mater as a college instructor.*

*My sons were molded by Flagstaff Unified School District education. My older son, Gian went to Flagstaff Middle School and graduated from Flagstaff High School. He joined the US Army and finished top 2 (honorgraduate) in his class in Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in Aviation Mechanic specializing in avionics and armament. My younger son, Kelly went to Demiguel Elementary School, then Sinagua Middle School- MITe (Middle School Institute of Technology and Engineering A STEM Magnet Program), and completed the 3-year CIT (Coconino Institute of Technology) program at Coconino High School. He was an active member of CocoNuts FIRST Robotics Team and participated in the FIRST World Championship in 2017 in Houston, TX. He graduates with the Class of 2019 and already ready for college.*

*I support education, teachers, the FUSD bond, and override renewal. I will make certain there's a balance between the cost to taxpayers, teachers and students.*

*I will pursue for City Council to signify quality education, including early childhood development, and workforce development as a policy goal and demand much-needed funding from the state and federal government. Additionally, seek grants and public-private partnerships toward this goal.*

*My mantra for running for Flagstaff City Council is **LIVE- THRIVE-FLAGSTAFF**. As individuals, as families and as diverse communities of our mountain town, I intend to dispel and deconstruct the adage that living here is characterized by poverty with a view. As residents, we have made the choice to live, thrive, grow, and retire in Flagstaff in spite of the many challenges we experience, whether we have lived here for two years, for 10 years or for over 20 years.*

*There's a plethora of opportunities, oftentimes unique, to live and thrive in Flagstaff. The key is to work together, discover and seize those opportunities that serve Flagstaff citizens at every stage of personal and professional growth and development.*



*I pursue planned, managed sustainable growth. My top priority is economic vitality: grow and strengthen small businesses and local nonprofits, strengthen education and workforce development, while protecting natural areas, open spaces and dark skies.*

*My extensive background in many levels of government, business, academe and nonprofits in Coconino County and from the Philippines are unique valuable assets I bring to Flagstaff City Council. **LIVE- THRIVE- FLAGSTAFF**: vote Salas, Regina.*