



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:

Coral J. Evans

Office:

Mayor

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

1) The cost of living—Cities thrive when people can raise families in them. Land cost, housing shortages, high rents, student loans, high childcare costs--all collide to make it hard to raise a family here.

2) Diminishing quality of life – What bring people here to Flagstaff is our quality of life. As Flagstaff’s cost of living has increased it has resulted in a diminishing quality of life for our families as more and more people are having to work 2+ jobs to make ends meet.

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?

I believe that I was elected to serve and advocate for all residents of our city. This includes children and youth (those that are too young to vote). For the past 10 years I have consistently worked to support youth/children and families of our community as an elected official. The most important role of Flagstaff City Council is to preserve and improve quality of life in Flagstaff for future generations. That has been my priority for the past ten years. I've worked with residents across Flagstaff to improve neighborhoods, maintain critical social services funding, support businesses, preserve open space and parks, and protect the homes of youth/children. As Mayor I will continue to lead efforts that further these goals through effective and collaborative leadership which engages the community, Council, and staff.

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?

For the past ten years I have consistently worked to support youth/children and families of our community within the duties of my elected office. A good example of this was the work that I did to save the Cogdill Recreation Center (an underfunded city recreation center located within the Brannen Homes Housing Project. I not only worked to secure monies to keep the Center opened during the recession but also worked to establish a private-public partnership (P3) with the Boys & Girls Club. The Boys & Girls Club now operate the Center on behalf of the City and greatly increased the level of service for children and families in that area. I have also fought to save our public libraries and add to their hours of operations. For example during the City's FY 2016-2017 budget cycle I was able to secure funding for Sunday hours at the library as I understand that access to books and information technology (computer) is critical for the development of youth and the growth of families and in the City's FY 2016-2017 budget cycle I was instrumental in securing monies to reopen the Siler Homes Activity Center.

Every year I advocate to provide financial support to the City's social infrastructure (provide money for social services in our city). Over the past ten years I have been the strongest advocate on the Flagstaff City Council regarding the necessity of our social infrastructure contracts (e.g. United Way and FACTS). I worked to keep City Parks open during the recession when some members on council wanted to close parks. I believe neighborhood parks are a critical part of a neighborhood. I also worked with members of the community to try and get a new City Park in the area of Woodlands Village Blvd. This area of town does not have a City Park. Additionally I have advocated against raising Parks & Recreation fees. I understand having access to recreational facilities (e.g. the AquaPlex, the Jay Lively Ice Rink and Ball/Soccer Fields) is important for children and families and many in our community cannot afford to pay to use these city facilities.

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.

I feel elected officials are in the unique position to use their titles and position to advocate for an equitable school system for ALL students (cradle to career) and to help educate others about the importance of education. I actively do that. I have publicly support school overrides and initiatives such as the Coconino Community College bond (which I will be supporting again this year). Additionally I am the vice-chair of the Coconino County Workforce Investment Board (career and technical training is one of our areas of interest) and a member of LAUNCH Flagstaff. I served as a member of the United Way Early Education Committee and was a Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry & Technology Governing Board member. I have served on the Flagstaff Unified School Dist. FACTS & Equality in Education Advisory Boards, and

on the Northern Arizona Adult Education Advisory Board. I have also made it a point to send letters of support and/or concern to our State and Federal representatives regarding specific bills and/or actions concerning education. These include the privatization of our community colleges and public universities, the need to reestablish all-day kindergarten and the necessity of funding our public school system.

I have met directly with top business organizations in Arizona (through a partnership with the State of Black Arizona [SBA]) among which included Microsoft (Tempe, AZ) where I presented the need to turn STEM into STEAM (the importance of teaching arts alongside science, technology, engineering and math). I wrote the Postscript (titled; Where are the arts?) for the SBA volume 3 (http://stateofblackarizona.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/SBAZ+Book+2012_4a.pdf).

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 we can be much more specific within our State and Federal Legislative agenda about our concern for the welfare of youth and children within our city.

Specifically we can state within our City's Intergovernmental Relations Program (and subsequent legislative documents) guiding principles that "the welfare of youth and children and the quality of life that they experience is extremely important to us and that we are supportive of legislation/policies that further this goal/ideal and discourage those that do not.

Council can issue resolutions in support of legislation and policies that promote the welfare of youth and children. We can also take stances against bad legislation. Furthermore, we can actively work as a team to lobby (encourage) our State and Federal representatives to enact policy that is reflective of our guiding principles.

In the past (Federally) we have lobbied for an increase in HUD funding (monies which assist with certain programs that target youth and children).

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

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I am humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to serve the citizens of Flagstaff for ten (10) years. For more

information about me and my vision for our community please visit my website
www.coral4flagstaff.com.