



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:

Office:

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

We have too many children and families living in poverty in our community, which affects all areas of their lives including their ability to access early childhood education. Keeping education accessible to all children is key to our success as a society. We are also seeing more youth in our schools affected by depression, stress and social issues such as bullying. Providing programs and services that support our youth to cope with and address the stressors in their lives is also essential to helping them grow and thrive.

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?

With respect to our schools, elected officials including school board members have an obligation to ensuring that all children have a safe, nurturing and academically challenging environment that allows them to gain the knowledge and skills they need to be successful on their chosen path. This includes responsible management and allocation of resources to ensure our schools are accessible and inclusive for all of the children in our community.

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?

I am dedicated to the vision that all students can succeed to their fullest potential. As a school board member, I currently support and will continue to support diverse programs and opportunities for all students to have access to a quality education in Flagstaff Unified School District. I will continue to work with my fellow board members and FUSD administration to closely examine the data we collect as a district so that we can identify our students' academic and social/emotional needs to enable us to respond in a way that minimizes barriers to their education.

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.

A recent report by LAUNCH Flagstaff revealed that less than half of five-year old children in Coconino County are kindergarten ready. We need to address this issue through free and affordable early childhood opportunities within the district including expanding our pre-K school and summer enrichment programs that serve economically disadvantaged youth. Providing accessible pre-K education must also go hand-in-hand with parent education and home outreach. I also feel that we need to prioritize keeping full day kindergarten free to our families so that it is truly accessible to all students and not just those whose parents can afford it.

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 would advocate for a greater presence in our schools of those who can identify and respond to children who are suffering abuse and neglect. Funding social workers and additional counselors in our schools is necessary to making sure all children have access to the services and support they need. I would also advocate for using professional development funds to provide trainings for administrators, staff and teachers not only to recognize signs of abuse and neglect, but also to understand the process and procedures to get children the immediate care and attention they need.

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

I have been honored to serve on Flagstaff Unified School District governing board since 2017. More than 30 years of experience in education starting as a high school teacher through my present work as an educational researcher gives me a unique insight into understanding the needs of our students and our schools. I hope to have the opportunity to continue my service to the students and families of FUSD.