

CCC&Y 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Dennis K Lavin

Office: Flagstaff City Council

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

Some issues change over time but there are always a few issues that affect all generations.

Issue 1: As a parent and grandparent, I believe that getting a great education has always been an issue. I grew up in a Housing Project in the Bronx. Education was the path that my parents, grandparents, and greater family stressed to me in order to have an opportunity to rise above my surroundings and make a better life.

Issue 2: There never seems to be enough time for families to enjoy each other's company. Demands upon our time limit how we interact with each other.

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?

The role of the Council is too contribute to a Livable City. We as a City, offer multi-functional park facilities for our youth, public safety, support of youth programs, use of parks for special events, etc.

I would want to know if there are stipends for those children who cannot afford to enter a City recreational or educational event. Income should not dictate if a child is excluded from an event.

We support STEM and work where possible with FUSD and other educational providers.

Working with our State and Federal partners, our City offers housing assistance for low income families. We need to make sure our collaboration with our partners' is focused and not distracted by other matters.

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 would approach this response in a somewhat different way than you might expect.

Agenda 1: Our families are entitled to a functioning infrastructure as to street, water, sewer, etc. This is one of my priorities.

Agenda 2: We should strive for economic development so we can have the resources to provide better paying jobs and services to our families.

Agenda 3: I support our Public Safety personnel in their efforts to ensure that we have a Livable City.

I just recently met with the Acting Police Chief, he informed me that the DARE program has been discontinued but the City has a youth program (Project Alert) targeted to junior high school children that has some good results.

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.

As a parent and grandparent, having the children get the best education possible is what I have always strived for over the years. It is a basic tenant in America, that we educate our children.

I went to Catholic schools in the Bronx for my education (first grade through college). Education was the key for a better life.

My wife and I, were blessed to send our children to public schools in Phoenix, where they received a great education.

I hear great things about FUSD. In fact, I tried to fill a vacant seat on the School Board over a year ago.

I believe the City provides funding for the FACTS program at FUSD.

Question 4 - Continued

From what I gather, the Charter Schools in Flagstaff are serving their constituencies well.

I would support our working (within Policy) with NAU and utilize their resources with our programs.

So to answer the question, I will review the programs in which we collaborate with the Schools and keep focus on our energies so that Flagstaff continues to be a Livable City.

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?

Law Enforcement and our State Agencies should address child abuse. As a Community, we need to have economic development so that we can generate better paying jobs.

As a Community, we need folks who have skill sets in – dental hygiene, plumbing, carpentry, electrical, etc. Let's make use of our high school programs (CAVIAT) and Coconino Community College are available for training.

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

As a grandparent, seeing the joy in my grandchildren's' eyes when they read a book on their own or learn something new means the whole world to me.

Treating all kids with love, kindness and encouragement is something I have always strived to do.

As an older brother with three younger sisters and numerous younger cousins, protecting them came naturally.

