



**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:

Rick Remender

Constable, Coconino County Precinct 3, Williams Justice Court

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

In my opinion, strengthening the family unit and positive involvement in the community are the two most needed areas of attention relating to our youth. Substance abuse and sexual activity, among other issues, are major problems that can be prevented through strong, healthy families and communities. Parents need to be encouraged to be involved in their children's lives, providing them with healthy outlets and spending quality time with them. In cases where the family unit is struggling due to a variety of issues they need to have somewhere to turn for help. The youth need other positive role models and mentors to help them in times when their home life is lacking. If they don't have positive places and people to go to they will seek negative solutions.

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?

First, elected officials need to set an example by being people of integrity, who treat people with kindness and respect. Elected officials at the local level need to be involved in their community outside of their public office, connecting with people of all ages, in order to have a better understanding of the needs of their communities.

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 constable I will be in contact with individuals and families from varying demographics, giving me the opportunity to be a positive and helpful

resource in their experience with the justice court. It is important that children grow up with a positive, trusting view of the justice system, and that they not fear interaction with law enforcement or the courts. Many families have a very negative view of the justice system and I will have the opportunity to impact them positively to change that perception.

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.

The educational system is outside of my area of responsibility; however, it can be viewed as a part of the broader government “system” which would include law enforcement and the justice court. Again, making positive contact a priority in my office will have a positive impact on the perception of the “system” as a whole, improving public trust and breaking down barriers that prevent families from seeking out and utilizing the existing resources available.

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?

In the course of my duties I will be watching for signs of abuse and neglect as well as looking out for families in need in order to direct them to the proper resources. I support parents’ rights but am also highly concerned for children that aren’t being properly cared for. I strongly believe that community support and positive relationships between local government agencies and families will have a direct impact on the experience of all children as they grow up, whether they are with their birth family, adopted family or foster family.

6. Lastly, please feel free to share any further information with voters. As constable of the Williams Justice Court Precinct my first priority will be to serve the community in whatever capacity I can as I perform the duties assigned to me by the court. I will continue the work I have been doing in public service helping children and families, as both a volunteer and professional, for over 25 years.