



2020 Candidate Questionnaire

**CCC&Y is a non-partisan organization and will not endorse candidates. We do support educated, engaged and participatory communities. Thank you to all the candidates for your willingness to serve the community, and especially, by answering this questionnaire, helping voters to become informed.*

The responses from the candidates will be uploaded to our website <https://coconinokids.org/candidates-2020/> as received without edits.

Directions: Please provide **your** response for the questions and information below without referring to another candidate. **Questionnaires that mention another candidate will not be posted.**

Candidate Name: Charlie Odegaard

Office: Mayor-City of Flagstaff

The mission of CCC&Y is: Igniting collective action to cultivate, honor & empower resilient, thriving communities.

The vision of CCC&Y is: We envision a holistic community where all children of Coconino County are increasingly free from trauma experience and all have equitable opportunities that build resiliency.

Please describe how your leadership and sphere of influence will impact this mission and vision; paying special attention to issues involving education, child welfare, environmental equity, and criminal justice reform? My leadership in public service has been of partnerships and advocacy. I have learned in my service on the Flagstaff City Council that if you want to see a community benefit, it takes political will to get it done. For example, Paul Kulpinski reached out to the Flagstaff City Council to meet with the Wharton Foundation Board who he invited to make a “sales pitch” for funding for the LAUNCH Program. Councilmember McCarthy and I were the only ones who showed up. Councilmember McCarthy and I talked about our priorities of PreK education. We talked about how the City Council had committed \$210,000 over a three year period. I stayed afterwards and had drinks with some of the members of the Board. The next morning I received a call from Mr. Kulpinski thanking me for my efforts for he received word that the Board had committed \$150,000 for LAUNCH. It’s my priority to provide equitable and inclusive educational opportunities for Flagstaff residents of all ages. Education is the foundation that I believe addresses the issues of child welfare, environmental equity, and criminal justice.

If you find yourself faced with issues that are new to you or not fully understood by yourself, how do you plan to be influenced and make informed decisions? It is my priority as a public servant to have great relationships with our education leaders in our community. It has always been my effort to build those relationships by showing up in our community and supporting our community education priorities and highlights. The education community partners we have that I have great relationships with Mr. Paul Kulpinski, Coconino Community College President Dr. Colleen Smith, Flagstaff Unified School Superintendent Mike Penca, and United Way of Northern Arizona President and CEO Carol Dykes. I can call on these and others for education opportunities for our community.

Lastly, is there anything further you would like to share with us? I would like to highlight my youth involvement. The Coconino Anti-Tobacco Students(CATS) is a good example, where we passed the no smoking in parks ordinance and the T21 Ordinance of banning the sale of tobacco and vaping products to anyone under the age of 21. Thank you for your efforts to highlight the candidates who are running for public office and your work in our community with youth and families.