



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: Eric Nolan

Office: Flagstaff City Council

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? Under my leadership and sphere of influence, I think I can help with the aforementioned mission and vision as I believe a holistic approach helps to resolve issues in a way that isolated methods simply cannot address. I would actively pursue any FAIR item or discussion needed to address education, child welfare, environmental equity, and criminal justice reform. Education and child welfare go hand-in-hand in my mind as the more opportunities there are for a child to have a quality education the higher the likelihood they find success in life. I am currently conducting research with the Center for Science Teaching and Learning at NAU along with completing a PhD in Education within the coming months and these experiences have given me a broad network to facilitate influence in helping advocate and promote education at all levels. LAUNCH Flagstaff is one example of a program I would like to see expanded so that preschool opportunities are available for all children in our Flagstaff community. Environmental equity is an issue I have been actively pursuing as it relates to affordable housing and the Rio de Flag project. Housing is one of our biggest issues and while on our Planning and Zoning commission I have advocated for housing options to help

make living in Flagstaff more accessible and long-standing. With regards to the Rio de Flag project, I believe our Southside community members have been at a disadvantage regarding their property values and flood insurance premiums and I think this particular project needs to be completed. I also believe environmental equity should include access to green programs and resources for all of our neighborhoods. Criminal justice reform is also an issue I have been pursuing as I have been actively initiating and engaging in community dialogue searching for alternatives outside of criminalizing members of our community for petty crimes or lack of opportunity. For example, I recently interviewed Dr. Luis Fernandez of NAU on a discussion regarding reforming, defunding, or disbanding the police (which can be found on my YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/xPQkTz1ZRTs>). We discussed which calls justify a response from a police officer and which are better suited for a social worker as people with untreated mental illness are 16 times more likely to be killed by police than other suspects. Crime cannot be isolated to one particular incident as a whole host of environmental factors play into what leads an individual to breaking the law (lack of quality education or recreation, untreated trauma, lack of employment opportunities, etc).

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? If I am faced with an issue that is new to me, I will actively seek out information from experts in their respective fields and the general public to get a sense of the central tenets surrounding the problem. I pride myself on seeking diverse opinions as hearing from different perspectives helps to facilitate solutions that would otherwise go unnoticed. I think we have a lot of knowledgeable people within our community with experience that would be of value to any problem we face and I would always find time to listen to genuine concerns. I have a tremendous drive to make positive change, but I temper this with a humility in knowing that I am not alone in many of the struggles we face and that it will take a village to find the right resolution for any given issue.

Lastly, is there anything further you would like to share with us? Regarding our children and youth, I think it might help sharing my response to a recent AZ Daily Sun article where the question was asked about facing adversity and how I have overcome challenges in life. I know I'm not alone in my experiences and my efforts in running for city council are to pay my fortune forward to those in need. How have you overcome adversity in your life? I dealt with my father's alcoholism, drug addiction, domestic violence, and suicide all before graduating high school; add to this living in an area where gangs were present and active. Suffice to say, I didn't feel a sense of purpose nor did I feel a healthy pathway that was meant for me. I spent the entirety of my 20s battling depression, anxiety, and displacement until I decided to volunteer helping at-risk youth and advocating for environmental protection against plastic pollution. These experiences helped me realize a purpose greater than myself and this led me to obtain an education in environmental sciences and sustainable communities to better equip myself in making a positive change in the world. Although I'll be completing my PhD in Education within

the coming months, I feel humbled by the adversity I've faced and this humility has directed me in applying myself to serve a greater good.