



**Coconino Coalition for  
Children & Youth**  
Connect. Inspire. Engage. Act.

## 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 Senseman

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? My belief that communities thrive when children thrive, and that the welfare of children is of the utmost importance for any thriving community, was instilled in me by my family. My grandfather showed his commitment to the Flagstaff community, and especially to its children, when he [helped spearhead the opening of the YMCA in 2010](#). My aunt, Becky Lewis, has shown the same commitment and was awarded [Flagstaff Citizen of the Year in 2014](#) for her work in the community, especially with children. Like my grandfather and aunt before me, I'd like to continue the mission--shared by the Coconino Coalition for Children & Youth--to work with local leaders and organizations in an effort to build an inclusive Flagstaff community that promotes equal opportunities for all.

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? I believe that effective leaders should make decisions based on thorough research from well-informed sources. When faced with issues that are beyond my scope of knowledge or understanding, I use my academic background to research the topic extensively. Part of that research includes consulting experts on a given topic. For example, when I was

asked about a topic related to criminal justice reform, and specifically about crimes due to gun violence, I read about practical policy changes in Thomas Abt's book, *Bleeding Out*, and furthered my understanding of the criminal justice system by reviewing research from criminologist David Kennedy. In having conversations with local organizations and city officials, I believe some of those policies could be effective here in Flagstaff.

Lastly, is there anything further you would like to share with us? To learn more about me, my beliefs, and my platform, please visit [ericsenseman.com](http://ericsenseman.com).