



**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: Miranda Sweet.

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 resilience.

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? I was an elementary teacher before starting up my small business. Being in education showed me first hand how important the early years are for the entire family. I support programs like Launch Flagstaff that address the needs of education early on in the families development. Quality education not only starts the family bond early but it also leads to school readiness, labor force earning, and better health which will also lead to lower levels of poverty, crime, and welfare costs. Every child deserves quality education.

Abuse and substance abuse remain at a high rate in Coconino County and it is critical we address the root cause early on. Our community doesn't need a cure, rather we need to address what is at the core of the problem. The cycle begins early and it is our job to find where the equity is missing. Preventing childhood trauma is necessary and needs to be done in a holistic way. Working with our community making sure that we all pitch in to take care of one another will help create an environment of support which will aid in prevention of early abuse.

I believe the Flagstaff community can work to provide an approach to thriving as a whole. The more adults get involved the better our youth will respond to the pressures our society throws at them. I

know for me our neighborhood is very engaged with looking out for one another which I find crucial for my two boys. We need to continue to give our youth options to get involved in our community. Everyone desires a purpose and that includes our youth. My two boys attended Puente de Hozho because I wanted to make sure they had cultural respect while celebrating the various cultures in our community. As our youth grow up it is important that they see the power they have within. As a leader it will be a big responsibility to foster community.

I see the need for criminal justice reform. it is impossible to always have things 100% right, and now is the time to talk with honesty about how we can do things better. There is no reason our youth should feel fearful being in our community. As a community it is time to have the difficult conversations and make sure that we are approaching our youth in a supportive, inclusive, and equitable way. I see the next step as necessary and something that will benefit us as a whole. Why not have our criminal justice system help with support for our youth, get them excited to make a difference, all while modeling positive behavior?

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 am someone that does a lot of research and asks questions from all angles on an issue. I have no problem going to organizations to get different perspectives and enjoy the information gathering process. I work hard to get all perspectives, talk to the community, and make informative decisions based on all of the information gathered. I am here to serve our community and it takes diligence to make sure you have a well rounded view point on all decisions being made.

Lastly, is there anything further you would like to share with us? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)