



**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: Elizabeth "Liz" Archuleta

Office: Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor, District 2

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?

In my role as a Supervisor for Coconino County District 2 and Chairwoman of the Board, I have consistently demonstrated my commitment to the mission and vision of the CCC&Y. I have many connections within my network that can be utilized to continue to move CCC&Y's mission and vision forward. In my 24+ years service, I have dedicated my role as a public servant to improving the lives of children, youth, and families in Northern Arizona. I have served on several committees that are dedicated to education and improving child welfare. I have dedicated much of my career to environmental equity, specifically in relation to Northern Arizona's Public Lands. Lastly, I am a staunch advocate for justice reform in our community and have aimed to improve our justice system, especially for youth within the system. I championed the establishment of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and held the first-ever Justice Reform Summit in Coconino County. Through my leadership, Coconino County was the first government in Arizona to "Ban the Box" opening up employment opportunities for criminal justice-involved community members and parents.

As a County Supervisor, I have developed internships for youth, funded youth summer work programs, children's recreation programs and GED programs.

As a 4th generation Flagstaff resident, I am committed to building community and strong neighborhoods that are safe and supportive of families. I worked with United Way of Northern Arizona to establish and support the Sunnyside, Plaza Vieja and Southside Community & Neighborhood Associations. As a County Supervisor, I have advocated for and funded several non-profits in Coconino County that support and provide services to youth and families.

I am very proud of being the founder of the Back Pack Food Program for children who are hungry. This is a program where children who are food insecure can take a back pack of food home from school on a Friday to ensure there is food for them and their siblings through the weekend. and has been a strong funder and supporter of CCC&Y.

As a Latina who attend K-12 public school in Flagstaff and as a mother of a young son with Down Syndrome, I understand the importance of cultural competency, language, inclusion, diversity, equity and justice. Currently, I am one of the co-chairs of Flagstaff Unified School District's Anti-Racism, Anti-Bias Task Force where we are working to create a culture of inclusion and equity within FUSD. I am a strong supporter of education and am advocate for equity in education. Every child is unique and beautiful and they look to us, their community, to believe in them and their dreams. Our children in Coconino County look to us to support them in their aspirations and to ensure we are providing educational opportunities for all children.

My advocacy at the federal level for the funding and reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools has provided decades of funding for K-12 schools in Coconino County in the annual amount of \$2 million. Through the authorization of the Board of Supervisors, the County established the Accommodation School District which provides alternative high schools for youth in Flagstaff and Page so that every young person has the opportunity to graduate from a high school.

I am committed to environmental equity where kids have walkable neighborhoods, clean air, clean water, and access to the outdoors, parks and open space. A child's health and life expectancy should not be determined by their zip code. I established and funded the first Community Gardens in the Sunnyside, Plaza Vieja and Southside neighborhoods and I secured the Weed & Seed federal grant that funded over \$2 million in neighborhood rehabilitation, youth programs, leadership development, and adult education programs for the Sunnyside neighborhood. I established the first Art and Nature Park in Coconino County which is also home to Willow Bend where kids can learn about the importance of the environment and sustainability.

It is this experience, and my desire to continue learning and expanding my knowledge, that makes me feel dedicated to continue serving our community to my fullest capacity.

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 belief that we are never done learning. When faced with issues that are new to me or that I have little knowledge of, I do my best to educate myself. I do this by reading as much as I can about the issue at hand, as well as connecting with others who are more knowledgeable about the issue itself. I am a firm believer that we must be willing to hear all sides and perspectives, and that is what I do when I do not understand something. I seek knowledge about the situation from a variety of perspectives and then move forward with developing my own thoughts about the issue at hand. However, the first step in this

process is allowing myself to acknowledge that I don't know something and then being willing to learn more in order to develop my own perspective.

Lastly, is there anything further you would like to share with us?

I want to thank CCC&Y for their commitment to our youth and for their effective advocacy. I am very proud of Coconino County Board of Supervisor's partnership with CCC&Y. Together we have made a difference and will continue to make a difference in the lives of our children and youth.