



Raise Your Voice for Kids: Candidate Question Guide

Kids can't vote and they don't often give money to political candidates. As candidates for elected office hit the campaign trail through virtual rallies and town halls, it is up to us to make sure that children have a voice. The questions below will help you be ready to go the next time you have a chance to ask candidates how they plan to address the many ways the coronavirus pandemic.

Questions about Saving the Child Care Industry

These questions are appropriate for presidential, congressional, state and local candidates.

1. As a child care provider/teacher/worker, I am deeply concerned about the impact of the coronavirus on child care providers. We already operate on razor thin margins. As we are forced to close our doors, many of us may not be able to reopen. Our industry is \$100 billion dollar one and many child care providers will lose their jobs. What will you do to help bolster this critical sector during this crisis?
2. As a parent, I depend on child care so I can work. Child care providers in my community are struggling to pay their staff, rent and other expenses. Some will close permanently as a result. We can't afford the loss of child care providers. I am worried that our economic recovery will be made more difficult as a result of these closures because without child care, parents can't work. What will you do to help this critical sector during this crisis?

If you aren't a child care provider or parent, please adjust one of the questions above.

Questions about Helping Children Seeking Safety in the U.S.

These questions are appropriate for presidential and congressional candidates.

1. The current border closure has halted asylum procedures for vulnerable populations including unaccompanied children who are often deported without due process. What actions would you take to ensure these vulnerable children are protected and given the opportunity to claim asylum?
2. I have seen reports of dozens of unaccompanied children in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement who have contracted COVID-19. These children are often placed in crowded state-run facilities all over the US. What actions would you take to make sure that these children are protected during this pandemic?

Questions about Helping Vulnerable Children Worldwide

These questions are appropriate for presidential and congressional candidates.

1. The coronavirus knows no borders, and the most marginalized children globally face devastating consequences. Refugees, for example, cannot practice sufficient social distancing in overcrowded camps, and an outbreak could spread like wildfire. Lack of access to food caused by COVID-19 may nearly double the number of people at risk of starvation. What will you do to address the unique needs of refugees and other vulnerable children impacted by the pandemic?
2. The coronavirus knows no borders, and girls in the poorest communities worldwide face unique threats. Quarantine and social distancing will likely create greater risk for girls, as safe spaces like schools are taken away. When families can't work and put food on the table, girls may be forced into early marriage. What will you do to protect girls impacted by COVID-19?