

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 is impacting kids.

Sample Questions about Saving the Child Care Industry

These questions are appropriate for presidential, congressional, state and local candidates. If you aren't a child care provider or parent, please adjust one of these questions.

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. Many of us are struggling to keep our doors open. Our industry is a \$100 billion dollar one and many child care providers will lose their jobs. Unfortunately, **Congress wasn't** able to pass a new stimulus package that included dedicated funding for the child care industry. 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 keep their doors open. This is increasing costs for parents and dramatically reducing available slots. 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. Despite the economic impact, Congress wasn't able to pass a new relief** package that included dedicated funding for the child care industry. What will you do to help this critical sector during this crisis?

Sample Question about Food Insecurity in the U.S.

This question is appropriate for presidential and congressional candidates.

1. The pandemic has added millions of additional families in need of temporary food assistance. Recent estimates are that currently, close to 1 in 5 young children are not getting enough to eat. **Congress wasn't able to pass** a new relief package that included funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – or SNAP. What actions would you take to ensure **that children don't go hungry?**

Sample Question about Helping Children Seeking Safety in the U.S.

This question is 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 children are protected and given the opportunity to claim asylum?

Sample Question about Helping Children Worldwide

This question is appropriate for presidential and congressional candidates.

1. The coronavirus knows no borders, and girls in the poorest communities worldwide face unique threats. Quarantine and social distancing are creating 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?