

Candidates Early Childhood Education Survey Results

The Children Matter Action Fund is surveying all candidates for Pennsylvania House and Senate seats to learn more about their views on childcare and early childhood education. We invite you to learn more by reviewing their responses below; by contacting their campaigns; and by following them on social media. Let them know your views on the importance of ensuring young children in Pennsylvania get the early education supports they need and deserve.

Name: **Marlene Katz**

Website: <http://www.marlenekatzforpa.com>

Current Job: **Business Consultant**

Social Media: [@marlenekatzforpa](#)

Campaign Contact Person: **Nick Casas**

You are running for election in which

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **630-550-8987**

House or Senate District?: **House District 29**

Campaign Contact Email Address: Nick@marlenekatzforpa.com

Q: What are your views on the benefits, or drawbacks, of allocating additional state funds for high-quality early learning education?

A: I believe in allocating more funding for high-quality early education. I believe early education is essential to developing students better so they can advance their learning faster and more comprehensively. I believe that there are some critical drawbacks of this programming such as diversion of resources and funds from other state initiatives. However, I believe education can be the solution to a lot of problems from which students and adults suffer later in life.

Q: Will you support increasing annual investments in the Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program line items?

A: I support giving children better quality education at their earlier stages. They are most influenced at younger ages and it has potential to follow them for the rest of their lives. I support increasing annual investments in Pre-K Counts and Head Start.

Q: How important, or unimportant, is expanding access to high-quality child care to working families in your district?

A: It is very important to me and my district to have accessible and high-quality healthcare for working families. Now, more than ever, when our work schedules and school schedules are going virtual, the state needs to step in and provide as much assistance to mothers and fathers to ensure their children are taken care of and have the ability to be invested in.

Q: If you support increased state investment in subsidized child care for infants and toddlers at the campaign's recommended levels, how will you help the campaign expand child care for working families? OR If you do not support the proposed increases in access to child care, please explain why.

A: I support the increased investment in child care for young children. As an advocate and as a legislator, I can work with my colleagues in Harrisburg to find the resources and capital to support these needs for our district and state families. There is a lot of revenue opportunity in this state and many resources can be directed toward better opportunity for children and families.

Q: Improved parenting skills, increased family economic self-sufficiency, improved maternal and child health and reducing abuse and neglect are just a few of the key benefits realized through evidence-based home visiting services. How do you view the needs and benefits of home visiting to families?

A: The evidence-based home visiting programs does provide positive results to a lot of families, and when families need assistance, I want the commonwealth to step in where it counts. Families that are interested in having home visits should be able to have that investment that provides critical services to them. I am very interested in speaking to colleagues in Harrisburg and organizations like the Children Matter Action Fund about these initiatives and how they can help families get the support they need.

Q: How will you support the expansion of state investment dollars to serve those in your district who can benefit from home visiting?

A: I will work with my colleagues and organizations like Children Matter Action Fund to ensure that all families who can benefit from home visiting are able to have the provisions they need to support them. I am happy to be in communication with organizations who care about children and families and are encouraging the legislature to take on these initiatives, and when in office, I am encouraged to communicate further on these issues.

Q: What would you do to increase payments to high-quality providers to improve their ability to retain qualified professionals?

A: Our school systems are unfortunately severely underfunded, and it leads to lower retention rates, as well as difficulties with recruiting well-qualified school staffers who can provide better education for students in Pennsylvania. I believe there needs to be serious evaluation of the school system funding in Pennsylvania and at the end of the day, I will fight for fully funding it so children have the best quality education and have the most opportunities we can offer. This is a top issue for me, and as a legislator, I will fight to ensure the state has more funding available for our schools so we can pay better so we can teach better.

Q: How will you champion early care and early childhood education?

A: As a mother, I will be able to use my personal experiences from my own life to take action and champion these initiatives to help families. I have seen the positive results from early childhood education, but I have also seen the problems that keep those positive results under a ceiling. I want to use my own experiences and information that I receive from organizations like the Children Matter Action Fund to make the hard decisions that will better families and children across Pennsylvania to ensure they have the best quality education early in their school tenure.