

## 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: **Anton Andrew**

Current Job: **Political Candidate**

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You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 160**

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

**A:** Providing high-quality public education is one of the most important duties of our state and local governments. Our communities and taxpayers feel the impact when Harrisburg fails to provide adequate funding for education.

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

**A:** Yes.

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

**A:** It will be an important part of supporting working families in my district. Ninety percent of brain development in children takes place by the age of five. Therefore early childhood education is critical in a child's mental, physical, and emotional development. And affordable pre-K helps low- and middle-income families by eliminating the often crushing costs of early childhood education and childcare.

**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:** By using my platform as an elected official to remind voters of the above with the full knowledge and confidence that pre-K is incredibly popular among the residents of Pennsylvania, (ex. 75% of Pennsylvania voters favor an increase in funding for high-quality, publicly funded pre-K in the state.). And by advocating for increasing funding to Gov Wolf's proposed funding of the Pre-K counts program which would have added over 100 extra Pre-K slots in my district , last year.

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: Providing increased access to proven home visiting, is an essential part of any plan to protect working families.

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

A: By supporting budgets to increase funding in this area and the Childhood Begins at Home campaign.

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

A: I will advocate for a \$15/hr minimum wage, that would include all early childhood teachers (and benefit 5,654 workers in the district/17%). I would also examine ways to expand loan forgiveness for educators.

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

A: By being a vociferous advocate for the benefits of smart investments in our children's future. And reminding voters it is time for the state to pay its fair share of education funding in order to provide local property tax relief and guarantee every child has a chance to realize their full potential. Finding new revenue sources must be a central part of the plan so that the quality of one's education does not depend on one's zip code.