



Children First Action Fund General 2022 Survey Results

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

Name: Gwen Stoltz

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You are running for election in which district? HD 143

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

A: I am in favor of Pennsylvania allocating more funding for high-quality pre-K education. In addition to being foundational for children, these programs would also help working families. I have heard from many families that the cost of childcare and early childhood education programs is what keeps them from working, causing parents to leave their professions.

Q: How important, or unimportant, are increased public resources to expand access and affordability to high-quality child care to working families in your district?

A: It is extremely important to expand this access.

Q: Should the wages for child care workers and preschool teachers be commensurate with those of other educators with similar qualifications and experience?

A: Yes, I do not believe that quality childcare can be offered if the caregivers are not compensated adequately.

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

A: Yes

Q: In addition to making child care more accessible and affordable, what other policies would you champion to help businesses facing a workforce shortage?

A: I would support a minimum wage increase to reflect an actual living wage and worker training and upskill programs.

Q: What other government resources or policies would you consider for families that are struggling with keeping costs, especially child care, under control?

A: I support legislation to provide paid family leave, increase public transportation, and help fight food insecurity.



Q: Which mental health supports are needed most in your district and how will you work to increase access to families that need them?

A: We need to support funding that will increase licensed mental health care providers for students and teachers in our public schools. In addition, we need to work to destigmatize drug addiction and provide support for recovery.

Q: Would you support the creation of a refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)? Why/why not?

A: Yes, a State EITC has the potential to keep families out of poverty and improve outcomes for our children.

Q: What would you do, if elected, to expand the access to affordable broadband internet?

A: I would take steps to further support and promote the existing Affordable Connectivity Program in Pennsylvania. To improve access, I would also support steps to expand this broadband program to ensure that every Pennsylvanian has access to high speed Internet.