



## 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:** Abigail Salisbury

**Website:** [www.salisburyforpa.com](http://www.salisburyforpa.com)

**Current Job:** Sole Practitioner Attorney

**Social Media:** SalisburyforPA

**Campaign Contact Person:** Abigail Salisbury

**Campaign Contact Cell Phone:** 724-769-3804

**Campaign Contact Email Address:** [campaign@salisburyforpa.com](mailto:campaign@salisburyforpa.com)

**You are running for election in which district?** HD34

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

A: I don't see any drawbacks, only benefits. Our public education system is arranged such that children from privileged families are advantaged by attending well-funded schools, while their peers from less-affluent families (living in neighborhoods with lower property values and thus lower school tax revenue) attend poorly-funded schools, setting up children for a lifetime of inequitable outcomes from their earliest days. I see pre-k as helping to remedy this disparity somewhat.

**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: This is a very important issue. Women are disproportionately responsible for childcare, which limits their participation in the workforce and subsequent career advancement, exacerbating gender-based wage inequality and contributing to poverty.

**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, although other educators are likely underpaid themselves.

**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: After-school and summer 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: Higher wages

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**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: I participate in an intermunicipal group which tries to contribute to the success of the local school system. We often have parents and educators tell us that children in the district experience trauma related to shootings, deaths, drugs, violence, and many other issues too numerous to list, but that there is insufficient help available to address these children's mental health. We need to address both the causes of this trauma and the trauma itself with greater mental health support. I would work to end the racist and ineffective "War on Drugs," which only serves to increase crime, violence, and incarceration that leads to a lifetime of diminished opportunities. I would also work to make it possible for more members of the African American community to enter the mental health care professions in order to provide culturally-competent services, perhaps making student loans dischargeable for practitioners who work in schools and community-based programs.

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

A: Yes. The working and middle classes bear too much of the tax burden.

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

A: I need to learn more about this technology and the gap in service to address this issue effectively.