



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: Jennifer Shukaitis

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Current Job: Medical Coding Specialist/Township Supervisor **Social Media:** @JenniferforPA

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You are running for election in which district? Senate District 40

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

A: Allocating additional funds would be a wise investment to ensure children of all demographics have the opportunity for high-quality pre-k education.

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: With nearly 30% of families in the district being single heads of household, many have to decide whether to work or stay home with their children because they do not make enough to afford child care. Increased resources would mean child care where we need it most. So that single parents can work, and their children have access to stability, socialization and education.

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

A: Child care workers and preschool teachers are really developmental life coaches. They deserve compensation commensurate with their experience at similar rates as other educators.

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: Raising the minimum wage, offering income tax incentives, and supporting unions.

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 would consider tax credits or rebates.

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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 support increased funding to increase access to mental health. I would like to see an approach that will destigmatize mental health services. One way to do this would be by providing virtual access through a web portal.

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

A: I would support this as a wise investment.

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

A: I will invest in infrastructure and promote competition among providers.