



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

5 questions you can ask a candidate!

Note: Ask these questions for candidates running for state offices (state legislators and governor). Please see reverse for questions for candidates running for Congress.

Ask about feeding hungry kids:

Hunger has doubled in Washington since the start of the recession. One in four of our state's kids lives in families that are struggling with hunger. A 50% cut to State Food Assistance is making hard times harder for 12,500 kids in immigrant families. Will you support reversing that cut, and what other policies would you support to help end childhood hunger in Washington?

Ask about getting all kids the health care they need:

Nearly 1 in 2 Washington kids now count on Apple Health for Kids for health coverage. Health coverage gives parents struggling through the recession peace of mind, and provides kids with the care they need. *But not all kids are benefitting equally.* There are still 100,000 kids who are uninsured. What policies would you support to make sure all eligible kids have access to the benefits of Apple Health for Kids?

Ask about access to dental care:

Too many people in Washington don't have access to affordable dental care. Dental complaints are the number one reason uninsured people in Washington seek emergency room care. And for many kids, just having coverage isn't enough: currently 75% of dentists don't take kids insured by Medicaid. There is a proposal to create a new midlevel dental provider in Washington who would work with dentists to extend more oral healthcare to people in rural and underserved communities. Would you support a new provider to help fix problems with access to dental care?

Ask about making sure kids get a strong and equal start:

Kids who have high quality early learning experiences do better for the rest of their lives. What policies would you support to make sure all kids have access to great early learning experiences, and parents have affordable child care so they can work and go to school?

Ask about funding programs that help kids:

Washington's tax system is outdated, unfair and fails to meet the growing needs of the state. Would you support raising new revenue, through reforms like enacting a state capital gains tax or ending wasteful tax breaks, to ensure adequate funding for children's health, safety, and education?

These questions are suggestions. You can change the words so that you are comfortable with the question you are asking. Adding something personal makes your question even more effective. Such as "I've had a hard time getting affordable dental care for my son, and I know a lot of parents are in the same situation."



CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

3 questions you can ask a candidate for Congress!

These are questions for candidates running for the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives.

Ask about ending childhood hunger and protecting Washington's hungry families:

Hunger has doubled in Washington since the start of the recession. One in four of our state's kids live in families that are struggling with hunger. Proposed cuts to food stamps will take food off the table, and \$90 out of the food budgets of struggling Washington families. Hunger is already hurting kids – even with food stamps at current levels. What will you do to ensure that nutrition programs like food stamps are protected and strengthened?

Ask about opening doors to early learning:

Research shows us that high-quality early learning is critical to children's educational success. How do you plan to prioritize early learning in order to ensure children in Washington are ready when they get to school and that schools in Washington are ready for kids?

Ask about protecting kids health care:

Washington has created a strong and nationally recognized children's health coverage program, Apple Health for Kids. Nearly 1 in 2 Washington kids now count on Apple Health. The Affordable Care Act provides important protections for Washington's kids, and will help us build on the progress we've made. Will you work to keep the Affordable Care Act in place, including its protections for kids?

Check out our website www.childrensalliance.org to find out more about these issues, and our work to make sure candidates put kids first. Please feel free to contact Pam Johnson, Elections Organizer with any questions or feedback.

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