

## 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: **Claudette Williams**

Current Job: **President of Council, Mount Pocono Borough**

Website: <http://www.claudette4pa176.org>

Social Media: **Facebook/Instagram: Claudette4pa176 Twitter: VoteClaudettePA**

Campaign Contact Person: **Shawky Darwish**

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: **202-710-2253**

Campaign Contact Email Address: **shawky@claudette4pa176.org**

You are running for election in which

House or Senate District?: **House District 176**

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

**A:** No matter our zip code, our children deserve a great education. But for too long, some politicians have claimed there isn't enough money for our schools -- while giving tax breaks to big corporations. By introducing a tax on the Marcellus shale and closing tax loopholes that only benefit wealthy corporations, I know we can fund our public schools without burdening working families. There can only be a benefit of funding the education of our children, and the earlier the better.

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

**A:** I think that all aspects of early education are important to make sure that our children can live good lives. I also know some children need additional assistance, such as the Pre-K Counts and Head Start programs. I think it's imperative that we give enough funding across the board to ensure that every child in PA has the same opportunity when it comes to education. I would support increasing these investments.

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

**A:** High-quality child care is just as important to working families as a high-quality education. Many families in my district rely on these services to either supplement their children's education or to assist in watching their children while they are finishing their workdays. This is quite important to me because I believe that, for too long, working families have not been at the forefront of decisions that are being made in Harrisburg. I will prioritize any issues that reaffirm Pennsylvania's commitment to working families.

**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:** I will work within the House of Representatives to get dollars and cents into the pockets of working class families so that they can afford child care. In addition, the state government needs to do a better job of providing these services to working-class, low-income, and/or impoverished families at discounted rates or free-of-cost.

**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:** Home visiting services are beneficial in providing accountability and resources for families. Without these services, I'm not sure that we can expect the same level of care and knowledge that we'd have otherwise. I think this is a very beneficial system that can provide our families with the resources they need to thrive.

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

**A:** Funding education should encompass all of these issues. We can provide children with quality education, but without these necessary additional programs to ensure that they can succeed, it's all for naught. If elected, I would look at reallocating funds to ensure that we are providing quality and accessible resources to ensure that students succeed in all aspects of their lives.

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

**A:** Increasing payments to high-quality providers should be a part of this very important discussion. I think we should do whatever it takes to provide high-quality care across the board and sure that these professionals who are working to educate the next generation of American leaders are respected and retained.

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

**A:** Our children are the future. They are our future doctors, lawyers, educators, and politicians. Ensuring that everyone has access to a quality education, at all points in their lives, is of the utmost importance. Every child in PA deserves the right to a good, affordable education and I will fight tirelessly every day until every child does have that right. As state legislator, I will fight to protect these students, especially from working class families, but will also fight to protect the educator who has for so long gone unappreciated by the state government.