



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: Anna Thomas

Website: coming soon!

Current Job: Graduate Student

Social Media: coming soon!

Campaign Contact Person: Anna Thomas

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: (610) 703-6339

Campaign Contact Email Address: annathomasforpa@gmail.com

You are running for election in which district? PA HD-137

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

A: High-quality pre-k and early childhood education is the single greatest investment we can make as a state: not only from an economic sense but also in a moral sense.

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: VERY IMPORTANT. This is one of the number one issues in our state. Infant care is affordable for only 28% of Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvania also needs to provide paid family medical leave insurance.

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! This shouldn't even be up for debate.

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

A: I would love to learn more about this. I think if this program were well-resourced and did not undermine the agency of the people that it intends to serve, it sounds like a good idea.

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: Again, we need paid family medical leave, but we also need strong public health systems in place, as well as an increased minimum wage in Pennsylvania.

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

A: Child Care & Development Block Grants (CCDBG), fixing childcare worker deserts in the state by raising the minimum wage for all, but also basic corporate tax reform in this state: like instituting combined reporting so that we can fund public goods that will help these families.

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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: As a state, we've taken some legislative action on mental health (like Act 106 in 2018), and one of my local State Representatives who supports my campaign, Rep. Mike Schlossberg, introduced a bill for suicide prevention in higher education. I need to work to continue to increase access, as well as fully fund schools so that every school district can be staffed with counselors and psychologists so that public school children can have great mental healthcare.

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

A: YES. The federal EITC is one of the most cost-effective antipoverty programs in the country (basically second to social security), and Pennsylvania needs to establish our own program to supplement the federal program. We're the only state in our region that doesn't have one.

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

A: Expanding the Pennsylvania Broadband Investment Incentive Program, and also fighting the pre-emption laws, to my fullest capacity, that prevent municipalities from establishing their own broadband networks and fighting the cable and internet monopolies in the state.