



## 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:** MaryLouise Isaacson  
**Current Job:** State Representative

**Website:** [www.mary4staterep.com](http://www.mary4staterep.com)  
**Social Media:** @mary4staterep

**Campaign Contact Person:** Samantha Pearson  
**Campaign Contact Cell Phone:** 2678580710  
**Campaign Contact Email Address:** [marylouiseisaacson@gmail.com](mailto:marylouiseisaacson@gmail.com)  
**You are running for election in which district?** PA House, 175th

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

A: I am committed to increasing state funding for high quality pre-k education so that more families and children can benefit in terms of development, social skills and preparation for future academic success. I believe all families should have access.

**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: Increased public resources to expand access and affordability of high quality childcare is vitally important in my district and across the state, and it is one of my top priorities. We need to increase funding for child care providers so that we can better pay child care workers and address the staffing shortages.

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

A: Absolutely. We need to invest in the workers and teachers who are helping our children in their formative years. Their early years matter and the importance of their vital work needs to be reflected in what we pay them.

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

A: Absolutely. I have consistently supported an expansion of funding for home visiting services.

**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: In addition to providing universal childcare, public transit systems and infrastructure, and quality public education, I believe that the state and government should provide affordable housing, accessible higher education as well as healthcare and investments to transfer our economy to a green and sustainable one.

**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 have called for the minimum wage to be increased to \$15/hr and indexed to inflation. I am also supportive of increasing investments statewide in affordable housing units, implementing a rent control standard, revitalizing public housing through investment and renovation, and expanding eligibility programs to more households and families. I am also working for more mass transit in PA that serves Pennsylvania's diverse needs as our geographic regions and transit systems differ ; is funded by closing tax loopholes and ensuring corporations and the incredibly rich pay their fair share ; has sustainable, long-term funding ; and is created with transit riders and transit workers the table. An expansion of mass transit and transit in PA must include investment in state funding, legislation enabling local governments to implement transit funding mechanisms, publicly-owned and operated infrastructure, the use of union labor, a transition to a green economy, bike and pedestrian infrastructure investments, a dedicated low-income fare program, the creation of transit-oriented communities and affordable housing, and continuous rider input and governance. Mass transit in our state must also be safe, accessible, affordable, and sustainable.

**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: The pandemic has taken a great toll on children across my district, affecting their behavioral and emotional health, but far too many children were already dealing with trauma before the pandemic and did not have the supports they needed. I am in favor of increasing access, reducing wait times for services, improving school-based services in Philadelphia and increasing pediatrician's involvement in identifying and referring kids to services.

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

A: Yes, I am supportive of this. I am against the uniformity clause. We need to implement a graduated rate so that we are not placing the burden on families and people that cannot afford it. I believe that equitable does not always mean equal or the same and we need to take into account socioeconomic status when it comes to taxing residents.

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

A: Every child deserves access to the high-speed internet that broadband provides. It allows them to participate equitably in school and healthcare. Unfortunately, far too many communities do not have the infrastructure for broadband due to lack of funding. That leaves people without internet access or service that does not meet acceptable speeds. I have voted for, and am supportive of, expanded investment in broadband infrastructure deployment. This funding will allow for the construction of new towers, lines and broadband equipment, and help close the digital divide.