

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: Alan Howe

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You are running for election in which district? HD 199

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

A: The investment we make in early childhood education pays off many times over as those children age. Leaving children behind, missing this investment opportunity, is wasteful, foolish and cruel. We must provide enough funding to ensure no child is left behind.

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: Public assistance for child care is crucial for many families in the 199th who simply do not make enough to cover the costs on their own. Again, investing in children returns many times more to the public when they reach adulthood.

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

A: First, we must raise the minimum wage to an amount equal to \$15 in 2016, around \$18/hour now. This will put upward pressure on all wages, making child care affordable for more people and lifting wages for child-care workers. Those workers not unionized should be organizing. Unionized workers get better wages and benefits.

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

A: Yes. I have spoken to a couple people who make these home visits and understand clearly that benefits that come from the programs.

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: Businesses have found already that they can attract workers when they offer sufficient pay and benefits.



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

A: We need to expand the reach of public health care services dramatically.

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: Mental health care must be part of a much more widely available public health care system. Pennsylvania's substance-abuse problems (really, self-medication) are a direct result of inadequate mental health care.

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

A: Yes. I am for any tax policy that lowers taxes for lower-income earners and raises taxes for higher-income earners. Our taxation policy must be more steeply progressive to shift the burden from the poor and middle class to the wealthiest.

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

A: My expectation is the 2021 \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure law will close most of these gaps, but the state must be prepared to cover any remaining lack of coverage. Increasing the minimum wage will make access more affordable.