

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: Dan Williams

Website: www.dan4pa74.com

Current Job: State Representative

Social Media: @dan4pa74

Campaign Contact Person: Diane van Mol

Campaign Contact Cell Phone: 6104165561

Campaign Contact Email Address: info@dan4pa74.com

You are running for election in which district? 74th State House District

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

A: Giving children the best possible education in their early years will yield exponential dividends in their future years. We should fully and fairly fund high quality pre-K along with the rest of our public schools.

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: Development and growth in my district is hindered by a lack of access to child care. It is critical that this issue be addressed so that children are safe and learning in their formative years and adults have peace of mind to work and contribute to our society. We should be doing all we can to increase our public investment in child care, as our current levels are abysmal.

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! Child care workers are early educators and should be respected as such.

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

A: Absolutely. Any service or program that aids in the development of both our youngest residents but also their families is something that I would support whole heartedly. Home visiting would insure that we aren't forgetting about or leaving families behind just because of their socioeconomic status.

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: Increased investments in public transportation. Aside from child care, transportation is a major dampener in workforce and economic development. We are woefully behind in our investments in transportation and public infrastructure, which would offer increased opportunities for workers and increased potential for businesses.

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

A: Direct assistance such as the child care tax credit that the federal government implemented for a short while in 2021. For the short amount of time it was around it had a direct, measurable impact on the lives of those that were caring for children and struggling to make ends meet. There's no reason why we couldn't attempt something similar at the state level for families in need.

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: My district just lost BOTH of the hospitals that serviced our area, including one of the largest mental health care facilities in the PA region at Brandywine Hospital. This has left my district in a health care desert, and I'm working feverishly with my county and state partners to restore this vital need for my community. People's lives are literally in the balance.

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

A: Yes, because EITCs are the most equitable taxes for our residents, as they take into account a taxpayer's actual ability to pay. If they're not earning any income, they won't be forced to pay anything like they have to with flat taxes.

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

A: PA is currently flush with cash from increased revenues and federal infusions. Some of these funds should be used to expand broadband internet access into PA's most rural areas. As our economy and society become increasingly digitized, it is vital that we expand access to the internet to all of our constituents, regardless of their home location. I would love to see some of our rainy day funds and funding from the federal Democratic infrastructure law be used to accomplish this goal.