



## 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:** Mark Pinsley

**Website:** votemarkpinsley.com

**Current Job:** Lehigh County Controller, CEO of DermaMed Solutions

**Social Media:** VoteMarkPinsley

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**You are running for election in which district?** SD 16

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

A: Of course, the singular drawback to this is cost, but it is well worth it. The benefits to pre-k education are overwhelming for both the parents and students. Parents get more time at work. Students develop earlier and are better in the long run of education.

**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, very important. In my district, we have many single moms, rural areas, and low-income working families. These people need access to affordable child care. It is a cornerstone to parenting life.

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

A: Of course. Child care workers and preschool teachers are just as valuable as any other teacher. Furthermore, I believe that we should increase the wages for all teachers in general.

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

A: Absolutely. Parenting is a difficult, difficult job. We should want the best for our kids, and home visiting is a part of that.

**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: The biggest thing for me here is public transportation. It's easy to see that the workforce needs public transit to get to their jobs. It needs to become much more accessible for these workers, especially in rural areas. Bus routes should run everywhere cities and suburbs and they should be easy to get to.

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

A: The costs of pretty much every necessity has been going up. The cost of housing should be mitigated by making it easier to building dense, affordable housing. The cost of food should be mitigated by creating tax incentives to buy healthy foods. The cost of healthcare should be mitigated by eliminating waste in private insurance and increasing government involvement in healthcare.

**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: We need much more mental health support for our kids and for addicts, which often coincides. I have experience with mental health in my family and with addicts in my family. There needs to be more support imbedded in the system for families that simply cannot afford expensive therapy. I also believe in a co-responder system such as CAHOOTS that function with the police to help stop mental health situations.

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

A: I am totally in support of a State Earned Income Tax Credit. For all of the reasons above, this will be wildly effective for poor working families. It is one of the most effective anti-poverty policies in the federal government. There's no reason why we shouldn't have it at the state.

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

A: My district is largely rural. I can see the lack of internet access as I'm driving around the district - there are little to no cell towers, and it's hard to find service even in populated/dense/busy areas. I believe in crease a public, government option to broadband to lower costs. This has been very effective in Kutztown.