

CAMPAIGN FOR JOY VOTE FOR CHILD WELL-BEING PLEDGE CHECKLIST



children's
defense fund
action

How do we know we are voting for candidates and policies that are committed to child well-being? Children's Defense Fund recognizes that children themselves cannot be the only locus of intervention for their well-being. Their life outcomes are first impacted by the environments, families, school systems, and neighborhoods in which they sing, dance, and play. These communities must be transformed to change their lives significantly and sustainably for the better. This checklist is an easy tool to help you discern which candidates and policies are proponents of child well-being.

A VOTE FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND HEALING

PROMISE: I vote so our children will play freely in parks, walk safely to bus stops, and learn in schools as sanctuaries, with neighbors and public servants as guardians of their well-being.



I will vote for candidates and policies promoting:

- An end to hunger in our nation by investing in vital food assistance programs such as SNAP, WIC, and school meals programs;
- Programs that focus on improving youth mental health and their social-emotional wellness to ensure they can transition into adulthood successfully;
- Permanent, universal free school meals so that every child can learn without battling hunger; and
- Investments in environmental programs that ensure our children grow up in spaces free of pollution and other harmful impacts of climate change.

A VOTE FOR EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PROMISE: I vote so every baby and toddler is nurtured with pre-natal care, early attachment to mom, a continuum of high-quality, early learning opportunities so they are ready for kindergarten.



I will vote for candidates and policies promoting:

- An end to the Black maternal health crisis by investing in the development or expansion of programs that support the lives of birthing people and newborns;
- Quality early learning and development, including universal pre-K and affordable child care that meets family's needs;
- Home visitation programs that support new parents by supporting healthy development and the well-being of their children; and
- Medicaid expansion to twelve months post-partum, ensuring that both birthing parent and newborn have access to vital medical care during the first moments of life.

A VOTE FOR EDUCATION FOR CIVIC LIFE AND WORK

PROMISE: I vote so each student is prepared for global workforce competition and equipped to vote, volunteer, and lift their voices in public life through stage-appropriate instruction, learning about their culture, democracy, and history.



I will vote for candidates and policies promoting:

- ❑ Workforce development programs across various industries that ensures positive effects on education, employment, and earnings outcomes for our youth;
- ❑ An evolved public school funding model that primary reliance on property taxes to more equitable revenue model that ensures access to high quality education is not determined by zip code;
- ❑ Increased civic engagement at all educational levels to ensure children and youth are educated, equipped, and prepared to participate in public life; and
- ❑ A federal voting age of 16.

A VOTE FOR FAMILY STABILITY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

PROMISE: I vote so every young person will launch from a permanent, nurturing home of birth, kin, foster, or adoptive family, and fulfill the dream of doing better than their parents.



I will vote for candidates and policies promoting:

- ❑ An expanded and fully refundable Child Tax Credit that ensures that families with the lowest incomes get the highest amount of support;
- ❑ Robust Paid Family and Medical Leave to ensure that families can take the time needed to care for their loved ones;
- ❑ Quality early learning and development, including universal pre-K and affordable child care that meets family's needs; and
- ❑ Policies that ensure families have wages that can support all of their family's needs.

A VOTE FOR JUST AND CARING COMMUNITIES

PROMISE: I vote so our children will play freely in parks, walk safely to bus stops, and learn in schools as sanctuaries, with neighbors and public servants as guardians of their well-being.



I will vote for candidates and policies promoting:

- ❑ Public health approaches to public safety that focus both on firearm access and underlying risk factors that contribute to gun violence;
- ❑ Immigration reform that creates systems honoring the core values of human dignity, family unity, and child well-being; and
- ❑ The end of criminalizing children, including eliminating youth jails and detention centers.