



## Where do Candidates Stand on Key Children's Issues?

It can sometimes be challenging deciding who you are going to vote for in an election. When heading to the polls to cast your ballot this November, you may find it helpful to consider where candidates stand on these important policy issues that matter to kids.

Take some time to research the candidates' positions on the following children's health matters:

- **Medicaid**- Did you know that one in every three children in Connecticut is covered by Medicaid?
- **Behavioral health services**- The average time between the onset of behavioral health symptoms and the start of treatment is 7 years. There is much work to do to ensure that all children have access to comprehensive and affordable behavioral health services.
- **Disaster relief funding**- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has passed several disaster relief packages that sent federal funding to the State of Connecticut that can help schools, hospitals, towns, and cities respond to the virus.
- **SNAP Funding**- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps provide food to nearly 40 million people nationwide, many of them children. Roughly 222,000 households in Connecticut rely on SNAP.
- **Gun Violence Prevention**- A 2016 study by the CDC and World Health Organization found that behind car accidents, firearms were the second leading cause of death among children and adolescents in the U.S.
- **Environment**- Children need clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and a healthy environment in which to grow up.
- **Equity**- All children, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, or where they grow up, should have equal opportunities to grow, learn, and succeed.
- **Funding pediatric research**- Without adequate funding, agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cannot conduct important research into childhood health issues or fund research initiatives at institutions like Connecticut Children's.
- **Supporting working families**- Children's ability to grow and thrive should not be tied to their parents' income level. Consider if a candidate supports programs and resources that help low-income and working families maintain their jobs, housing, transportation and healthy and affordable food.