Making Kentucky Kids Count in the 2023 Election!

Electoral Advocacy Toolkit

We must keep the needs of children front and center this election season!

Kids cannot vote, but you can ensure that their voices are heard by asking candidates in state and federal elections tough questions!

Before you begin. . .

Check out data on child well-being and some recent policies for kids and families.

Resources include:

- Kentucky KIDS COUNT *2022 County Data Book*
- KIDS COUNT Data Center
- County-level data and data by race/ethnicity
- Blueprint for Kentucky's Children and past wins for kids

Candidate Question #1

What are your policy priorities related to kids and families?

Ask candidates how their policy ideas will ***directly impact children and families***. Children are so often an afterthought in legislation or even left out completely.

Candidate Question #2

What about *our* kids?

As you learn about the needs of kids in your county or legislative district, you may discover that your area has, for example, a higher percentage of children living in poverty or higher rates of child maltreatment. Take this opportunity to educate candidates about the status of kids.

Candidate Question #3

How do your policies serve the needs of *every* Kentucky kid?

We must elect leaders who will prioritize equity among urban and rural, racially diverse, differently abled, and economically disparate children.

Candidate Question #4

What have you done for kids lately?

If your candidate is currently in office, check their voting record on bills related to kids, and see if they have spoke up in the media about their concerns for kids. If your candidate has not yet held elected office, ask what their personal, professional, and community commitments have been to kids and families.

Candidate Question #5

Thank you for putting kids first!

This isn't really a question, but a heartfelt "thank you" is powerful. Amidst all the toxicity of politics and criticisms in our capitals, gratitude and positivity can go a long way. Imagine if more voters praised politicians who actually put kids first; their peers might just start to pay attention and do the same.