With the 2018 election around the corner, Nevadans have the opportunity to ensure the representatives they elect will support the needs of more than 680,000 children and youth who call Nevada home—but currently lack a vote.

The Nevada Votes for Children and Youth 2018 Election Advocacy Guide provides residents with a toolkit of targeted data, talking points, and questions to empower them to learn where each candidate stands on the following four key issues affecting Nevada’s children and youth today:

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**
Nevada’s children need access to high-quality early learning programs to help them enter Kindergarten ready to learn and succeed. Additionally, high-quality early learning programs can help support working families and boost Nevada’s economy.

**HEALTH**
Every child in Nevada deserves the opportunity to grow up healthy. Investing in children by supporting their developmental, emotional and mental health helps lay the building blocks for a healthy and successful future.

**SAFETY**
Every child in Nevada should live in safe and nurturing environments, free from abuse, neglect, violence and other hazards.

**ECONOMIC SECURITY**
Nevada’s children deserve to have access to stable and affordable housing, nourishing food, high-quality health care and education opportunities.
State and local elections are just as important, if not more important, as the election for President. Our state and local elected officials (i.e. School Board, City Council Members, State Senators, etc.) are able to make more laws that impact our daily lives in our community. For example:

**Home**
When you turn on water for a shower and to brush your teeth, your city or county officials have impacted your life! They maintain the water supply.

**Nutrition**
When you eat breakfast, your life has been impacted by the local health department! They make sure the food you eat is safe and properly prepared and packaged.

**Transportation**
When you travel in a car or on a bus, your life has been impacted by the state AND local government! They help build and maintain the roads, put in traffic signs and improve laws.

**School**
When you or your children go to school, your life has been impacted by your school board! They oversee school rules, funding and even curriculums!

Because of the many areas state and local officials oversee, it is important that we have the right people in those offices. So when you go to vote on Election Day, make sure that you are voting on all of the different positions! You deserve to be represented from the City to the White House!
Early Childhood Education

Nevada’s children deserve to high-quality early learning programs to help them enter Kindergarten ready to learn and succeed. Additionally, high-quality early learning programs can help support working families and boost Nevada’s economy.

THE FIRST 5 YEARS DETERMINE HOW THE NEXT 80 TURN OUT

Up to age 3, children are forming more than 1 MILLION new neural connections every second of a child's brain is developed by age five, setting the foundation for learning

If children start school ready to learn, they are 2X as likely to read at grade level by 3rd grade

HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS HELP BUILD BRAINS FOR SCHOOL

Preschool programs set kids up for greater success at school, decreasing the need for special education, less grade retention, and higher graduation rates

Children who attend preschool have been shown to have higher levels of verbal, mathematical, and intellectual achievement

HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

In Nevada, 65.1% of families with children under the age of 6 have all available parents in the workforce

Having access to stable and reliable high-quality child care increases employee attendance, morale and productivity

NEVADA HAS FEW HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Nevada is currently 48th in the nation for preschool enrollment

~ $9,000 a year is the average cost for center-based preschool

Nevada currently invests $65.79 per preschool age child compared to the national average $955.22
QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES ON 
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Nevada’s children deserve access to high-quality early learning programs to help them enter Kindergarten ready to learn and succeed. Additionally, high-quality early learning programs can help support working families and boost Nevada’s economy.

1. What can Nevada do to increase access to high-quality early learning programs that help prepare kids for kindergarten and beyond?

2. In Nevada, child care subsidies are provided to working families with children up to age 12-living in poverty. Unfortunately, the subsidies provided for early learning programs are based on 2004 market rates, meaning parents must pay large sums out of pocket or pick a lower quality center. How would you improve the child care subsidy rates for families?

3. Working parents with young children must juggle family and work responsibilities. Decisions about work-life balance are often challenging. How could Nevada incentivize the business community to support parents’ child care and parenting responsibilities?

4. Early childhood educators play a critical role in the healthy development of young children; however, these educators make on average $10.75/hour and receive very few benefits. What steps would you take to ensure these educators receive adequate compensation and professional supports?
Health

very child in Nevada deserves the opportunity to grow up healthy. Investing in children by supporting their developmental, emotional and mental health helps lay the building blocks for a healthy and successful future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH INSURANCE HELPS CHILDREN GROW UP HEALTHY AND REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL</th>
<th>CHILDREN WITH HEALTH INSURANCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>do better in School</td>
<td>are more likely to graduate high school and attend college</td>
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<tr>
<th>MEDICAID IS AMERICA'S LARGEST INSURER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Children represent the largest share of Medicaid enrollees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicaid allows children to get check-ups and see a doctor when they are sick</td>
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<th>MEDICAID HAS MADE THE DIFFERENCE FOR NEVADA'S CHILDREN</th>
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<tr>
<td>422,600 children relied on Medicaid and Nevada Check-Up (CHIP) in 2016 to access the care they needed to be healthy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanks to the expansion of Medicaid, Nevada had the largest percent decrease of uninsured children across the nation</td>
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<td>14.9% in 2013 to 6.8% in 2016</td>
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<tr>
<th>THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S HEALTH IN NEVADA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada ranks 45th in the nation for children without health insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada is 48th in the nation in physicians per capita</td>
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<tr>
<td>30% of Kindergarten students are either overweight or obese</td>
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<td>The low ratio of doctors to patients makes it difficult to access care</td>
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QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES ON Health

Every child in Nevada deserves the opportunity to grow up healthy. Investing in children by supporting their developmental, emotional and mental health helps lay the building blocks for a healthy and successful future.

1. Nevada ranks 43rd in health measures. What actions will you take to ensure access to services that address the developmental, emotional and mental health needs of children?

2. The pending federal rule to expand access to short term plans will increase health care costs and undermine access to comprehensive health coverage. Do you think that health insurance plans should cover services like maternity care and pediatric screenings, and protect those with preexisting conditions? Please explain.

3. Thanks to Nevada’s Medicaid expansion, our state had the largest percent decrease of uninsured children in the nation. There is a recurring attack on Medicaid to cap and slash federal Medicaid funds. This would shift responsibility for the costs of the Medicaid program from the federal government onto states. Will you protect and support Medicaid in Nevada?

4. Nevada Medicaid has reported a $56 million budget shortfall. Given our state Medicaid office is already strapped financially, how would you respond to attempts to impose work requirements on Medicaid, which could force state and local governments to spend millions of taxpayer dollars just to implement them?
Children's Safety

Every child in Nevada should live in safe and nurturing environments, free from abuse, neglect, violence and other hazards.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NEVADA’S CHILDREN HAVE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT TRAUMA</th>
<th>In 2017, close to 5,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect</th>
<th>OF THESE CHILDREN</th>
<th>73.7% were neglected</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33.5% were physically abused</td>
<td>5.6% were sexually abused</td>
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| MANY OF NEVADA’S CHILDREN ARE HOMELESS | Nevada placed in the nation for child and youth homelessness | Nevada has over 2,000 unaccompanied homeless children and youth | 89.2% of homeless children and youth are living in the streets rather than in shelters |

| CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE NEED HELP AND SUPPORT | 4,485 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015 | Of those children, almost 2,000 are waiting to be adopted |

| KIDS THAT MAKE MISTAKES NEED HELP, NOT JUST PUNISHMENT | Economists have shown that incarcerating youth will hurt their future earnings and ability to stay in the workforce | In 2015, 600 children lived in juvenile correction facilities | ~40% of incarcerated youth have a learning disability and will struggle in school when they leave detention |
Children's Safety

Every child in Nevada should live in safe and nurturing environments, free from abuse, neglect, violence and other hazards.

1. Congress just enacted the Families First Prevention Act, allowing additional resources to keep children safe in their homes. What will you do to ensure Nevada has the appropriate resources/services to implement this new law?

2. Over 4,400 children are in out-of-home care in Nevada and approximately 200 age out of care every year. What will you do to support the foster care system and the children that reside in it?

3. There are over 2,000 unaccompanied homeless youth in Nevada. What will you do to decrease the rate of youth homelessness and support children who do become homeless?

4. In 2015, over 9,000 children were arrested in Nevada and a disproportionate amount were minority children. What will you do to reduce the number of youths arrested and/or ensure they receive needed rehabilitative services?
Economic Security

Nevada’s children deserve to have access to stable and affordable housing, healthy food, high-quality health care and educational opportunities. It is critical that Nevada support working families to create economically secure homes for kids.

The benefits of economic security have life-long impacts:

- Children who experience economic security have better physical and mental health
- which lead to improved educational and career success later in life

1 in 5 children live below the poverty line

- 57% of children in Nevada under the age of 18 lived with families with income under the 250% poverty line
- 21% of children in Nevada under the age of 5 live in poverty

Housing in Nevada is not affordable for families

- 233,000 children in Nevada lived in households with a high housing cost burden
- 30% of children in Nevada have parents who lack secure employment

Education can help families earn more

- The average weekly earnings for a full time worker without a High School diploma is $554
- The average weekly earnings for a worker with a High School diploma is $726 and those with a Bachelor’s Degree make over $1,300 weekly

- 18% of children in Nevada have parents whose head of household lacks a High School Diploma
Nevada’s children deserve to have access to stable and affordable housing, healthy food, high-quality health care and educational opportunities. It is critical that Nevada support working families to create economically secure homes for kids.

1. When families are economically secure, children have better access to stable and affordable housing, nourishing food, high-quality health care and educational opportunities. What will you do to ensure all families have access to opportunities that allow them to achieve economic security?

2. Rent and housing prices continue to rise in Nevada, stretching family budgets. How will you help with affordable housing options for children and families in Nevada?

3. One in five children in Nevada live in poverty. What will you do to address childhood poverty and reduce the consequences for children and families?

4. Over 200,000 children in Nevada have parents who lack secure employment. What will you do to ensure that every Nevadan has access to secure employment that pays a livable wage?
HOW DO I VOTE?

The November 6th election is YOUR chance to vote for the candidates that you think will best represent you in the Local, State, and Federal government.

STEP 1
REGISTER TO VOTE
(1) Postmarked via mail by Oct. 9th;
(2) In person at the election department offices by Oct. 16th;
(3) On the Secretary of State’s internet website by Oct. 18th

STEP 2
RESEARCH THE CANDIDATES
Visit the candidate’s website and read the local newspapers to find out where Nevada’s candidates stand on the issues affecting our children and families

STEP 3
FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION
To find your polling location, visit the Nevada’s Secretary of State election Center at nv.sos.gov

STEP 4
VOTE
The General Election is held November 6th. Polls open at 7am and close at 7pm

Don’t forget to bring your completed sample ballot to help you when voting!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
If you are not able to vote on Nov. 6 or would like to vote early, early voting is available in-person on October 20 - November 2. You can also request an absentee ballot through your County Clerk/Registrar of Voters.