NEVADA VOTES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
2020 ELECTION ADVOCACY GUIDE

With the 2020 election around the corner, Nevadans have the opportunity to ensure the representatives they elect will support the needs of more than 700,000 children and youth who call Nevada home—but currently lack a vote.

The Nevada Votes for Children and Youth 2020 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 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.
- 90% 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, 67% 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 47th in the nation for preschool enrollment.
- ~ $9,000 a year is the average cost for center-based preschool.
- Nevada currently invests $103.05 per preschool age child compared to the national average of $1,085.
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. How can we ensure there is child care available for children with disabilities and for those whose parents work non-traditional hours?

2. With COVID related child care provider closures and if Congress does not provide necessary relief for the child care industry, 4.5 million child care slots are at risk of disappearing nationwide. How can we ensure there are enough slots available for parents returning to the workforce?

3. Working parents with young children must juggle family and work responsibilities. Decisions about work-life balance are often challenging. How would you work with the business community to support parents’ in accessing affordable child care while they work?

4. Early childhood educators play a critical role in the healthy development of young children; however, these educators make on average $11.50/hour and receive very few benefits. What steps would you take to ensure these educators receive adequate compensation and professional support?
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.

### Health Insurance Helps Children Grow Up Healthy and Reach Their Full Potential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children with Health Insurance</strong></td>
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<td>do better in School</td>
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### Medicaid Is America’s Largest Insurer

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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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<td>and buy medication and go to the hospital</td>
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### Medicaid Has Made the Difference for Nevada’s Children

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<tr>
<td>317,000 children relied on Medicaid and Nevada Check-Up (CHIP) in 2019 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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#### 2013 vs 2018

- 14.9% in 2013
- 8% in 2018

### There Is More Work to Be Done to Improve Children’s Health in Nevada

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<tr>
<td>Nevada ranks 46th in the nation for children without health insurance</td>
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<td>Nevada is 46th in the nation in physicians per capita.</td>
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<td>31% 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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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 36th out of all 50 states in children’s health measures. What actions will you take to ensure access to services that address the developmental, emotional, and mental health needs of kids in our State?

2. What will you do to ensure all Nevadans are able to receive testing and treatment for COVID-19 and related illnesses or complications?

3. Nevada’s Medicaid program bore $130 million in budget cuts during July’s special legislative session. How would you work to ensure our most vulnerable populations still get the health coverage they need, especially when our State unemployment rate is much higher than the rest of the nation?

4. Some Nevadan children lost employer-sponsored health insurance when their parents were laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. How would you work to make it easier for families to enroll in Medicaid and/or Nevada Check Up during this difficult time?
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 2018, cover 5,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect</th>
<th>OF THESE CHILDREN 84% were neglected 19% were physically abused 7% were sexually abused</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MANY OF NEVADA'S CHILDREN ARE HOMELESS</td>
<td>Nevada placed in the nation for child and youth homelessness 51st</td>
<td>Nevada has over 1,200 unaccompanied homeless children and youth 78.8% of homeless children and youth are living in the streets rather than in shelters</td>
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<td>CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE NEED HELP AND SUPPORT</td>
<td>4,479 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2019</td>
<td>Of those children, almost 2,000 are waiting to be adopted</td>
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<td>KIDS THAT MAKE MISTAKES NEED HELP, NOT JUST PUNISHMENT</td>
<td>Economists have shown that incarcerating youth will hurt their future earnings and ability to stay in the workforce</td>
<td>In 2017, 588 children lived in juvenile correction facilities</td>
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QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES ON

Children's Safety

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

1. As a result of COVID-19 youth transitioning out of care are faced with even more challenges such as unemployment, housing instability and food insecurity. What will you do to support these young people as they transition out of foster care?

2. Over 4,300 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 1,200 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 2019, 8,314 youth 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?

5. Due to COVID-19 there has been an increase in underreporting of abuse and neglect across the state. What will you do to ensure Nevada’s children are safe?
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 PATH TO ECONOMIC SECURITY IS HARD FOR CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN CONSTANT POVERTY**

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**

- 55% of children in Nevada under the age of 18 lived with families with income under the 250% poverty line.
- 19% of children in Nevada under the age of 5 live in poverty.

**HOUSING IN NEVADA IS NOT AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES**

- 228,000 children in Nevada lived in households with a high housing cost burden.
- 28% 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.

- 17% of children in Nevada have parents whose head of household lacks a High School Diploma.
QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES ON 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.

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 195,000 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?
The November 3rd election is YOUR chance to vote for the candidates that you think will best represent you in the Local, State, and Federal government.

**HOW DO I VOTE?**

**STEP 1**
- **REGISTER TO VOTE**
  1. Postmarked via mail by Oct. 6th;
  2. In person at the election department offices by Oct. 6th;
  3. On the Secretary of State's internet website by Oct. 29th
  4. You can also register and vote on Election Day

**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**
- **VOTE**
  - **By Mail**: You will receive a ballot in the mail. Completed ballots must be postmarked or dropped off at a designated drop off location no later than November 3, 2020.
  - **In Person**: You may still cast your vote in person at a polling place in your county during early voting October 17 - 30, 2020 or on Election Day November 3, 2020

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

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
- You may request an absentee ballot for future elections or be on your county’s permanent absentee mailing list by visiting VoteAbsentee.nv.gov.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your county election office, or the Nevada Secretary of State Elections Division by e-mail at NVElect@sos.nv.gov or by phone at 775.684.5705