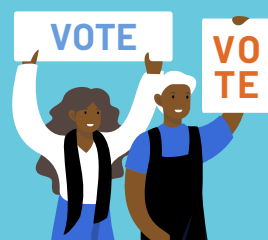




# SEE CHILDREN THRIVE VOTER GUIDE

THIS VOTER GUIDE IS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO USE THE POWER OF YOUR VOTE TO SUPPORT CANDIDATES WHOSE POLICIES AND PRACTICES WILL CREATE THE KIND OF PUBLIC EDUCATION WHERE CHILDREN WILL NOT ONLY SURVIVE, BUT THRIVE. WE CAN PROVIDE FREE, EQUITABLE, CREATIVE, ROBUST EDUCATION ENVIRONMENTS FOR EVERY CHILD BY VOTING FOR AND HOLDING ACCOUNTABLE ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMITTED TO THE WELL-BEING OF ALL GOD'S CHILDREN. OUR VOTE IS POWERFUL!



WHAT ELECTED POSITIONS IMPACT SCHOOLS?

STATE LEGISLATURES

**State legislatures** have taken a more direct role in setting standards, requiring assessments, and evaluating teachers and administrators. Recently, state legislatures across the country have been impacting public education by passing legislation regarding Critical Race Theory in school curriculum.

SCHOOL BOARDS

**School boards** act as the governance team for a school district. They set the district's vision, adopt policy, structure the district's budget, and act as a liaison between the district and the community.

GOVERNORS

**Governors** are often the driving force behind policy creation and change. They have state level executive authority, and the power to implement task forces, directives, and legislation relating to education policy. In 2018, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, by way of executive order, created a commission to broadly address the well-being of LGBTQ+ students.

MAYORS

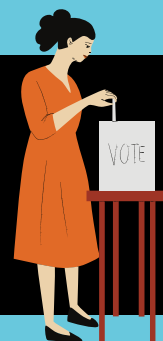
**A mayor's influence** in the community can help reshape the way we approach education policy and initiate change that leads to improved education outcomes. Mayors can facilitate community wide conversations about education challenges and solutions that empower their districts to pursue effective strategies for reform. In some places, like Chicago, New York City, and D.C, mayors retain governance over the schools in their jurisdictions.

& MANY MORE

There are a number of elected positions that profoundly impact children, if not schools directly. For example, **juvenile court judges** are elected positions in Ohio. How these judges see and value children directly impacts their court rulings.

BEFORE YOU VOTE ask yourself...

- ✓ What do the children I love need to thrive? Will this candidate be a help to securing those needs?
- ✓ Does this candidate understand my community and care about its needs? How have they shown this?
- ✓ Has this candidate named race and racism?
- ✓ Has this candidate prioritized the needs of children? In what ways?



# HOW TO SPOT A REAL ONE...

## WHAT QUALITIES MAKES A GOOD CANDIDATE?

Among other things, a good candidate knows well and spends time with the community they would represent (for example - school principal, coaches, etc.),

is knowledgeable and comfortable speaking about race,

is invested in practical and impactful outcomes for children,

displays obvious care and love for children and families,

and is good at - gathering folks, helping people make decisions, strategizing about how to get what you want together, seeing what's coming and helping make a shift.

Don't forget - the most charming candidate isn't always the best candidate. Over-reliance on charm, encouragement, and good public speaking can sometimes mask weak platforms.

## WHAT PLATFORMS HELP CHILDREN THRIVE?

### TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOLS

*Policies that help families feel stable and secure in their neighborhoods*

### UNIVERSAL PRE-K

*Policies that ensure teachers are cared for and have the space to meet student needs.*

### CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE & SUSTAINING EDUCATION

### WHATEVER THE CHILDREN IN YOUR LIFE NEED TO THRIVE

*What did we miss? Add the needs of the children you love to the list and vote accordingly!*

## BEYOND THE VOTE

Support the work after election season!

- ✓ **Read Up** | Stay informed on what's going on in your local community, especially in schools. What are the emerging needs of children in your community? How are your elected officials addressing these issues?
- ✓ **Back Up** | There are lots of ways to support your local community and schools. Find out from the educators, students, and parents in your life practical ways you can back them up as they do their work in the world.
- ✓ **Show Up** | After showing up to vote, keep showing up at gatherings, like school board meetings, where decisions that impact children and your community are made. Make your presence known and your voice heard!
- ✓ **Step Up** | Run for office! There are resources available for non-career politicians to launch a successful campaign. Support the campaign of "a real one" next election season by volunteering in various capacities.

## A MAJOR THREAT TO CHILD THRIVING...

Harmful legislation is showing up in classrooms across the country, restricting teachers and depriving students. This is one of the many reasons why our vote matters so much!

Stay up-to-date on what elected officials and policy makers are doing in each state regarding the anti-truth movement. Find out more about the anti-truth movement, what's going on, and how to respond in our Truth Matters for Students campaign.

ANTI-TRUTH LEGISLATION BY STATE

[www.expectations.org/voter](http://www.expectations.org/voter)

TRUTH MATTERS FOR STUDENTS

[www.truthmattersforstudents.com](http://www.truthmattersforstudents.com)

## 3 STATES IN CRISIS

Texas

Tennessee

Florida



WWW.EXPECTATIONS.ORG