



30th

out of 50 states for overall health of children

ALASKA CANDIDATE Forum Questions 2022

1

Access to consistent and timely health care is critical to keeping children healthy and in school. Health insurance is key to reaching that goal for Alaska's kids, including for those whose parents work in low-wage jobs that don't offer affordable insurance to families. Unfortunately, Alaska has some of the highest uninsured rates in the nation for children. How will you support efforts to expand health coverage to all children in Alaska and reduce the uninsured rate?

How can Alaska develop and maintain a robust behavioral health system so that our youth have access to the resources they need to improve their mental health, gain confidence, and grow into healthy adults?

2

3

According to national Kids Count data, Alaska ranks 30th out of 50 states for overall health of children. What are some ideas you will implement, if elected, to increase Alaska's ranking and make positive strides for the overall health of Alaskan children?

Learn more about Vote For Kids:
alaskachildrenstrust.org/vote-for-kids





34th

out of 50 states for economic well-being

ALASKA CANDIDATE Forum Questions 2022

1

There are many families in Alaska who work full time but cannot make ends meet. The availability of jobs differs around the state and has been significantly impacted by our economic challenges before and after COVID-19 hit. If elected, what steps will you take to address the needs of Alaska's children and working families struggling to make ends meet?

Children have greater access to stable and inexpensive housing, nutritious food, high-quality health care, and educational opportunities when their family are financially secure. If elected, what would you do to ensure all Alaskan families have equitable access to opportunities that allow them to achieve economic security?

2

3

The child poverty rate in Alaska is 14% according to the national Kids Count Data. Brain research demonstrates that growing up in poverty can create "toxic stress," negatively impacting educational and health outcomes long-term. However, the experiences of toxic stress can be buffered by positive relationships with parents and caregivers. What initiatives would you champion to support children and their families to mitigate the effects of toxic stress?

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Education

49th

out of 50
states for
education

ALASKA CANDIDATE Forum Questions 2022

1

According to national Kids Count data, Alaska ranks 49th out of 50 states for education. Only one third of Alaska's children are showing up ready for kindergarten. What will you do if elected, to increase education achievement for Alaska's children?

Research has shown that access to full-day high-quality pre-k ensures that more children start kindergarten with the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in school and become strong readers by third grade. Progress was made last session in moving universal pre-k bills along the process, but they did not make it to the finish line. What will you do to build on access to pre-k for Alaska's children?

2

3

From your perspective, what is the most important education issue facing Alaskan students and their families today?

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19th

out of 50
states for
family and
community

ALASKA CANDIDATE Forum Questions 2022

1

The average cost of infant childcare in Alaska is more than \$12,000 per year, roughly over a \$1,000 per month per child, which more than in state college tuition. What solutions would you propose to improve access and affordability to childcare for low-income families?

Afterschool programs support children and families by providing safe spaces for learning and socializing after school hours. How will you work to engage your local school and community based partners to create more access to quality afterschool and summer programs in Alaska?

2

3

The link between student health and academic achievement is strong: when students are healthy, they are better learners. What challenges do you see with the current school-based health and mental health services and how would you approach addressing them?

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