



Step Up for Kids: A Guide for Reporters

A child can't see through campaign promises—but you can.

Please consider using these questions when interviewing candidates this election season:

1. What is your platform for New York's children?
2. How do you propose closing the achievement gap so that all children can reach their full potential?
3. As of 2006, 39% of New York's 1.7 million children lived in low-income families; five out of six of these children live with at least one adult who works. What steps do you propose to help struggling families with children become more economically self-sufficient? What role should government take versus that of the nonprofit and business sectors in addressing children living in poverty?
4. Access to affordable, comprehensive, high-quality health care is essential to children's development. How do you propose supporting children's need for a medical home, preventive care, oral health care, and mental health services?
5. Thousands of New York State's children lack access to early learning opportunities that focus both on the needs of young children and working families by providing high-quality, full-day, year-round services. How can New York expand access to all children and families while supporting higher quality in all early care and education programs?
6. We all want children to be safe from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. In 2007, more than 150,000 children in New York State were reported to the State Central Register out of concern that they were abused and neglected. Many live in unsafe neighborhoods and are victims of violence. Some are exploited. What proposals will you make to keep all children safe from violence in their homes, schools, and communities?
7. In New York State, many of our children and youth in the care of the state (juvenile justice facilities, foster care, and mental health facilities) exit these systems only to enter another a short time later or to become disconnected from society (not in school and not working). What can these systems do to prepare children to re-enter society? What proposals do you have that will offer these youth opportunities for growth and development so that they can lead productive adult lives?
8. In 2009, New York State elected officials will face difficult choices when the budget is discussed and passed. Cuts to services and programs are anticipated. What proposal do you have for cuts? What programs or services deserve additional investments because they save money over the long-term?

For more information or statistics about issues facing New York's Children, visit: www.newyorkcan.org or contact Diane Mastin at dmastin@scaany.org or 518-463-1896, ext. 24., SCAA, 150 State St., 4th Fl., Albany, NY 12207