



# Candidate Survey on Children's Issues

## 2014 Election

The **VOTE for KIDS** campaign is an initiative by the independent, nonpartisan organization Westchester Children's Association that aims to elevate Westchester's children and youth to the top of the public agenda among candidates, elected officials, media, and the general public during the upcoming elections.

As a critical part of the campaign, candidates for the general election in the New York State Governor, New York State Senate and Assembly races were invited to answer questions about children's issues in Westchester County.

This is a non-partisan effort; Westchester Children's Association does not support or oppose any candidate for public office. We understand that voters do and should make decisions based on a variety of qualifications that go beyond responses to any one questionnaire.

Candidate responses or lack thereof are included in their entirety and in the exact manner that we received them. We are grateful to the candidates who took the time to complete the survey.

Please review these results and pass this document along to your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues before the November 4<sup>th</sup> election. More information and fact sheets about the issues raised in this survey can be found on Westchester Children's Association's website: <http://wca4kids.org/takeaction/vote.html>

More information about other races can be found through the League of Women Voters: <http://www.vote411.org/>

To find your polling place: <https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>

**VOTE: Tuesday, November 4, 2014**  
**6:00 AM – 9:00 PM**

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**Party Affiliations**

C = Conservative	R = Republican
D = Democratic	SAP= Sapient
GRE =Green	SCC = Stop Common Core
I = Independence	WEP=Women’s Equality Party
LIB=Libertarian	WF = Working Families

## New York State Governor

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**Robert Astorino (R, C, SCC)**-Did not respond.

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**Steven Cohn (SAP)**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

All Children learning tools should be available to the parents and the society free of charge. We should provide as many free seminars as need to educate the parents on how to improvise the child's attention to learning at an early age before they start schooling.

We should also provide on-line learning free of cost to everyone in the state of New York.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

We should have a better juvenile rehabilitation system in place so when they come out of program, they should understanding the respect of they life. We should keep the 16 and 17 year olds separate from the rest and try t educate them on how to better their life when they step out in the real world.

Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Better Education and Better Jobs for the parents so they can provide a better living standards for the children.

New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

We should expand the early childhood home visiting programs, this should be implemented for the whole state of New York not just Westchester because it is so important for out whole state. We will do what is needed to ask for funding and get this situation on the right track.

Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY				X	

**Steven Cohn (continued)**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Expanding low-income child care subsidies			X		
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

**Andrew M. Cuomo (D, WF, I, WEP)****Best Way to Contact:**

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Phone Number:

Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the “readiness gap” that appears before kids start school?**

During my tenure as Governor, I have been committed to education and children and that commitment will continue. For example, in last year’s budget, we added millions to UPK and childcare. Funding is only part of the equation; raising quality is another. I have directed the Office of Children and Family Service (OCFS) to work in partnership with the unions representing childcare workers (UFT and CSEA) to develop the training, quality improvement and accreditation skill sets for workers and provider organizations. This year we will complete these contracts, strengthening the workers in the system and lessening the readiness gap. In addition, I have sought to reform how education is delivered by increasing education aid while implementing innovative new education programs including community schools, full-day pre-kindergarten, extended learning time and rewards for master teachers. I will continue to aggressively advance new and innovative education and afterschool programs in a new term.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

Recognizing that New York is only one of two states that continues to automatically prosecute 16 and 17 year olds as adults in the criminal justice system, I have convened a commission to study how to Raise the Age of criminal responsibility in New York State. The commission is scheduled to submit recommendations to me by the end of 2014 for consideration. I hope and anticipate that the proposals will serve as a meaningful tool for raising the age in New York State.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Childhood poverty creates many complicated outcomes. As Governor, I have committed to identifying and resolving underlying issues that perpetuate childhood poverty. This year, I convened an Anti-Hunger Task Force to address a variety of issues, including access to healthy food. Lack of access to healthy and nutritious food is a tangible consequence of poverty. This task force has been working holistically to identify actions

New York State can take for children to lessen their hardship. The Task force will submit its report in November, and I look forward to receiving an actionable report that can serve as a framework for future work on this issue.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

The evidence that early childhood visiting programs strengthen parents and families is strong, and New York State has a number of programs that follow this critical model. As Governor, I have been committed to testing and implementing programs like childhood home visiting programs that provide services for the primary need and address the myriad of co-presenting issues. Health homes through NYS Health are such a model, taking the childhood visitation programs to the next level. NYS under my leadership has a Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) process to identify, treat and provide services early, so as to avoid future costs. I remain committed to providing best care to strengthen parents and families.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases				X	
Increasing early childhood home visiting services				X	
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment				X	
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY				X	



**Andrew M. Cuomo (continued)**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Expanding low-income child care subsidies				X	
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts				X	
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

**How important are each of the following policy reforms:**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system			X	
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)			X	
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services			X	
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the “readiness gap” that appears before kids start school?**

Short Term: Fully fund statewide, full day, and developmentally appropriate Pre-K and Kindergarten for children ages 3 to 6, with certified and unionized educators and low child-to-adult ratios under the administration of local school districts. Long Term: Desegregate schools, including early childhood education, by desegregating housing and residential patterns. Research is conclusive that the race and class readiness gap is established by age 3 and that diverse, desegregated schools not only benefits all children from all backgrounds, they close the achievement gap. Education reform requires broader social reform, especially metropolitan desegregation of housing and thus schools through the enforcement of fair housing laws and the development of mixed-income housing – including humanly-scaled, scatter-site, mixed-income public housing – in the cities and the suburbs.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I will support legislation to raise the age of adult criminal responsibility to 18 in New York State. New York and North Carolina are the last two states that automatically send children who turn 16 into the adult criminal justice system. More than 30,000 youth were treated as adults in New York's criminal justice system in 2013. More than 600 children from 13 to 15 years old were also sent into the adult criminal justice system for certain offenses last year. Children's brains, characters, and personalities are still developing. They should be sent into the juvenile justice system for offenses. Children incarcerated in adult facilities are more likely to suffer physical and emotional abuse. Children prosecuted as adults return to prison at higher rates than those prosecuted in juvenile courts. Treating children as adults in the criminal justice system undermines the goal of rehabilitating youth and protecting public safety.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Enact a Job Guarantee: A WPA-style public jobs program that provides a public job at a living wage in public works or public services for everyone who is willing and able to

**Howie Hawkins (continued)**

work when they cannot find a job in the private sector. Enact a guaranteed minimum income above poverty. Make it basic income grant that every adult receives, with adjustments for dependents, and is included in the progressive state income tax. Raise public assistance grant above the poverty level. End workfare for individuals on welfare and instead provide job, education, and/or job training. Fully fund universal Pre-K/child care statewide. Expand public housing and affordable housing programs.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Yes. First I support making health care a right for all residents through a New York public single-payer universal health care program. This program would ensure that all pregnant women have access to pre-natal care. Make WIC an entitlement program. Increase funding for expanded home visiting services, including funds to increase the pay of home health aids. End workfare for individuals on welfare and instead provide job, education, and/or job training. Fully fund universal Pre-K/child care statewide. Expand public housing and affordable housing programs.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X

**Howie Hawkins (continued)**

	<b>1 (Don't Support)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (Definitely Support)</b>
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					<b>X</b>
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					<b>X</b>

**Additional Comments:**

Raise the state minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour, indexed to productivity, with the right of local governments to set higher local minimum wages. The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom demanded a \$2 minimum wage. That would be \$15.57 as of August 2014 adjusted for inflation. Real GDP has grown by 2.7 times since 1963. The economy can afford it. It would raise demand and stimulate business and hiring to meet that demand. Guarantee full employment through WPA-style public jobs in public works and community services to ensure that every person aged 16 and up who is willing and able to work has a living-wage job. Training and apprenticeship programs should be part of the public jobs program. Youth should be included for summer and after-school part-time work. The tight labor market that full employment would create would raise wages in low-wage sectors.

**How important are each of the following policy reforms:**

	<b>Not important at all</b>	<b>Not very important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Highly important</b>
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				<b>X</b>
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				<b>X</b>
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				<b>X</b>

**Additional Comments:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

Early education begins at home. When both parents struggle just to make ends meet the children suffer also. As a single parent who raised three small children I found it difficult, but not impossible to read to my children often and to interact with them in an educational way everyday. Parental Education is essential since many parents are just not aware of the importance of these things. When parents cannot or do not have the ability due to their extreme schedules, affordable day care must be utilized.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I have worked with a local group who is very involved in reducing the rate of recidivism experienced by many adults/children. 16 and 17 year olds should NOT be prosecuted as adults unless the crimes are violent in nature. Many of these children are prosecuted for victim less crimes like possession of marijuana. The crime rate among children increases when the economy is in a shambles. Improving the economy and providing education for children involved with drgs is paramount to reducing the crime rate amongst children of all ages.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Jobs, jobs, jobs! Good paying jobs. Dependency on the food stamp program and social welfare would dramatically decrease if the state government would just reduce regulations and let the FREE MARKET prevail. People can fix these problems. The government in their desire to control people are grossly interfering with our ability to put things back together. The worst the economy and lack of good paying jobs the worst the crime rate and poverty levels. The more stores for rent because small businesses have gone out of business the worst it becomes.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Yes I do. Although I believe we should wean ourselves off of government dependency, it will be a gradual process. As we work to increase good paying jobs and economic opportunity under my leadership we need to increase early childhood home visiting programs and education. These days is there is no excuse for not receiving prenatal care. Properly run programs to educate children on birth control and the importance of prenatal care is essential to the health of the child. When children start having children and don't have strong family support it is extremely necessary to encourage local churches and organizations to step in. Looking to the state or federal government to step in and cure society's ills is a big mistake and not working.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	<b>1 (Don't Support)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (Definitely Support)</b>
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases	<b>X</b>				
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					<b>X</b>

**Michael McDermott (continued)**

	<b>1 (Don't Support)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (Definitely Support)</b>
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					<b>X</b>
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY				<b>X</b>	
Expanding low-income child care subsidies			<b>X</b>		
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					<b>X</b>

**Additional Comments:**

I am sorry to say that I just do not trust any government run program to care for our children. QUALITYstarsNY is a necessary program and I support it but only until we can change the reasons why it is necessary. We need a complete overhaul of the system to minimize government involvement.

**How important are each of the following policy reforms:**

	<b>Not important at all</b>	<b>Not very important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Highly important</b>
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				<b>X</b>
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)			<b>X</b>	
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				<b>X</b>

**Additional Comments:**

While the tragedy surrounding the death of Nicholas is real, the parents and gun owner are the ones responsible. It was negligence by them and a new law to limit guns I cannot support. I have had handguns in my home and my young children had NO access to them. We don't need yet another law infringing on our right to bear arms, but we do need to be ever vigilant against such negligence.

**District 34 (Pelham and parts of the Bronx)**

**Frank Dellavalle (C)**-Did not respond.

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**Jeff Klein (D, I, WEP)**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America’s children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the “readiness gap” that appears before kids start school?**

I led the successful fight for Universal Pre-K in the 2014-15 state budget and won \$340 million to launch the program. I will continue to work to ensure that pre-K services are expanded as quickly as possible to every child who needs them.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I support raising the age of criminal responsibility so 16 and 17-year olds are not automatically charged as adults or sent to adult facilities, but instead get the social, educational and mental health interventions they need to improve their chances of not re-entering the criminal justice system as adults. I look forward to implementing the upcoming recommendations of the governor’s Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice.



**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

A major initiative of mine was to make it affordable for parents to work by funding child care subsidies. I fought for and won an increase of \$55 million, creating more than 4,500 new child care slots - a win that will ease the financial burden on impoverished families. We also expanded work requirements for public assistance to include classes toward a four-year college degree, recognizing that a strong education is key to lowering the poverty rates in Westchester and NYS. I will continue to push for affordable child care, education, and job creation as paths out of poverty for New York's families.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

The Healthy Families New York Home Visiting Program was maintained at \$23.3 million in the state budget, plus an additional \$3 million to restore and increase the Nurse Family Partnership program. These successful home visiting programs not only help improve children's health and development, but also school readiness and family economic self-sufficiency. I certainly support expanding home visiting, which more than pays for itself by reducing future public assistance and health care costs.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**Jeff Klein (continued)**

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				
I am the Senate Sponser of Nicholas' Law , S. 7822				

**Best Way to Contact:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

I reject the entire concept of a "readiness gap." This is an idea perpetrated by a corporate controlled, competitive society. All children should be afforded a free public education from pre-K through college. Education is a basic human right. A child's natural curiosity and creativity needs to be encouraged and nurtured. Children need to be allowed to progress at their own pace without being forced into regimentation and conformity. I would seek increased funding for a free public education system staffed by union teachers. I would seek to eliminate both standardized testing and common core curriculum. More attention needs to be paid to the emotional needs of children by school administrators, therefore, I would require teachers and administrators to be completely educated in conflict resolution and nonviolent communication skills.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

No child should ever be prosecuted as an adult. We need to increase funding and facilities for alternatives to incarceration for troubled and at risk youth. This goes hand-in-hand with providing a nurturing education system that will help to engage youth so they'll have a fighting chance at dealing with societal and peer pressure. We do not give our children the respect they deserve nor listen to and take seriously what they have to say about their needs concerns.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

We must increase the minimum wage to at least \$18 / hour so that families can provide for their children. But even that isn't adequate as a living wage today. We must ensure that funding is not cut for food stamps and other essential lifeline services. In fact, we need to increase the funding. We need to provide more low cost, safe and secure housing. We need to institute a single payer enhanced "Medicare-for-all" health care system. These are the things I am addressing and will fight for if elected.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

This would be provided for under the single payer health care system we need to adopt.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	<b>1 (Don't Support)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (Definitely Support)</b>
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					<b>X</b>
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					<b>X</b>
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					<b>X</b>

**Carl Lundgren (continued)**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<b>Additional Comments:</b> In reference to QUALITYstarsNY: we must ensure that the program is not allowed to be politicized and influenced by the whims and machinations of elected officials.					

**How important are each of the following policy reforms:**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<b>Additional Comments:</b>				

**Aleksander Mici (R)****Best Way to Contact:**

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Phone Number: 347-357-3093

**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the “readiness gap” that appears before kids start school?**

The readiness gap cannot be fixed by throwing money at broken schools. Public school education, especially the politics of public school education must be reformed.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

The single most effective solution to prevent recidivism is to assimilate youths into the life of productive labor. We can begin by reforming a punitive tax code that effectively destroys families.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Fix the purchasing power parity of the US Dollar, inflation contributes to high prices of basic staple foods.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

If the program is effective, yes it should be expanded.

**Aleksander Mici (continued)**

Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases			X		
Increasing early childhood home visiting services				X	
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment				X	
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY			X		
Expanding low-income child care subsidies			X		
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts			X		
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system			X	
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)			X	
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services			X	
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

## **District 35 (Greenburgh, part of New Rochelle, Scarsdale, part of White Plains, and Yonkers)**

**Robert Lopez Foti (R, C)**-Did not respond.

**Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D, WF, I, WEP)**

### **Best Way to Contact:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

I believe that no early childhood education system can succeed without proper oversight and sustained funding. As a result, I believe New York State must properly and adequately fund school districts to help ensure that universal prekindergarten is offered to every eligible child. While doing so, we must understand the pressures of the local school districts to fund all classes for all academic years. Moreover, local community services providing other educational programs must be supported to help close the educational readiness gap. Teacher development, parental involvement and smaller class sizes and a vibrant community are key components to closing the divide. Incorporating parental feedback and providing educators with the tools and necessary training are vital components to our children's success.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I support and am committed to "raise the age" of criminal responsibility, most especially in cases of non-violent crime. When young people are subject to lifelong criminal records there are drastic consequences that impact many areas of life. Children prosecuted as adults have also been shown to return to prison at higher rates than



those prosecuted in juvenile courts. I am also supportive of organizations that promulgate ideals of restorative justice. The theory of restorative justice emphasizes repairing the harm caused or revealed by criminal behavior, which could be the key to working with 16 and 17 year old offenders so that he or she does not regress to criminal behavior. Restorative Justice is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders for example: victims/offender/community/family of offenders/religious leaders/educators/ service providers. I stand by the research that indicates that this approach to criminal justice can lead to the transformation of people, relationships, and communities.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

I am committed to and support programs and services that help working families to stay employed and ultimately break the unfortunate cycle of poverty. Therefore I will continue to fight for adequate funding to ensure that housing and food programs remain available to those trying to keep working families together. I will also continue to fight for additional education and job readiness training programs that will provide those living in poverty with a path to self sustainment. It is equally important to fight for increased production and availability of affordable housing units, the creation of new jobs and an increase in the minimum wage.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

I support New York's early childhood home visiting programs that recognize the critical importance of early life experiences on children's health and development, with a focus on supporting families in targeted high risk communities. I will continue to work to secure adequate funding to ensure that services including educating families on parenting and child development; connecting families with medical providers for prenatal/well-baby visits and immunizations; assessing children for development delays; and helping families access community referral resources and services can continue to reach all those in need.

**Andrea Stewart-Cousins (continued)**

Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

## District 36 (Mount Vernon and parts of the Bronx)

**Crystal Collins (I)**-Did not respond.

**Robert L. Diamond (R, C)**-Did not respond.

**Ruth Hassell-Thompson (D)**

### Best Way to Contact:

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

I have voted to authorize and fund Universal Pre-K at an initial cost of \$300 million. Although there is a debate as to the cost effectiveness of Pre-K, I am a staunch advocate. As the program develops, we need to ensure that ESL instruction is deemed a key priority. We also need to learn from the Head Start Program and hone the use of support social services to better enable a nurturing family environment. We need to certify and continuously (CLE) support Pre-K teachers. We need to have a set of clear goals for Pre-K and these goals must be in accord with core curriculum's emphasis on ELA and Math proficiency.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I am the co-sponsor of the Senate version of Raise the Age Legislation. For the past several years, I have worked with Judge Lippman, Governor Cuomo, and scores of advocates from all over the nation to make this legislation a reality in the State of New York. Specific reform actions have been part of my everyday professional conduct. Where ever an opportunity appears for me to advance Raise the Age Legislation I

reflexively fill the hole. We need to treat adolescents like adolescents. We need to use holistic medical treatment as a first line for prosecution of young people. Raising the age of criminal responsibility in New York makes for good public policy.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

There are no simple solutions to this ageless problem. In short, the federal government, the state governments and the private sector need to agree on fundamental issues concerning the economy of tomorrow, expectations and needs of the American educational system, the need for Immigration reform, the roles of government and corporations in economic development, creation of a fair and equitable tax structure, including income tax, corporative taxes and international trade; and agreement on the parameters of globalization. Poverty does not have State borders.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Of course I support pre-natal care for the poor - it saves the taxpayer money in the end game. I also support early childhood home visiting programs. Any request to expand a program, or create a new program, must pass the gauntlet of the budget process. In the area of health there are scores of worthy causes and life threatening needs. Every year advocates lobby for a limited pot of resources. If the money is in the budget I will vote to support expansion. If the pot of resources is over-taxed, I am open ears as to why home visiting should be expanded despite other competing and worthwhile interests for children, the elderly, the disabled, those affected by communicable diseases, and the sort.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

**District 37 (Bedford, Eastchester, Harrison, Mamaroneck, part of New Rochelle, North Castle, Rye, part of White Plains, part of Yonkers)**

**Joseph Dillon (R, C, I)**-Did not respond.

**George Latimer (D, WF)**

**Best Way to Contact:**

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Phone Number: 914.341.1226

**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

I believe that Universal Pre-K should be funded and made available in every school district in the State. That said, I am also concerned that we do not lose the progress that comes from an early start in education which is why I support funding after-school programs to allow the early learning to flourish in those that need the extra-assistance. I am also in favor of a comprehensive teacher training program that will keep all of our teachers from Pre-K through 12th grade as up to date on new methods as is possible. Additionally, I have worked with my colleagues to ensure that the Early Intervention Program in New York works effectively.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I have reviewed and would vote in favor of either S.1409 or S.4489 which would change how we deal with minors that break the law in a more age appropriate and effective manner to stop future criminal behavior.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

I have worked diligently with my colleagues and Governor Cuomo to bring more jobs to New York. The first line against poverty should be the availability of jobs. Second, I have advocated for the increasing of the minimum wage so that low wage workers can more easily provide for their families.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Yes and I commit to fighting for monies in the State budget to expand these services.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	<b>1 (Don't Support)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (Definitely Support)</b>
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					<b>X</b>
Increasing early childhood home visiting services				<b>X</b>	
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					<b>X</b>
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY				<b>X</b>	
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					<b>X</b>
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					<b>X</b>
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

**George Latimer (continued)**

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system			X	
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)			X	
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

**District 38 (Ossining and parts of Rockland County)****David Carlucci (D, WF, I)**-Did not respond.**Donna Held (R)****Best Way to Contact:**

Address:

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Phone Number:

**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

Many of our community's young children participate in some variety of pre-k program. I would support reforms which would transition our daycare programs into educational opportunities to give children a head start on a life long pursuit of knowledge. For those who do not enroll their children in a pre-k program, I would like to make a curriculum available statewide which could guide these parents in providing necessary educational opportunities to their children.



**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

Automatic prosecution of 16 and 17 year olds as adults is a very harsh implementation of our legal system. Minors should be prosecuted based upon a variety of factors non-inclusive of their age. Automatically deciding that a child must serve in an adult prison can have a more scaring effect then rehabilitative effect on that offender. In order to make sure that a misguided minor does not end up becoming a career criminal as a victim of circumstance, I will look to the solutions implemented across the country studying their effectiveness for an adequate solution protecting both our youths and our community.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Although poverty in general is a very serious reality for many adults, it is many times more troubling for our children. Besides feeling the very real effects of poverty by not having access to the resources for success such as nourishing meals, warm clothing, educational materials, stability of location, and so many other childhood necessities; children are unable to do much to improve their own station in life. When legislating for childhood poverty, I will make it a priority to find a way to make sure that our children have access to the tools to bring them happiness and success in life. They need a strong foundation for their future, and we must find a way to help them realize their potential.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

There is a large body of information supporting the need for childhood home visiting services. As the senator serving the 38th district, I would be interested in seeing how programs providing such diversified community benefits could be administered. In the early days of my term, I would welcome facts and opinions from the community so I could draft a cohesive bill advocating for the needs of the children of our community through valuable programs such as childhood home visiting.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services			X		
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY			X		
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

**Donna Held (continued)**

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

**District 40 (Cortlandt, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, Mount Pleasant, New Castle, North Salem, Peekskill, Pound Ridge, Somers, Yorktown, and parts of Putman County)**

**Terrence Murphy (R, C, I, SCC)-Did not respond.**

**Justin Wagner (D, WF)**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

Unfortunately, too many of our students come to school without the requisite skills to succeed. I strongly support universal Pre-K across New York State as a means of increasing access to education and closing the readiness gap. I also support funding for after-school programs to ensure that students are given even more opportunities to

learn and succeed. At the same time, we need to educate and empower parents to make sure they are aware of the critical nature of learning in the early years.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

Criminal justice reform is an important issue for New York State - many of our laws are outdated and not fit to meet the challenges of today's world. There is not a "one sized fits all" approach to treating 16 and 17 year olds in the criminal justice system - prosecutors and Judges must be given some discretion to administer justice and look out for the best interests of the community.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

The underlying causes of poverty among children are the lack of employment for their parents and/or caretakers and the increasing cost of living in New York State (especially in Westchester). I believe NY State needs to be a leader in making investments in infrastructure that will lay the groundwork for future growth and put people back to work. I also believe we should increase the minimum wage so working families can support their children.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

I do favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs. These programs have proven to be successful in improving prenatal care and educating women about their pregnancy and parenthood. There is nothing more important to our society than the

**Justin Wagner (continued)**

health and well being of our mothers and children - I will fight for funding to increase access to these programs.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

**How important are each of the following policy reforms:**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system			X	
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)			X	
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services			X	

*Additional Comments:*

On the question of criminal responsibility, I do believe that the treatment of some relatively minor crimes that 16-17 year olds commit within the context of the adult criminal justice system is not helpful from a societal perspective. At the same time, I believe Prosecutors and Judges should have the discretion to ascertain the seriousness and nature of a crime and make a decision about whether the adult or juvenile system is most appropriate.

## **New York State Assembly**

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### **District 88 (Eastchester, part of New Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale, part of White Plains)**

#### **Amy Paulin (D, WF)**

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**Best Way to Contact:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

During my tenure in the Assembly I have advocated for and supported full funding for full day pre-K and have introduced legislation to make full-day kindergarten mandatory for all children. I have been a strong proponent of early intervention. While chair of the Assembly Committee on Children and Families, I successfully sought funding for early childhood programs. More importantly, the legislature adopted the "Quality Stars NY" program to ensure early childhood programs provide the best quality care and early education. This program rates early childhood programs and gives them the tools to improve their programs.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I have passed legislation that allows 16 and 17 year olds charged with prostitution to be treated as “Persons in Need of Supervision” (PINS). Legislation refining this law is waiting the Governor’s signature. I am also a co-sponsor of A.3668, that would allow 16 and 17 year olds to be treated as juvenile offenders in adult

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

I support expanding and funding quality child care and continued state funding for children’s health care. Further, I support an increase in the minimum wage. This would assist parents in making a living wage and to pull their families out of poverty.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

I favor expanding early childhood visiting programs as they have been shown to be effective, evidence-based programs that promote child and family well-being. I helped restore funding to the home visiting program by preventing the merging of funding for several prevention programs, including the home

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**Amy Paulin (continued)**

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i> I introduced "Nicholas' Law" and am working hard to get it passed.				



## **District 89 (Mount Vernon and part of Yonkers)**

**J. Gary Pretlow (D, I)**

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### **Best Way to Contact:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

To be pre educated prior to attending school requires educated parents. It is well known that children from poor families start school with a severely limited vocabulary as compared to students coming from wealthier homes due to the fact that their parents have limited education themselves. Since educating the parents is not an option I fully support full day universal pre-K .for all students.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I fully support legislation to raise the age to be treated as an adult to 18. Especially for misdemeanors. All individuals under the age of 18 should have their cases adjudicated in Family Court.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Implementing a living wage is a start, but \$15 an hour only yields an income of \$30,000 per year still well under the \$47,700 used to calculate the poverty level for a family of four. But, with a living wage supplemented with housing assistance and assistance with

**J. Gary Pretlow (continued)**

food purchases the pressure on the poor will be eased. Needless to say I fully support implementing a living wage.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

There is no excuse that 27% of pregnant women in Westchester County received late or no prenatal care, Education in this area is imperative. Yes I favor early childhood home visits, unfortunately I don't believe the Department of Social Services has the will to do this.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services				X	
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY				X	
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

**How important are each of the following policy reforms:**

	<b>Not important at all</b>	<b>Not very important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Highly important</b>
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				<b>X</b>
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				<b>X</b>
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				<b>X</b>
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

## **District 90 (Yonkers)**

**Shelley Mayer (D, WF, I)**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

One of my top priorities has been and will continue to be expanding full day pre-k outside NYC. Quality full day pre-k is essential to educational and social success, particularly in communities like mine in Yonkers. I will fight to ensure there are additional resources in the next fiscal year for expanded pre-k and affordable high quality child care.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I strongly support modifying NYS law to ensure 16 and 17 year olds are treated appropriately for their ages. I am a sponsor of A. 3668 in the Assembly, and will push for its passage in both houses of the legislature.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

We need to work harder to address childhood poverty in New York State, and here in Westchester. I strongly support an increase in the minimum wage, to allow working parents to get above the poverty threshold. I support legislation to allow counties and municipalities, like Yonkers, the opportunity to enact higher minimum wage legislation on a municipal level. I strongly support adequate child care subsidies and oversight to ensure that child care funding is not reduced and co pays increased without proof that such steps were necessary (as in Westchester). I will continue to press for public higher education funding to expand opportunities for our high school graduates to achieve greater economic security.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

I strongly support expanding early childhood home visiting programs, ensure help women and children receive the care they need. I will continue to work at the state level to try to bring needed resources to this important program.

**Shelley Mayer (continued)**

Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<b>Additional Comments:</b> These issues are personally important to me, and to my district in Yonkers. I will continue to work to advance them in the next legislative year.					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<b>Additional Comments:</b>				

## **District 91 (Mamaroneck, part of New Rochelle, Rye)**

**Steve Otis (D, WF, I)**

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### **Best Way to Contact:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

In the Assembly I have supported increase funding for education, increased commitment to Pre-K and K, and increased state aid to the school districts I represent. We need to continue to grow the state commitment to aid to school districts. Even with a \$1.2 billion increase this year we are only back to state aid at the level we were at before the recession of 2008-09.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

The Governor has now appointed a commission to review this issue. I have attended a number of forums in Westchester and believe we need to change the law and raising the age. The details need to be worked out. The Commission should be an important voice in recommending the timing and method to do this.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

There are a variety of issues that come before the legislature that affect children or families at economic risk. State budget lines and individual bills affecting child care,

**Steve Otis (continued)**

health care, education, unemployment benefits for adults, food and nutrition programs, job training, housing assistance programs, tenant protections and social service programs all will impact families living in poverty. It is important that the network of services to move people out of poverty is accessible to the individuals who need those services. I also support raising the minimum wage beyond the compromise enacted in 2013.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Yes - This program need to be expanded to serve more families. I support additional state assistance to counties to promote meeting the need.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					x

*Additional Comments:*

**Steve Otis (continued)**

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

**District 92 (Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant)****Thomas J. Abinanti (D, WF)****Best Way to Contact:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

Provide free state-funded statewide universal full day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**



**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

1. lessen burdens on poor and low income families by increasing access to affordable health care and child care;
2. raise low income wages by raise the minimum wage and instituting "living wage" requirements where possible;;
3. increase direct state expenditures to increase good paying jobs in private sector and public sector (for example, infrastructure repair:); all paid for by repealing recent tax-free giveaways to out-of state corporations and their high-paid management and restore a more progressive income tax structure by re-enacting some of the higher-end tax surcharges that were eliminated.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Yes.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

We must strive to narrow the achievement gap. Pediatricians should be proactive in educating parents. Schools should use research-based strategies to teach reading, writing, and language skills to our students. This is not an expensive fix to a pervasive issue.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

As a former law enforcement officer, and now a criminal defense attorney, the first issue to be resolved is the type and severity of the offense. Obviously, a youth who commits an intentional homicide is not similarly situated to a youth with mental issues who has a tendency to steal. In other words, there is not a one sentence it disposition fits all. One possible solution could be to have special courts for these individuals, and/or give judges more discretion in saddling with these types of cases.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Promote family stability by building job creation opportunities for families to allow them to increase their income.

New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Before I could answer this question, I would need to examine the efficacy of existing programs and decide how to improve these services, if they indeed required improvement.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases		X			
Increasing early childhood home visiting services			X		
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY		X			
Expanding low-income child care subsidies		X			
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts			X		
<b>Additional Comments:</b> Several of these questions cannot simply be assigned a numerical value without further examination.					

**Mike Duffy (continued)**

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system			X	
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)			X	
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

**District 93 (Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, part of White Plains)****David Buchwald (D, WF, I)****Best Way to Contact:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

I am pleased to have supported increased funding for pre-K in school districts, but more needs to be done on that front. Of perhaps even more importance, I believe New York State should expand the role of the QualityStarsNY program, so that all parents have an understanding of the quality of their child care options.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

I am pleased that Governor Cuomo has formed a panel to look at exactly this question. I eagerly await the panel's report, as non-violent 16- and 17-year-olds can often be treated differently than adult criminals. A representative from my office attended WCA's Raise the Age Town Hall meeting in Mt. Kisco earlier this year to help us gain more insight into this issue.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

This is one of the most difficult and one of the most important questions policymakers face. It will take a multi-faceted approach to address. Among other things, the answers involve: improving access to job skills programs, including at community colleges; promoting the earned income tax credit; and raising the minimum wage. One of the accomplishments I am particularly proud of is expanding the New York Youth Works program to include the City of White Plains, giving disadvantages 16- to 24-year-olds the opportunity to gain career skills while giving tax credits to the businesses who hire them. It's not a cure all, but it's a start.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

The federal Department of Health and Human Services has recognized how important childhood home visiting programs are to child development. I am pleased that New York's Department of Health has established a new Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Initiative, but it does not yet appear to be active in

Westchester County. I would be very willing to sign onto a letter to the Department of Health to inquire as to their plans for Westchester and to urge them to assist in meeting the needs here.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services				X	
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts				X	
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

**How important are each of the following policy reforms:**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system			X	
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X

**David Buchwald (continued)**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

**District 94 (Somers, Yorktown, and part of Putnam County)****Andrew Falk (D, WF)****Best Way to Contact:**

Address: Andrew Falk for Assembly, 4 Main Street, Brewster, NY 10509

E-mail address: falk4ny@gmail.com

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

I support the availability universal pre-k, and will support funding at the state level so as not to drive up property taxes. I believe that appropriate levels of funding for pre-k can, in the long run, be a cost savings as children are better prepared to handle academic work and will benefit from needing less remedial work.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

At this time I do not have an opinion on this issue but am actively researching the issue and all the proposed legislation to address the issue of prosecution as adults of 16 and 17 year olds who commit crimes.



Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

I support the effort to provide funding for programs that affect the lives of individuals and families in need. I am committed to increasing the minimum wage to boost our economy and help hard working families. Jobs, tax relief and economic growth are the themes I repeat every day on the campaign trail. Growing our economy benefits us all, and will help poor families and children.

New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Yes. I know that in the 2014-15 budget the funding for this program remained flat at \$23.2 million dollars. I will research what the appropriate levels of funding should be and will work with all levels of government to see if there are opportunities to increase funding. Effective funding of this program can potentially be a cost savings as far as post birth interventions.

Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X

**Andrew Falk (continued)**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

**How important are each of the following policy reforms:**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system			X	
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)			X	
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

**Stephen M. Katz (R, C)****Best Way to Contact:**

Address:

E-mail address:

Phone Number:

**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the “readiness gap” that appears before kids start school?**

I will not be filling out and answering a questionnaire that targets a liberal response. I have dedicated my life to advocating and supporting initiatives that would increase opportunities for the betterment of children; whether through the implementation of pre-K education, early intervention programs and special education. I fought to get the \$90 million dollars back to be allocated for OPWDD that would help benefit special education in New York State. Filling out this questionnaire would be a disservice to the children of New York State.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

Please see answer to question above.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

Please see answer to question above.

**New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.**

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Please see answer to question above.

**Stephen Katz (continued)**

Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

## **District 95 (Cortlandt, Ossining, Peekskill, and part of Putnam County)**

**Sandra Galef (D, WF, I)**

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### **Best Way to Contact:**

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**Both neuroscience and economics have shown the critical importance of the earliest years to lifelong learning and success. Research shows that as many as 40 percent of America's children start school well behind what is expected for their age and, even with high quality K-12 education, have difficulty catching up.**

**What specific actions will you take to increase the quality and affordability of early education and to close the "readiness gap" that appears before kids start school?**

I am a strong advocate for full-day kindergarten and full-day pre-kindergarten programs. In the 2014-15 state budget, we allocated \$40 million to schools outside NYC and \$300 million for NYC schools to provide for full-day kindergarten programs this school year. This is a significant step to close the readiness gap you refer to in your question.

**New York is one of only two states in the country that automatically prosecutes 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Approximately 46,000 16 and 17- year-olds were arrested in New York State in 2010. 74.4% of those arrests were misdemeanors. Youth released from adult prisons re-offend more often than their peers who are released from juvenile facilities, and they are more likely to commit more serious crimes.**

**What specific actions will you take to address 16- and 17- year olds who commit crimes?**

Many of us are working to change the criminal justice system relating to 16 and 17 year olds and not considering them as adults. Other services such as mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, enhanced family guidance, and renewed educational opportunities should be the focus for this age group.

**Children are the age group most likely to live in poverty. 1 in 4 children in Westchester live in families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which is \$47,700 for a family of four. From 2008 to 2012, the percentage of children relying on Food Stamps in Westchester County increased from 9% to nearly 15%.**

**What specific actions will you take to address child poverty in New York?**

We must raise the minimum wage further and faster, allocate additional funds to child care for lower-income families, enhance food programs in our schools and for our families through food pantries and food distribution, and continue to foster affordable housing.

New York Office of Children and Family Services has designated Westchester as a high need community for early childhood home visiting services due to more than 27% of pregnant women in Westchester receiving late or no prenatal care and roughly 40% of families using Medicaid or Child Health Plus as financial coverage at birth, among other factors. Early childhood home visiting programs have been shown to improve many aspects of child and family well-being.

**Do you favor expanding early childhood home visiting programs? If yes, what specific actions will you take to expand home visiting services in Westchester County?**

Studies indicate that providing pre-natal services results in healthier children and mothers. Reaching out to families in their homes is an important goal when funding is available. There are some services in place now, such as through the Open Door Health Center, that are working on providing that essential outreach to families to encourage the use of services that are presently in place.

**Over the past few years funding for important services that keep children healthy, safe and prepared for life have been cut. Complete the two charts below to tell us how, in light of tight budget constraints and competing constituent demands, you will prioritize services for children and youth.**

**On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following:**

	1 (Don't Support)	2	3	4	5 (Definitely Support)
Raising New York's minimum wage above scheduled increases					X
Increasing early childhood home visiting services					X
Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment					X
Implementing QUALITYstarsNY					X
Expanding low-income child care subsidies					X
Expanding Universal Pre-K to all New York school districts					X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>					

How important are each of the following policy reforms:

	Not important at all	Not very important	Important	Highly important
"Raising the Age" of criminal responsibility so that 16- and 17- year olds are adjudicated in the juvenile justice system				X
Implementing Nicholas' Law (child access prevention and safe storage of guns)				X
Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services				X
<i>Additional Comments:</i>				

## SUMMARY OF CANDIDATE RESPONSES – ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME

First Name	Last Name	Indicate your level of support for shifting financial resources to each of the following						How important are each of the following policy reforms?			
		Raising NY's minimum wage	Increasing early childhood home visiting	Expanding job readiness/summer youth employment	Implementing QUALITY starsNY	Expanding low-income child care subsidies	Expanding Universal Pre-K to all districts	Raising the age of criminal responsibility for 16 & 17 year olds	Implementing Nicholas' Law	Reforming reimbursement for Early Intervention services	Survey Page
Thomas J.	Abinanti	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	48
Robert	Astorino	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	4
David	Buchwald	5	4	5	5	5	4	I	HI	HI	53
David	Carlucci	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	32
Steven	Cohn	5	5	5	4	3	5	HI	HI	HI	4
Crystal	Collins	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	27
Andrew M.	Cuomo	4	4	4	4	4	4	I	I	I	6
Frank	Dellavalle	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	16
Robert L.	Diamond	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	27
Joseph	Dillon	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	30
Mike	Duffy	2	3	5	2	2	3	I	I	HI	51
Andrew	Falk	5	5	5	5	5	5	I	I	HI	56
Sandra	Galef	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	61
Ruth	Hassell-Thompson	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	27
Howie	Hawkins	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	9
Donna	Held	5	3	5	3	5	5	HI	HI	HI	32
Stephen	Katz	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	58
Jeff	Klein	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	16
George	Latimer	5	4	5	4	5	5	I	I	HI	30
Robert	Lopez Foti	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	24
Carl	Lundgren	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	19
Shelley	Mayer	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	43
Michael	McDermott	1	5	5	4	3	5	HI	I	HI	13
Aleksander	Mici	3	4	4	3	3	3	I	I	I	21
Terrence	Murphy	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	35
Steve	Otis	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	46
Amy	Paulin	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	38
J. Gary	Pretlow	5	4	5	4	5	5	HI	HI	HI	41
Andrea	Stewart-Cousins	5	5	5	5	5	5	HI	HI	HI	24
Justin	Wagner	5	5	5	5	5	5	I	I	I	35

### Response Key

**Shifting Financial Resources:** Scale of 1 to 5 with 1 indicating “Don’t Support” and 5 indicating “Definitely Support”

### Importance of Policy Reforms:

NIA = Not important at all

NVI = Not very important

NR = No response

I = Important

HI = Highly important

