

**Families Voting
Candidate Briefing and Interview
Protocol**

Instructions: *This protocol is intended as a guide to local child advocates as they develop relationships with candidates during election campaigns. This is also companion to a questionnaire that will be mailed directly to candidates. Please feel free to adapt the issue specific information that is pertinent to your community or to the particular races you are focusing upon. These questions are written with state legislative and Congressional candidates in mind, but can be adapted for county commission, city, or judicial races.*

Please make a copy of the interviewing form after each briefing and interview is completed with a candidate and return it to Michele Strasz, Families Voting, Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, 416 W. Ottawa, Lansing, MI 48901.

If you have any questions please call Michele at (517) 482-5807 or mtstrasz@aol.com.

**Families Voting
Interviews**

Background Information Form

(Complete as much as possible before the interview using files, clippings, etc. If necessary verify accuracy during interview.)

Candidate's Name: _____ Party _____ District _____

Address: (home or headquarters) _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email/Website: _____

Occupation: _____

Other elected offices held and approximate dates:

Experiences with children (parent, grandparent, volunteer, employment)

Interview Date: _____ Place: _____ Length of time: _____

Campaign for Children representatives attending: _____

Form completed by: _____ County: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax/Email: _____

Candidate Interview Questions

1. What problems and issues facing children do you consider most critical?

2. What state policies and budget priorities would you promote or support to address them?

3. Do you already have an agenda or platform for meeting the varied needs of the children of your district and Michigan? (If so, please ask if you can have a copy to share with Families Voting and parent voters in your community.)

Families Voting Candidate Interview page 2

4. Current Issue Questions- Limit to 2 or 3 questions which cover the spectrum of the issues from the Platform (Please see sample questions on our internet site www.mcmch.org or create your own based upon the needs and priorities identified in your community)

Please give a brief explanation of the issue to provide context for the questions you will be asking.

5. If elected what areas of children's issues are you most interested in? (Give them the Prevention platform if they need help)

6. Do you plan to introduce any legislation in any of these areas?

7. Would you or your Campaign staff like more information on any of these issues? (Please list the issues and who would like the information)

Closing:

We will be contacting you again to keep you informed of local Families Voting events. This information will be (published by the local paper, summarized with the other candidates and distributed through our coalition, etc.) We hope this was helpful and you consider us a resource regardless of the outcome of the election. After we leave, if you need more information please contact me at <<your name and local number>> or contact Families Voting at (517) 482-5807.