



VOTE for OHIO KIDS



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#Vote4OhioKids Campaign Gains Momentum 62 organizations join 45 Ohio business leaders in call for gubernatorial candidates to put kids first

Columbus, Ohio: Today the Vote for Ohio Kids campaign released the names of the coalition members to join Groundwork Ohio, the Ohio Children's Hospital Association and [45 business and community leaders](#) thus far calling for Ohio's next governor to make kids a priority.

"The case for investing in early childhood education and healthcare is clear—whether you consider the substantial benefits to kids or the significant economic impact for our state," said Shannon Jones, Executive Director of Groundwork Ohio. "Our strong coalition sends a clear message to Ohio's next governor: it's time to put Ohio kids front and center."

The coalition is urging both gubernatorial nominees to participate in the Vote for Ohio Kids Leadership Forum on September 27 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. This Forum, supported by business, education, healthcare and child advocacy leaders, will give gubernatorial candidates the opportunity to hear from experts and share their plans for investing in our youngest Ohioans.

"The challenges related to ensuring accessible, quality healthcare and early education for Ohio kids have impacted more than our schools and health systems," said Nick Lashutka, President and CEO of the Ohio Children's Hospital Association. "This is why the Vote for Ohio Kids [consensus agenda](#) is supported by so many organizations and community leaders from across the state. Our next governor needs to recognize the urgent need to invest in quality early education and healthcare for Ohio kids now—we can't afford to wait."

About Vote for Ohio's Kids

Vote for Ohio's Kids is a statewide effort dedicated to ensuring all 2018 gubernatorial candidates commit to making early care and education a top priority. The initiative is led jointly by Groundwork Ohio and the Ohio Children's Hospital Association in partnership with business, healthcare, and early education leaders as well as child advocates from around the state. To learn more about Vote for Ohio Kids, visit www.VoteforOhioKids.org or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @Vote4OhioKids.

About the Founders

Groundwork Ohio is a committed, nonpartisan advocacy organization formed in 2004 that believes quality early learning and development is the most transformative strategy to improve school outcomes, increase the life-long success of Ohio's children, and lay a strong foundation for economic prosperity in the state of Ohio. To learn more about Groundwork Ohio visit www.GroundworkOhio.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @GroundworkOhio.

The Ohio Children's Hospital Association is the voice of Ohio's youngest patients, their families and health care providers. Our six member hospitals and their nearly 40,000 employees are dedicated to saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives. Nothing matters more to the future of our state, nation and world than protecting the health and well-being of our children. Sustaining and growing Ohio's investment in saving, protecting and enhancing the lives of children is both good medicine and sound public policy. To learn more about the Ohio Children's Hospital Association, visit www.ohiochildrenshospitals.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) @OhioChildHosp and [Facebook](#) @OhioChildrensHospitals.

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