



VOTE! November 4, 2008

7 am - 8 pm

MICHIGAN COALITION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WWW.MICCF.ORG

Families Voting

Kids Priority 1!

Who is voting for the issues that matter most to you and your family? There are roughly 10 million people in Michigan, 3.5 million are children. Did you know that only 39% of the population voted in the 2006 election for governor? That means that 3.8 million adults made all the political decisions for children and the rest of the adults in our state. **Were you one of those voters?**

According to a 2000 survey, parents are 38% of registered and likely voters. (By contrast, union members are 30% and seniors are 17%) Your vote has power, but only if you choose to exercise that right. Children need you to put their needs first when you vote. After all, they are the future of this country.

Put Kids First! Vote!

To find your polling place or to get an absentee ballot call your local County Clerk or go online to www.michigan.gov/vote.

Learn more about candidates' positions. See www.publius.org for your ballot and links to candidates.

Tell candidates what you think about issues concerning your family, community and schools. Help put a face on the issues by:

- Attending local candidate forums
- Invite candidates to visit your home, school, church or organization to meet the children and families they represent.
- Call or write the candidate and offer to be a resource.



Included in this newsletter are:

Family Voting Activities, information on how to be politically active, useful web-sites and more.

Please share this with a friend and encourage them to vote as well. Our children's future depends on the decisions we make today.

Important election dates for 2008:

Primary election,
August 5, 2008

Register to vote
by Oct. 6, 2008

General election:
November 4,
2008

Bring Democracy Home: VOTE

Teaching children about voting and participating in our democracy is an important role for parents and caregivers.

Parents who vote are more likely to raise children who will vote.

Here are some ideas to nurture lifelong voters and make educated decisions about today's issues and candidates.

- Host a family dinner discussion on issues or candidates.
- Write a family letter to a candidate.
- Watch election ads on TV and talk about them.
- Cut out articles, headlines in the paper about candidates and election issues and hang them on the fridge for dinner-table discussion.
- Make a ballot box and take turns voting on a family issue.
- Have your child place a favorite sticker on the calendar marking November 4th as election day.
- Send a note to family or friends reminding them to vote with children in mind.
- Take your child to the polls and let them see you vote.
- Have a special treat on election night as a reward for voting.
- Watch the election results come in as a family and talk about what you've learned.
- Send a letter to a winning candidate to encourage him or her to represent children.

Kids Priority 1

Platform:

Healthy Kids,
Safe Kids,
Secure Kids and
Smart Kids

For more info go to
www.kidspriority1.org

Election 2008 Website Links

Involve Kids & Teens! These sites are great for teachers, youth group leaders, and parents as well as kids. . .

Everychildmatters.org
rockthevote.com
vote-smart.org connectforkids.org
youthvote.org closeup.org
kidsvotingusa.org chooseorlose.com
teacher.scholastic.com/activities/election
Declareyourself.org

A website encouraging parents to take their children to vote:

takeyourkidstovote.org

General Voter Information

MI Secretary of State has an *Electronic Voter Guide*. It includes lists of all candidates and voter registration information.
www.michigan.gov/sos/election/voteguide/index.html

League of Women Voters. . .

lww.org/voter

Register to vote on the Web. . .

BeaVoter.org or declareyourself.org

Kids Priority 1 Michigan!

www.kidspriority1.org

Interested in interviewing local candidates?
Email info@mcmch.org or call 517-482-5807

Elections to watch in 2008:

- President
- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives
- State House of Representatives
- Local officials
- Judgeships

For your personal ballot check out
www.publius.org