

**Get informed.  
Speak up.  
Be a voice  
for our kids.**



*The mission of MarinKids is to act as  
a single unifying voice and resource  
advocating for the welfare of all children in  
Marin County ages birth to 21.*



**MarinKids**  
*Opportunity Around Every Corner*

**Will you stand up  
for Marin's kids?  
Make your vote count!**

**VOTER GUIDE 2012**



[www.marinkids.org](http://www.marinkids.org)

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The purpose of MarinKids is to build a community that has at its heart a belief that caring for all the children is our collective responsibility – and that acts to realize that belief. We will accomplish this through community education, advocacy, mobilization and leadership.

Together, we can make a difference in the life of every child in Marin.



**MarinKids**  
*Opportunity Around Every Corner*

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Learn how you can make a difference:  
[www.marinkids.org](http://www.marinkids.org)  
[www.facebook.com/marinkids](https://www.facebook.com/marinkids)  
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# Know the Issues.

## Ask the Candidates and Get their Commitments.



### Take action now!

- Register to vote.
- Contact the candidates. Ask about their plans to work for children in Marin.
- Volunteer for and donate to candidates who are committed to kids.
- Send an e-letter directly to the candidates at [www.marinkids.org/take-action-now/](http://www.marinkids.org/take-action-now/). Let them know that you will support candidates who are committed to opportunities for all Marin's children.

### Vote

**Primary Election: Tuesday, June 5, 2012**

**General Election: Tuesday, November 6, 2012**

For elections information, contact the Marin County Registrar of Voters at 415/473-6456 or visit [www.marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org).

**Give kids a voice...  
Vote for the health,  
education and wellbeing  
of all our children.  
If we don't, who will?**

Join the MarinKids movement:  
Sign up for our newsletter at [www.marinkids.org](http://www.marinkids.org)  
Like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/marinkids](http://www.facebook.com/marinkids)  
Contact us at [info@MarinKids.org](mailto:info@MarinKids.org)



### Childhood Obesity

#### The Issue:

Making sure children have a healthy diet and regular exercise can prevent lifelong problems and lower overall health care costs for everyone.

1 in 4 children in Marin County is overweight or obese and the rate is rising. These children are at higher risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, asthma and high blood pressure. Obesity rates are higher among low income children.

#### Ask the Candidates:

**Q:** If elected, what policies or legislation would you support to reduce childhood obesity, including access to local and affordable healthy foods, physical activity and healthcare?



### Education

#### The Issues:

Research shows early education promotes success in school, yet 1 in 4 Marin County children do not attend preschool, including almost half of all Latino children, leaving them less prepared for kindergarten. Children who start behind, tend to stay behind.

K-12 budget cuts have caused the loss of art and PE, reduced staffing, and increased class sizes. Impacts are disproportionate at schools with lower per pupil spending and with a greater proportion of children living in poverty, precisely where more supports are needed.

Due to cost, college is out reach for many youth in Marin, even more so for Latino and African American students. In Marin, nearly 1 in 5 African American and Latino children does not graduate from high school. Funding cuts to community colleges further decrease opportunities for many aspiring students.

#### Ask the Candidates:

**Q:** If elected, what policies or legislation would you support that could:  
1) Promote preschool, transitional kindergarten and access to high quality early childhood education for all youngsters in Marin County?  
2) Improve school funding, increase per pupil spending, and support optimal educational opportunities for all students in Marin County?  
3) Ensure that every student in Marin County is prepared for and has access to college?

### Access to Healthcare

#### The Issue:

Having health insurance means kids are more likely to receive preventive care and stay healthy. Healthy children do better in school, receive less costly care sooner and have more productive lives.

Approximately 4% of Marin's children do not have health insurance. That means they don't have preventive medical and dental care.

Nearly 15,000 or 29% of all children in Marin depend on MediCal or subsidized insurance for health care coverage. Legislation could put these kids among the uninsured.

#### Ask the Candidates:

**Q:** If elected, how would you work to ensure that every child in Marin County has health insurance and a place to receive medical care? Do you support universal health coverage for children and youth?

### Poverty

#### The Issue:

Living in poverty during childhood impacts children throughout their lives in terms of educational attainment, health, life expectancy and opportunities to succeed.

1 of 10 children in Marin County is living below the Federal Poverty Level (less than \$23,000 for a family of 4).

Over 23% of Marin families can't afford the basics – food, rent, healthcare, transportation and child care.

#### Ask the Candidates:

**Q:** What experience do you have dealing with childhood poverty? If elected, what do you see as the priorities? What policies or legislation would you support that could make a difference?

### Working Together for Change

#### The Issue:

MarinKids believes that we are all responsible for creating opportunities for all of our children. Working together, educating the public, defining accountability and implementing public policies to support and protect our children are keys to fulfilling our responsibility.

#### Ask the Candidates:

**Q:** If elected, what would you do to engage your colleagues and constituents in efforts to eliminate inequities and improve the lives of all children and youth in Marin County?

