

Vote for Children's Health: Put the Health of Children and Their Environments at the Center



**CHILDREN'S
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
NETWORK**

**Considerations
for Voters in the
2020 Elections**

5

Key Issues



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

ALL children deserve clean air and water, safe food, toys and products, and healthy environments in which to live, learn, play, and work.

Children's health and their communities have NOT been at the forefront of our Nation's policies and programs.

The 2020 elections offer an opportunity to reset our national, state, and local priorities and to put children's health and their environment FIRST.

Children cannot vote, but YOU can.

We need political leaders at all levels of government who put the health of children, their future, and their families first—especially now more than ever—as COVID-19 places additional risks and weakens the strength of families across the country.

As you go to the polls, think about the following 5 issues and consider where each candidate stands.

1. Vote for children's health and health equity.

Children are more vulnerable to environmental threats. Children of color and those living in poor conditions are at greatest risk from the negative health impacts of environmental hazards.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/CEH101>

Vote for candidates who:

- Support health coverage and access and delivery of quality health care for ALL children
- Support policies and programs that promote equity by addressing poverty and systemic racism
- Ensure that communities have a leading voice in decisions that impact their health, their environment, and their quality of life
- Support access to safe and healthy, high quality, affordable child care for all children



2. Vote for climate action.

A group of diverse children, including a girl with dark hair, a boy with brown hair, a boy with short black hair, and a girl with blonde hair, are smiling and standing in a grassy park area with trees in the background. They are dressed in casual clothing like jackets and sweaters.

Children are especially vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. Those most at risk include children of color, those living in poverty, those with pre-existing illness or disability, infants, and pregnant women.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/CEHandClimate>

Vote for candidates who:

- Support policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Heed community voices—especially of those most vulnerable and impacted—in efforts to combat climate change
- Support clean energy alternatives and a just transition away from coal, oil, natural gas, and waste and biomass incineration
- Support policies to build equitable, climate resilient communities

3. Vote for clean air.

Approximately 34.2 million children live in U.S. counties with unhealthy levels of air pollution. Of these children, approximately 2.5 million have asthma.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/ALAchildrenAirPollution>

Vote for candidates who:

- Support strong and equitable clean air policies, including those that reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Support active transportation policies and promote cleaner cars, trucks, planes, trains, and ships
- Support reductions in mercury (especially harmful to children's brain development) and other air toxics
- Support expanded monitoring, especially in communities nearest to polluting industries or high-traffic roadways, and support strict enforcement of standards



4. Vote for clean water.

Many children in the U.S. drink contaminated water, whether from public systems or private wells. Contaminants may include disease-causing bacteria such as *E. coli*, heavy metals such as lead (which harms children's brains), and carcinogens such as PFAS and radon.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/NEHPC_SafeDrinkingWater

Vote for candidates who:

- Support policies that promote clean water for all
- Support investment in state and local infrastructure, including accelerated full lead service line replacements
- Support a drinking water standard for PFAS that protects children's health
- Support testing and reporting standards for privately owned water sources



5. Vote for toxic-free environments and products.

A photograph of a young child with light skin and hair, wearing a light blue shirt, sitting on the floor and painting a colorful picture on a white wall. The child is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is filled with vibrant, abstract brushstrokes in shades of green, blue, yellow, and red. The image is partially obscured by a dark teal diagonal shape on the left side of the page.

Children in the U.S. are exposed to thousands of chemicals every day through food, drinking water, air pollution, and consumer products. Of the over 84,000 chemicals in use in the U.S., many can be found in toys and everyday products, and most are untested for safety.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/NEHPC_ChemicalSafety

Vote for candidates who:

- Support full and transparent implementation and enforcement of chemical safety policy, towards a toxic-free economy
- Support state and federal bans on the pesticide chlorpyrifos
- Support the use of science in environmental rule-making
- Prioritize an end to lead poisoning

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#ChildrenAtTheCenter



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The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) is a national multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment.

