



Public policy
in the best interest
of children



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Immediate Release

News Release

Novi Adult Learners Lead Forum for Candidates in the 11th Congressional, 11th and 15th State Senate, and 38th and 39th State House Districts on Oct. 23 at Novi Middle School

Novi, Mich. – In a departure from typical election-year forums, Michigan's Children will host a forum for candidates running in the **11th Congressional, 11th State Senate, 15th State Senate, 38th State House and 39th State House districts** on **Tuesday, October 23, 2018** with adult learners posing questions of keen importance to their experiences.

Students representing Novi Community Education and the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education (MACAE) will lead the non-partisan forum scheduled for **5:30 pm – 7:00 pm at the Novi Middle School Auditorium, 49000 11 Mile Road, Novi**. Candidates will be given equal time to answer questions centered on issues important and relevant to the lives of adult education students, including education, employment opportunities, child care, transportation, and health care.

“This is a great way for candidates to interact with their constituents and for students to be civically engaged,” said Patrick Brown, a MACAE spokesperson. The intent of the forums is also to help office-seekers develop a deeper understanding of the challenges facing today's families, and after the election, to develop helpful contacts with families and agencies in their districts.

Student Jessie Finch said the Novi Schools' program, which offers flexible schedules and is rooted in learning as a life-long pursuit, provides the flexibility that adult learners with family responsibilities require to succeed. “I chose to enroll in Novi adult education because I wanted to further my education and obtain my diploma for my son and myself,” Finch said.

The Novi forum is one in a series sponsored by Michigan's Children, a statewide advocacy and public policy organization, and 25 other nonprofits and agencies. Other forums led by youth and families in Bay City, Lansing, Rochester, Fremont, Wyoming, Holland, Jackson and Kalamazoo will explore issues including the **state's child care system, juvenile justice, family stability** including economic struggles, **childhood trauma and toxic stress, adult and child literacy**, improvements in **K-12 education**, and **access to mental health services**.

“Unfortunately, our state currently fails many of its youngest citizens and families,” said Matt Gillard, President and CEO of Michigan's Children. “Data in the annual Kids Count report shows that Michigan ranks at or near the bottom third of states in a range of child well-being indicators, from low reading and math test scores to rising abuse and neglect rates to the sixth-highest rate of children living in high-poverty neighborhoods in the country. We desperately need office-seekers to hear from the kids and families they want to serve and to understand there are strong policy solutions in each of these areas.”

Michigan's Children is the only statewide, independent voice working to ensure that public policies are made in the best interest of children, from cradle to career, and their families.



The Novi Adult Education program, offers a flexible schedule that will allow students to maximize their options to complete their high school education. We offer the opportunity for our adult students to graduate with a high school diploma. We celebrate that accomplishment by hosting a graduation ceremony attended by our school administration, school board and teachers. Novi Adult Education helps the older student obtain the credential that will open the doors to move forward and obtain a life- sustaining career one class at a time.



Michigan Association
of Community and
Adult Education

For over 30 years, the Michigan Association of Adult & Community Education (MACAE), has represented the administrators, teachers and supporters of Community Education in the State of Michigan. MACAE believes in building resilient communities around strong, adult, alternative and community education programming. We provide professional development resources, networking opportunities and legislative awareness to support practitioners. We ensure that our program participants will be taught, trained and tooled for success in the 21st century!