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Immediate Release

Youth and Families Will Ask the Questions at July 7th Candidate Forum

The Children's Center and Michigan's Children Detroit Sponsor Detroit Event for Office-Seekers in the 13th Congressional, 8th state Senate, and 8th state House districts

DETROIT, Mich. – [The Children's Center](#) and [Michigan's Children](#) will host a youth- and family-led candidate forum in high-interest races on **July 7, 2022**, to bring attention to the issues that matter most to young Detroiters and their families. This nonpartisan forum – not a debate – features invited candidates in the newly redrawn **13th Congressional District, the 8th state Senate District, and the 8th state House District.**

The event takes place from **5:30 pm to 7:30 pm** at **The Children's Center, 79 Alexandrine West, Detroit, MI 48201**. Candidates in the state House and Senate districts will take questions in the first hour, followed by **Congressional candidates beginning at 6:30 pm**. Equal response time will be offered to all candidates. **Fox 2 Detroit-TV anchor Charlie Langton** will serve as emcee. The event will be livestreamed on Facebook Live.

Parent leaders from the **Family Success Center** at The Children's Center, a premier mental health provider, will direct questions to the candidates, along with young people representing the **Center's Youth Advisory Council**. On their minds are issues affecting daily life and well-being, such as neighborhood gun violence and school shootings, mental health, foster care, and LGBTQ+ rights.

Invited candidates in the 13th Congressional District are: **Democrats John Conyers III, Sherry Gay-Dagnogo, Michael Griffie, Adam Hollier, Sharon McPhail, Sam Riddle, Portia Roberson, Lorrie Rutledge, Shri Thanedar, and Republican Martell Bivings.**

In the state Senate district, invited candidates are **Democrats Marshall Bullock II and Mallory McMorrow, and Republican Brandon Simpson**. In the state House district, the candidates are **Democrats Durrel Douglas, Ernest Little, Mike McFall, Ryan Nelson, David Soltis, and Republicans Attie Pollard and Robert Noble.**

Media interviews can be arranged with hosts and questioners that day.

"Educating our community on issues surrounding local elections is paramount," said The Children's Center President & CEO Debora Matthews. "We cannot afford to walk into our local polling sites blindly,

as the stakes are too high. We each have a responsibility to make informed decisions which ultimately will affect us all.”

“We’re honored to partner with The Children’s Center for this very special event, and we’re especially thrilled to see such strong engagement from the parents and youth who will be guiding the conversation based on their own personal and community concerns. Really, that’s what elections are all about - candidates listening to the voices of constituents of all ages. It puts the power back where it belongs – in the hands of the people,” said Michigan’s Children President & CEO Matt Gillard.

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The Children’s Center leads the way in providing an integrated approach to community mental health that treats the whole child and the whole family. Together with our community partners, we offer meaningful solutions that address mental, physical and behavioral health, abuse and neglect, and poverty challenges currently faced by over 100,000 children in the Greater Detroit area. <http://www.thechildrenscenter.com/>



*Public policy
in the best interest
of children*

Michigan's Children is the only statewide, multi-issue advocacy organization focused solely on public policy in the best interest of children from cradle to career and their families. We have been creating opportunities for young people and caregivers to share their stories, concerns and suggestions directly with policymakers since 1996. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, our forums are presented as a non-partisan activity. <http://www.michiganschildren.org>