



Public policy  
in the best interest  
of children

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Immediate Release

## **Bay City Youth Invite State Legislative Candidates to #HearOurVoices at Forum on Tuesday, Oct. 18**

*Boys and Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region & Michigan's Children will Sponsor Event*

**Bay City** - The stage is set for one of the most distinctive candidate forums in Bay City with youth from the [Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region](#) interviewing office-seekers in state Senate and House races about the issues that concern them the most.

The school-age youth will pose questions about topics they've selected of personal and community interest on **Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022**, in the **Club's Teen Activity Room at the Center, 300 Lafayette Ave., Bay City**. The event runs from **6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Organizers have invited candidates in the **35<sup>th</sup> state Senate race** (representing Midland, Saginaw and Bay County), and the **96<sup>th</sup> state House race** (representing Bay City and almost all of Bay County). [Michigan's Children](#) has joined the Boys and Girls Clubs in assisting youth with plans for the forum, and training on the role state Lawmakers play in making public policies that affect them.

All candidates in the races of local interest were invited, including **state Rep. Annette Glenn (R)** and **Kristen McDonald Rivet (D)**, in the **35<sup>th</sup> state Senate race**; and **Kim Coonan (D)** and **state Rep. Tim Beson (R)** in the **96<sup>th</sup> state House race**. Rivet, Coonan, and Beson have confirmed they will attend. Glenn declined, citing a previous commitment.

**CEO Julie Villano, of the Boys & Girls Clubs** of the Great Lakes Bay Region, said the youth have been working hard in past weeks to prepare for the event.

"When youth are valued, they engage. When youth are heard, they commit. This experience helps us to value and listen to what is important to tomorrow's future," Villano said. "If we want our youth to invest in their own future, we have to give them the tools to help guide them. This forum is one step in achieving this."

**Michigan's Children's President & CEO Matt Gillard** said the Bay City clubs have been an important partner in candidate forums in the past, and is impressed with the youths' level of commitment once again. "Elections are all about candidates listening to the voices of constituents, and elevating work around solving community problems," Gillard said. "These youth are playing an important role in civic engagement and the electoral process."

The Bay City forum coincides with the national celebration of [Lights on Afterschool](#), dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, afterschool programs. The forum will be streamed on Facebook Live.

The youth have selected the hashtag, #hearourvoices, for the forum.

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The Mission of **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region** is to inspire and enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. We advocate for them to have equitable opportunities to participate and succeed in all organizations and workplaces—especially our own.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION

**Michigan's Children** is the only statewide, multi-issue advocacy organization focused solely on public policy in the best interest of all 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.

