



ALL OUR KIN



Four Ways Family Child Care Educators Can Make A Difference On Election Day

Two months ago, the Senate failed to approve a \$400 billion investment in child care. With just one more champion in the Senate, new funding would be on its way to states now. Instead we're facing a battle to convince states that the funding they provided last year isn't enough and they must do more.

On Tuesday, November 8th we have an opportunity to increase the number of child care champions in elected office and reward those who have worked tirelessly to support us. Over the next month you can find more information about voting, reminders about key deadlines, and resources to help you lift up the voices of family child care voters in All Our Kin's [Voter Resource Center](#). See below for a few key resources:

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

- Register to vote. If you're not sure if you're registered, [click here](#). If you're not registered or have moved since the time you voted, [click here](#) to register.
- To vote by mail or absentee ballot, [click here](#).
- To vote in person, plan your day on **November 8th**. The polls are open all day.
 - Confirm the location of your polling place [here](#).
- Decide who you'll vote for. Attend candidate forums, ask how candidates plan to support child care, and tell them why family child care matters to you. Many candidates are unfamiliar with family child care, so explain why it's important and deserves their support.

HOLD CANDIDATES ACCOUNTABLE TO SUPPORT CHILD CARE

- Follow candidates on social media and let them know child care matters to you. [Download sample posts here](#).
- Attend on-line and in-person events in your community. Check local news for events with candidates.
 - Download sample [questions for candidates](#) here.



In addition to making your own plan to vote, you have an opportunity to encourage parents' civic engagement. See below for resources to share with educators in your community or networks on how they can engage parents and children in their programs.

ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO VOTE

- Send parents voter registration materials and friendly reminders about upcoming deadlines. Download samples [here](#).
- Keep voter registration forms in a location that's visible to parents. Encourage parents to complete and return the forms.
- Consider offering parents additional flexibility on election day. Parents with young children lead hectic lives. Staying open for an extra hour on election day could make a difference in whether they vote.
- Help them connect the dots.
 - Explain that members of Congress, the Governor and state legislators all have the power to help parents afford care and ensure educators are paid well.
 - Share what children are going to learn about voting in your program.

FCC EDUCATORS: INVOLVE CHILDREN

- Have children make their own voter registration cards on construction paper. Ask each child to draw a picture of themselves or take photos. Write their names on each card and attach the picture. Send these home with children before Election Day.
- Discuss why we vote. Have children in your program vote about an issue that interests them, such as snack food, or a special activity. Count the votes and discuss what they mean.
- Encourage parents to take their preschoolers and school-age children with them when they vote.

Exercising your right to vote is the most immediate way to hold elected officials accountable. This election day, [be a family child care voter](#).

