



# IT'S TIME FOR MOMS TO ASK THE QUESTIONS!

Are you headed to a town hall event, election forum, or just run into a candidate at the grocery store? Take along our handy list of sample questions that you can ask the candidates about issues that are important to women and families. (You'll see our questions list when you scroll down this page).

Find out where your candidates stand! It's easy!

And, you don't have to ask your question in-person. On Twitter? Below our in-person questions list, you'll find a list of sample questions in tweetable form (scroll down). You can cut and paste these directly into Twitter and tweet them to your candidate.

Let us know what happened! Did you ask a candidate a question or two? We'd love to hear how it went! Leave a comment on our Facebook Page or tag us on Twitter and use the hashtag #MomsVote! Happy Questioning!

## Sample Questions to Ask Candidates:

### EARNED SICK DAYS:

We all get sick, yet over 43 million workers in the United States, including 80% of low wage workers, are unable to take even a single earned sick day when they, or their child, are sick. That means they are at risk of losing a day's pay – possibly even their jobs – if they take a day off of work because they are sick, or their child is sick. Studies have shown that access to earned sick days is good for the economy and helps keep people in the jobs they need. It also helps employers' bottom lines. **\*What will you do to help advance access to earned sick days for every worker in our nation?**

### PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE:

The United States is an outlier in the world when it comes to access to paid family and medical leave. Right now only 15% of workers in the United States have access to paid family leave via their employer. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which is UNpaid, covers less than 40% of workers, and even still - many of those who are eligible to use FMLA can't afford to because it's unpaid. Study after study has shown that paid family and medical leave brings huge benefits to our national economy in terms of greater workforce attachment, less reliance on public assistance, and stronger, healthier families when parents can take paid time off of work to care

for new children and when all workers can take paid time off for caregiving and medical leave. **\*If elected, what will you do to make it easier for all working people have to access job-protected, paid family and medical leave insurance?**

Most people who use FMLA use it for medical reasons, so we have a follow up question: **\*Can you also commit to supporting a comprehensive paid family and medical leave that reflects a wide range of caregiving needs?**

## **CHILD CARE:**

Childcare costs more than public college in a majority of states, and an overwhelming majority of families are struggling to find and afford high-quality childcare while early childhood professionals are paid some of the lowest wages in the nation. There are critical gaps in our policy in this area. Studies demonstrate how high-quality early learning experiences set children up for success in school and life. **\*Can you commit to expanding access to high quality, affordable childcare opportunities -- and also to ensuring childcare workers are paid fair wages? And, what are your plans to ensure parents can work knowing their children are safe, loved, and learning?**

## **IMMIGRATION:**

Can you give us details of your plan to support comprehensive immigration reform, fair treatment for immigrant families, and to acknowledge contributions to our economy and communities?

## **SCHOOLS AND WELLNESS:**

Right now millions of kids are in schools with cops but no counselors or social workers. **\*What would you do to promote social emotional health and wellness in schools and end the school-to-prison pipeline?**

## **WORKING FAMILY TAX CREDITS:**

What would you do to strengthen tax breaks for working families, in particular the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC)?

Recent tax policies passed by Congress have greatly benefited the 1% and mega-corporations over working families. **\*What types of changes to our tax policies do you think need to be made in order to create a tax system that boosts families and mandates that the already wealthy pay their fair share?**

## **FAIR PAY:**

It's 2018 and women STILL aren't earning equal pay for equal work; with moms, women of color, and moms of color experiencing the worst wage and hiring discrimination. This pay discrimination hurts businesses, our families and the economy. **\*What are you going to do to advance equal pay?**

## Sample questions in Tweet-form:

Below are some sample questions written just for Twitter. You can use these to Tweet questions to candidates or elected officials. Just be sure to put the right Twitter handle of the elected official or candidate that you're trying to reach in the tweet before sending! And there's room to add #MomsVote if you choose! If you do, we can find your question and retweet from @momsrising to further amplify it!

**#PaidSickDays are good for workers, good for business and good for public health.  
#RU4paysickdays?**

**Having a baby is a leading cause of #poverty spells in the #US. Do you support/oppose national #PaidFamilyLeave insurance?**

**Do you support or oppose passing #PaycheckFairnessAct 2 close the #PayGap between men and women?**

**Do you support or oppose allowing #kids 2 remain on parents' healthcare plans till 26, a provision that was included in #ACA?**

**What would you do to strengthen working family tax breaks like #EITC and #ChildTaxCredit?**

**What actions would you take to #CloseTheGap in states that have chosen not to #ExpandMedicaid?**

**Can you commit to expanding access to high quality, affordable #childcare opportunities – & also to ensuring childcare workers are paid fair wages?**

**What would you do to promote social emotional health and wellness in schools and end the #school-to-prison pipeline?**

**What are your plans to advance fair treatment for all immigrant children, women, and families?**

**How will you fight to advance #EqualPay?**

