

## ELECTION 2012: WHO IS SPEAKING UP FOR KIDS?

Living in swing state Virginia, we have heard a lot about the election this year. In all of the commercials, articles and phone calls, have you heard much about what politicians have to say about children's issues? Once these politicians are elected they will get a lot of say in which issues are funded and supported. Before they are elected, wouldn't you like to know where they stand on the issues?

Voices encourages all voters, parents, grandparents, educators and everyone to increase the dialogue about issues impacting kids in the election. We hope that you will get involved in any of the following ways:

Ask candidates questions about where they stand on the issues you care about.

Attend debates and speak up about kids' issues at the debate.

Read and listen to articles and speeches to pay attention to those magic words talking about kids issues.

Talk to your families, friends and relatives about what you hear politicians saying about kids' issues.

### SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

1. Over 85% of a child's brain is developed by the age of 5, how would you ensure that our youngest children and families are supported during this time? What role do you see the federal government playing to help young children's optimal development?

2. More children and families in Virginia now live in poverty than at any point in our history. If elected, what would you do in the short term, 1 to 2 years, to help families facing economic hardship? What would you do in the long term, 5 to 10 years, to reverse the trend of increasing poverty?

3. In Virginia, as many as 100,000 children and youth suffer from a serious mental illness, yet only 1 in 5 of those kids gets the treatment they need. Effective treatment options and trained professionals are not available in many parts of the state, and long waiting lists delay services when they are available.. If elected, what will you do to ensure that children with mental health disorders can get the treatment they need so that they can become productive citizens?

### 2012 Debate Schedule

**Presidential Debates**  
Barack Obama & Mitt Romney

**Vice Presidential Debates**  
Joe Biden & Paul Ryan

**Senatorial Debates**  
George Allen & Tim Kaine

**Oct. 3rd - Presidential Debate**  
Domestic Policy Issues

**Oct. 8th - Senatorial Debate**

**Oct. 11th - Vice Presidential Debate**

**Oct. 16th - Presidential Debate**  
Town-meeting Style

**Oct. 18th - Senatorial Debate**

**Oct. 22nd- Presidential Debate**  
Foreign Policy



For Virginia's Children

One way that you can track what politicians are saying and help educate your children on the election is a BINGO word game. Use this game to track what politicians are saying in debates or on the news. Do you hear candidates using any of these words or concepts related to children's issues?

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11 Education	25 Grandparents	34 Foster Care	40 Pre-existing Condition	58 Healthy Foods
15 Health Care	22 Child Care	31 Wellness	49 Family Support	54 Head Start
19 Mental Health	28 Health Insurance	<b>FREE</b>	43 Equity	50 Early Intervention
12 Strong Families	20 College	39 Nutrition	42 Preschool PreK	51 Behavioral Health
18 Parents	21 Prevention	35 Community	48 School	56 Equality

