

**COMPLETE**

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## Page 2: Contact Information

## Q1

Please provide your contact information below.

Name	Paul Krizek
District	HD44
Address	2201 Whiteoaks Dr.
City/Town	Alexandria
State/Province	VA
ZIP/Postal Code	22306
Email Address	paul@paulkrizek.com
Phone Number	703-688-2983

## Page 3: Question 1: Early Learning

## Q2

Virginia is known to have a 'non-system' of early learning where programs operate under different departments and sets of rules. What would you do to better link programs and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Virginia's early learning programs?

I support universal pre-k as a way to standardize programs and improve their efficiency in Virginia.

## Page 4: Question 2: Foster Care

## Q3

Most children entering foster care are returned to their families. In most cases, these families do not receive additional support and services from the child welfare system, which can lead to poor health and education outcomes for children. How do you think the Commonwealth can better support children once they are returned to their families?

I favor giving relatives providing kinship care the same support we give strangers providing foster care.

## Page 5: Question 3: School to Prison Pipeline

Q4

The US Department of Education data analyzed by the Center for Public Integrity shows that Virginia schools, in a single year, referred students to law enforcement agencies at three times the national rate. Numerous studies show that these school discipline policies increase the chances of these students becoming involved with the adult criminal justice system. If elected, how would you address these issues?

I don't think it's appropriate for law enforcement to be the disciplinarian of first resort for minors and children attending public schools. Police only need to be called in the most extreme circumstances and problems should be addressed and handled within the provided school disciplinary structure.

## Page 6: Question 4: Health Insurance

Q5

Virginia's Children's Health Insurance Program (known as FAMIS in Virginia) and Medicaid provide low-income children with health insurance that their families would otherwise be unable to afford. If the federal government cuts payments to the states for Medicaid and/or FAMIS, how would you support the health needs of low-income children?

I support universal healthcare and if the Federal government renegs on its medicaid program, we should look at it as an opportunity to expand affordable care to everybody in VA.

## Page 7: Question 5: Opioid Epidemic

Q6

Substance abuse by parents affects both the parents and their children. Brain research shows that positive attachment between a parent and child in the first few years of life is critical to the child's healthy brain development. Substance abuse can significantly impact those early bonds between parents and children. If elected, what policy solutions would you promote to address the needs of the whole family?

Treating addiction like a disease is critical to healthy recovery. We must work to provide recovery and treatment options for addicts so they can live healthy lifestyles with their families.

## Page 8: Question 6: Cross-Systems

Q7

A child can interact with many systems (schools, health and mental health, courts, etc.) as they grow up. A Virginia Children's Cabinet has been established to facilitate cross-agency collaborations at the highest levels of state government. If elected, how would you facilitate this type of cross-agency collaboration for children?

I support acting on the recommendations from the children's cabinet where applicable to the legislature.

## Page 9: Question 7: Mental Health

Q8

In 2016, Virginia ranked 49th in the nation for the rate of youth with major depression who did not receive any mental health treatment. There are many barriers to quality mental health treatment for children, including: type of insurance, place of residence, lack of access and stigma. What do you view as the most significant barrier to effective mental health care for children and adolescents in Virginia, and how would you propose addressing this barrier?

Expanding Medicaid is necessary to providing critical mental health care to Virginians.

Page 10: Question 8: Education

Q9

The achievement gap between lower income students and their higher income peers and between white students and students of color has been a persistent problem in Virginia that has recently worsened. How would you address the achievement gap in Pre-K to 12 education?

Universal Pre-K will lower that gap, but I support letting local school systems experiment with options and using that data to adopt better statewide solutions.