

Alameda County Child Care Planning Council

RESPONSES TO CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRE

On April 26, 2006 the Public Policy Committee of the Planning Council sent out a "Candidates' Questionnaire" to 56 people running for the following offices:

- US Congress – Districts 9, 10, 11 and 13
- US Senate – District 2
- CA Assembly – Districts 14, 15, 16, 18 and 20
- CA Senate – District 10
- Alameda County Board of Supervisors – Districts 2 & 3
- Alameda County Board of Education – District 1, 4 & 7
- Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

We received responses from 18 candidates. Their answers are shown by office:

James Eyer, Candidate for US Congress, District 9

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

Early childhood education and "development" are extremely important! I would avoid any new taxes and would oppose any new government sponsored programs for early childhood development. I would prefer private and community based solutions; after all; can we afford to turn something this important over to the likes of FEMA or even to our failing government schools.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

I would a. make sure that we have the "metrics" needed to ascertain the effect on the business' success so business owners know why it makes good business sense (improved productivity and Esprit de Corps of employees, improved goodwill, etc.) b. allow businesses to write off all related services for employees from income tax, c. encourage and perhaps even lead community-religion-business partnerships and coalitions to establish the programs using an array of resources.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

There seems to be a premise to that question: that such facilities are inherently good; I do not know enough to make that judgment. More importantly, libertarians support private property rights and free enterprise so I would not support this. Plus; if people clamor for such facilities developers will build them. Perhaps a "market development" effort would help to catalyze that demand.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

Not one of my top three per se, but -- early and often -- I DO remind voters about how adults' current ways now are shortchanging the young people's future; and poor education is part of the problem. So it certainly is a theme that is very important for me. If nothing else today's middle agers are tomorrow's old people and they will have to rely on the young people of today for care and support.

Pete McCloskey, Candidate for US Congressional District 11

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Talk to them.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Yes.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

Yes. Support current initiative and Head Start.

Stevan Thomas, Candidate for US Congressional District 11

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

Too many major corporations avoid US taxes by having an oversea post office box. These loopholes should be closed. The Republicans are intent on shifting the tax burden to the middle class while giving huge and unneeded tax breaks to the wealthiest 2%. These tax breaks are not making jobs, they are bankrupting our country. We need to rescind these tax cuts and actually raise taxes on the wealthiest 1%. If we do that, there is plenty of money for education at all levels.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Business needs to have a connection to the importance of the local workforce, their welfare and the need for them to make a living. Education is key to a motivated and efficient workforce. The Henry Ford principle was "I want to pay them enough so they can buy my cars." The only way to get our economy back to this principle is to withdraw from NAFTA, CAFTA, the WTO and all other "Free Trade" agreements. We need "Fair Trade" agreements that respect labor and the environment, and re-establish the social contract.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Yes, where possible. I am running for a Federal Office and would support local officials in doing this.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

The first challenge we face is saving our economy because with our fiscally irresponsible congress spending us into bankruptcy, we are in real danger of a "hard landing." This is a looming crisis.

The second crisis we face is global warming. We have to deal with this NOW.

The third crisis is we have a President who is lurching us towards a nuclear war. His complete disregard for the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is truly dangerous and has restarted a global nuclear arms race. Should he bomb Iran, even with conventional weapons, it is highly likely that Musharraf will be deposed in Pakistan and the Taliban will have the bomb. We need to start waging diplomacy and a multi-lateral foreign policy now.

I know how important early childhood care and education are, and it needs to be funded while we tackle the global and national problems that threaten life on earth and the future of our democracy.

Todd Chretien, Candidate for US Senate, District 2

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

As a United States Senator, I propose exchanging the Department of Education budget of around \$70 billion with the Pentagon budget of around \$550 billion. This would allow us to hire 1.4 million public school teachers at \$50,000 per year in salary and benefits, build 10,000 new public schools, make all state and community colleges and universities free, and provide universal, free pre-school and early care. As the parent of a three-year-old daughter, I know first hand the tremendous expense that working families pay for and difficulty finding child-care and pre-school.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Some businesses understand the need for quality early care and education and would be happy to have their tax dollars transferred from spending on the military to our children. Others will oppose it, and we will have to create new laws which compel them to do so. I believe that most businesses would be very happy if the federal government assumed its legitimate responsibility to provide for our children's futures.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Absolutely, 100%.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

Yes. The federal government has abandoned its legal responsibility to insure equal education for all children. We need a radical restructuring of our nation's priorities. Increasing education budgets by 2% or 4% over the next 5 years, or continuing with the testing mania mandated by No Child Left Behind will solve nothing. If we want to live up to our duty as parents and as a society, then we must make early care and education a priority in reality, not just rhetoric. Let's be clear, we must pour hundreds of billions of dollars into our children's future now. This can only be accomplished by raising taxes on the richest 5% of individuals and corporations (whose children all receive first class private education today) and by slashing the military budget.

Marsha Feinland, Candidate for US Senate, District 2

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

I support free quality education and childcare for all, funded by taxes on the wealthy and their businesses. This means a more steeply graduated income tax with a large increase in taxes on the higher brackets, and higher corporate taxes. I support Proposition 82 on the June 6, 2006 ballot, which will tax high income people in California for a universal preschool program. I am concerned that there also be a childcare component and that a good developmental early childhood program not be supplanted by "standards" dictated by the current misguided testing programs in the K-12 schools.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Businesses would benefit from the increased productivity of workers who have permanent guaranteed childcare for their children. This guaranteed care can only be provided by an institutionalized public program. Therefore it is in the interest of business to support a political campaign for such a program. Without a program of

guaranteed childcare for all, business owners and managers will continue to suffer from the same uncertainties that parents who are their employees (or they themselves) do.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

I support requiring the inclusion of child care facilities in housing developments. Even smaller developments could include a fenced yard, play structure, and common indoor play area.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

I have been a parent and an early childhood teacher for most of my life, and count universal early childhood education and child care based on a developmental philosophy as one of my most important issues. I have written articles on this topic for the Peace & Freedom Party newspaper, The Partisan.

In this election, I am running for U.S. Senate. It is hard to choose priorities when there are so many important issues before us. My top three are:

1. Immediate withdrawal of all troops from the Middle East and Afghanistan,
2. Doubling the minimum wage and full employment, and
3. Protection and restoration of the environment.

Tian Harter, Candidate for US Senate, District 2

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

I've endorsed Proposition 82, the one that taxes high incomes to pay for preschool education.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Zone so that large employers must have on site daycare.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Yes! I think playground space is important to.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

No. My number one priority is to get California to come to grips with its oil addiction. My legislative priorities flow from that, getting more bike lanes, better bus service, and reducing military spending.

Michael Metti, Candidate for US Senate, District 2

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

I do believe in quality care and education for children, but I also consider that the best quality and care come from parents, not a government agency and in the cases of hard situations, communities, charities and religious groups provide the best of alternatives. I would like to see an end to all income tax on individuals so that they can afford to decide what type of care and education their children need, rather than politicians and bureaucrats deciding on their behalf.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Businesses are run by people like you and I. Many who find the extra money that the easing of income taxes brings them; will invest voluntarily on both the personal and business level.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

As a Senatorial candidate, my function would be to work within the boundaries of the constitution, and the federal government is not authorized to interfere on this particular issue. This is the function of State and local government.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

No, this matter should be decided by parents not politicians, we home schooled our children and met many folks who did the same. Parents are generally more loving and caring about their children than others would be.

Loni Hancock, Candidate for CA State Assembly, District 14

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

I believe that the availability of quality early care and education programs for children birth to five years old is vitally important to families and to the future of our state. Families' abilities to become self-sufficient and to contribute to California's economic health is tied to the availability of these programs. I have long been an advocate of high quality affordable child care and universal preschool. As a member of the Assembly Education and Budget Committees, I actively advocated directing resources to support early care and education and during the last three budget cycles, fought against cuts to these programs, and advocating for increasing state revenues. Each year, I, along with the Democratic Women's Caucus, actively worked to protect CalWORKS grants recipients by opposing funding reductions so that women could successfully attend school, and enter the workforce, knowing that their children were well-cared for. As the State's economic picture begins to improve, it is imperative that we dedicate new resources to improving access to quality early care and education programs for families. One specific area we need to address is provider rates.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Many California business leaders understand that quality early care and education are key to creating a strong and vibrant business climate. Engaging organizations such as the Bay Area Council and the California Business Roundtable, who are already making the connection between the importance of supporting working families, having an educated workforce and California's economic health, can be key. Let's showcase effective models and promote incentives that encourage business to do more.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

I have always been supportive of efforts to encourage businesses, municipalities and developers to create affordable quality child care that is conveniently located to best serve working families. As a legislator, I look forward to identifying the most effective incentives for ensuring that developers include child care facilities within any new developments.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

During my years in the Assembly, while proudly serving on the Assembly Education and Budget Committees, I have worked to avoid devastating cuts to education, and to vital social and health services for California's most vulnerable populations. I am committed to ensuring that working parents have good choices available so that their children will be cared for by other responsible adults. California must do a better job at caring for and educating our children. They are our future.

Ronnie Caplane, Candidate for CA State Assembly, District 16

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

I believe that the first few years are critical to child development, and access to quality care can make a tremendous difference in the lives of young people. I strongly support child care funding and universal pre-school education, and I have been endorsed by Rob Reiner, the sponsor of Prop 82. Education will be my number one priority in the Legislature, and I will work to increase funding for all levels of education by increasing user fees, hiring more assessors to collect the millions of tax dollars that go uncollected every year, and implement policy changes to ensure that large corporations carry their fair share of the tax burden.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

I would like to work with the Child Care Planning Council to discuss incentives that could be provided to employers who provide child care on site, and I would work to raise awareness of the economic and social benefits of child care.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Yes.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

Education will be my number one priority in the legislature, and I will work to implement changes so that California has an affordable, high quality education system that serves our residents from early childhood through adulthood.

John Russo, Candidate for CA State Assembly, District 16

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

Early childhood care and education is extremely important, and can make the difference in a child's growth and development – I have seen it with my own children. I think that as a society, we can better ensure the success of our children in school if they are more prepared to learn at a young age. We need to explore ways to fund programs statewide, and locally. Parcel taxes, dedicated sales taxes and bond may be options. However, it is important not to do things piece-meal, but as part of a comprehensive funding priority plan that includes education and childcare for kids at all ages and stages in the system.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

One of the leading causes of absenteeism and tardiness for most employees is childcare issues or sick children. This obviously affects the business and the workplace – particularly for smaller businesses where there is no one to "fill-in" if someone is not there. Businesses need to be educated that it is about their bottom line.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Yes.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

RESPONSES TO PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S "CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRE"

Education is one of my top priorities, and I think early childhood education is a part of that. Dramatic, long-term reform and immediate action is needed to help the hundreds of thousands of California students being short-changed on a quality public school education as the result of the devastating effects of Proposition 13. Improving our public schools is the most important issue facing our community today. A critical component of this issue is providing the political will and leadership needed to support our teachers and provide them with the tools and resources they need in the classroom.

With regard to education policy and innovation, I am very interested in the "small schools model," that that has been successfully implemented in Los Angeles, New York, Washington State, and other urban public school districts across the nation with educator and teacher consensus. The concept of small schools is based on the premise that smaller schools of 400-500 or less creates a more intimate learning environment where students can learn and teachers can address the educational needs of students in a more manageable, teacher-supported, and intimate learning environment. I will work closely with teachers, parent stakeholders, and community advocates in determining how we can implement or expand a progressive, successful small schools model further in the East Bay, and throughout California, to address the issues facing our teachers and schools and improve education for our children.

Edward Ytuarte, Candidate for CA State Assembly, District 16

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

Most definitely, I would support higher taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations making big profits in the state. I am not against cutting other needed programs especially in social services, or health care so that we can provide more early quality care and education.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

I am a socialist and my platform is one based on higher taxation for the wealthy business and individuals. Once business is aware of my basic positions, I am not sure business would support much of what I propose to do. I think a better question is "How would you convince working class people to support early care and education?" I do not agree with the bias of your question as written.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

I don't have a position on this at this time. One of the things I am in favor is for all cities to have good inclusionary zoning ordinances. In Oakland, the affordable housing community has proposed a fairly good inclusionary zoning (IZ) measure whereas the city council is looking at one which looks like it was written by developers. I am in favor of this: for the child care Planning Council work with affordable housing activists to come up with plans for development that include an adequate number of affordable housing units to the very low income and also provision for developers to provide child care facilities. If you are working with these groups, then I certainly endorse that effort.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

ANSWER:

My top priorities are these:

1. Raising revenue.
2. Housing rights
3. Disability rights
4. Education

I think you and I agree on some vital points like trying to see that education gets fully funded. The people running for Democratic Party talk loads about improving education but this is posturing because they don't say

how they are gonna fund better education and early child care. I do and I will do it by rightfully taxing the rich more while not burdening the working class any farther.

In terms of childcare, I believe in a living wage--roughly double the current minimum wage in this state. As a start I would support a minimum wage starting at \$8.75 an hour and then have it indexed to the cost of living. This would be of some advantage to any early child care workers earning something below that.

Beyond that, I would support legislation that any early child care facility getting state funding pay all its workers a "living wage" in addition to health care benefits. Early child care workers are performing very valuable service to the people of this state and I want to see that all of them are given a decent wage.

The other matter of concern is what kind of education are children with disabilities getting and how does their level of early child care compare with those of non disabled children. If you have any observations or knowledge about this, I would love to hear from you.

John Dutra, Candidate for CA State Senate, District 10

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

Quality early care and education for children in California is the most valuable investment we can make. The growing state deficit and the failure to appropriately balance the budget are acts of gross financial irresponsibility that will negatively impact the education and healthcare service our children receive. The state's structural deficit continues: the proposed 2006-07 budget has expenditures that exceed state revenue by \$6.4 billion. The next budget cycle deficit will exceed \$10 billion. The growing debt has led to broad cuts in vital services that will continue without changes to the state's budget. Although none of us like or appreciate revenue enhancements, there comes a time when we recognize that a failure to preserve this state's most valuable social services would be detrimental to the long-term economic strength of the state. The alternative is to subject all vital state infrastructure (i.e., schools, transportation, hospitals, levees, correctional facilities, etc.) to the adverse consequences of costly deferred maintenance. I would propose the following revenue enhancements for consideration:

- (A) Attached to the end of this document is a spreadsheet that shows modest increases to upper bracket tax brackets, which if enacted, would raise approximately \$3.3 billion in revenue with little impact on disposable income. As an example, please note that married taxpayers with two dependents with gross annual income in excess of approximately \$800,000 will pay an estimated \$172 per month in additional state taxes while experiencing a \$1,673 monthly reduction in federal tax – a net savings to the taxpayer of \$1,501 per month. Taxpayers with gross income of \$400,000 or less would not experience a tax increase. (Please contact Mr. Dutra's office for the referenced spreadsheet).
- (B) A quarter percent increase in sales taxes which would generate approximately \$1.3 billion with little or no impact on disposable income. The cost to taxpayers would be minimal. As an example, a taxpayer annually grossing \$250,000 with sales tax applicable purchases of approximately \$55,000 would experience a tax increase of \$10.91 per month. A taxpayer with an annual gross income of \$50,000 and sales tax applicable purchases of approximately \$15,100 would experience a tax increase of \$3.17 per month.

The total funds raised from these proposed revenue enhancements would be approximately \$4.6 billion – enough to partially replace the greater than \$9.0 billion in recent tax cuts. When coupled with recoverable taxes from the use of illegal tax shelters, funds raised could be sufficient to resolve the budget crisis; therefore, in addition to the above revenue enhancements, we must refocus efforts at the state level to effectively collect taxes due.

The undesirable and unjust alternatives to the above would be to continue such recent practices of imposing painful indirect tax increases in the form of ever increasing student fees at our community colleges, California

State Universities and Universities of California; cuts in Medi-Cal, SSI/SSP, IHSS, Healthy Families, Cal-Grants and developmental programs; and in compensation and pension reductions aimed at teachers, CSU & UC faculty, nurses, firefighters, police officers, and other public employees. Additionally, if the revenue issue is not resolved at the state level, counties, cities, school districts, and special districts are forced to consider, as did the City of Fremont, parcel taxes, sales taxes, and other such increases to compensate for funds not provided by the state. It simply results more in a tax shift to the working class rather than tax relief for the economy and business. All that is needed to enact an appropriate solution is the political courage to do what previously was done by Governors Pete Wilson, Deukmejian, and Ronald Regan when confronted with a similar budgetary circumstance. The understanding of all groups that it is necessary to consider these and other proposals to resolve the budget crisis will be the key to success in resolving this matter. I hope to work with the diverse interests of the state to ensure that we can do so in a way that is in the best interest of all Californians.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Too often there is a lack of synergy between the different interest groups in California. The business community is traditionally opposed to revenue enhancements, such as those mentioned above. This opposition often comes out officially through a Chamber of Commerce organization. I have presented the above plan to local Chamber of Commerce organizations and nevertheless received endorsements from the Fremont Chamber of Commerce and the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. This may illustrate a willingness on their part, and of some in the business community, to consider additional revenue for enhanced early care and education services. My background in the Legislature as a consensus-builder between these different groups is a unique qualification for this office. It is my sincere belief that my diversified technical, business, teaching and political background coupled with my life's experience as a child from an immigrant family, my childhood experience living on welfare due to the early death of my father, military service, advanced college education on the G.I. Bill, experience in the State Assembly, service as a Councilmember and Planning Commissioner in the City of Fremont, my experience teaching as a part-time instructor at Ohlone Community College, experience in the formation and management of a highly successful business, and my dedication as a father and grandfather has uniquely qualified me to serve. With 12 years experience working in nondestructive testing and in the Hazards Control Department of the Livermore Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, 34 years of solid business experience gained in the formation and management of a highly successful vertically integrated regional real estate firm, 20 years service in elected and appointed office, four years as a part-time college instructor, and a lifetime as a family man who with the valued assistance of a wonderful wife, raised five children, I have developed the unique credentials needed to take a leadership role in the State Senate.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Yes! The issue in this regard has more to do with how this can be done without operational legal exposure to the developer than any resistance on the part of many developers to do so. Until this issue is addressed, developer opposition is likely to exist. The inclusion of child care facilities in large developments would otherwise be a positive selling point particularly in first time buyer family oriented subdivisions. The incentive to the builder would be a feature which would enhance the value of the dwelling units.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

Yes! After fixing the state's budget problems, education is my next highest priority; without a fix to the structural budget deficit improving these services is not possible. I have been actively campaigning in favor of Proposition 82, the Preschool for All Initiative. I would take further action to equalize school funding. While in the Legislature, I authored AB 2032 to ensure that all schools have equal levels of per pupil spending. In the 10th State Senate district, where 8 of 10 school districts have per pupil spending below the state average, this is especially important. Although this legislation did not pass, I would continue to fight for equalized funding in the State Senate. Finally, I would advocate for the expansion of California's Healthy Families program, which provides low-cost health insurance for children from low-income incomes. In the State Assembly, I was fully supportive of this program, as well as other programs that would expand health insurance for Californians. With over 7 million Californians currently without health insurance, including 1 million children, the expansion of

Healthy Families would be beneficial. On the same note, I would also support a universal healthcare single payer program that would ensure all children and families are provided with the medical coverage they deserve. It is my conviction that healthcare is a humanitarian right!

Johan Klehs, Candidate for CA State Senate, District 10

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for your children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

I sincerely believe that quality early care and education are extremely important, and to fund them, I will continue to eliminate special interest tax loopholes that rob California's state budget of billions of dollars. Through my vigorous efforts on the Board of Equalization and the Franchise Tax Board, I reigned in more than \$3 billion in added revenue for state and local coffers since 1995 by cracking down on tax cheats and tax evaders. As a legislator, a member of the Franchise Tax Board and the chair of the Board of Equalization, I also supported programs that resulted in over \$435 million in collections from deadbeat parents. And in last year's legislative session, I was the leading voice against Governor Schwarzenegger's plan to strip \$3 billion from education.

As Chair of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, we calculated the effect that the bills before our committee would have on Proposition 98. Last year, I stopped over \$800 million in tax breaks from getting out of my committee in order to protect Proposition 98 monies for our schools. To fund quality early care and education, I would look at rolling back some of the tax breaks the Legislature has passed in the past 10 years totaling around \$6.9 billion each year. I also support proposals to reinstate the 10% and 11% personal income tax (PIT) brackets for high-income taxpayers and increase the alternative minimum tax (AMT) rates.

I was named Legislator of the Year by the California Teacher's Association and received an "A" grade for every year I served in the Assembly.

Just this week, my bill, the Underground Economy and Child Support Collection Act (AB 2440), was approved in the Assembly Judiciary Committee and will go to the full Assembly next week. This bill is a powerful tool for the state to use to collect the over \$19 billion in uncollected child support to increase the economic well-being of our children. Last year, California collected less than 50% of the child support owed, money that should have gone toward childcare and education. AB 2440 stipulates that any person or business entity that knowingly assists a person with unpaid child support to evade his or her responsibility will be held jointly and severally liable for 10 times the value of the assistance provided, up to the total amount of the child support debt. Such measures complement state spending and ensure that parents—especially single mothers—have more resources to afford quality early care and education.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

We can provide more incentives for companies to allow flex-time and more time off for parents and to encourage them to provide resources for quality early care and education for children. There are a number of creative ways we can allow companies to get an economic benefit for these services that won't bankrupt our state budget. If we can provide a structure that gives companies an economic incentive to support early care and education, they will find that their employees are more productive because parents will be less likely to miss work or leave their professions due to child-related issues.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Yes, I would support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

Education is one of my three main priorities, and early care and education are core issues. As I discussed above, over the past several years, I've focused on closing tax loopholes and protecting funding for education to ensure that California's schools become competitive again.

As a former educator, I'm a proud member of the American Federation of Teachers and taught at University of California, Berkeley. I was also a member of the Chabot College Foundation Board, and I "adopted" the Brookfield Elementary School for three years. I will ensure that every phase of education—especially the formative early years—receives increased funding to pay fair wages to providers while maintaining a high standard.

Gail Steele, Candidate for Alameda County Board of Supervisors, District 2

I have a very long history of addressing children's issues, including giving families access to quality child care, and continues to do so. Anyone who has followed my career knows my positions regarding children.

I provided \$15,000 of my office savings to the child care program in Hayward for County employees, in order for it to continue to operate. I have also worked to reduce costs related to that program.

Alice Lai-Bitker, Candidate for Alameda County Board of Supervisors, District 3

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

I firmly believe that quality early care and education for children in California is essential to their future academic success that is why I endorsed Proposition 82 from its onset. This proposition, if passed would tax the upper income earners and generate almost 60 million dollars to Alameda County alone. I support this type of taxation.

2.How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

Businesses that reside in our community should see the benefit of supporting early care and education. This will help local businesses recruit quality employees by ensuring that the children of employees will have access to early care and education. This should be a strong selling point when recruiting employees. It also helps nurture the minds of children so that they can grow and become productive employees themselves.

This reminds me of an event I attended a few years back and I remember businesses like the Men's Warehouse that offer onsite child care. Other businesses were highlighted as doing something very similar which got me to thinking this type of innovation in the business community is essential. Child Care, early care and child education should be viewed as a business, because it most certainly puts people in our County to work and it donates significantly to the local economy. I would do what I can to help inform the business community of this much needed community benefit.

3.Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Yes I would, but more importantly I think it is essential to develop that negotiating from the beginning. Questions should be answered early on as to who is going to run it and a timeline should be developed for implementation.

4.If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

One of my top priorities is continuing to be an advocate for children. I have done this from the beginning through my efforts to enroll children into health coverage and streamlining the process. I can take any actions that the Council deems necessary either speaking publicly, drafting correspondence, conversing with legislators and bringing resolutions to the Board for consideration. This is a cause I firmly believe in and as a parent I understand the issue from firsthand experience.

In addition I personally donated \$135,000 of my office budget over three years to keep Woodstock Child Development Center open. It is the only state subsidized early child education program in the City of Alameda. I am also proud to have championed "Lights on After School" in Alameda which provides awareness to the need of After School programs. Lastly I have supported through my actions on the Board of Supervisors every Child Care Center that was to be built within a planned development.

I firmly believe that these actions prove that I care strongly about early child education.

Shelia Young, Candidate for Alameda County Board of Supervisors, District 3

Child care and early education for children has always been a priority for me and will remain a top priority for me on the Board of Supervisors. As Mayor of San Leandro, I have worked with the Davis Street Family Resources Center to provide funding and coordinate services for after school programs and child care at school sites. Our City's Recreation Department provides after school programs and special summer classes and recreation opportunities.

I support working with developers to encourage them to create "mixed use" developments that provide facilities for all kinds of services, including child care. We must begin to think differently about housing and commercial development if we are to assist families who move into or work in our communities. Government can also assist with this by providing small business training and encouragement and promotion of business-to-business activities that provide these kinds of services. I am also supportive of several San Leandro businesses who have childcare facilities on-site for their employee use.

On the Board of Supervisors, I will continue to seek out opportunities to partner with community organizations to provide childcare and education programs and to encourage more developers create "mixed use" development that offer services and space for child care.

John Bernard, Candidate for Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)? Please be specific.

Quality child care is very important for single parent households as well as for households where both parents are working. In some communities the programs are extensions of the school district and are partially funded by public education dollars along with city/county funding. I would support revisiting the budgets of current city and county programs and redeploying some of the revenue, prior to having any conversation about new taxes.

I am optimistic about the passage of Proposition 82 on June ballot that will provide Child Care for all 4 year olds beginning in Fall 2007.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

I would provide a forum for business leaders and chamber of commerces to become more aware of the background information that has been researched by the Alameda Child Care Planning Council.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Definitely yes. Just as school districts are able to negotiate school sites from developers, I think cities and municipalities need to do the same.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

As an educator of more than 36 years and the grandfather of 4 small children, I know the importance that quality early care and education have for children. It would most definitely be one of my top priorities.

Sheila Jordan, Candidate for Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)?

Please be specific:

I am a true believer in the importance of Early Care and Education for all children. It is no secret that I am in support of Proposition 82, the Preschool For All act, which will help improve the quality of early care and education for thousands of preschool children in Alameda County. My belief is that if this proposition passes, it will increase the quality of early childhood programs through increased education requirements for teachers, better facilities, developmentally appropriate and age appropriate standards for children. I have been working hard to support this initiative, which will include millions of dollars for Alameda County children.

2. How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

I have been speaking at numerous Chamber of Commerce meetings, forums and public events to help educate people on the importance of Early Care and Education in our community. Many business leaders do not have a good understanding of the implications of high quality education, and what impact education will have on their businesses and our cities. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to speak to business leaders, chambers, school boards and other local leaders regarding early care and education, and have been overwhelmingly supported. We need to continue to have these conversations with the business community and increase awareness and support for our youngest children.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Although this is a little out of my jurisdiction, I would be in full support of any legislation which includes thoughtful planning and implementation of child care facilities in housing developments. I think it is important to provide the opportunity for public input when making planning decisions, and child care is surely a big concern in our community.

4. If re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

Early Care and Education is currently my highest priority! I will continue to work with Assembly member Wilma Chan, Every Child Counts, and the Local Planning Council to ensure that quality Early Care and Education in Alameda County is available to every child who needs it. We have been working for over a year with the community to plan and implement Early Care and Education strategies that will enhance the lives of children and families in our community, and whether proposition 82 passes or not, the Alameda County Office of Education will continue to work toward this goal.

Jacki Fox Ruby, Candidate for Alameda County Board of Education, District 1

1. If you believe that quality early care and education for children in California is important, where would you find the funds to support such a program (e.g. new taxes, cutting other programs, etc.)?

Please be specific.

Early Childhood Education should be part of the General Fund with a specific line item for funding. Education, in general, is underfunded in California. I believe that taxpayers would be willing to pay for education. When Prop 82 passes, there will be a dedicated funding stream for four-year olds for pre-school.... But we need more funds for primary care givers. Aroner's bill, AB 212 gave us some incentive for providing a source of funds for staff. It is not enough. I can not say which programs in all of the ones that California funds needs to be cut, but I can emphatically state that a greater percentage of the General Fund needs to go to education in general and to

early childhood education specifically. We cannot just add pre-school to Prop.98 guarantee - we need legislation to increase the General Fund portion of funding for education.

2.How would you convince businesses to support early care and education?

California's First Five did a good job in running public service announcements based on research that shows that for every dollar we dedicate to early childhood education, that investment comes back four fold for businesses and the economy. Businesses know that if we do not have an educated workforce, they cannot improve their bottom line. A brochure specifically aimed at business, (setting up a foundation so it is tax deductible) and interesting businesses to form partnerships, fund early childhood education, and be part of the solution would be one way to go.

As important, is convincing legislators and politicians that early childhood care and education is not babysitting and that if they want children educated, their education needs to be started before the mandatory first grade starting time.

3. Would you support legislation or local ordinances to require developers of large housing developments to include child care facilities within the development?

Absolutely! Many businesses have done so already and the reports are that the productivity of workers who have their children in such facilities is increased. Besides, psychologically, emotionally and educationally it is better for children to see their parents during the workday so that bonding can continue and problems that arise can be quickly resolved. Again, convincing businesses that this is a wise investment is a path I think the Early Childhood community needs to take. As a member of American Federation of Teachers, we are trying to do just that through First Class Teachers.

4. If elected/re-elected, you will face many challenges. Will you make quality early care and education for children one of your three highest priorities? If yes, what specific actions will you take? If no, please explain your reasons.

I have been an activist for pre-school education since the early 1970s when I organized the staff of Berkeley Unified School District's pre-school staff into the Berkeley Federation of Teachers Union. We gained for staff better wages and working conditions (including within the workday parent-teacher conferences, preparation time, etc.).

Since then, I have organized pre-schools in the private sector and consider quality early childcare and education one of my three priorities (I also work on senior issues and education issues in general).

I have always worked on legislative issues when I was President of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, President of the California Federation of Teachers Early Childhood/K-12 Council and I have continued that work. I asked to be the Alameda County Office of Education representative to the Child Care Planning Commission and also to be part of the Policy and Legislation Committee.

Brain research shows that the first three years of a child's life is most important for later schooling success. Quality programs and staff are needed to ensure we are educating children as early as possible, This also means we need programs for parents and caregivers and early childhood educators. Children who start kindergarten with a good foundation of literacy, become strong readers, progress normally through the grades, have less of a tendency to drop out and less money is spent on special education, tutoring or other remedial services. That is why we urge parents, guardians and caregivers to read to children and to turn off the television set.

Preschool education is one of my highest priorities. I hope we pass Proposition 82, pass legislation to ensure a funding stream for pre-school education, and also ensure that there is accessibility for all children regardless of income.

Esther Holcomb, Candidate for Alameda County Board of Education, District 4

RESPONSES TO PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S "CANDIDATES' QUESTIONNAIRE"

I have contributed to Davis Street Family Resource Center before it changed its name and still contribute in some way every year. I believe that quality child care is extremely important and can be delivered in family day care centers or large day care centers if they are managed well.

I was on the board of a private (church) preschool that accepted children as young as 1 year old, and frequently gave partial scholarships and occasionally full scholarships to those who couldn't afford the fees. We consistently gave our employees more than the market rate in salary increases -- and I argued that it still was enough. Child care workers should be paid on an equivalent of a kindergarten teacher.

Funds will always be hard to find, but creative ways can be found. I would favor a special tax on those who have businesses of over 10 employees, or a gross profit of more than \$1 million. I believe that businesses who employ people with children should provide for their care in some way -- taxes, provide sites at or near the business, etc. We had plans in San Leandro to develop a center when a developer was creating a large shopping center. The community at large wanted it, but we were informed that the employees at the center didn't want it there. I could never confirm it, but it did not get developed. I believe that if a business has more than 100 employees there should be some form of child care offered.

If a child does not get a good start in life, you can always count on that child being left behind. I would urge cities and counties to use their allocated money from the federal government and the state government to assist family centers and to develop large daycare centers at, for instance, the county administration building.

I understand that all programs are costly, but they are still less costly than jails and prisons where CA keeps putting its priorities.