

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

1. Do you favor or disfavor homeschooling and why?

2. What is your position regarding implementation or repeal of laws affecting the rights of homeschoolers?

*Frequently, candidates are not aware of what the state law is regarding the rights of parents to instruct their children. They may not be aware of federal law regarding homeschooling either. Depending on the candidate and the political climate, the question could be posed broadly leaving the candidate to expound from his basis of knowledge, or the question could be posed more specifically to obtain a direct answer concerning whether the candidate favors or disfavors laws regarding homeschooling. The question could be: "What do you know about the laws regarding homeschooling? The strategy regarding broad versus specific questions, of course, holds true for all of the suggested questions.

3. What is your position on government funding of homeschooling and why?

4. If the government provides funding or publicly funded benefits to homeschoolers, what is your position on government accountability regarding the funding or benefits?

*This type of question is designed to elicit the candidate's opinion as to whether the candidate favors government regulation of homeschooling in return for the government funding or benefit.

5. Do you understand the difference between homeschooling and doing a public school curriculum at home?

6. What is your position on homeschoolers participating in the public school system and why?

*Leaving this question in general terms might elicit unexpected, yet, very useful responses. Does the candidate favor the participation because the school administration would have more control over homeschooling, or, does the candidate favor participation for some other financial or emotional reason?

7. What is your position on changing the compulsory school attendance age and why?

*Leaving this question in general terms might elicit unexpected and useful responses as well. If the candidate favors it, what is the reason for the support? Does the candidate want the public school district to exercise more control over parents?

8. What is your position on compulsory public pre-school (universal pre-school) for infants and toddlers?

9. What is your position on mental health screening of children from infancy through adulthood?

10. Do you believe homeschoolers should provide instruction that is equivalent to the instruction in the public schools?