

ASK THE CANDIDATES

About Language Education



ASK a Question.



LISTEN to the response.



SHARE your experience.

Your voice matters. Between now and Election Day, candidate forums, town halls, debates, and community events are opportunities to make language education part of the conversation. No matter what answers you receive, you will have demonstrated that language education is something about which their constituents care.

Ask a question. Share your experience. Make sure candidates know that voters care about access to high-quality language education and why this is essential.

Use the questions developed by JNCL on the following pages as written - or adapt them to reflect the needs of your community.

QUESTIONS FOR LOCAL & STATE CANDIDATES

Stronger Schools.
Stronger Communities.
A More Multilingual Future.



LOCAL CANDIDATES

Mayor | County Executives | City Council | School Board



INVEST IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Multilingual skills benefit students and are increasingly important to employers.

Will you prioritize funding for world language and dual language immersion programs in our schools?



ENSURE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Some students and families are afraid to attend school because of concerns about immigration enforcement.

What will you do to ensure that every child can safely access the public education to which they are legally entitled?



PROTECT PROGRAMS FROM CUTS

When school budgets tighten, language programs are often vulnerable.

How will you protect and grow language education programs in our public schools?



STATE CANDIDATES

Governor | State Legislature



STRENGTHEN THE TEACHER PIPELINE & HIGHER EDUCATION

Colleges are cutting language programs while K-12 schools face language-teacher shortages.

How will you protect language educator certification programs and reduce unnecessary barriers for qualified multilingual educators?



MEET WORKFORCE NEEDS

Employers report a need for workers with language and cultural skills.

Will you work with business and education leaders to expand language learning and prioritization in K-12, higher education, and workforce and apprenticeship programs?



KEEP LANGUAGES IN GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Some states and districts are reducing world language graduation requirements or allowing other subjects to substitute.

Will you support keeping language education a core part of high school graduation requirements?
How can you take action to grow opportunities for those who receive the state Seal of Biliteracy?

QUESTIONS FOR FEDERAL CANDIDATES

U.S. Senate | U.S. House of Representatives

Languages Build
Opportunity, Security,
and a Strong America.



PROTECT FEDERAL LANGUAGE & INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Proposed FY27 funding cuts threaten federal programs that support language education and international study. These programs help prepare students with the language and cultural skills needed for careers in teaching, business, diplomacy, intelligence, and national security.

Will you support continued and robust federal funding for these critical programs?



GROW WLARA

For the past five years, the Department of Defense's World Language Advancement and Readiness Grants (WLARA) have provided multi-year funding to military-connected schools to establish and grow innovative world language programs which have already demonstrated strong academic outcomes. The House has proposed a \$5 million increase for FY27.

Will you support this increase and continued growth of WLARA?



EXPAND ACCESS TO THE SEAL OF BILITERACY

All 50 states have Seal of Biliteracy programs recognizing proficiency in English and another language, but limited state resources and assessment costs can create barriers for students. Federal legislation has been introduced in recent Congresses to help states expand access.

Will you support and help advance federal Seal of Biliteracy legislation to empower our nation with multilingual professionals?

*A more multilingual
America is
within reach.*



Languages connect us all!!!

TAKE IT WITH YOU

A SIMPLE CHECKLIST FOR CANDIDATE EVENTS.

If you ask a candidate about language education, share their response with JNCL-NCLIS. Your conversation helps us understand where candidates stand—and demonstrates that language education matters to constituents across the country.

- ✓ Review the questions and choose the ones most relevant to your community.
- ✓ Bring this guide (print or phone) to your event.
- ✓ Introduce yourself (briefly) and ask your question.
- ✓ Listen and take notes.
- ✓ Share the candidate's responses with JNCL-NCLIS.

BE PREPARED.
BE CONFIDENT.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

EVENT NOTES

Candidate Name	Office (e.g. School Board, Senate, etc)	Event (date & location)	Reponse or notes



Then Tell Us What Happened!

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More people.
More languages.
A brighter future.