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WASHINGTON D.C. PERMITS THE USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR CHILDCARE

An advisory opinion from the District of Columbia Board of Elections Office of Campaign Finance officially authorizes Campaign Funds for Childcare in Washington D.C., bringing the district in line with federal guidelines and 31 states that have approved the measure.

Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization tracking the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare and working to authorize the measure across the country.

NEW YORK — LaJoy Johnson-Law, candidate for State Board of Education Ward 8, partnered with [Vote Mama Foundation](#) to request an advisory opinion from the District of Columbia Board of Elections Office of Campaign Finance to remove a significant financial barrier and make it easier for everyday parents and caregivers to run for office. Yesterday, an [advisory opinion](#) was issued that clarifies childcare expenses incurred while running for office are considered permissible campaign expenditures. With this decision, Washington D.C. has allowed the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare, bringing the capital city and federal district in line with federal guidelines and [31 states](#) that have approved the measure.

It is no secret that the cost of childcare is a barrier that holds millions of parents back. It is also a hurdle that severely impacts the representation of parents and caregivers, especially mothers, in office. This decision removes a significant barrier that has historically kept parents and caregivers out of the political arena, and comes at no expense to taxpayers. By authorizing the use of campaign funds to pay for childcare expenses directly related to campaign duties and coverage for childcare expenses for a child with a disability or medical condition irrespective of age, Washington D.C. will empower more caregivers to run for office and bring more advocates for children and families to the decision-making table.

“Caregiving responsibilities should never be the reason someone cannot run for office or serve their community. Unfortunately, for many candidates, the ability to run for office hinges on access to childcare, and the cost can keep them out of the political arena entirely. To get more parents and caregivers into every level of office, we must remove the structural barriers that

prevent them from running in the first place,” **said Liuba Grechen Shirley, Founder and CEO of Vote Mama Foundation.** “I launched Vote Mama Foundation because I envisioned a future in which no political candidate would have to consider the cost of care when weighing their decision to run for office. With this decision from the District of Columbia Board of Elections Office of Campaign Finance, we are one step closer to making that vision a reality.”

"This is a win for many families across the District! We still have a long way to go, but this is an amazing foundation! This is a testament to caregivers across the District and a sign of true inclusion!" **said LaJoy Johnson-Law, candidate for State Board of Education Ward 8.**

Background:

In 2018, Liuba Grechen Shirley (Vote Mama Foundation Founder and CEO) ran for Congress and petitioned the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and became the first woman in history to receive federal approval to spend Campaign Funds for Childcare (CFCC). This unanimous, bipartisan decision paved the way for more parents to run for office — 68 federal candidates have since used CFCC, both moms and dads, Democrats and Republicans. The FEC ruling made it easier for parents to run at the federal level, but it does not apply to candidates campaigning for state and local office. Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization working to authorize the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare in all 50 states. To date, 31 states and Washington D.C. have approved the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare.

According to a [recent Vote Mama Foundation report](#), spending on Campaign Funds for Childcare has increased by 662% for federal candidates and by 2,156% for state and local candidates since 2018.

Vote Mama Foundation is the leading source of research and analysis on the political participation of mothers in the United States. It works towards gender equity by normalizing mothers of minor children running for and serving in office, naming and dismantling the barriers that keep moms out of office and out of power, and enabling legislators to pass family-friendly policies. Vote Mama Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

To learn more about Vote Mama Foundation and Campaign Funds for Childcare, visit votemamafoundation.org

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