



Candidate Questionnaire October 2018

Food Lifeline’s goal is to elevate the issue of hunger with candidates during the election cycle. Each candidate for state and federal office received our questionnaire. For every candidate that replied, their original responses are presented as submitted. See results at foodlifeline.org/advocacy.

Adam Smith	Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, District 9 (Renton)
If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in Washington state?	<p>It is unacceptable that hunger and food insecurity exists anywhere in our country and it must be eliminated. Creating opportunities to alleviate poverty and end hunger within the 9th Congressional District of Washington and throughout our state and country is a top priority of mine in Congress. We must take a multi-faceted approach to this complicated issue by first ensuring that existing programs like SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp program) and WIC are strongly supported and fully funded. Unfortunately, in recent years, many Republicans in Congress have sought to undermine and reduce the effectiveness of this essential program, and I have worked alongside my colleagues to fight them every step of the way. Ensuring that families have the basic necessity of food is the best first step towards ending hunger. We must also fully invest in other social programs, education, and healthcare, that benefit all people and can help those struggling with hunger and a lack of opportunity. All Americans deserve access to full-service, high-quality healthcare. I emphatically support programs like Medicaid, but also believe that Medicare for All is the best way to address our nation’s healthcare crisis. Through it, all people can have access to comprehensive healthcare coverage. Additionally, I’m a strong supporter of protecting other key programs like Medicaid, Social Security, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), among others. I’ve co-sponsored legislation to strengthen Social Security, which supports retirees, those of advancing age, and other vulnerable communities and people. I’m also a co-sponsor of the CSA Opportunity Act, which would assist more children in receiving help from various social programs. Finally, higher education must be available to all people, which is why I’m a cosponsor of the College for All Act, which would provide free community college and eliminate tuition at public colleges and universities for families earning less than \$125,000. I’ve voted to increase the availability of student aid and to create a tax credit for families with college students.</p>
In Washington, 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity.	I have a long and consistent record of supporting social programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?

(SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), school lunches, and other vital food security programs. I am an ardent supporter of increasing food assistance support and program funding for all people--including eligible workers and their families--who are in need. With many Americans still searching for employment and good wages even as costs of living continue to increase, particularly in our region, improving access to social safety net programs such as SNAP remains as important now as it has ever been. I have been frustrated that in the development of recent Farm Bills, which authorize key nutrition and food assistance programs, Congressional Republicans have attempted to impose devastating cuts on the SNAP program, among others, including attempts to force disproportionate cuts on Washington State. I support our state's efforts to prioritize the SNAP program and allocating state funds to compensate for federal cuts. In 2019 and beyond, I will continue to be a relentless advocate for food security programs that address child poverty and hunger.

Food insecurity is a major contributor to poor health and higher healthcare costs, what steps or legislative actions would you take to help food insecure people with chronic diseases, like diabetes, have access to nutritious food?

I fully support robust support for the expansion of programs like SNAP and food stamps to ensure that all people, particularly those who have chronic diseases, are able to access nutritious food.

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