



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.

Justin Boneau	Candidate for Washington State House of Representatives, District 42, Position 1 (Bellingham)
<p>If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in Washington state?</p>	<p>I decided to run because my family struggles to make ends meet, my wife and I are both simultaneously full-time workers and full-time parents. I know how hard it can be to live in Whatcom County, but when I looked at my representatives, I saw that they were different from my family and my friends, that they don't struggle. It's time for a change. I want to fight for poor and working families, and that means serious work to fight the structural causes of poverty as well as its short-term consequences. I support state-funded childcare for all children under the age of five. This would allow parents to go to work knowing that their children are safe, supervised, and fed. Lifting the time costs and financial burdens of childcare would enable families to rest more easily and have impacts for our children. There are a lot of other ways I want to work to alleviate poverty, especially by fighting for affordable housing and single-payer healthcare. I've seen my rent rise 3 times in the past 2 years while my wages have stayed the same, and I know I'm not alone. Almost every time I canvass in my community, people share their concerns about economic eviction and the anxiety that goes along with that. We can do better. I want to restore the state Housing Trust Fund to its pre-recession level, then double it on top of that. I also want to lift the statewide ban on rent regulation so that municipal governments can tailor their response to the housing crisis to their communities, putting power back into local hands. Safe housing is a basic need, and it's shameful that it's still unmet for so many. With regards to healthcare, I believe that since the federal government has refused its responsibility for the health of its citizens, Washington state should step up and lead the nation by building a single-payer system. Housing, healthcare, and ending hunger are fundamental necessities. We live in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world, and it's past time that everyone be guaranteed a comfortable life.</p>
<p>In Washington, 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child</p>	<p>Like I said in my previous answer, I support birth through 5 childcare, free to parents. This must include free meals, definitely lunch, and options for breakfast and snacks. I additionally support legislation that would expand access to</p>

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<p>poverty and hunger?</p>	<p>free and reduced cost lunches and breakfasts, we clearly aren't doing enough to ensure that no child goes hungry in our state.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Food insecurity leaves a lot of people choosing between cheap artificial food and more expensive, more nutritious options. In a lot of areas that struggle with poverty, there simply are no good options. In every town, however, there are people who have to choose between feeling full and having a small amount of something nutritious, and it's a painful choice, especially for those with chronic illnesses who have greater need for healthy food and specific types of it. I support better education about nutrition, subsidizing healthier food, and other innovative ways to eliminate food deserts.</p>

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Food Lifeline | 815 S 96th Street, Seattle 98108 | foodlifeline.org

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