



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.

Maia Espinoza	Candidate for Washington State House of Representatives, District 28, Position 2 (Lakewood)
<p>If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in Washington state?</p>	<p>We know that poverty and hunger are interconnected yet our social service programs usually aren't. If elected, I will support centralizing social services so that they are more accessible and effective. I will also push for more common sense food redistribution regulations. Previously prepared or nearly expiring food should be more accessible to those that want it. The fear of litigation should not prevent good deeds from happening. As someone who benefited from food stamps, the food bank, WIC and other food programs, I will be an advocate from within the legislature for programs like these that are helping without hindering growth. Part of a coordinated approach to alleviating poverty and hunger should include affordable housing and good-paying job opportunities. To accomplish this we must build more housing and provide training for skilled jobs which pay well and are going unfilled. I will work to partner business with technical colleges so that this type of education is more accessible and attractive.</p>
<p>In Washington, 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?</p>	<p>We can address child hunger right now by providing adequate nutrition education in schools. We know healthy and complete meals are imperative to a child's development and health. Before and after school programs about cooking can be a great way to feed hungry children while teaching them how to prepare or point out foods their family's food benefits can buy. Closing the education opportunity gap and ensuring each and every child is fully prepared for life after high school will have a positive impact on ending poverty in the long term. We know an education can go a long way in boosting a child's success. A zip code should not determine a child's education or opportunities.</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</p>	<p>Investing in health and nutrition on the front end will save us a lot in the back end. We should continue to promote healthy options as oftentimes cheaper than unhealthy alternatives. We should make these options more visible and viable. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Models that provide easy and quick access to fresh food are</p>

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with chronic diseases, like diabetes, have access to nutritious food?

one way to do this. Certain models of social programs tend to benefit one time shopping, causing families to choose shelf-stable over fresh foods. We are smart to have several farmers markets that take WIC checks and EBT cards. I support expanding programs like these and providing benefits to farmers willing to work with the state in order to promote healthy and local food habits. I would also like to see healthcare and insurance providers expand rewarding healthy habits. When we educate and incentivize people to eat well, we put people in charge of their well-being and healthcare. I look forward to building coalitions to create even more innovative ways to keep Washington fed and healthy!

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