



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.

Mari Leavitt	Candidate for Washington State House of Representatives, District 28, Position 1 (Tacoma)
If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in Washington state?	I am committed to working to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity for all in Washington. I will work to close the opportunity gap and vote to protect programs like WIC and SNAP. I will work to increase access to education and housing which we know can have positive impacts on economic mobility and lifting families out of generational poverty.
In Washington, 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?	Programs like Breakfast Before the Bell are great starting points but we must do more. Early learning programs, stability for homeless students and youth in foster care need to be a focus of our efforts. As a mom who adopted two children from the foster care system, I am acutely aware of the challenges these families face. Investing in our youth is a key priority of my campaign. Children are our most important resource. We need to bolster our social safety net to ensure that we are providing all of our children with the basic support systems they need to be healthy, safe, and able to learn - this includes a wide net of social services such as an availability of affordable housing and support for foster families.
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?	We know that food insecurity has long-lasting impacts and there isn’t going to be a one-size-fits-all solution. I will work to find unique solutions that work for different communities across the state. I support innovative ideas from community-sustained agriculture to increasing transit access to grocery stores and mobile food programs. I will take a holistic approach, looking at how we can increase access to affordable housing and quality healthcare.

Please note that Food Lifeline is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization and is prohibited from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

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