



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.

Pramila Jayapal	Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, District 7 (Seattle)
If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in Washington state?	I believe that we’re all better off when we’re all better off, so I am a firm believer in a strong social safety net. At the federal level, I will continue to support legislation to raise the ground floor and help all Washingtonians and all Americans meet their basic needs. The national minimum wage should be \$15/hour. We should defend SNAP with everything we’ve got and beat back every attempt to impose new restrictions or cuts. I will also continue to advance bold legislation that creates opportunity for all of us, such as Medicare for All and College For All Act with Senator Bernie Sanders, which makes public colleges and universities tuition-free for working families as well as significantly reduce student debt. Reducing the high cost of healthcare and education will go a long way to helping families not just survive, but thrive.
In Washington, 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?	As your Congresswoman and member of the Budget Committee, I have fought hard against any federal budget that cuts critical programs that support families because I firmly believe that our budget is a moral document that demonstrates the values of this country. I have fought to protect programs like CHIP and SNAP to help ensure children don’t go hungry or get sick and make sure they are must be fully funded. If we have enough money to give huge tax breaks to the richest 1%, we certainly can afford to feed hungry children.
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 100% support the SNAP program and have co-sponsored several bills to protect this program and allow greater flexibility for seniors and disabled to access SNAP without having to sacrifice medication. I have also introduced and currently co-lead the Medicare for All Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I have introduced the Medicare for All PAC, to encourage and support more legislators who would vote to expand Medicare for All. No family should be one health care crisis away from bankruptcy or a lifetime of paying off medical debt. It’s time to extend Medicare to everyone.

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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