



# 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](http://foodlifeline.org/advocacy).

Rebecca Saldaña	Candidate for Washington State Senate, District 37 (Seattle)
<p>If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in Washington state?</p>	<p>Ending hunger, alleviating poverty, and creating opportunity in Washington requires a multi-pronged approach. We have to stop decreasing and start increasing funding for programs that provide income support to our lowest-income Washingtonians including the Housing and Emergency Needs program and the Aged, Blind, or Disabled Cash Assistance program. We also need to provide affordable housing. When all Washingtonians have a safe, affordable place to stay it is easier for them to concentrate on purchasing and growing the food they need. I will be fighting in the 2018-2019 session for returning annual funding for our Washington State Housing Trust Fund to the pre-Great Recession level of \$200 million. The Housing Trust Fund provides financing for the construction of affordable housing. And finally, we need to ensure that all Washingtonians have pathways to the careers they want. For me, this means concentrating on high-quality paid apprenticeships that open up new careers in family-wage jobs to our workers and making sure care service jobs are fairly compensated.</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>This past year I supported the Breakfast after the Bell legislation that will help more low-income students have a healthy breakfast at school. In other states, like New York, these programs increased the number of low-income students who participate in school lunch and school breakfast. In addition to the poverty-fighting steps outlined in my response to the previous question, I will also be working with stakeholders to explore legislative actions to further increase the percentage of low-income students who participate in our school lunch and school breakfast. I will also explore expanding intergenerational poverty reduction programs, like home-visits for parents of young children, which are proven to reduce poverty. I also oppose the sugar industry attempt to limit local communities ability to address food health disparities.</p>
<p>Food insecurity is a major contributor to poor health and higher healthcare costs, what steps or legislative actions would you</p>	<p>As a legislator, I will encourage my community to apply for and use programs like SNAP which provide access to healthier, nutritious food. Additionally, I will be exploring how we can provide state funding to expand the reach of the SNAP-</p>

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take to help food insecure people with chronic diseases, like diabetes, have access to nutritious food?

education program which helps SNAP recipients make good food choices within their limited budgets. Additionally, the Department of Health has been running pilot programs exploring how to increase the number of fruits and vegetables consumed by SNAP recipients. These include matching of benefits at farmers markets, prescriptions for fruits and vegetables, and a \$5 coupon at a grocery store after purchasing \$10 of fruits and vegetables with SNAP funds. I have worked with Got Green and other community groups to fight to create and sustain these programs. I look forward to looking at how we can expand these programs to more communities through state-level support.

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