



# 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).

Shannon Braddock	Candidate for Washington State Senate, District 34 (Seattle)
<p>If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in Washington state?</p>	<p>No Washingtonian should have an empty stomach. No Washingtonian should have to sleep outside. And no Washingtonian should be working full-time and still be unable to provide for themselves and their family. I will fight for a state-wide minimum wage that actually reflects how much the cost of living is in each region of our state. I will push to expand free apprenticeship trainings and union jobs in our state because unions provide livable wages and strong benefits for employees. The State must also understand how all issues with poverty intersect. We cannot end hunger without also having universal access to healthcare so that no emergency room trips or illnesses bankrupt families. We cannot end hunger until we have universal access to childcare so that all parents that wish to return to the workforce may do so. We cannot end hunger until we reform our broken tax system so that we tax wealth, instead of work, and can amply fund our social services to support families in need. As a former board member for the West Seattle Food Bank I'm passionate about being a leader on food security and am ready to fight like a mother for our working families.</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>I was so pleased to see our state legislature pass Breakfast After the Bell legislation last year so we can be serving more of our low-income students, but our work is far from done. In 2015 I worked on passing and implementing a King County levy called Best Starts for Kids. This program invests in pilot programs in our low-income communities and schools to see how government funds can best alleviate childhood poverty and ensure every kid, no matter their zip code, can be successful. We've seen some great successes, including keeping 3,000 individuals from entering homelessness. One of the key strategies we used was asking folks: what do you need? It seems simple, but too often governments prescribe solutions that don't fit the specific needs of communities. I'd like to bring this lens to the state level so that we can provide funding that communities themselves can determine how to spend. As well, in my personal life I serve on the board of WestSide Baby, a local nonprofit that provides diapers and safety equipment to</p>

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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	<p>families in need. Because of my work there I'm particularly interested in serving on the Early Learning committee in the State Senate so I can focus on providing best starts for kids aged 0-5.</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>At King County our Best Starts for Kids program is investing in partnerships with nonprofits that working on access to healthy food and nutrition education for our low-income families. In partnership with Tilth Alliance we're providing locally-sourced nutrient-dense fruits and vegetables and sending them home, along with recipes, with food insecure preschool students. I believe we can invest in programs like this across the state, and allocate funding specifically for programs that are making nutritional food available with recipes that consider chronic illnesses and informational campaigns that help individuals evaluate labels to find foods that are most nutritious for them.</p>

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