



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.

Alex Ramel	Candidate for State Representative, District 40, Position 2 (Bellingham)
<p>In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?</p>	<p>This last year, the legislature --with leadership from Rep Entenman-- voted to finally return funding for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) back to pre-recession levels. In the coming year, we can anticipate that there will be calls to cut that funding, and we need to protect it. The other major priority in this area is funding the Working Families Tax Credit, which has been on the books for some time, but which has never been funded. Finally, I think we need to address the inter-related issues impacting families' budgets, like the cost of housing, which have spill-over effects.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?</p>	<p>I'm absolutely committed to addressing racial and other injustices in our society. But let's acknowledge that there's not going to be a quick fix; we won't be able to address this all in one year. We need a sustained and focused effort. Democrats are committed to making this equity lens is used to evaluate any legislation we consider. Some obvious starting points for me are reforming our regressive tax system, working for environmental justice, continuing to invest in higher education, and protecting our social safety in the coming budgets. But for longer term this work needs to be guided by information. That's why I'm really glad that this past year we created the Washington State Office of Equity. Part of the role of that office will be to make sure that we are addressing these systemic problems with a systemic approach.</p>
<p>How will you address the role of government and taxes during your campaign and address this issue in the legislature should you be elected? Specifically, are you supportive of tax code reform? Taxing capital gains in Washington state? And funding the state's Working Families Tax Credit?</p>	<p>I'm in favor of progressive tax code reform, including a capital gains tax on earnings above \$100,000 (exempting primary residence and retirement savings). I support the working families tax credit.</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>Please describe policies and investments you would support to improve farm worker rights and living conditions, if you are elected?</p>	<p>In Skagit County, a local partnership is working to build affordable farmworker housing and begin to address a severe shortage. I strongly support fully funding our state's Housing Trust Fund to ensure that these kinds of housing projects can continue to be built. I'm in favor of efforts to protect human health by limiting the use of neurotoxic pesticides. And more generally, health and safety regulations need to be strengthened. The challenges of providing adequate housing and working conditions for farmworkers have only been exacerbated under COVID-19. We need to do a better job of making sure this venerable population isn't treated as expendable. That means housing and working conditions with room for safe distancing. It means hygiene stations in work areas. And it means sufficient protective equipment.</p>
<p>If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?</p>	<p>I've mentioned several of my economic priorities above. I'd just add that I also want to make sure we focus on our housing crisis. For most of us, housing is the biggest monthly expense, and when housing costs escalate past wage growth, we end up where many Washington households find themselves: with more than half of their income every month going toward rent. I truly believe that the long term effort to build more housing and make sure that we ensuring long term affordability for much of the new housing stock in Washington, we can begin to drive down these monthly expenses for many families in Washington.</p>

Yes/No Section

<p>If elected, will you insist proposed laws, bills, policies, and practices be evaluated for racial justice and equity?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Will you commit to implementing the state Food Policy Forum's recommendations to mitigate the agricultural symptoms of climate change and to help farmers adapt?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Will you commit to supporting efforts to reduce wasted food if you are elected?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Do you believe that every human being deserves physical, social,</p>	<p>Yes</p>



and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life?

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