



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

November 2020 General Election



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.

David Hackney	Candidate for State Representative, District 11, Position 1 (Seattle)
In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?	In the 11th LD, we have a higher percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced meals, yet we are on the lower end of the spectrum of funding for our schools. Students from low-income families rely exclusively on the public-school system to adequately prepare them to enter the workforce or to attend an institute of higher learning. Inadequate funding for capital projects, staff compensation and benefits and mental health staff are a serious impediment for public schools to fulfill their mission. Students who are the product of unstable family situations rely on the public school staff to meet their basic needs of food and clothing and physical and mental health issues that are not being addressed at home. When I am in Olympia I will work to introduce legislation that invests in staff compensation to attract and retain the very best teachers available, that addresses the mental health issues of students and that closes the funding gap between schools.
If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?	As an elected official I will sponsor and/or support legislation that addresses institutional racism and issues that disproportionately impact communities of color. I would prioritize repealing I-200, the ban on affirmative action in Washington. I would replace it with legislation that makes it clear that Washington has the authority to implement programs to increase the participation of under-represented minorities in public education, public employment and public contracts. I would also champion the use of Community Workforce Agreements that ensure workers on public projects receive the benefits of a union job site and under-represented minorities are included as apprentices on public projects. I am a former federal prosecutor, I know our current system is broken. I would also champion criminal justice reform to reduce the unnecessary incarceration of low-level, non-violent offenders. Communities of color do not receive equal justice in Washington.
How will you address the role of	Washington must abandon its regressive tax structure.

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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?

Working families pay a significantly higher portion of their income in taxes than the wealthiest people in our state, which is egregiously unfair. Washington must develop new sources of revenue by implementing progressive taxes on the income of individuals and corporations, tax capital gains and reduce regressive sales taxes. All of this can be used to fund the Working Families Tax Credit to address the tax inequality. In addition, in light of this pandemic, Washington must develop new sources of income. For example, Washington could tax data stored in cloud computing, or digital advertising. Washington is a tech hub with an abundant supply of skilled talent. Threats by major corporations to flee to states with a lower tax burden are hollow, because they will not be able to attract the necessary skilled workforce.

Please describe policies and investments you would support to improve farm worker rights and living conditions, if you are elected?

The legislature's role in our democratic society is to create the environment where democracy and self-actualization can prosper. The legislature should protect the collective bargaining rights of workers, so they can organize and demand a safe workplace, a living wage with benefits and protection from discrimination and harassment. Farm workers are as entitled to these protections as the labor unions are. For those workers not represented by a union, the legislature should codify safety standards, minimum compensation, mandatory benefits and protection from abusive conduct in legislation with appropriate resources for enforcement. It is clear that political inequality leads to economic inequality which hinders economic growth, because workers do not have sufficient discretionary income to fuel the economy. In addition, the protections discussed above should apply to all workers, without regard to their immigration status.

If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?

I am running for the State Legislature in the 11th LD Position 1, because we need representation that reflects our community. South King County has the lowest median income, the most students on free or reduced meal programs and the highest percentage incidents of gun violence in King County. Between 2011 and 2015 I co-founded and managed a church that prepared healthy meals for the homeless. At peak we collected approximately 5,000 pounds of raw food per month and served approximately 1,500 -2,000 meals per month. The 11th LD needs a representative who has the initiative to take the lead on issues critical to their prosperity,

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organize constituents to participate in the process and sponsor bills that will bring systemic change. In addition, I have served on the Board of the King County NAACP where I worked on the implementation regulations for I-940 the police accountability bill and provided legal advice to the Board on individual discrimination cases and areas of systemic discrimination. I also serve on the Washington State Human Rights Commission where I hear employment and housing discrimination cases monthly. As a leader with a proven track record of community activism, I will go to Olympia to assure the issues of hunger and poverty are being addressed and to make Washington a place where everyone can prosper.

Yes/No Section

If elected, will you insist proposed laws, bills, policies, and practices be evaluated for racial justice and equity?	Yes
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?	Yes
Will you commit to supporting efforts to reduce wasted food if you are elected?	Yes
Do you believe that every human being deserves physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life?	Yes

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