



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.

Joy Stanford	Candidate for State Representative, District 26, Position 2 (Seattle)
<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>It is important to address the food insecurity experienced by Washington's youth. As an educator in my community I understand one of the ways to cast the largest policy net is to reach these kids in schools. I will work to champion bills that reduce the barriers to access that many of these kids may be experiencing. We need greater access for low-income families to be able to enroll in the school breakfast and lunch program. As an advocate for those experiencing housing instability or homelessness, I saw families making the difficult choice between choosing food or shelter. I will work to cultivate policy that addresses the root of these issues along with addressing the urgent demands for food, housing, and other supports.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?</p>	<p>The legislature’s duty is to the people. It is critically important that citizens and leaders in the 26th district address issues of racial inequities head on. When we address these issues directly we can proactively work to create a culture of inclusion. We must make it clear that our state does not hold the beliefs of our current administration, and that we will ardently oppose actions that seek to limit the freedom of our constituents. I proudly identify as a Black woman and a member of a working family. As a blended family of color. I can speak personally about racial inequity and many of the challenges facing working communities. I personally have had experiences of racism directed toward me right here in my own community. Many times it was through micro-aggressions and in response I have spoken up. State officials need to take an active role in working towards equity in our government. We need to actively invest in schools in lower-income areas, because too often, the quality</p>

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	<p>of education in these locations are inadequate because of a reduced budget. The divide in education quality creates both a social and racial divide between areas with different economic statuses.</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>One of my top priorities is reducing the tax burden on our senior citizens and working families. We must get folks back to work and create jobs that will help working families get back on their feet. We must also work to reduce the tax burden on low income families and on homeowners so they are not pushed from their homes. Any talk of new taxes will have to work for all people in Washington state, which includes the top earners of this state. Everyone must pay their fair share to help our economy recover. Many ideas and solutions are going to be on the table and I will not support anything that is not fair and equitable.</p>
<p>Please describe policies and investments you would support to improve farm worker rights and living conditions, if you are elected?</p>	<p>Migrant families and farm workers need access to the same protections as everyone else. In office I will work to ensure that these essential workers have access to safe working environments and essential PPE. I also understand that healthcare is a human right and will work to ensure affordable and accessible healthcare options for migrant workers and their families. As a housing advocate I will work to ensure that there are ample housing options that are affordable and safe to help ensure that migrant workers remain housed and still able to feed their families.</p>
<p>If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?</p>	<p>I am committed to alleviating hunger and poverty and promoting economic opportunity for all. I will continue to fight to ensure that families have access to critical resources provided by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF). Furthermore, I will work to ensure that workers' rights are protected and that employers are abiding by equal opportunity standards. At the foundation of our society is the need for equitable access to resources and education. I will continue to be an advocate for all children and families to acquire these resources.</p>

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

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