



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.

<p>Liz Berry</p>	<p>Candidate for State Representative, District 36, Position 2 (Seattle)</p>
<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>We must be addressing food insecurity full-stop and addressing it is an intersectional issue connected to poverty, climate change and systemic inequities. We must be passing progressive revenue in order to invest in solutions that address the root causes of food insecurity. These solutions include addressing our housing crisis and building more affordable housing, and also investing in early childhood programs. We know ages 0-5 are critical to the lifetime outcomes of children. Specifically, we must be expanding Breakfast After the Bell Programs statewide. We must also recognize how COVID-19 and remote learning has created enormous barriers to students participating in school meals and we need legislators who will make this a priority through this crisis and ongoing. We must be investing in healthy starts for all of our children.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?</p>	<p>Systemic racism is inextricably linked to so many outcomes: economic, housing, health, employment, education, life expectancy. We know your zip code determines your health outcomes and too often racism determines the zip code you have. This, plain and simple, should not be the case. One specific example that impelled me to enter this race is the high rates of maternal mortality among Black women. As a mom to two young kids, one of whom suffered a stroke in utero and had to spend 10 days in the NICU, I am acutely aware of how broken our healthcare system is. The fact that racism drives differential birth outcomes for Black women in our country is horrific to me. It’s something I want to address in the Legislature as just one specific component of the larger network of systemic inequities. We must be investing in our education, housing and healthcare systems to address these racial disparities. I am a strong advocate for healthcare for all and am an advocate of a single-payer system in Washington state. I also believe that budgets are moral documents- we should be reducing funding to law enforcement and putting that money toward social and intervention programs; and</p>

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	<p>other measures that will provide meaningful change for our historically underrepresented communities.</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 have made it clear throughout this campaign: making our economy work for everyone is essential. Fixing Washington state's upside-down tax code has always been one of my top priorities in the legislature, and with this present crisis, the urgency has never been greater. Our state budget is facing a \$7 billion+ shortfall, and now is NOT the time for austerity measures. We cannot be cutting services for the poor and middle-class while wealthy individuals and corporations do not pay an income tax. The time to fix this is now. In my opinion, all options should be on the table: personal income tax, corporate income tax, capital gains tax, wealth tax, higher rate for estate tax, and closing tax loopholes, among other progressive taxes. We must also be funding the state's Working Families Tax Credit. We must use the momentum that this pandemic has created as a way to finally bring about real tax reform. I support the work of my seatmate Rep. Noel Frame who is leading the charge on tax reform in the legislature, and I support efforts to move this timeline up to 2021. I have experience building coalitions to pass meaningful legislation and that's how I intend to lead in Olympia. Similar to Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's work as co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I want to build a coalition of progressive legislators in Olympia who will come together to pass progressive policy. I am very proud that my campaign has been endorsed by Congresswoman Jayapal because she knows that I am a proven progressive leader who knows how to get things done.</p>
<p>Please describe policies and investments you would support to improve farm worker rights and living conditions, if you are elected?</p>	<p>We must be investing and fighting for farm worker rights and living conditions. I have spent my career standing up for working people and it is unacceptable to me the lack of protections extended to farm workers. Farm workers are essential frontline workers and through this pandemic we have failed to provide them with the adequate PPE, hazard pay and distanced-working conditions required to keep them safe. This is of no surprise given their working conditions pre-COVID19. We must be investing in key protections during this pandemic and in key-systemic investments-- like healthy housing, healthcare for all (irrespective of citizenship status) and pathways to justice for farm workers injured and harmed by the industry. We must be forcing systemic changes to our</p>

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

food systems in Washington and fighting for farm worker rights.

I have experience responding to an economic crisis at the federal level when I worked for Congresswoman Gabby Giffords during the last Great Recession. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act saved jobs and created new ones while making investments in infrastructure, education, health and clean energy. What didn't work was sending billions of dollars to bailout the big banks when they used the money to enrich themselves instead of keeping the credit flowing to small businesses and families struggling with foreclosures. These are important lessons learned that must be applied to our current economic crisis. Working on these important issues at the federal level taught me many lessons: the power of building coalitions to pass important policy priorities, the intricacies of the legislative process, and that economic downturns do not mean we sacrifice our progressive values and momentum to push important legislative goals forward. I am proud to be the only candidate in this race who has committed to not responding to this crisis by voting to impose austerity measures next session. I promise to hold the line against devastating budget cuts and protect people's employment through this pandemic - that is essential for addressing hunger and poverty. We must also be focused on how to help people who are struggling right now: there are nearly one million unemployment insurance claims in Washington State. We must expand paid sick leave, protect medical benefits, provide emergency cash assistance, expand unemployment benefits, and provide rental relief. It is also critical that the 2021 legislative session focuses on making job creation one of the primary goals. I see this as essential in ensuring that income streams to all families are restored. Our knee-jerk reaction is to impose austerity, when in reality I believe we should be using our rainy-day fund and pursuing progressive revenue taxation as a means of addressing this crisis. I promise to hold the line against devastating budget cuts, and that is why I have been sole-endorsed by progressive champions like The Stranger, the FUSE Progressive Voters Guide, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, and labor unions representing 500,000+ frontline workers. We know that trickle-down economics do not work. This is why I support fixing our regressive tax code, pushing for job

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creation to reduce the massive numbers of people who are unemployed, and ensuring that our workers are earning a living wage. I am proud to be a 5-star rated candidate by the Civic Alliance for a Progressive Economy and my top priority is rebuilding our economy to work for everyone.

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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