



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.

Liz Lovelett	Candidate for State Senator, District 40 (Bellingham)
In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?	This year I was proud to sponsor and pass legislation securing an increase to fresh produce from farmers markets for WIC recipients. Additionally, I sponsored a bill to standardize the definition of homelessness throughout our state code so that the vulnerable youth who are currently misclassified would have more robust access to supportive services. Also, I want to have single entry applications so people don't have to apply to multiple agencies to get the support they need.
If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?	Social justice and equity occur when we address the many layers of systemic race and gender bias in our housing, employment, environment, and education. By rooting out racial bias in our criminal justice system with legislation such as reforming our three-strikes and driving with a suspended license laws, we begin to address the deep divides that disproportionately impact communities of color. By reevaluating the way we structure pay scales and by offering more comprehensive maternity and child care, we augment women in the workforce. By continuing to call out hate speech and crime, we begin to heal deep cultural wounds in our society and further the goals of a community that truly provides safety and equity for all. There are inequities in our school districts that particularly impact families in our Latinx community. I have been visited by several LEAP groups in Olympia and have toured and learned about the wonderful successes in the Mt. Vernon district with helping students overcome challenges- worries about deportation, ICE, and racial profiling, language barriers, kids needing to have a job or provide childcare in their home that impacts their school situation, to name just a few- and the incredible programs that are meeting these needs. Like most great programs, they could always use more funding which I am happy to support. I have supported policies that further these efforts: the HEAL Act, initiating the Office of Equity, and a transportation package that looks at environmental justice as a foundation of the legislation.

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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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?

I am committed to overhauling our regressive code from the bottom up. I am working on a carbon tax that has the potential to invest in deep decarbonization of emitters that have long impacted our communities and those in urban areas, would invest in agricultural practices that are more sustainable and respect farmworkers, create more sustainable forestry methods, and help create economic opportunities in places in the state that have been long ignored. This has the potential to be impactful throughout the district as we improve outcomes in our refineries, farming, industry, and logging. All of these issues are exacerbated by the revenue that we are losing during the pandemic and the regressivity of the code itself. I am committed to progressive revenue and am working with my colleagues in both chambers to look at all options available with the hope of generating support for an omnibus package that will help us maintain the critical services Washingtonians need now more than ever. I am also part of the State Bank Caucus and progressive revenue team.

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

I am supportive of legislation to promote the health, safety, and dignity of farmworkers. As they organize and unionize, farmworkers need support from the government to set labor standards, overtime, rest breaks, etc. Specific focus is necessary for issues related to housing, healthcare, transportation access, police and immigration reform. It is very important to hear back from community based organizations and incorporate their lived experiences into any policy that relates to them.

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

As said in a previous answer, I sponsored and passed legislation securing an increase to fresh produce from farmers markets for WIC recipients. Additionally, I sponsored a bill to standardize the definition of homelessness throughout our state code so that the vulnerable youth who are currently misclassified would have more robust access to supportive services.

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

Yes

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the state Food Policy Forum's recommendations to mitigate the agricultural symptoms of climate change and to help farmers adapt?	
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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