



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.

My-Linh Thai	Candidate for State Representative, District 41, Position 2 (Bellevue, Mercer Island)
<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>Setting up every child for success has been my focus as President of the Bellevue School Board, and now in Olympia. That requires ensuring all kids have the wrap around services and supports to grow, learn, and thrive. In Olympia, I will continue to advocate for investments in local schools to provide better access to school meal programs. As we proceed to re-open our schools, we must ensure that time in the classroom is adequately supported by effective food and health programs for our youths.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?</p>	<p>Pervasive disparities in access to healthcare, education, housing, and more are damaging our communities. Health disparities are one of my top priorities, and they affect all parts of life. I believe that education has the potential to be the single most important economic, social, and justice equalizer. But kids can’t learn if they’re hungry, and they can’t learn if they’re traumatized. We need to set up all of our kids for success. This means eradicating the roots of racism. To do anything other than directly address this system is to uphold it. I was elected to the State Legislature in 2018 and was the first refugee in Washington State’s history elected at the state level so this issue is very personal to me. I am proud of my record on the Bellevue School Board prioritizing equity and inclusion in our schools and I have taken that work to the Legislature. I sponsored HB 1914 to provide training for equity and cultural competency in our public school system, as well as HB 2059 to address diversity, equity, and inclusion goals at community and technical colleges. The past few months have shed light on systemic racism and we must not lose this momentum to make critical change towards dismantling racism across our institutions.</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</p>	<p>I have worked tirelessly throughout my time in Olympia to pass meaningful reforms of our unacceptably regressive tax code. Washington’s tax code should focus on equity; Providing our state the funding it needs while placing the smallest possible burden on the underprivileged and</p>

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<p>supportive of tax code reform? Taxing capital gains in Washington state? And funding the state's Working Families Tax Credit?</p>	<p>impoverished. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the existing inequities in our tax code, making a push for significant reform crucial for the fairness and prosperity of our state as a whole.</p>
<p>Please describe policies and investments you would support to improve farm worker rights and living conditions, if you are elected?</p>	<p>Washington's migrant and seasonal workers are an incredibly valuable cultural, social, and economic asset to our state that has been drastically underserved for far too long. As we recover from COVID-19, we must ensure everyone in our state is provided equitable resources and opportunity to rebound from the financial and health impacts of this disease. This recovery is already one of the greatest challenges our state has faced, and I am afraid that many in Olympia will want to make drastic cuts to our already underfunded budget. These cuts will undoubtedly hurt low income communities and communities of color the worst. I am committed to being a very loud voice for applying an equity lens to any budget decisions and demanding that our recovery leave no Washingtonian behind, including our essential migrant and immigrant workers.</p>
<p>If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?</p>	<p>My parents brought our family to this country to build a better life. Thanks to hard work and committed educators, I was able to thrive, but the lack of affordability in housing and healthcare for low-income families makes this dream impossible for too many. I will continue to work to reform our regressive tax code to provide greater economic opportunity for those that need it most. Making our state more affordable will help to alleviate the hunger and poverty plaguing many of our workers, youths, and families.</p>
<p>Yes/No Section</p>	
<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</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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you are elected?

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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