



**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](http://foodlifeline.org/advocacy).

<b>Sharon Shewmake</b>	<b>Candidate for State Representative, District 42, Position 2 (Bellingham)</b>
In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child poverty and hunger?	Fund the working families tax rebate. Get Alicia Rule elected so she can figure out how to support parents fleeing domestic violence situations get back on their feet.
If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?	Culturally appropriate food is a good start, removing barriers to entrepreneurship with things like better more affordable healthcare, WFTR. I don't mean to write things that aren't just food, because our food bank system delivers incredible value for the \$ we spend, but these are deeper poverty problems.
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?	Yes on Cap Gains and WFTC.
Please describe policies and investments you would support to improve farm worker rights and living conditions, if you are elected?	In Whatcom County we helped a cooperative get capital to buy land and build their dream. This may not be something that can support all farm workers, but figuring out access to capital is part of this. So are better regulations on pesticides that keep people safe (and avoid pesticide drift), the bill we passed in 2019 for better oversight of the H2A program, and generally funding for school districts to embark on equity work as well.
If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?	We're been discussing carbon pricing and a drum I cannot stop beating is that it can't fall on poor and working class people. That means a WFTR plus some help for people who may not be working because they are on disability, limited income retirement or TANF. Poverty is expensive and we need to look at policies that break cycles of intergenerational

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poverty. Of course we should do all of them, but I've been focusing on access to preschool as an investment in that critical time during a child's life.

**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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