



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.

Sharon Tomiko Santos	Candidate for State Representative, District 37, Position 1 (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>The Community Eligibility Program was passed when I chaired the House Education Committee. This program makes it so families do not have to fill out the form in order qualify for free or reduced lunch. Instead, TANF and Medicaid data is gathered from the surrounding community of the school and these students are able to get federally funded school lunches. I have worked hard to ensure school districts continue to deliver food to food-insecure students via school buses during the summer, as well as communicate with the US Department of Agriculture so that community based organizations can access food. I also support facilitating breakfast after the bell, so kids can have access to breakfast before or during their studies.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome racial inequities?</p>	<p>I am very concerned that, if governments do not pay explicit attention to the issues and needs in immigrant, refugee, and communities of color, many of our most culturally unique and historically rich communities and neighborhoods will be completely destroyed to make room for generic, corporatized development. This is why I raised the matter immediately with the House Democratic Leadership as an essential priority for our Caucus and, I’m proud to note, the Caucus is responding supportively in prioritizing the needs of those who are the furthest from equity, from opportunity, and from justice in our agenda. In terms of specific actions, I am especially concerned about the impact of the future budget cuts on our communities that were already so disadvantaged before COVID-19. I will be seeking ways to mitigate the harms and to lift up creative community-based solutions to ensure that everyone is included in the future recovery efforts in the state of Washington.</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 long supported the idea of a progressive income tax system for both individuals and corporations in Washington state. In exchange, I would seek to lower the state sales tax and to reform our property tax system that allows unlimited voter-approved levies. I am also supportive of a progressive</p>

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supportive of tax code reform? Taxing capital gains in Washington state? And funding the state's Working Families Tax Credit?

capital gains tax and a progressive REET tax. I would expedite the schedule for the review of tax exemptions and require future tax exemptions to provide documentation of public benefits equal to or exceeding the value of the exemption above net zero. I also believe in funding the state's Working Families Tax Credits.

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

I come from a family of migrant farm workers, and have always been a long time support and voice for migrant workers and their housing. In my past legislative work, I have sought worker protections against unsafe working conditions. Particularly, I have sought for including safety precautions for workers who have to hand pesticides during their work. As a legislator with a 100% labor record, I will continue to prioritize occupational safety, housing and wage theft. I also believe in access to safe and sound financial institutions, as well as strong educational supports for the children of seasonal and migrant workers. As the Chair of the Education Committee, I have long fought for bilingual student support, and as the longest serving member of the Consumer Protection Business Committee, I have made sure all families have access to the financial institutions that serve their needs.

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

In the Skyway area in my district, there exists a food desert, wherein there used to be more grocery stores in the area. This is a critical issue for the Skyway community. As the Chair of the Education Committee, I will work to promote health education through schools and use our education system as an opportunity to promote physical fitness. In the Skyway area, I will also work to promote community centers to create a safe space for children to play and engage in outside of school learning activities. I will also support job creation with living wages, as well as work to lower the cost of living, especially around housing and transportation. One of my proudest achievements thus far is to establish, in cooperation with the McKinney Coalition, the Central District Community Preservation and Development Authority, to return to community stewardship the former Seattle Opportunities Industrialization Center, a job training and employment education center that aimed to serve the primarily African American and other marginalized communities in the red-lined Central Area of Seattle. The community has plans to restore the vision of the Rev. Dr.

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McKinney, who brought the program to Seattle, to offer apprenticeship programs, coding classes, dental assisting courses, and general education opportunities to those furthest from economic justice. I also plan to revive my previous efforts to attract private investment into community development financial institutions for the purpose of community-led development.

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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