



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>Sherae Lascelles</p>	<p>Candidate for State Representative, District 43, 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>As a multiply marginalized person who has known intimately throughout my life what food scarcity means, I am committed to sweeping structural changes in our state to ensure that the wealth in Washington is distributed in a manner that demonstrates that we care about human lives, and we will not let our children go hungry. To me, that looks like tax reform. We must tax the top. According to the ITEP tax inequality index, Washington has the most inequitable tax burden in the nation. Proportional to our income, Washington taxpayers in the bottom 20% pay almost 6x more than those in the top 1%. There is more than enough wealth in Washington to go around. We must ensure that the wealthiest among us invest in community at a level commensurate with what this community has brought them. We will draft, educate, and legislate for equity while working towards a constitutional amendment for a state income tax. En route to this massive overhaul, we will legislate for a more progressive tax code, including a lowering of sales tax which disproportionately burdens our state’s lowest earners, and close loopholes for Business & Occupancy and Capital Gains taxes, and institute a Statewide Wealth Tax and Statewide Excessive Compensation Tax for equity as assessment determines. With this sharing of wealth, we will work in community to be sure that funding streams are made for communities to build food lifelines in a manner that is empowering, and fit their specific community needs. Nobody should go hungry in this state that is full of wealth, and nobody should tell other people how and what they should eat, either. Low barrier options, and diversity of options is critical to ensuring that folks get the food they need; I know because this problem has been present in my life, too. This is how I know I will care for this concern-- it is a matter of vital importance, presently to both myself and my community.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to</p>	<p>I will make investments to overcome racial inequities when I am in office as the story of my life has been one of making</p>



overcome racial inequities?

investments to overcome racial inequities that I have faced in the school system, in the healthcare, in accessibility as someone who experiences life not only from the marginalized identity of being Black in the U.S. but with further widening accessibility and opportunity gaps that compound when other marginalized identities are stacked on top. The system was not built for people like me to succeed or even survive. So often, the issue is twofold: 1. There is a lack of material investment in the community systems that provide for our Black and Brown communities. 2. Even when some commitment is made to throw funding at known problematic inequity, the legislating, funding allocation, and program development is usually made for, and not by those who are most impacted. Thus, we see the problem of folks either being neglected or set up to fail in top/down legislated programming. The solution then is twofold. We must materially invest in communities. We must tax equitably so that we can center and resource those communities that have been racially and systematically pushed out. We must build coalitions, and yes, I mean we, because I am in community with those who we are speaking of-- we must allow Black and Brown folks to build coalitions to self-determine and self-allocate how funds will be used: what programs are needed (or needing to be dismantled) in the schools so that their kids can succeed, what would a healthcare provider in their community need to look like, need to be located, need to be open during which hours, need to cost so that their family can see a provider without fear of bills they cannot pay, or work they cannot miss. The formula is the same for all institutions that racism holds captive, which is all of them as all these institutions of our state are relics of a time when people who look like me were not in the rooms when they were designed, and maybe were not even legally able to utilize. We must fund for equitable redesign of our institutions of medicine, schools, labor, and of course, law enforcement, and beyond to reduce harm, and bolster equity across the reals of marginalized identities. This must be led by those most impacted by inequities, and they must be given the funding to carry out the dismantling and recreating of what our state systems must look like to be a state in which everyone is cared for.

How will you address the role of

Although mentioned above, it bears restating as tax reform is

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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?

the absolute necessity for us to move forward as a state that values equity. According to the ITEP tax inequality index, Washington has the most inequitable tax burden in the nation. Proportional to our income, Washington taxpayers in the bottom 20% pay almost 6x more than those in the top 1%. There is more than enough wealth in Washington to go around. We must ensure that the wealthiest among us invest in community at a level commensurate with what this community has brought them. We will draft, educate, and legislate for equity while working towards a constitutional amendment for a state income tax. En route to this massive overhaul, we will legislate for a more progressive tax code, including a lowering of sales tax which disproportionately burdens our state's lowest earners, and close loopholes for Business & Occupancy and Capital Gains taxes, and institute a Statewide Wealth Tax and Statewide Excessive Compensation Tax for equity as assessment determines. I will also work in community to support any other tax that makes our state a more equitable one, including Working Families Tax Credit.

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

The inequities faced by our farmworkers are egregious, and oftentimes it has to do with the fact that this nation is profiting off of the abuses of migrant workers whose immigration status makes them vulnerable to mistreatment because the era of ICE makes reporting mistreatment and labor abuses more untenable as a safe option than ever. This is why we must onramp as many of our hard-working immigrant community members to become documented as possible. If people live here, work here, contribute to the wealth of our state, they deserve the same protections as anybody. This is one primary step I will take, to make documentation and the path to citizenship more accessible by diminishing the fees and educating folks on their rights, and how they can become more secure working in our state by undergoing the process towards documentation and eventually citizenship. We must also expand protections for undocumented farmworkers; protect human life from abuse, always.

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

Nobody need be hungry in our State that is profoundly resourced--- the wealth is just not equitably distributed. I know I am repeating myself, but we absolutely must deeply redistribute what we have so that everyone can eat. We must

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pay workers well enough to feed their families, too. I have a goal to raise our minimum wage statewide. I will legislate for universal healthcare so that no one has to decide between going to the hospital and eating. Tuition-free college will also allow folks to eat instead of choosing between that and buying their books, or just realizing they could never go to college. I will tax the richest among us and build out resources for our communities including community hubs that are pantries, can provide healthcare, social services, education and job training support, just as I have done extensively with my non-profits-- People of Color Sex Worker Outreach Project, and Green Light Project. Meet people where they're at, and find out what they need. Then fund it, and give jobs to folks in the community to do it.

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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