



# Candidate Questionnaire

## November 2022 Midterm Election

**Food Lifeline’s goal is to elevate the issues of hunger with candidates during the election cycle.** Each candidate for state office received our questionnaire. For every candidate that replied, their original responses are presented as submitted. See all results at [foodlifeline.org/advocacy](https://foodlifeline.org/advocacy).

<b>Claire Wilson</b>	<b>Candidate for Washington State Senate District 30</b>
<p><b>In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child hunger?</b></p>	<p>As a lifetime educator, former WIC Project Director, and the recipient of a Bachelor's degree in Food and Nutrition, addressing child hunger and food insecurity has long been one of my top priorities. I am proud of the steps we have taken to address food insecurity. The passage of the Working Families Tax Credit represents a major step towards ensuring that families have the resources they need to provide for their children. I sponsored legislation in 2019 that expanded eligibility for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), which secured access to the meal services and other services provided through the program for more children throughout our state. Last session, I also sponsored SB 5798, which required more schools to provide free meals to all students without each household having to apply for free and reduced lunch. With that said, there is still more work to be done. When I return to the Senate, I want to continue to expand access to meals provided through schools while also investing in local organizations that are doing the crucial work on the ground to address child hunger.</p>
<p><b>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome structural racism and racial inequities?</b></p>	<p>I believe that structural racism and the inequities it perpetuates must always be considered, regardless of issue area. Our systems have been built to keep people where they are, not to allow them to get ahead. As such, I believe that good policy making requires interrogating the origins, impacts, and implications of our decisions in order to disrupt systems of oppression. This is true when considering our criminal justice system, our education system, and the resources and supports we provide to children and families in need. I would support making targeted investments in programs that address historic inequities in school discipline and diversion programs which are huge determinants of future success. I would also support investment in programs targeting food insecurity among communities of color.</p>
<p><b>Discussion of reforms to public safety and law enforcement are often polarizing but require law enforcement and community working together to focus on facts and agree on solutions. If elected, will you commit to working on these issues and</b></p>	<p>Yes. These conversations, although difficult, are critical to the health and vitality of our communities. In general, my approach to topics like this one is to first make sure that every voice is included at the table, and then start at a place where we agree. All of us want safe, supportive communities that foster mutual respect and flourishing. To get there, I believe we need to build trust through honest discourse while taking tangible steps to make our communities safer and more equitable.</p>

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<p><b>what outcomes would you prioritize?</b></p>	
<p><b>What measures will you support that promote equity and fairness in Washington’s tax code and create more opportunity for community investment?</b></p>	<p>Washington’s tax code undeniably disadvantages BIPOC and limited income communities. I was proud to support the passage of the capital gains tax, which is a start towards correcting our over reliance on sales and property taxes. In the Senate, I will continue to work towards correcting the inequities in our tax system, including by closing corporate tax loopholes so we can lower property taxes on middle class families, to ensure that our least advantaged neighbors do not continue to be overburdened.</p>
<p><b>If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?</b></p>	<p>One of the most important things we can do to alleviate food insecurity and poverty in Washington state is to promote access to affordable housing. This means building more affordable housing units and making sure that the housing that already exists is not prohibitively expensive –a problem exacerbated by our overreliance on property taxes. I will also continue to work on broadening pathways to opportunity by expanding access to vocational training and apprenticeships in our high schools, investing in affordable early learning and childcare to relieve our state’s hard working parents, and providing reentry services so that individuals who have come into contact with our carceral system have the opportunity to rejoin our communities as contributing members without being doomed to a cycle of poverty, hunger, and crime.</p>
<p><b>Yes/No Section</b></p>	
<p><b>Will you commit to support a 1% levy on wealth held in financial assets, such as stocks and bonds for individuals of worth over \$1 billion?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Will you support expanding access to school meals at no student cost?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>If elected, will you insist proposed laws, bills, policies, and practices be evaluated for racial justice and equity?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Will you commit to supporting the work of the Food Policy Forum and its recommendations?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Will you commit to implementing the</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>

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recommendations in the Use  
Food Well Washington plan?

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