



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

Darya Farivar	Candidate for Washington State House District 46
<p><b>In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity.</b></p> <p><b>What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child hunger?</b></p>	<p>Access to food is a human right. Washington must be proactive in making strong and sustainable investments into programs that ensure children receive three nutritious meals a day. I am interested in actions that will improve access to school nutrition programs, such as fully funding expansion of the Community Eligibility Provision. We must also take steps to ensure students have access to affordable and healthy food outside of school through making programs like Basic Food support and summer food services more accessible to families, and expanding access to fresh produce in underserved communities. While we work to build up support for these programs, we must also be careful to ensure that information about these programs are fully accessible to Washington State residents. This starts with ensuring our programs are culturally and linguistically responsive and reducing barriers to applying for and accessing these programs. We must be intentional in collaborating with community programs and leaders to identify gaps in services, systemic causes behind food insecurity, and how best to meet our communities' changing and diverse needs.</p>
<p><b>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome structural racism and racial inequities?</b></p>	<p>Over the last two years, I've drafted legislation called the Nothing About Us Without Us Act. This legislation would require any statutorily created entity to include people with direct lived experience on its membership. If elected, one of my first actions will be to champion this bill into law. Advancing racial and economic justice, and improving the lives of marginalized community members, comes back to access to the decision-making process and the ballot, these are our tools for change. Only when we have people with direct lived experience in leadership will we be able to truly improve the lives of marginalized communities. Representation matters and is one of the reasons I'm running. My goal in entering this race is to leave a lasting impact on the community regardless of the outcome. I have seen through my work in Olympia how oftentimes it is the most vocal and privileged communities that have their needs prioritized over others. I want to amplify the voices of those that are often forgotten and work to ensure they have a seat at the table, whether that be BIPOC communities, LGBTQ+, tribal communities, the formerly and currently incarcerated, individuals with disabilities and immigrants, or undocumented people. Everyone deserves to have their needs addressed regardless of</p>

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	their wealth or influence. As a Representative, I will take the time to meet community members where they are at and bring them and their lived experiences with me to the House.
<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 what outcomes would you prioritize?</b>	Yes, absolutely. This conversation has been polarized, which has prevented us from making progress on this issue. Often, folks feel that they have to choose between safety and compassion, and that's not true. I have seen us be able to do both successfully. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their communities. I've seen the 46th district change tremendously over the years and both housed and houseless neighbors feel unsafe. When community members have what they need to not only survive, but to thrive, we all do better. Increasing public safety starts with providing care the moment it's needed, affordable and accessible low-barrier housing, as well as relieving the burden on law enforcement and emergency responders who have had to take on the responsibilities of behavioral health professionals and social workers. Police are trained to respond to crimes and detain individuals, not to provide a trauma-informed approach to a person in crisis. Police also have limited resources available to them starting with arrest and incarceration while behavioral health professionals know about crisis stabilization facilities, peer respite options, and more. To support law enforcement while increasing public safety, we need to redistribute law enforcement workload so that they are able to focus on the jobs they are trained to do.
<b>What measures will you support that promote equity and fairness in Washington's tax code and create more opportunity for community investment?</b>	Washington state has the most regressive tax code in the country - those with the least pay the most, this is unacceptable. We need reliable, progressive revenue. I'm supportive of a wealth and income tax. Until we can address the barriers in our state constitution preventing an income tax we need to search for other progressive tax solutions. We need a diversified tax code which reflects our state's progressive values. This means finding a way to create a state income tax, reducing our sales tax at least in half, increasing tax on real estate transactions and big business. We need a system where those who have the most pay their fair share to help those furthest from opportunity.
<b>If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?</b>	To alleviate hunger and poverty and create economic opportunity for our residents, we must address the longstanding lack of investment and resources provided to our most vulnerable communities. This starts with closing the opportunity gap in schools, especially for undocumented students, through resources for financial aid and investments to address food, healthcare, childcare, and housing insecurity. I am interested in investing in community-based programs led by and for the communities they serve that address the needs of underrepresented communities. These organizations often have strong ties to underserved groups in their communities and are best situated to understand their

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	needs. Core to my campaign is taking direction from those with lived experience - I am interested in advancing policies that are meaningful to underrepresented communities. In order to do this, it will be a priority for me to build mutual and resilient partnerships to hear from those with lived experience directly.
<b>Yes/No Section</b>	
<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>	Yes.
<b>Will you support expanding access to school meals at no student cost?</b>	Yes.
<b>If elected, will you insist proposed laws, bills, policies, and practices be evaluated for racial justice and equity?</b>	Yes.
<b>Will you commit to supporting the work of the Food Policy Forum and its recommendations?</b>	Yes.
<b>Will you commit to implementing the recommendations in the Use Food Well Washington plan?</b>	Yes.

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