



# 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).

<b>Julia Reed</b>	<b>Candidate for Washington State House District 36</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 the child of two public school educators, our food insecurity crisis among youth was not new to me. Unfortunately, it's an issue that has existed in Washington state since I attended elementary school. Children who relied on school for their meals were severely deprived during COVID-19's peak, and many families still struggle to provide food for their kids as they try to recover economically from the last few years. Kids can't learn when they are hungry. As a legislator, ensuring our kids are fully supported, both in and out of school, is my top priority. I am committed to increasing funding for our public school systems so that each school cannot only provide three meals a day for each student but afford food of nutritional value. I will work to expand Washington state's SNAP benefits to especially account for children and ensure fruits, vegetables, and quality protein fall under SNAP for children and working families. And as both a policy analyst and community advocate for our youth, I will work with Food Lifeline to support any legislative priorities your organization has for the session and ensure we make your policy goals into law for all our youth.</p>
<p><b>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome structural racism and racial inequities?</b></p>	<p>Growing up as a biracial girl in Washington state, I've been a first-hand witness to racism and its deep claws into the inner workings of our state. Returning to live in Washington in my adulthood, I've seen with adult eyes how many structural barriers exist, especially for our BIPOC communities, and how deeply the issues of food insecurity and housing inaccessibility are tied together. As a legislator, I would advocate for any legislation that helps us create more housing density in our cities and towns, in order to grow our available supply of housing. I would also like to see significant investments in social housing, permanent supportive housing and senior housing. I believe homelessness is a housing problem, and we need to solve it through investment in more housing in our state of all kinds. The lack of available and affordable housing is a crisis in our state, which the Lieutenant Governor's study recently found has the fewest number of housing units per household of any state in the nation. As a millennial, so many of my friends are either scrambling to find an affordable place to rent, or if they have the privilege to think about buying they are putting in 10 or even 12 offers trying to secure a home in a market with extremely low supply.</p>

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	<p>I would advocate for any legislation that helps us create more housing density in our cities and towns, in order to grow our available supply of housing. I would also like to see that as a Black and bi-racial woman, issues of race and gender equity are central to my campaign and my personal worldview. If elected, when I'm looking at issues of police accountability in Olympia, it will be through the lens of having a Black father, brother, and boyfriend, and worrying about their safety every day; when I look at issues of education equity, it will be as the daughter of two public school educators – one who worked mostly with students of color and one who worked with students with disabilities – and seeing firsthand their struggles to have their students be fairly treated by our education system; when I consider issues of housing spend state resources to provide women within our own state access to abortion care as well, as there are large areas in the state where there are no abortion clinics and where religious hospital mergers have left women with limited access to reproductive freedom.</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 what outcomes would you prioritize?</b></p>	<p>Even as crime has gone up, the commitment to police reform hasn't changed in Seattle. We have the intelligence and the resources to keep people safe from crime AND police misconduct. As a Black woman, this is a personal issue for me. I have a Black brother, a Black father, and a Black boyfriend. I know what it feels like to have them go out the door and know what might happen to them. I know what might happen to me. I also have police officers in my family, and as contributors to this campaign. We need police departments and unions to do their part and partner with the state to implement systemic reforms and accountability so that our communities can be safe. I am committed to listening to communities about their safety needs, and to standing by them even when it's politically inconvenient. It takes time to thoughtfully implement reform on all levels and that police are taking responsibility for their part of training and implementation. I will work to ensure that communities are seeing the effects of legislation to protect their safety. As a board member and advocacy chair for the YMCA Social Impact Center, I do work to create community based safety solutions. I have the experience of listening to the community about what they need to feel safe. That is the most important part of addressing police reform and public safety. We've been doing a lot of reacting instead of being deliberate. It's going to take people coming together to create solutions in service of public safety. I am excited to work in the legislature to hone policy that keeps all our communities safe.</p>
<p><b>What measures will you support that promote equity and fairness in Washington's tax code and create more</b></p>	<p>I believe in a state where everyone pays their fair share, and right now in Washington that is simply not the case. Because of our state's unbalanced tax code – the most regressive in the nation – the ultra-wealthy few are able to hoard huge amounts of wealth, while the rest of us are footing the bill for our schools,</p>

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<p><b>opportunity for community investment?</b></p>	<p>transportation network, parks and more. Even though our state is home to some of the wealthiest people on Earth, we cannot raise enough state revenue to fully fund our education system, provide adequate healthcare, or address our housing crisis. We have to turn this around. We need a tax on assets over \$1 billion. We need a progressive estate tax – so smaller estates are less tax burdened, and superrich estates are paying their fair share. We need to look at programs like Universal Basic Income – which Liz Berry from the 36th LD proposed in the last legislative session. We want to have a state where there is basic fairness, and where the fortunes that the people of this state helped create, benefit the long-term fortune of us all. We need a progressive, balanced tax code to do that.</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>I believe that Washington has a very strong economic climate, but also one where benefits are unevenly shared. We consistently lead the nation in terms of wages, standards of living, and skill level. Those who decry our state fail to see the many positive impacts of high compensation and generous unemployment insurance benefits, as these span far beyond giving workers a liveable wage. Our state is so successful because we prioritize workers, which attracts highly skilled employees that specifically want to live in Washington. However, soaring costs of housing and food, childcare, transportation, and healthcare are eroding our hard-won benefits for workers and putting our economy on unsteady footing. One of the challenges that drives ongoing risk for workers is our regressive tax code, which allows the ultra-wealthy to hoard resources while workers struggle to get what they need and meet their tax burdens. The problems in alleviating hunger and poverty is deeply tied to the economic struggles many of our Washington state families are facing. We've made positive steps forward, but must continue to work to relieve the burden on low income families, seniors on fixed incomes, veterans, and middle income households being squeezed out of our city. Representing one of our state's most progressive and wealthiest districts, I will be a champion for ensuring that we all pay our fair share so that all can share in our state's prosperity. Additionally, from produce to wineries to ranching to tech, every region of Washington outputs many goods and services that are used across the nation. When looking to bolster the economy, Washington has all the necessary resources but must make adjustments to increase access to educational opportunities for our youth, especially in low-income, marginalized, and rural communities. Education raises productivity and creativity, inspires innovation, and urges technological advancements, all factors that increase economic growth. By strengthening our schools and apprenticeship programs in areas outside of Puget Sound/Seattle, Washington can bolster its economy across the state.</p>

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Yes/No Section	
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?	Yes.
Will you support expanding access to school meals at no student cost?	Yes.
If elected, will you insist proposed laws, bills, policies, and practices be evaluated for racial justice and equity?	Yes.
Will you commit to supporting the work of the Food Policy Forum and its recommendations?	Yes.
Will you commit to implementing the recommendations in the Use Food Well Washington plan?	Yes.

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