



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.

Julio Cortes	Candidate for Washington State House District 38
<p>In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child hunger?</p>	<p>No child should go hungry in our state. As a legislator, I will support legislation to improve the amount and efficiency of nutritional intake for children and ensure that children have access to nutritious meals in schools. I will also ensure that families have the resources they need including food, housing, transportation, and childcare.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome structural racism and racial inequities?</p>	<p>The legislature must invest in housing. There is a need for programs that allow those who live and are from the area to stay here. The housing system in Washington state is still heavily impacted by systemic racism that creates a barrier for people of color to secure stable housing, which causes them to be vulnerable to poverty and therefore food insecurity. I will work to address the urgent need to invest in housing for our vulnerable populations and long-term equitable and affordable solutions. I will work to increase funding for affordable housing and decrease the red tape around permitting.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes, I will commit to working on the pressing issues about our public safety and law enforcement by prioritizing the needs of our communities as well as supporting our law enforcement agencies. We have the resources and the intelligence to ensure that we are effectively protecting our communities from crime and police misconduct. Our law enforcement must better reflect the people they serve by ensuring strong connections and trust between them and the community with a more diverse police force. Additionally, police officers are not trained or equipped to handle every emergency situation. We also need to invest in social workers and emergency care providers to protect public safety. Furthermore, I am a strong believer in strengthening law enforcement accountability. It is imperative that law enforcement departments maintain their transparency in order to hold police officers accountable for their actions. Every person deserves to feel safe in their community – this goal will always be at the center of my work on public safety.</p>
<p>What measures will you support that promote equity and fairness in Washington’s tax code and create more</p>	<p>Washington’s tax system disproportionately burdens poor and working families. To create an economy that works for all of us – we need to reorganize it. If elected, I will support progressive revenues to fund Washington’s public programs and services. I believe implementing a wealth tax is necessary to bolster the</p>

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<p>opportunity for community investment?</p>	<p>government’s spending on public services and programs and to use its revenue to offer credits to low-income taxpayers. It would increase the quality of public facilities, further increase the accessibility of our social services, and help resolve the issues of homelessness in Washington.</p>
<p>If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?</p>	<p>In the legislature, I will work to ensure that every person in Washington state has access to food, shelter, childcare, healthcare, education, and employment. I want to create a stronger support system for middle and lower income families to ensure they are able to meet their basic needs and invest in wrap-around services for people experiencing poverty and homelessness.</p>
<p>Yes/No Section</p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Will you support expanding access to school meals at no student cost?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>If elected, will you insist proposed laws, bills, policies, and practices be evaluated for racial justice and equity?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Will you commit to supporting the work of the Food Policy Forum and its recommendations?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Will you commit to implementing the recommendations in the Use Food Well Washington plan?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

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