



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.

Lelach Rave	Candidate for Washington State House District 46
<p>In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child hunger?</p>	<p>I would promote returning to the policy enacted during COVID of providing meals at school at no charge for ALL children. I would also promote expanding WIC eligibility for infants and young children to higher income brackets and extending the eligibility for mothers of young children to 12 months postpartum, regardless of breastfeeding status and for breastfeeding mothers to 24 months postpartum.</p>
<p>If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome structural racism and racial inequities?</p>	<p>Addressing and centering equity starts with recognition of one’s own privilege and a commitment to allyship. With privilege comes responsibility for dismantling systems which perpetuate that privilege. Centering equity requires bringing individuals unlike myself, with all kinds of lived experiences, around the table to listen and learn and collaborate. Government must represent the communities it serves. We must make investments in all areas of social policy to overcome racial inequities - housing, food, health, education, childcare, transportation, the criminal justice system - the history of racism is embedded in all of our systems.</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 absolutely prioritize these issues. As a physician, I see everything through a health equity lens. For that reason, public safety to me requires that every member of our community has the ability to develop, to maintain their health and wellness, and to reach their full potential. That is not a reality for too many whose lifespan is defined by the color of their skin or the zip code they were born in. I will proudly support reforms that improve safety for our communities – requirements to use de-escalation techniques and protect communities from excessive force have already saved lives in our state. In order to shape those reforms, I will look to colleagues in the Black Members Caucus and the communities in my district most impacted by any policy and do whatever is in my capacity to support essential reforms as a pediatrician, parent, and legislator.</p>
<p>What measures will you support that promote equity and fairness in Washington’s tax code and create more opportunity for community investment?</p>	<p>Our regressive tax code hits working and lower incomes households in our community the hardest, with those who earn the least paying a disproportionate share of taxes in our state. Just as problematic, this inequitable structure fails to generate the revenue needed to invest in priorities of education, health, safety and affordability. I am running to represent one of the wealthiest districts in our state, but also a district that views our budget as a</p>

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	<p>reflection of our values. In Olympia, I want to champion the values of equity, opportunity, and shared prosperity and the revenue reforms required to bring us closer to those values. I support the capital gains tax as well as a wealth tax. I will focus on closing tax loopholes and expanding the working family tax rebate, which allows families who qualify for the earned income tax credit to be rebated a portion of the regressive sales tax they pay each year. As we work to find creative progressive tax sources, it is essential that we dial back the regressive taxes, like the sales tax. I will work to promote tax reforms that make sure our businesses and wealthiest individuals are contributing their fair share.</p>
<p>If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?</p>	<p>I think the most important steps we can take to address poverty and economic inequity across our state and create opportunities for Washington families are to generate more progressive revenue and ensure that any and every investment of tax dollars is done with community voices at the table and through an equity lens. We need to invest that revenue in children - we need to fund high quality, affordable childcare that allows parents to work, high quality schools and apprenticeship programs to set up our children to thrive economically, curb the dropout rate and the school to prison pipeline. High quality affordable childcare also ensures that those children walk into school ready to learn. Once they are in school or childcare, we must ensure access to nutritious food to alleviate hunger and maximize wellbeing.</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</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

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recommendations in the Use
Food Well Washington plan?

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