



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.

Dr Patricia Weber	Candidate for Washington State Senate District 32
In Washington, 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity. What steps or legislative actions would you take to address child hunger?	First, feed all the hungry children three meals a day at school if necessary by expanding existing programs. Then, again through the schools if necessary, begin to educate all the students, the PTSA and religious communities about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and what it means to say “we all have a human right to adequate food, clothing, and shelter.” “We all have rights” as part of our agreements to live together on the earth.
If elected, in what areas would you support making investments to overcome structural racism and racial inequities?	This is such a broad question. In spite of many decades of civil rights and social justice agitation, we have only relatively recently acknowledged the inequities and are struggling with these answers in so many areas. We need investment in making the justice system more equitable. The health system has been inequitable in providing access and seriously considering concerns. Keeping low-income housing a reality is necessary and keeping those communities in good repair as well.
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?	We need to expand social work resources to the law enforcement departments. I would like to see more neighborhood “beats” added to build functional relationships between the police and community. With those relationships they would be able to make social referrals especially if they know children/families are hungry. I would like to see the mission of police work to be more of guardians than warriors.
What measures will you support that promote equity and fairness in Washington’s tax code and create more opportunity for community investment?	I fully support the capital gains tax. I would support a state income tax if we can maneuver through the state supreme court. That is the more fair approach. There is also another drain on our revenue. The numerous tax deferrals given to the large corporations (which have those wealthy 1% on their payroll) in this state. I would like more transparency on that practice to stop the expectation that that approach will be assumed to continue.
If elected, what will you do to alleviate hunger and poverty, and create economic opportunity for Washington state residents?	Over 80% of people employed in Washington are employed by small businesses. As a state we can strongly endorse small business supports, whether by ensuring loans or help in licensing requirements. I would like to see a small business effort to have small mobile distributors within neighborhoods to provide opportunities to purchase fresh and healthy foods. Reminiscent of

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	the old produce wagons in big cities in the early 20th century. This could use the cooperation of big food suppliers as well.
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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