



Get to Know the Candidates

Vote Against Hunger

November 30, 2022

Our mission is to connect people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. As such, Project Bread asked all candidates who were not unopposed incumbents to answer a few questions about their views on anti-hunger initiatives.

Name: Damian Anketell

Party: Republican

District: 2nd Essex District

Position Sought: State Senator

Website: www.voteDamianAnketell.com

What is your experience with the federal nutrition assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school, summer, and after school, meals, or the Women, Infant, and Child (WIC) program?

Part of my responsibilities of post-incarcerated people was to set them up with SNAP and/or WIC depending on circumstances.

What are your plans for working in partnership with those with recent or current lived experience of food insecurity to inform and implement solutions?

As our economy is experiencing a deepening recession, it will be important to meet with the stakeholders to find out exactly what new needs have arisen and come up with strategies, get them funded, and reassess to ensure we are getting the desired outcome.

How would you further ensure that more eligible residents receive SNAP benefits both in district and across the Commonwealth?

I am not sure more eligible residents on SNAP is necessary. I would like to see the data that justifies an expansion of eligibility.





Would you support using additional state resources to supplement SNAP to either expand eligibility, increase benefits amount, or both?

It would depend on what you mean by expanding eligibility. I cannot commit to expansion without additional details. I do believe there should be an increase in benefit amounts.

How would you help promote Summer Eats (the Summer Food Service Program) program in your district and across the state?

We could partnership with corporate entities such as Uber Eats, Yelp, or others to provide eligible children meals.

Would you commit to supporting state legislation that ensures free school meals for all students?

No.

What steps would you take in reducing stigma and increasing accessibility for households of all backgrounds in access federal nutrition programs and other food resources?

Not sure what stigma is being talked about here. All federal nutrition programs forms are completed online, and most schools have accounts setup by the parents, so the children are not aware if their peers are on an assistance program or prepaid account.

How do you plan to use your platform to dismantle systemic racism and xenophobia, particularly in ways that advance equity in accessing basic needs, employment opportunities, and increase generational wealth?

I am not sure this is the correct platform for this proper format the outcomes suggested in this question. Food assistance is to feed people. its resources and considerations should not be compromised for social engineered outcomes.





Can you please share your plans to address other challenges food insecure household may be facing?

One of the most efficient ways to ensure financial stability is to cut taxes. Historically, when government cut taxes, employers tend to hire more people. Also, tax cuts will keep more money in the pockets of the citizens. I will sponsor legislation that will eliminate both the gas tax and the state income tax.

How would you ensure new economic opportunities or programs to help your constituents access basic needs, such as housing or food, are equitably delivered to those most in need?

To open new economic opportunities, I will support legislation that will reduce regulation on businesses and will streamline the licensing process.

What else would you like to share about your plans to address food insecurity and its root causes?

Employment is the fastest way to combat hunger. I will support legislation that will grow our economy and bring back small businesses to the Commonwealth.

