



## 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:** Sam Montaña

---

**Party:** Democratic

---

**District:** 15th Suffolk

---

**Position Sought:** State Representative

---

**Website:** samforboston.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?**

*I have used SNAP as a low-income adult. I helped folks apply for WIC when I worked in a women's congregate shelter.*

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

*I believe in organizing as a basic principle of making progress. Working with folks directly impacted is how I will lead and will inform many of the moves I make and the legislation and language we support.*

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

*At the State level we can keep fully funding HIP and make sure that we create a common application that serves folks equitably.*





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

*Yes to both.*

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

*Spread it out across the district in many pop-up areas. Make sure on the ground and connected partners have the right resources to get the word out.*

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

*Yes.*

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?

*We can remove the limits on how the money is spent and what folks can buy food wise to make shopping easier. In addition, we can make the cards as non-descript as possible.*

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?

*We need to offer more funding so folks can be less restricted and make choices that make sense for them. In addition, we should open more options for where funds can be used.*





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

*Housing and access to healthcare.*

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?

*Connecting with groups on the ground and making sure we funnel through them.*

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

*[No response provided by candidate]*

