



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: Hannah Kane

Party: Republican

District: 11th Worcester

Position Sought: State Representative

Website: RepHannahKane.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 supported advocacy efforts to increase access and usage of these programs.

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 a co-founder and co-chair of the Food System Caucus I believe partnering with people with lived experience is critical to informing policy and in support of funding requests. We have worked with advocacy partners to ensure that briefings to legislators include individuals with direct knowledge of the issues and perspectives informed by first-hand experience. Additionally, I make it a point to work locally with my food pantries and people accessing support to understand how to improve lives.





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

Ensuring that we continue to leverage all potential points of entry for someone seeking help, like the common app; ensuring information is disseminated in as many languages as possible and thru trusted and diverse sources that vary by community; supporting expanded funding for organizations that can work directly in communities to share how to access SNAP; continuing to eliminate stigma associated with food assistance; ensuring that individuals understand that even though they may not have qualified in the past, they may now be eligible depending on their economic and family situation.

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

Yes.

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

In a similar manner as reducing barriers to SNAP access - reducing stigma, supporting easier distribution, communication through trusted and diverse sources. Supporting efforts to provide universal school meals.

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

Yes.





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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 have to have the resources committed to provide continuous messaging, delivered by trusted and diverse sources, that access to these programs is intended for all who need it and that anyone at anytime in their life may need to do so. We need to remove the impression that somehow accessing assistance is a failure. We need people directly in community with existing relationships to help share the message and make it easy to access in multiple languages.

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?

As both a Co-Chair of the Food System Caucus and as a member of the Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights and Inclusion I will continue to seek out opportunities in the Legislature, through policy, funding and advocacy, to dismantle systemic racism and increase access to economic advancement, healthcare, education, housing and food.

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

I believe we need to take a systemic approach and understand the barriers that prevent access to earning a living wage - where do we need to make more targeted investments to break generational poverty, where do we need to tailor workforce development opportunities, where do we need to provide increased accountability and resources for ensuring that all children get a great education, where do we need to build affordable housing and ensure access to public transportation? If we continue to work in silos and approach each area discretely, we will never be implementing a vision and a plan to self-sufficiency and continuous opportunity for upward mobility.





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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?

The power of our role is in direct advocacy and raising awareness through our voices. If we want to support a future for all with self-sufficiency than we have to ensure that all have access to programs.

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

I believe that the opportunity to improve lives has to deliberate and that implementation of programs and policies must match the original vision. I will continue to advocate for solving the problems of food insecurity and hunger, not just managing them.

