



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: Emmanuel Dockter

Party: Democratic

District: 5th Plymouth

Position Sought: State Representative

Website: votedockter.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 benefited from these programs myself as a child and this experience helps me understand their importance. I will be a strong advocate and supporter.

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

Food is a basic human need and no person, especially a child, should ever go to bed hungry. Our ability to fully enjoy our freedoms and liberties is based first and foremost on our ability to meet our basic needs, such as food. I will be a strong advocate in addressing the challenge of food insecurity and I have made this a focus of my community service work through local food pantries.





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

We must remove the stigma associate with food assistance and I will work tirelessly towards this end while ensuring that every person in our Commonwealth has the food they need and deserve.

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

Absolutely yes for both.

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

This and other programs are paramount in ensuring the basic health and welfare of our communities. School meals should be provided at no cost regardless of need to avoid the stigma often associated with this benefit, a stigma that I experienced personally.

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

Yes, absolutely.

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?

All school meals should be provided at no cost and without consideration for need. We should also expand basic meal programs to outside the school calendar.





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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?

Removing a needs-based assessment will help remove the stigma associated with these programs.

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

We are often given false choices between extreme individualism or extreme collectiveness. The reality is that most people support reasonable approaches somewhere in the middle that ensures every person, and especially every child, receives basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare. I will work with all willing partners to make progress towards this goal.

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?

We are a Nation of abundance yet we still have large numbers of people who long for basic needs because of misplaced priorities. We must appreciate the benefit a strong social safety net provides to all of us, not just those in immediate need.

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

[No response provided by candidate]

