



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: Christopher Worrell

Party: Democratic

District: 5th Suffolk

Position Sought: State Representative

Website: votechristopherworrell.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?

The community I'm running to represent benefits greatly from all of these programs. I want to keep on bringing the resources to these programs so families can eat! I have two children in the public school system and I have seen how the universal free lunches this year allow so many children to get a nutritious hot meal during their school day. Waffle day and pizza day are favorites in our house!

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

My district has high rates of poverty and food insecurity, so by working with and listening to constituents I will be implementing this partnership every day. I am grateful to the work of Project Bread and so many other food security organizations and hope to work with and learn from you as we do this work together, as well.





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

I would work with Project Bread and other organizations to work to remove misinformation, stigma, application difficulties, and to raise awareness about the programs, who they can serve, and how to apply.

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

Yes, both.

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

I would work to connect summer programs in the district with this crucial program. I'd also work to spread the word to families so they know about the program and can request it from the programs their children are attending. I'd also work at the State House to increase support for this program.

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?

As an elected official I would work with individuals who are comfortable sharing their stories about the benefits they have received from participating in these programs. With connections to a wealthier Boston suburb (my children are in the Newton Public Schools) I would also work with suburban legislators to increase awareness of families throughout Massachusetts who have received these benefits and how much it has helped their families. I will also be a strong





advocate for translation programs to help increase awareness of the programs and assist benefit holders. Another idea would be to ensure safety net programs for when benefits temporarily go out - whether a card doesn't work or there is a system-wide outage, it can be concerning for someone who is counting on paying for their groceries with SNAP to suddenly be turned down at the register.

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'm a black man, raising a black family, in a black community. This is my life. I have been working every day to dismantle systemic racism and xenophobia and increase equity throughout our communities.

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

We must be pushing on all fronts to increase housing stock in Massachusetts. Initiatives such as the MBTA communities law, policies to support home ownership in communities of color and other communities historically excluded from home ownership opportunities, reduction of barriers to building housing, improving local zoning, and much more all need to be implemented to increase access to affordable housing for Bay Staters. We should be investing current budget surpluses in improvements for the MBTA and transportation alternatives for the long haul. We should also increase frequency and reliability to increase ridership.

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?

Having worked in the State House in constituent services and at DEI at the BPDA my main goal is to hear from the community. I will make sure all voices are heard throughout the 5th Suffolk and will represent those voices in the halls of government.





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

Thank you for your advocacy and tireless work on behalf of the people of Massachusetts. I look forward to working with you as State Representative!

