

MAKE HUNGER HISTORY.

The Make Hunger History Coalition represents over 200 organizations and over 750 individual members. Together, we imagine a Massachusetts where no family goes hungry, where every child has access to nourishing food, and where hunger is a thing of the past. This vision is within our reach, and Massachusetts is poised to lead the nation in ending food insecurity once and for all.

We believe our State Legislature plays a key role. As such, we solicited all who were not unopposed to answer the following questions.

Name:	Kate Lipper-Garabedian
Party:	Democratic
District:	5th Middlesex
Position Sought:	State Senator
Website:	www.kateforsenate.org

What is your connection to or experience with hunger, food security, federal nutrition programs, or the food system, if any?

Candidate Answer: Through my advocacy in the legislature and in the three communities I represent, I have been an outspoken advocate for programs, policy, and organizations that enhance food security and address the hunger challenges too many residents face.

This became very personal to me when I was working as a seventh grade teacher in Atlanta, with large numbers of my students on free and reduced lunch programs. I saw the direct correlation between food access and student success and vowed to do everything in my power to ensure that no child goes hungry. As State Representative, I was proud to set policy for Massachusetts to provide permanent, universal free school breakfast and lunch to all K-12 public school students regardless of household income. No student should have to learn on an empty stomach. This victory advances equity, supports families, and ensures every child can focus, learn, and thrive.

What do you believe is the role of the state government in ensuring everyone in our state has enough to eat and reducing the demand for emergency food resources?

Candidate Answer: *State government and policymakers have an important role to place in confronting food insecurity and ensuring people have consistent access to healthy food.*

In the Senate, I will continue my work to ensure everyone in Massachusetts has enough to eat by expanding access to SNAP and WIC, increasing school meal funding, raising wages, and making housing and childcare more affordable. By addressing the root causes of food insecurity, we can reduce reliance on food pantries and emergency resources while ensuring every family has consistent access to nutritious food.

What should the Commonwealth do to ensure robust access to effective anti-hunger programs such as SNAP?

Candidate Answer: *I will protect access to SNAP and other anti-hunger programs by defending funding, expanding eligibility, simplifying enrollment, and fighting unnecessary barriers. By partnering with advocates and community organizations, we can ensure families, seniors, children, and workers can access the food assistance they need.*

As a member of the Massachusetts legislature, would you advocate for state funds to hire the staff necessary to ensure every eligible low-income resident successfully accesses federally-funded nutrition benefits?

Candidate Answer: *Yes, I will do everything in my power to prioritize funding that ensures every Massachusetts resident can access federally funded nutrition benefits, protecting families from hunger and strengthening our communities.*

While hunger is a statewide issue that impacts a variety of demographics, certain populations experience it at disproportionately higher rates. For example, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, immigrants, members of LGBTQ+ community, and people with disabilities experience hunger at disproportionately higher rates.

What do you believe are the primary factors driving these disparities, and what can government do to reduce them?

Candidate Answer: *These disparities largely exist due to persistent disparities in wages, employment, housing, healthcare, and access to nutritious food. These inequities are rooted in longstanding structural barriers. Addressing food insecurity requires confronting these disparities, expanding economic opportunity, and ensuring equitable access to essential resources for every community.*

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

Candidate Answer: *As State Senator, I will continue my advocacy to prevent food insecurity by protecting and expanding SNAP benefits, supporting universal school breakfast and lunch programs, strengthening food pantries and local food banks, and investing in affordable housing and economic opportunity. I will continue fighting to increase funding for nutrition assistance, reduce barriers to accessing benefits, and ensure every Massachusetts family, senior, and child can reliably access healthy, nutritious food.*