

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:	Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
Party:	Democratic
District:	12th Hampden
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	www.puppolo.com

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

Candidate Answer: *State Representative supporter of funding and legislation*

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: *I will continue to support and provide funding for programs that are essential to being proactive to address this issue. I have supported and will continue my support for expanding school meals, funding earmarks, local farmers markets, local food supply chains, and also the Gleaning truck and the program for Rachel's Table in western Massachusetts as a few examples. I also continue to support long-term goals as well to reduce food costs and also reduce food waste. I will continue to work in partnership with you to achieve these goals and on solutions.*

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

Candidate Answer: *I believe we should continue to provide comprehensive access to SNAP and anti-hunger programs, and continue to increase funding and earmarks in the budget for the Department of Transitional Assistance, increase funding for the Healthy Incentives Program and the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program. Like I stated in my earlier response, I will continue to support funding and earmarks which will play a key role in addressing this short and long term. I will continue to partner with you on creative ideas and resources to get this done.*

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 continue my support.*

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: *I believe the high cost of living, federal cutbacks and such unpredictability from our federal government at this time, and Institutional inequities are factors. We should expand state funding to bridge any gaps, invest and market buy local and local farmers markets and make it easier to access food, continue to address the institutional barriers.*

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

Candidate Answer: *I have an open door policy and I am always available to meet and work together on issues. I know how to advocate and will continue my support working together.*

