

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:	Dori Dean
Party:	Democratic
District:	5th Hampden
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	www.doridean.com

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

Candidate Answer: *I see first hand, every day, food insecurity in Holyoke. Our schools offer programs for food during the summer, lines and shortages at the food pantries, and families selling home cooked goods to sell.*

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 believe we should be actively looking at city farming and teaching people how to can what they grow for the lean times. Government should collaborate with as many partners as possible to make sure no one goes hungry.*

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

Candidate Answer: *Continued funding.*

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*

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: *No jobs, little opportunity, and discrimination are the driving factors in disparities. Organizing the aforementioned demographics to stay connected, share resources on how to obtain provisions and demand to be heard on what it is they need.*

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

Candidate Answer: *I'd like really like to explore growing and preserving food.*