

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:	Edward Pacheco
Party:	Democratic
District:	9th Bristol
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	pachecoforthethepeople.com

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

Candidate Answer: *As a youth I struggled with food security issues and my mother and I were on food stamps for a number of years .*

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 that we should absolutely be continuing to support the free breakfast and lunch programs in our schools . We must also continue to provide for our local community food banks as well as summer good projects for our of school students . We should Also be evaluating if our current snap programs go far enough to help support our seniors and families in the state .*

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

Candidate Answer: *We need to simplify the process to apply for snap benefits. Remove some of the red tape involved . Increase access points where the benefits may be used .*

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 . We need to be sure that staffing is at the levels needed in order to provide quality assistance to families in need .*

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 that many of the population that are indicated may feel a stigma against using public assistance because of the long standing prejudices and stereotypes that are present in society. I believe that more public education could be helpful with emphasis on the working poor , which I believe many of the demographic listed probably are .*

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

Candidate Answer: *I plan on supporting increased state aid to snap if the opportunity presents itself as well as working to help increase wages for working people to help bring a livable wage into many people's fields that currently are not there .*