

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:	Evan MacKay
Party:	Democratic
District:	25th Middlesex
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	https://www.evanforcambridge.com/

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

Candidate Answer: *In my time working with undergraduate students, I have helped students living in deep poverty who struggle with food security, especially over summers. We need to make sure that nobody is left behind in these programs, especially in one of the wealthiest states in the richest country in the history of the world.*

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: *In Greater Boston, many people care deeply about national politics, international politics, and sometimes local politics. Unfortunately, not enough people pay attention to state politics. This is partly because Massachusetts routinely ranks as one of the least transparent state governments, so it is difficult to follow the ways that our state lawmakers are out of step with our progressive values. Different from many people, I have been following state politics closely since moving to MA in 2015. This is partly because many issues I care about are determined at the state level. Mass incarceration is a nationwide*

problem, but it is particularly driven by states. I believe our municipalities can and should do more on progressive revenue, but states are better equipped for this. The state impacts a great deal of labor policy affecting workers and unions. In Massachusetts, our municipalities are constitutionally limited and must seek state approval for programs such as fossil fuel free pilot programs on new construction or a local option for rent control. The state has tied the hands of our municipalities and is refusing to fill the gap on community needs, or allow our municipalities to fill the gap on community needs.

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

Candidate Answer: We live in one of the most progressive states in the country—we can ensure access to anti-hunger programs if we make corporations and the ultrawealthy pay their fair share. It's a matter of priorities and political will. Progressive revenue is one of the core things that we will be fighting for within the State House. We must be able to tax the rich and large corporations in order to fund the beautiful future that we all deserve. I will be fighting to undo the regressive tax cuts that my opponent voted for: tax cuts to large multistate corporations, tax cuts for the richest dead people in MA through the estate tax cut, and tax cuts for day traders and speculators with the short term capital gains tax cut. I will also be fighting to close regressive tax loopholes, such as the sales tax exemption for private jets.

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, definitely.

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: *Systemic racism and prejudice leave many people of color at the margins of society and the formal economy, and we should lift up those at the margins through fair scheduling for hourly workers (rest between shifts, advance notice, ability to request specific hours off without retaliation), fund wage theft enforcement, and investment in workforce development. Green New Deal policies have the potential to be a boon to low wage workers. In 2023 my opponent voted for a terrible package of tax cuts to the rich that gutted the estate tax and exacerbated the racial wealth gap. The median wealth of a Black family in Greater Boston is \$8. The estate tax is one of the few mechanisms of confronting the intergenerational transfer of wealth, which sustains the unjust racial wealth gap. We must tax the rich, fund baby bonds, and so much more.*

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

Candidate Answer: *Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) is routinely on the chopping block as our state pretends there isn't enough money for programs that affect working class people, while they always somehow have enough money for tax breaks to corporations and the ultrawealthy. I support taxing the rich and funding HIP and food programs. I also want to make sure that these policies respect the dignity and agency of people living in poverty, including the ability to decide the foods that are the best fit for themselves, their families, their cultures, dietary restrictions, and more. People living in poverty are too often disrespected and looked down upon, and we must confront stigma in the application and distribution of these programs.*