

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:	Jay Higgins
Party:	Democratic
District:	32nd Middlesex
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	www.votejayhiggins.com

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

Candidate Answer: *I spent time receiving SNAP benefits as a child. I've helped promote groups such as Project Bread.*

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 the richest nation on earth no one should go hungry. I believe the state government should fund programs to feed every resident of MA.*

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

Candidate Answer: *The state should hire more caseworkers.*

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: *These disparities stems from systemic inequities in things like income, housing, and employment. The state should work to make sure everyone has the ability to get a decent job and affordable housing.*

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

Candidate Answer: *I believe this state is quickly pricing out the middle class and becoming a state exclusive for the wealthy. Housing, childcare, monthly bills (including groceries) are all skyrocketing. We need to work to make life more affordable for struggling working families. I'm dedicated to making Mass more affordable, including groceries.*