

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:	Lisa Field
Party:	Democratic
District:	3rd Bristol
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	lisafieldforrep.com

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

Candidate Answer: *I have advocated for universal free school meals, additional funding for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP), the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative, SNAP protection measures and fostering agricultural resilience by protecting our local food production capacity and funding our next-generation of farmers.*

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: *Our state government needs to ensure everyone has enough to eat. A structured food policy provides cost efficiency and fiscal stability. Investing in systemic solutions minimizes the need for massive, reactive state budget injections. Food insecurity directly impacts health outcomes. Ensuring consistent access to nutritious food lowers overall state Medicaid spending by reducing diet-related emergency room visits. A structured food policy also directly impacts economic and workforce productivity by strengthening the regional supply chain with state-level programs like the Healthy Incentives*

Program (HIP) and boosting workplace and school performance with programs like School Meals for All.

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

Candidate Answer: The State Legislature needs to fund adding more caseworkers to the Department of Transitional Assistance. I supported a bill on this issue filed by Rep Arena-DeRosa. I also advocated for this during the FY 27 budget.

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: The primary factors driving these disparities include overlapping, systemic inequities that limit income, increase living expenses and restrict access to public aid. Systemic discrimination in hiring, promotions and pay leaves marginalized groups with fewer resources to purchase food. For many marginalized individuals, fixed, non-negotiable expenses such as rent, out-of-pocket costs for specialized healthcare, adaptive equipment, medications or specialized transit leave little money for groceries. Government and private safety nets also have design flaws such as restrictive work requirements that inadvertently exclude or deter individuals who need the programs the most. State government can reduce disparities in food access by shifting from emergency programs to structural policies.

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

Candidate Answer: *I plan to become more involved the Massachusetts Food System Caucus.*