

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:	Richard Wells
Party:	Democratic
District:	7th Norfolk
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	richardwells.org

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

Candidate Answer: I have spent the past 4 decades in public service. I began as a medic in EMS, became a police officer and spent ten years a police chief. After that I entered municipal politics as a Selectboard member and have has the honor of serving as the State Representative for the 7th Norfolk since 1/1/25. Privately, I have sat on a local nonprofit in Milton for 20 years. Our mission includes prioritizing and funding dozens of food pantries and NGOs in Metro Boston annually. Food insecurity is real. I am also very privileged to serve as a longtime volunteer at My Brothers Keeper in Brockton, making regular deliveries to many hard-working families who struggle to make ends meet. As a legislator, these weekly interactions help me to truly understand and advocate in this critical human area.

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: To make sure no one in this Commonwealth faces such a crisis of hunger.

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

Candidate Answer: *Find a more efficient manner of communication*

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: *Increased cost of daily living, minimum wages,*

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

Candidate Answer: *As a freshman Representative, one of my primary goals was to host a summit bringing all of the social service agencies and food pantries together to discuss common themes, hurdles and solutions. Collective communication and brainstorming are essential to this critical problem. We intend to build upon this initiative.*