

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:	Kate Lipper-Garabedian
Party:	Democratic
District:	5th Middlesex
Position Sought:	State Senator
Website:	www.kateforsenate.org

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

Candidate Answer: Through my advocacy in the legislature and in the three communities I represent, I have been an outspoken advocate for programs, policy, and organizations that enhance food security and address the hunger challenges too many residents face.

This became very personal to me when I was working as a seventh grade teacher in Atlanta, with large numbers of my students on free and reduced lunch programs. I saw the direct correlation between food access and student success and vowed to do everything in my power to ensure that no child goes hungry. As State Representative, I was proud to set policy for Massachusetts to provide permanent, universal free school breakfast and lunch to all K-12 public school students regardless of household income. No student should have to learn on an empty stomach. This victory advances equity, supports families, and ensures every child can focus, learn, and thrive.

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: *State government and policymakers have an important role to place in confronting food insecurity and ensuring people have consistent access to healthy food.*

In the Senate, I will continue my work to ensure everyone in Massachusetts has enough to eat by expanding access to SNAP and WIC, increasing school meal funding, raising wages, and making housing and childcare more affordable. By addressing the root causes of food insecurity, we can reduce reliance on food pantries and emergency resources while ensuring every family has consistent access to nutritious food.

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

Candidate Answer: *I will protect access to SNAP and other anti-hunger programs by defending funding, expanding eligibility, simplifying enrollment, and fighting unnecessary barriers. By partnering with advocates and community organizations, we can ensure families, seniors, children, and workers can access the food assistance they need.*

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, I will do everything in my power to prioritize funding that ensures every Massachusetts resident can access federally funded nutrition benefits, protecting families from hunger and strengthening our communities.*

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 largely exist due to persistent disparities in wages, employment, housing, healthcare, and access to nutritious food. These inequities are rooted in longstanding structural barriers. Addressing food insecurity requires confronting these disparities, expanding economic opportunity, and ensuring equitable access to essential resources for every community.*

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

Candidate Answer: *As State Senator, I will continue my advocacy to prevent food insecurity by protecting and expanding SNAP benefits, supporting universal school breakfast and lunch programs, strengthening food pantries and local food banks, and investing in affordable housing and economic opportunity. I will continue fighting to increase funding for nutrition assistance, reduce barriers to accessing benefits, and ensure every Massachusetts family, senior, and child can reliably access healthy, nutritious food.*

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Name:	Ryan O'Malley
Party:	Democratic
District:	5th Middlesex
Position Sought:	State Senator
Website:	omalleyssenate.com

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

Candidate Answer: Food assistance is essential to ensure that children, families, and those in need get the nutrition needed to thrive at school, work, and life. There have been times in my life when I worked paycheck to paycheck and had to worry about affording necessities.

In law school, I worked at a civil litigation clinic to advance housing justice. In the role, I helped ensure that clients got access to services that could help them stay in their homes. This included helping clients sign up for SNAP, Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), rental assistance, and fuel assistance.

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: Society as a whole benefits when children, families, seniors, and those struggling to afford food have their basic food needs met. Along with sufficient sleep, regular and nutritious meals are one of the keys to a balanced lifestyle. That is why I believe the Commonwealth should be involved in helping feed hungry residents and building affordable housing. In Malden, the

Commonwealth, the City of Malden, and private donors helped the Bread of Life build a new facility where people can eat and live in dignity. As a State Senator, I would help support organizations like the Bread of Life to help strengthen the fabric of our communities.

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

Candidate Answer: SNAP access and enrollment could be done when students are enrolled in school. Representatives could tabled at senior centers and community events to help increase access and meet people where they are.

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: Marginalization and the history of discrimination are the driving factors behind these disparities. Funding concrete steps to reduce marginalization and continued discrimination are essential to reducing these gaps.

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

Candidate Answer: *I would advocate for the use of state economic developed funds to eliminate food deserts and to encourage more options for markets and healthy food options.*