

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:	Ben Ewen-Campen
Party:	Democratic
District:	27th Middlesex
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	www.BenForStateRepMA.com

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

Candidate Answer: As a City Councilor in Somerville for the past nine years, I have proudly supported many of our City's efforts to end hunger: to provide universal free lunches and food for elderly and poor residents in need, and to support our amazing network of Farmer's Markets in their mission to provide affordable, locally-produced food and to increase SNAP funding and culturally-specific produce. We also have an amazing grassroots network that supports Community Fridges and many local organizations that focus on the food system.

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: Massachusetts is a wealthy State with all of the resources and political will needed to ensure that no one here goes hungry. I believe that the State and municipalities have a responsibility to ensure that everyone in our communities has enough to eat, and that this food is healthy.

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

Candidate Answer: *With SNAP under assault from the Federal government, it is critical that the State does the administrative work to ensure that everyone who qualifies for SNAP continues to have uninterrupted access to this critical resource, including additional funding if necessary.*

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: *Massachusetts has a long history of racial disparities, due to centuries of active government efforts to racially segregate our communities, and economic development strategies that disproportionately benefit wealth and income increases for white residents. The legacy of this history is a present with vast inequalities in many aspects of life, including access to healthy food, and I believe the State should actively develop policy aimed to undue these disparities, in housing, education, nutrition, and more.*

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

Candidate Answer: