

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:	Nicholas Lazzaro
Party:	Democratic
District:	7th Worcester
Position Sought:	State Representative
Website:	www.nicklazzaro.com

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

Candidate Answer: *I volunteer with meals on wheels and did volunteer work with The Mustard Seed while a student at Holy Cross.*

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: *I think food access is a basic human right. In Millbury as a school committee member we championed free lunch before the state granted that program. I also think our state can do more to support programs that eliminate hunger from our most vulnerable.*

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

Candidate Answer: *I think our federal partners such as congressman McGovern who is a champion to end hunger is a great place to start. Our state budget should include increased funding for local programs who know their people best.*

As far as snap and food prices go- people are getting less as prices climb. I turn to experts in the field to get more information on policy solutions.

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: *Typically food inequality is a symptom of location, social-economic status and information. As the only LGBTQ candidate in my race - or in history for this seat- I understand the disparities we see in other minority groups as well across the state. I believe we could reduce this presence of hunger with easing restrictive food permitting that make it difficult to be small/ local grocer, and we could also partner with our business community to bring healthy and fresh food to deserts.*

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

Candidate Answer: *It's a serious issue I've witnessed first hand in my community both on the school board and as a meals on wheels driver / selectman. We need bold leadership to address hunger.*