



Get to Know the Candidates

Vote Against Hunger

November 30, 2022

Our mission is to connect people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. As such, Project Bread asked all candidates who were not unopposed incumbents to answer a few questions about their views on anti-hunger initiatives.

Name: Becca Rausch

Party: Democratic

District: Worcester, Middlesex (D14)

Position Sought: State Senator

Website: beccarausch.com

What is your experience with the federal nutrition assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school, summer, and after school, meals, or the Women, Infant, and Child (WIC) program?

I have long advocated for strong support for food security programs and my team and I have provided assistance to residents in our district regarding these benefits.

What are your plans for working in partnership with those with recent or current lived experience of food insecurity to inform and implement solutions?

I intend to continue listening, learning, and collaboratively brainstorming to identify, craft, and implement solutions to the very serious problem of food insecurity. We have had some success to date and look forward to our future work together.





How would you further ensure that more eligible residents receive SNAP benefits both in district and across the Commonwealth?

Accessibility is key. Among other recommendations in your Barriers to SNAP report, I would ensure that the application process is inclusive, especially for non-English speakers and those without access to computers, and also collaborate with you, other advocates, and colleagues to disseminate accurate information about SNAP benefits and the enrollment process.

Would you support using additional state resources to supplement SNAP to either expand eligibility, increase benefits amount, or both?

Yes. I not only support expanding eligibility and increasing benefits, but I also support increasing food availability and access. I am proud to be a consistent supporter of HIP expansion efforts.

How would you help promote Summer Eats (the Summer Food Service Program) program in your district and across the state?

I would happily help promote this important program on my own communication channels and through collaboration with school committees, youth programs, and others in my district and statewide.

Would you commit to supporting state legislation that ensures free school meals for all students?

Yes.

What steps would you take in reducing stigma and increasing accessibility for households of all backgrounds in access federal nutrition programs and other food resources?

To reduce stigma, I would encourage storytelling and other education and communication efforts, grounded in community cultures and respect. Regarding accessibility, we took a big step forward with the common application, and need





to enhance multilingual and culturally competent education/outreach, including training and webinars for people and organizations who can be capable partners in this outreach work.

How do you plan to use your platform to dismantle systemic racism and xenophobia, particularly in ways that advance equity in accessing basic needs, employment opportunities, and increase generational wealth?

Advancing intersectional equity is a priority we share. I use my role as a white elected official to offer meaningful allyship and champion efforts to advance racial justice where appropriate. My record demonstrates my commitment to racial justice and equity, as well as combating identity-based hatred and violence, in multiple aspects of my role as Senator -- legislation, funding, public speech (including social media), and community engagement. I will continue to advocate for a more just and equitable world by crafting, filing, and supporting thoughtful policy designed to generate meaningful changes on health care, climate, voting, and more.

Can you please share your plans to address other challenges food insecure household may be facing?

I intend to continue championing reproductive health care access and equity, advocating for truly universal health care, expanding support for hygiene products provisions to individuals in need, fighting for quality and affordable childcare, supporting smart housing policy, and pushing for vastly better public transit. I've already boosted supports for women reentering the workforce, after the peak of COVID.

How would you ensure new economic opportunities or programs to help your constituents access basic needs, such as housing or food, are equitably delivered to those most in need?

Often the best way to equitably deliver is to center communities in need. This necessitates collaboration with grassroots organizations and leaders who are already trusted partners in community. I am proud to partner with many





grassroots organizations and would continue and, hopefully, expand this work in the future.

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

[No response provided by candidate]

