



## 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:** David LeBoeuf

---

**Party:** Democratic

---

**District:** 17th Worcester District

---

**Position Sought:** State Representative

---

**Website:** [www.davidleboeuf.org](http://www.davidleboeuf.org)

---

**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 attended the Worcester Public Schools and fortunately was able to access universal free lunch in high school.*

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

*Policy is futile if it is not informed by those engaged in the work, or experiencing the challenges directly. I have participated in a variety of listening sessions on the ways to improve our food systems and ways to make services more accessible and user friendly. As a Representative for a very high needs district, I make it a point to connect with constituents whose experiences inform my policy. The most critical thing I can do is make sure the voices of those experiencing food insecurity are at the table is to hold myself and the non-profit community accountable. As coalitions meet and discuss issues and I have experiencing knowing those around the discussion are all resourced individuals, I have to point*





*that out and ask that those voices not represented are included before I move forward to take action.*

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

*The key is to make sure the next administration continues the development of the Common Application, that the system is fully funded, and that it is properly launched across as many state agencies as possible. Similar to what was done in the community when the Affordable Care Act extended more health benefits to residents in MA, I would support outreach grants to local groups that require door to door canvassing.*

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

*Yes- this would have to be from a source that is sustainable when ARPA is no longer available. One of the best things we can use the ARPA finds to expand access is technology improvements and other system modifications so residents can access and stay on the benefits.*

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

*This program was great in my district and I was happy to join Project Bread and Congressman McGovern on multiple visits to sites in Worcester. My office would continue to inform local groups in our network, include information on our communication channels (email list, social media, direct contact with constituents), and reach out to ethnic based media & religious groups.*

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

*Yes- I was happy to take that vote this session and will continue to be a supporter and champion for this issue.*





**PROJECT  
BREAD**

**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?**

*It is critical to meet communities where they are and to create information/outreach strategies that are culturally inclusive. That includes integrating information on food pantries and benefit applications in non traditional environments, such as barber shops, cafes, churches & temples, and on social media. The 1 in 6 statistic needs to be shown and quantified in each community so the prevalence of the problem can be visualized. Making the programs universal for children and seniors is one mechanism to remove the stigma and permit other age groups experience the insecurity to integrate in a way that reduces stigma.*

**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?**

*The first thing an elected leader must do is to call out racism and discrimination when it occurs and not to shy away from pointing out when a system or action harms BIPOC and immigrant communities. One of the focuses in my district is to address housing insecurity, which often occurs simultaneously with food insecurity. This can be done through inclusionary zoning policies, environmental remediation, and bringing vacant housing stock online. Supporting worker struggles for fair wages and treatment at work is also a way to end racism and xenophobia from the ground up*

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

*In addition to references to housing insecurity and working conditions in the previous answer, I believe all development projects must have a living wage, project labor agreement, and inclusionary workforce requirement so that people of color, women, and veterans directly benefit. I also will address wage theft,*





*which disproportionately impacts our immigrant communities and robs them of family sustaining income.*

**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?**

*In addition to standard auditing and reporting requirements, the programs must also have community employment goals of their own. If our non-profit leadership and front line workers do not reflect the communities they serve, how do we expect them to reach the most in need? There must be qualitative data examined in addition to the normal quantitative metrics of how much food was delivered and how many were served.*

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

*[No response provided by candidate]*

