

# 2024 Food Insecurity Candidate Questionnaire

**Candidate: Art Desloges [D]**  
**District: 1st Plymouth House Seat**



**1**

## **Why does combatting food insecurity matter to you?**

Combating food insecurity matters to me because every person deserves the basic right to access nutritious food. Food security isn't just about filling stomachs; it's about ensuring healthy, productive lives, and building stronger communities. By addressing this issue, we empower families, improve public health, and drive economic stability. Investing in food security is investing in our future, and is creating a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and contribute their best. It's a fundamental step towards equality and justice, reflecting our shared values and commitment to a better, more inclusive community.

**2**

## **How has food insecurity changed over the past five years in your district?**

Over the past five years, food insecurity in Plymouth has increased due to rising living costs and economic challenges. The demand for local food pantries and meal programs has surged, highlighting a growing need for support. While state programs have helped, the strain on resources indicates a persistent issue. To address this, we must enhance local support networks and invest in sustainable solutions that ensure all residents have reliable access to nourishing food, reflecting our commitment to combating this critical challenge in our district.

**3**

## **In your opinion, what are the primary drivers of food insecurity in your district?**

In Plymouth, the primary drivers of food insecurity include rising housing costs, stagnating wages, and economic instability. Many residents struggle with high living expenses, leaving limited funds for food. Seasonal employment fluctuations and local economic disparities highlight the issue. While programs like SNAP and local food pantries provide essential support, these systemic challenges are ongoing. Confronting food insecurity requires dealing with these root causes by promoting affordable housing, supporting living wages, and strengthening economic opportunities to ensure all residents have reliable access to nutritious food.

**4**

## **What specific policies or legislation do you support to address food insecurity in Massachusetts?**

I support the "Healthy Incentives Program" and "Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program" to tackle food insecurity. The Healthy Incentives Program provides low-income residents with extra funds for purchasing fresh produce, promoting healthier eating. The Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program invests in local food systems, improving storage and distribution to ensure that nutritious food reaches those in need. Additionally, I advocate for expanding SNAP benefits and increasing funding for school meal programs to support vulnerable families and children. These initiatives collectively strengthen our food safety net and foster community resilience across Massachusetts.

**5**

## **How will you continue to ensure that all your constituents have access to nourishing food?**

I will ensure access to nourishing food by supporting and expanding the "Healthy Incentives Program" and "Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program," which boost local food access and support community food systems. In Plymouth, I will work to enhance the local food pantry network and advocate for increased funding for school meal programs. I'll also promote partnerships with local farms to provide fresh produce and support policies that increase SNAP benefits. By leveraging these initiatives, we can create a strong, equitable food system that reaches every corner of our community and addresses the diverse needs of our constituents.