

2024 Food Insecurity Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Damien Anketell [R]

District: 2nd Essex Senate Seat
Beverly, Peabody, Salem, Danvers, Topsfield



1

Why does combatting food insecurity matter to you?

Combating food insecurity is personal to me. Raised by a single mother and with the help of food stamps and others, I know the importance of community support. Our seniors are particularly vulnerable, facing choices between food, heat, and shelter due to rising costs. No one should have to work in their golden years to afford basic necessities. Ensuring everyone has access to food is crucial for a strong community.

2

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

Over the past five years, food insecurity has worsened in my district. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted supply lines, and the influx of over 1 million illegal immigrants to Massachusetts since 2020 has strained resources further. Inflation has driven costs sky-high, making it harder for residents, especially seniors, to afford food.

3

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

The primary drivers of food insecurity in my district are inflation, the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increased demand on resources from a large influx of immigrants. These factors have collectively strained our food supply and made it more difficult for residents to afford nourishing food.

4

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

To address food insecurity, I support offering additional tax incentives in the form of credits to grocers that open in areas of need. I also advocate for similar incentives to encourage stores like Stop & Shop to remain open in underperforming areas. These measures will help ensure that all communities have access to affordable, healthy food.

5

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

I will work to expand tax incentives for grocers in underserved areas and support policies that stabilize food prices. Additionally, I will advocate for programs that assist seniors and vulnerable populations, ensuring they have the resources needed to afford food without sacrificing other essentials. My goal is to create a community where no one goes hungry.