

2024 Food Insecurity Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Kathy Fox Alfano [D]

District: 3rd Barnstable House Seat
Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee



1

Why does combatting food insecurity matter to you?

I'm an empathetic human being. We must help those who are not as fortunate as we are. Its intolerable that people living in one of the greatest places on earth are food insecure. While I am delighted that the state is now feeding children at school, they must find a way to increase subsidies over the summer. The demographic in my district leans very much to seniors. We have excellent senior centers and services but we can always do more.

2

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

The pandemic changed so much, and some have not recovered. We have seen a large amount of people moving here, either into their summer homes or buying homes. These are not the people we have to be concerned about. We do need to help those whose rental home got sold and they were forced out. There are no year round rentals available, or they are double the rent. Therefore people have to spend so much more for rent that food becomes insecure.

3

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

See above, it's the high cost of renting that takes such a huge chunk of folks monthly bills. It leaves much less for food.

4

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

Some supermarkets are much less expensive than others. We need to incentivize places like Aldis to open stores in lower income areas and accept SNAP and WIC. I would support lowering seniors property taxes if under a certain income level so they can afford to stay in their home and still eat. The state should pay delivery fees for seniors using Peapod etc. We should allow pantries to pick up un unused foods from restaurants and caterers... too much goes to waste.

5

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

I support our local food pantries, and run local food drives in my neighborhood and charitable organizations. I always coordinate with my local food bank to ensure we are asking for what they need most, be it cereal, pasta, kids snacks, whatever is needed. The food pantries work so hard but I am astonished that people can only visit once a month. We should do all we can to increase that service. We should encourage local community gardens to grow fresh vegetables to be used to feed our food insecure neighbors.