

# 2024 Food Insecurity Candidate Questionnaire



Candidate: Rick Lipof [D]

District: 12th Middlesex House Seat  
Newton, Brookline

1

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

Because every citizen in my district matters and food insecurity is on the rise across the State. I put myself in the shoes of those with all types of struggles but the one that always stands out for me is not having the basics to survive. Shelter, healthcare and yes, daily nourishment.

2

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

Food insecurity in Middlesex County and the 12 District is on the rise despite the affluent profile of the area. The cost of housing, transportation and the rise in inflation have all led to many more people making choices of what to pay for each month. Food should never be in that equation.

3

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

Despite the affluence in the District there are pockets of poverty and economic hardship. Economic disparities, the high cost of living and the lack of affordable housing all contribute to the rise in food insecurity.

4

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

I support policies and legislation that supports food pantries and soup kitchens that are supported by the Greater Boston Food Bank and numerous other organizations. Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Women, Infants and Children offer benefits but there are barriers to accessing them and I would continue to be a supporter and advocate for these programs.

5

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

Along with my answer to question 4, I would have an open door to all organizations and programs that bring awareness to and help support ending food insecurity in the Commonwealth. I would be a conduit at the State house to support and craft legislation.