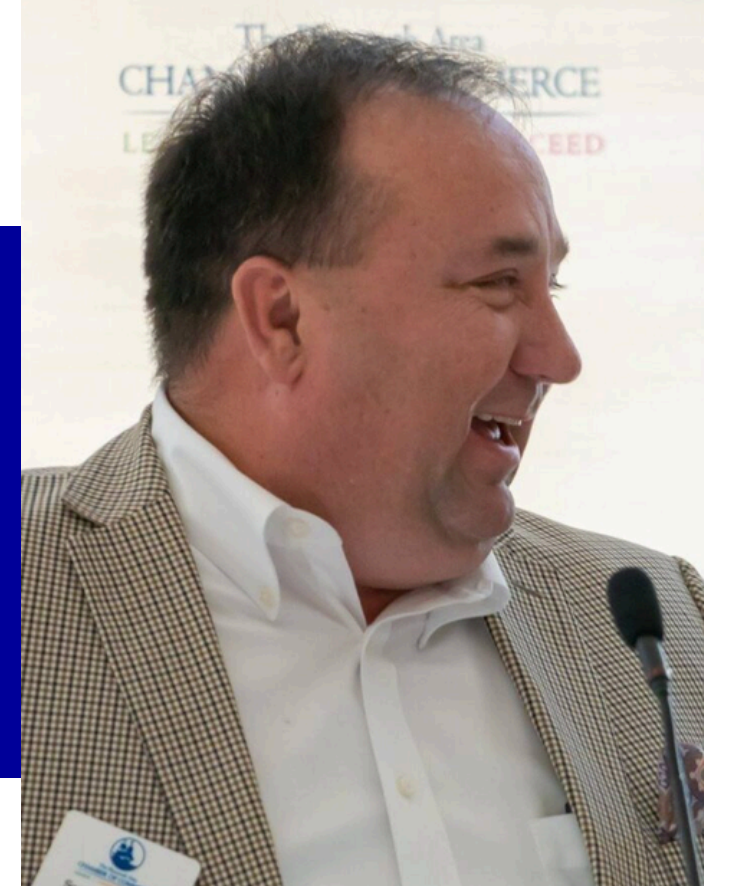


Candidate: Scott Hokanson [D]

District: 1st Plymouth House Seat -
Plymouth



1

Why does combatting food insecurity matter to you?

First, my family was on food assistance. My kids came home from school with backpacks of food on Fridays and, we ate it. After I lost my job at age 41 with five children, we asked for and took a whole lot of help. From Mashealth to Unemployment we took a hand up and I was able to build a second career at age 41 due to help we received.

In addition, for years I have been a huge supporter of the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless, the Salvation Army and the South Shore Community Action Council. I have seen the benefit of these hard-working organizations have done for our community and my son Andrew now works managing the food pantry at the Coalition today.

2

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

The Plymouth Area Coalition has been assigned the responsibility of managing the immigrants who have been housed in local hotels. I have been on site to meet with these hopeful Americans, and I have seen the positive effect we have had. However, the financial burden has been real, and we have had to rely on individual donations to keep up. We have kept up.

Also, my 14 year old son has a number of friends whom are struggling with housing and food security. This is a new experience for us. We find ourselves wanting to send him home with food but don't want to offend his guardians by doing so. I think the increased housing expenses and inflation in general has hit so many people so hard, going without food has sadly become more real.

3

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

The cost of housing and lack of transportation helping people get to work and food pantries are contributing factors. I also feel there is terrible negative energy around the immigrant population. This negative energy has resulted in less support for the agencies supporting that community in addition to the communities they have helped all along.

4

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

I would like breakfast served at schools all year and continued support for the backpack programs we have today. I also feel we can deliver food during vacation and summer breaks as needed. I would also work hard to improve access to reliable transportation to include food shopping and access to food pantries.

5

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

I will continue to work with our local resources and work to be a strong advocate on the hill. My son is on the front lines and will be a great resource for me when I am in office. My family feeds the homeless at our local shelters and will continue to do so. My company continues to financially support local charities and I look forward to being able to do more once elected.