

# Food Security for All where do candidates stand?

#### WHERE WE STAND

### All Mainers need and deserve enough food to eat!

To thrive in school, work, and all the other parts of our lives, we all need to eat well.

But more than **170,000 Mainers** go hungry every day, and the pandemic and economic crisis are making hunger an even more common experience.

Maine Equal Justice fights for strong **food assistance** programs that help Mainers of all ages and in every part of our state get more to eat.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has served as our country's first line of **defense against hunger** for over 50 years and is one of the most effective ways to **lift people out of poverty**. And for the tens of thousands of hungry or food insecure children in Maine, SNAP coupled with school nutrition programs can have a lifelong positive impact.



#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

## Ask your candidates where they stand

- Do you support a **strong SNAP** (**food assistance**) **program** that includes all Mainers who are struggling with food insecurity (meaning they lack consistent access to enough food for a healthy, active life)?
- Will you support opportunities to increase food assistance and access to other nutrition programs like **school breakfast** and lunch programs and **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)**?
- While Mainers of color are 5.3% of Maine's population, they make up 28.5% of those experiencing food insecurity, due in part to disparities in access to employment, education, health care, and affordable food. Will you commit to addressing racial disparities to help end disparities in food security for Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and immigrant Mainers?

#### HERE'S HOW YOU ASK A CANDIDATE

Look up your voting districts at the <u>Maine Secretary of State's Office</u>. You can see your State Senate and House districts as well as your U.S. Senators and Representative. You can ask any candidates in your districts. You can also <u>use our guide</u> to contact elected officials.

Search Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for candidates using their **names** or phrases like, "Maine Senate District 1" or "Maine House District 2." **If you're not sure how to do this, contact us!** 

Share your questions by email or private message, or create a post and **tag their page**, or ask a question at a candidate forum! Email us the response you get at **arana@mejp.org**, or **tag our Facebook page**.

www.facebook.com/MaineEqualJustice/