

Oregon Food Bank – 2022 Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire

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Questions

1. More than a million Oregonians, from every single county in the state, accessed food assistance through the Oregon Food Bank Network in 2021. Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 702,000 Oregonians have participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP, sometimes referred to as “food stamps”).

What are the responsibilities of the Governor to ensure that our communities have consistent access to nutritious, culturally-appropriate food?

The proven way for State government (or government at any level) to ensure the plentiful supply of necessities for its citizens is to foster a free and healthy economic environment.

If providers and consumers are able to meet in a market place which is not distorted by -
corporate monopoly,
price fixing,
welfare programs,
government regulation and red tape,
political cronyism,
farm subsidies,
price controls,
or other such factors, then free enterprise in a free market will provide the optimal supply/demand solution to each and every player.

2. Community members who are Black, Indigenous or People of Color face significantly higher rates of poverty and food insecurity than White Oregonians.

a. What role, if any, do you believe systemic racism plays in causing hunger?

In America, none.

b. What policies and programs would you support to reduce poverty and food insecurity in these communities?

See above.

3. From the fields to the grocery store, our food industry is anchored by essential workers who are immigrants. Yet the workers who keep food on our tables are among the lowest paid in Oregon.

As governor, what would you do to ensure that the people who grow, process and serve our food do not experience food insecurity themselves?

See above.

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4. From Ontario, to Portland, to Tillamook, rates of poverty and food insecurity are relatively similar.

As governor, how would you design solutions to poverty and hunger across rural, urban and suburban communities?

[See above.](#)

5. Of the state's 67,595 farm producers, only 64 were Black in 2017. Black, Indigenous and People of Color have long experienced barriers in access to land, infrastructure and markets to support farming — negatively impacting both food production and economic development in communities.

a. Does the governor have any responsibilities to remove barriers to farming for Oregonians who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color?

[Please have the person or persons who have been barred from making a choice in employment give me a call. \(Together we will find out why the State Dept of Labor is not doing its job.\)](#)

b. If yes, what policies and programs would you support?

[See above.](#)

6. Oregon faces a crisis of affordable housing. People who request food assistance consistently cite the cost of housing as a primary reason for seeking help — and renters are more than six times more likely to experience hunger than homeowners.

As governor, what will you do to move us toward an Oregon in which everyone has safe, affordable and healthy housing?

[See above.](#)

7. The work of caring for one another is disproportionately shouldered by women. While the labor of caring for children, the elderly and people with disabilities is often unpaid, professions of childcare and home healthcare are among the lowest paid in Oregon. Single mothers and caregivers are over three times more likely to experience hunger than the general population.

As governor, what will you do to ensure that the people providing care in our communities do not experience food insecurity?

[See above.](#)