



**Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
2022 State Representative and Senator Questionnaire**

Your name: Stephen Fishman

Office Sought, including district: State Representative, 11th Worcester

Website: <https://stephenfishman.org/>

What are three of your priorities that reflect your commitment to a healthy food system for Massachusetts and your constituents?

Priority 1

Support for small regional farms.

Priority 2

Creation of urban community gardens/vertical farms/food banks to provide free or low cost fresh produce.

Priority 3

Support for food co-ops to provide low cost groceries.

How would you support the Healthy Incentives Program?

HIP caps should be increased to allow for increased healthy food purchasing power.

How would you support farmers in adapting to climate change?

Incentivize animal farms to utilize anaerobic digesters to reduce methane emissions, produce high nitrogen fertilizer and inexpensive electricity.

How would you help to ensure that children understand where food comes from, the importance of healthy eating, and other essential food literacy issues?

We should adopt a French model for school lunches that extends lunch to 45 minutes. This time is utilized to educate children about nutrition, food sources and healthy eating habits.

What policies or investments would you support to protect farmland and increase farmland access?

Expand the Federal Farmland Protection Act on a state level. Provide tax breaks for farms, establish protection funds to purchase land, and allow fee free use of publicly owns lands for small farms.

What strategies would you support to reduce food waste?

Establish state level tax incentives to support federal tax incentives on food donation. Properly fund food recovery programs to assist retailers and recovery programs.

How would you work to ensure that food system stakeholders of color - consumers, workers, farmers, landowners, and others - have equitable access to opportunities in all aspects of the food system?

All legislation needs to be reviewed to insure diversity, equity and inclusion goals are met.