



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

Your name: Susannah Whipps

Office Sought, including district: State Representative, 2nd Franklin District

Website: <https://www.repwhipps.com/>

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

Priority 1

Adequate funding of HIP.

Priority 2

Full funding of school breakfast & lunch.

Priority 3

Working with federal partners to expand access to SNAP and work to change regs for several items not allowed by SNAP to be accepted (hygiene products, diapers, supplements, etc).

How would you support the Healthy Incentives Program?

I belong to several working groups who are trying to increase HIP awareness and enroll more families.

How would you support farmers in adapting to climate change?

Work with local, state & federal partners to ensure farms have capacity necessary to produce in a changing climate.

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

Work with schools, pantries, coops, healthcare providers and other organizations to educate on the importance of eating healthy & local foods.

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

We must work to make transfers from one generation to the next easy & as seamless as possible. Encourage micro-farms in urban communities.

What strategies would you support to reduce food waste?

I support any strategies to reduce waste. Personally I diary anything that goes to waste in my home and track the cost of waste. Educating people about smart shopping and proper storage of food products cuts down on waste. I also encourage people to compost rather than throw food waste in the trash.

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?

There should be more grant opportunities for POC farmers and landowners. Community gardens and education & support for people who want to learn to produce and process their own food. Access to healthy local food is so important to those who are most vulnerable to healthcare issues and disease brought on by poor diet and obesity.