



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

Your name: Carol Doherty

Office Sought, including district: 3rd Bristol State Representative

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

Priority 1

Providing healthy food for low-income communities by increasing transitional assistance benefits and increasing access to healthy food in food deserts.

Priority 2

When possible, expanding funding for local farming and getting their product into local markets. It is important that this funding not go to corporate farms but local farmers.

Priority 3

Continued education and study of scientifically and information backed nutrition and health science. It is important that we keep ourselves up to date on the latest science on nutrition and health and not chase fads and scam dieting programs or programs designed to sell people on beauty standards.

How would you support the Healthy Incentives Program?

Increasing the benefit to families who use this program will help incentivize the program more. Additionally, educating families who use transitional assistance to this program is critical as it will save them money in the long term. Finally, I would want to find a way to have supermarkets sell locally produced food via this program.

How would you support farmers in adapting to climate change?

As we know climate change is increasing drought and other extreme weather conditions. Helping farmers get funding for seeding drought resistant crops is one way to help adapt to climate change. Additionally, funding more modern irrigation systems and water conservation

projects will help mitigate climate change effects. Finally, I would want to work with DEP to find ways to adapt residential projects to reduce wastewater pollution and increase water retention.

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

First, I would want our schools to have health and nutrition funding that creates appropriate science based curriculum on food. Second, I would want to set aside some funding for local health boards to create programs on educating children on health eating, especially focusing on printing materials in secondary languages (Spanish, Portuguese, and other languages spoken in the communities).

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

Protecting farmland requires training a new generation of farmers, especially if older farms are being sold. Investing in training programs and funding opportunities to buy farms as their owners sell their property would go far in protecting and preserving farmland. As for access, providing transportation to farms on the weekends would help increase access as well as expansion of farmers markets.

What strategies would you support to reduce food waste?

I would want to work with our restaurants and supermarkets to find strategies on reducing food waste. I think there are incredible opportunities to not only save food but provide food for low-income communities working with these groups. Whether that is having restaurants prepare food that is close to being wasted or having supermarkets provide unused food to food pantries, there are ways to work together to address this critical issue.

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?

As a legislator I will work with these groups and my door is always open to these conversations. I will make sure my staff finds the relevant organizations as well and invite them to speak to me at the state house to hear their concerns. Additionally, increased vocational funding targeted around food systems (farming technologies, water technologies, ect.) will allow us to find more opportunities for students of color. Finally, I would want to work with the Black and Latino Caucus to ensure that their concerns are being heard around this important issues.

