



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

Your name: Sean Goonan

Office Sought, including district: State Representative, 8th Hampden district

Website:

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

Priority 1

Making it easier for people to designate their land as preserved conservation/agricultural land by lowering the acreage requirement for the Chapter 61A program to 1/2 acre instead of 5 acres and allowing cities and towns to lower property taxes for agricultural/conservation land directly instead of having to go through the state program.

Priority 2

Providing grants to small-scale farms for improvements to their operation.

Priority 3

Funding programs that connect consumers to local farms.

How would you support the Healthy Incentives Program?

I support continued funding for the program.

How would you support farmers in adapting to climate change?

Grants and increased conservation. Making the Wmass region more self-sufficient and less dependent on the volatile global markets, decreasing fossil fuel consumption.

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

Funding school lunch programs that source from local farms, and making it known where this food is coming from.

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

Expanding conservation programs as mentioned before, and providing low-interest loans to people interested in getting into farming who want to buy land.

What strategies would you support to reduce food waste?

Compost collection initiatives.

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?

Every person should have access to healthy local food in their community.