



**Massachusetts Food System Collaborative  
2024 State Representative and Senator Questionnaire**

**Your name:** Bill Humphrey

**Office Sought, including district:** State Representative, 12th Middlesex District

**Website:** <https://www.billhumphrey.org/>

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

**Priority 1**

Green New Deal: Urban and suburban small agriculture.

**Priority 2**

Green New Deal: Land conservation, including farmland

**Priority 3**

Green New Deal: Green infrastructure and other infrastructural investments to control flooding

**How would you support the Healthy Incentives Program?**

Make HIP year round and expand initiatives to market the program to SNAP customers more widely.

**How would you support the food system in mitigating the effects of and adapting to climate change?**

Drought, flooding, new pests, and unsafe conditions for workers are some of the biggest threats to farm production. We will need new state laws and regulations on water conservation (at a macro level and also to the level of individual irrigation equipment), more investment in inland flood control infrastructure (including naturalistic impediments to flow, such as bioswales and woodlands), and greater safety protections for farm workers in the heat.



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

We need more equitable representation in the decision-making bodies overseeing farming issues and we should make it easier to start growing food in urban and suburban areas on private and public lands.

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

Working with our educator unions (especially for professional development), we should be integrating food literacy issues into the curriculum along with other environmental issues.

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

We need to prevent good farmland from being turned into developments and parking lots. The state should facilitate state or local level conservation acquisition of small, family farms that are closing down. Newton Community Farm has been a great example of a public and non-profit partnership to keep a former family farm going for the benefit of the community, and it is a beloved community resource now.

**What strategies would you support to reduce food waste?**

Pass legal reforms to remove disincentives for donating leftover food, ban deliberate destruction of leftover food in a way that renders it either inedible or non-compostable, fund more composting initiatives (including curbside pickup but also financing for disposal projects) and divert all food scrap waste from the traditional waste stream.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share?**

Much of my family currently or previously lived on farms of one size or another, here in New England or in California. My grandparents only exited the sector a few decades ago, and my grandfather is an agricultural scientist, who specialized in advising on growing in low-water environments. I have a very strong interest in smallholder farming policy, especially for urban and suburban locations, as well as water policy. It's not something I have gotten much opportunity to work on up until now, but I have been looking forward to it at the state level.