HILLARY CLINTON (D)
New York Senator

A. It is a crime that any child should ever go hungry. I would be dedicated to the eradication of this blight. I have said that it is clear that it is not government’s obligation to create & distribute food: its role is to provide the necessary structures that allow the free market to operate (rule of law, going after corruption, etc.).

B. More than 35 million Americans face what the government calls food insecurity— they don’t have consistent access to the nutrition they need to lead a healthy life without resorting to emergency solutions. I support the full range of federal programs to ensure that families have enough nutritious food.

JOHN EDWARDS (D)
Former North Carolina Senator

A. Our nation works best when Americans, often acting through their government, take responsibility as their brains are not as efficient. I support strengthened food stamp & food & nutrition programs. We need to do more to help folks help themselves. I will expand transitional jobs & the EITC, promote responsible fatherhood, improve education in low-income areas, & provide a tax cut to working Americans & seniors.

JOSEPH BIDEN (D)
Delaware Senator

A. The federal government has played and should continue to play a vital role in our nation’s “safety net.” Throughout my career, I have consistently supported increased funding to those in need. My commitment to ending hunger led me to join the Senate Hunger Caucus & to co-sponsor The Hunger-Free Communities Act.

B. Hungry children struggle to pay attention & to learn. Students who eat breakfast perform better on tests – including reading & math. Our commitment to our children’s education demands that we provide them with the resources & support they need to succeed in the classroom – starting with a good breakfast.

C. Ensuring that children have breakfast is vital to reducing hunger & improving learning. Students who eat breakfast perform better on math, reading, & cognitive tests. Children who experience hunger have higher levels of physical, emotional & behavioral problems. We should make the school breakfast program available to all children living in low-income communities.

|= John Cox (R) Businessman

A. It is unacceptable that in the United States, 35.1 million people live in food insecure households. The federal government has an important role to play in addressing this problem. I support all federal programs to end hunger & will ensure that they are reformed & funded so that they can better meet the needs of America’s families.

B. Ensuring that children have breakfast is vital to reducing hunger & improving learning. Students who eat breakfast perform better on math, reading, & cognitive tests. Children who experience hunger have higher levels of physical, emotional & behavioral problems. We should make the school breakfast program available to all children living in low-income communities.

|= Barack Obama (D)
Illinois Senator

A. I believe that school breakfast is a critical part of the school day. It should be supported by USDA commodities & we need to make sure that low-income children who are eligible for the reduced price program actually receive these meals.

B. The food stamp program is a valuable safety net. We don’t want to live in a country where our programs help hungry families & not enough.

C. Yes. The food stamp program targets those who need it the most & expands in times of economic trouble. It also helps its recipients by expanding SNAP work requirements & increasing work participation.

|= Bill Richardson (D)
New Mexico Governor

A. The federal government must guarantee that no one in America goes hungry. In New Mexico, I convened a hunger summit that led to the state partnering with private organizations & food banks to provide food to those in need. As President, I’ll do the same for the entire nation.

B. Yes. We must do a better job of caring for our children’s health, especially the underprivileged children who too often lack access to good nutrition. Universal access, then, must be offered to all public school students.

QA

Q. What roles do you support the Federal Government playing in alleviating hunger?

Q. Do you support access to universal breakfast for all children in public schools? Why or why not?

Q. In order to provide assistance to legal immigrants who have been in the country for less than five years, would you support extending food stamp eligibility to them?

Q. In your eyes, what is the single most effective policy measure to enable food insecure individuals to become food secure? What is the single most effective policy measure you do to promote this policy?

Q. In both rural and urban areas, many children lack convenient access to food. As President, how would you support local & community-based ‘food deserts’ communities’ access to food?

Q. In order to provide assistance to legal immigrants who have been in the country for less than five years, would you support extending food stamp eligibility to them?

Q. In your eyes, what is the single most effective policy measure to enable food insecure individuals to become food secure? What is the single most effective policy measure you do to promote this policy?

A. We should expand programs that directly connect consumers with under-served neighborhoods through community farms & cooperatives. Second, we must expand opportunities – from investing in education pre-school through college to working toward universal health care to investing in job creation.

B. We will work to increase access to locally grown & distributed food. As Governor, I was proud to start the Farm-to-Fork initiative, to provide consumers with better access to fresh, high quality, locally grown produce, at accessible prices to markets, retailers, restaurants & schools. Given Farm-to-Fork’s success, I would consider working to replicate it around the country.

A. A truly unfettered free market is the best way to offer cost-effective access to all products (especially foods) that make our life more secure & equalize human conditions. Every time it tries, it creates winners & losers. Helping the most self-interested for the most part. We can harness that self-interest & make it work for the beneﬁt of all.

A. I support improved access to food through local & regional food systems. As President, I will emphasize the food need for Americans to Buy Fresh & Buy Local, implement USDA policies that promote local & regional food provisioning, support funding for farm-to-school projects, & allow schools to give priority to local sources when ordering food & (grow vibrant rural economies).

A. We need to offer tax incentives to grocery stores—not just conveniences—stores—to locate in underserved areas. All of the evidence points to one fact—when families cannot easily get to nutritious food, they do not tend to eat nutritious food.
This guide was created in collaboration with Drake University Law School and the Congressional Hunger Center. Today, hunger is a pressing issue on the minds of many American voters. A recent poll conducted by the Alliance To End Hunger found that "most respondents ranked hunger as the biggest moral issue (42%) when compared to protecting the environment (23%), abortion (17%) or gay marriage (13%)." This informative, fact based, non-partisan voter education guide was designed to provide information about each 2008 Presidential candidate's platform on hunger.

This questionnaire was made available to all 2008 presidential candidates. This guide contains the answers from those who responded.

The following candidates were mailed this questionnaire and contacted by phone but did not respond by the announced deadline: Chris Dodd, Rudy Giuliani, Mike Gravel, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Alan Keyes, Dennis Kucinich, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Tom Tancredo and Fred Thompson. People who are interested in their views on this matter should contact their campaigns directly.