



# 2018 ELECTIONS

## Sample U.S. Poverty Questions

Thanks for engaging candidates this fall! Below are some sample questions. Please reach out to Carly Pildis ([cpildis@results.org](mailto:cpildis@results.org)) and Meredith Dodson ([mdodson@results.org](mailto:mdodson@results.org)) before talking to candidates! That way we can ensure you have the most strategic question!

### Request #1: Protect SNAP

*Many families in our community struggle to put food on the table, and I'm concerned about the House's partisan Farm Bill which would take food assistance away from 2 million Americans. Rather than taking food away from people looking for work, I urge you to protect and strengthen nutrition assistance. (Briefly mention your own experience and/or why you care about this issue).*

**Request for current member of Congress:** *Will you tell congressional leaders you oppose any harmful changes or cuts to SNAP and other anti-poverty programs, and that you want the final farm bill to include the Senate's common sense, bipartisan SNAP policies and protections?*

**Request for candidate:** *If elected, will you work to strengthen SNAP and oppose efforts to take food and other basic assistance away from working families?*

### Request #2: Housing and Closing the Racial Wealth Divide

*I am deeply concerned about wealth inequality in the United States. Sadly, government policies over our country's history have worsened inequality and created a staggering racial wealth divide. For example, median wealth for white families is 10 times greater than African American families and eight times greater than Hispanic families. One way to help is by increasing homeownership and access to affordable rental housing. What are your priorities when it comes to increasing access to affordable housing, especially for communities of color? What are your thoughts increasing the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit or Housing Choice Mobility Vouchers? If elected, will you work to enact innovative solutions to reduce racial wealth inequality?*

## **Request #3: Focus Tax Policy on Working Families**

*As an anti-poverty advocate, I'm concerned about the impact of Congress's recent tax legislation. We're already seeing higher budget deficits from the 2017 tax law and, as a result, Congress is threatening investments in basic health, nutrition, and education assistance programs. Unpaid-for tax cuts also widen the gap between the wealthy and those struggling to make ends meet. Now Congress is talking about new tax cuts that again would primarily benefit those at the top. Will you oppose any tax legislation that increases the federal budget deficit and threatens programs like Medicaid and SNAP? Instead, will you focus on effective tax policy that helps working Americans, such as expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit?*