



# Food For All

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*“Let not the needy be forgotten.”*

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*October 2002*

## Food For All Conducts Survey of Candidates

**D**uring the months of August and September, the Food For All Public Policy Committee surveyed Congressional candidates in Districts #26, #27, and #28 to determine their position on international and domestic hunger principles. Following are the results of the survey.

	Paul Fallon (Green)	Ayesha Nariman (Dem)	Thomas Reynolds (Rep)	Thomas Casey (RTL)	Peter Crotty (Dem, Wrkg Fam)	Albert LaBruna (Green)	Jack Quinn (Rep)	Louise Slaughter (Dem)	Henry Wojtaszek (Rep)
	26th District			27th District			28th District		
<b>In the International Community</b>									
The recently completed World Food Summit in Rome agreed on the need for a dramatic new commitment in combating hunger. Why? Some 24,000 people die each day from malnutrition and 800 million are undernourished. In order to help deal with this crisis, I pledge to work to:									
1) Declare freedom from hunger a fundamental right for everyone.	✓	✓	Chose Not to Respond	✓	✓	✓		✓	Chose Not to Respond
2) Set aside a larger percentage of GDP toward ending hunger.	✓	✓ *		✓	✓	✓		✓	
3) Target extra money toward reducing poverty.	✓	✓		✓ *	✓	✓		✓	
4) Fund programs that strengthen agriculture, health care, infrastructure, education.	✓	✓		✓ *	✓	✓	*	✓	
5) Cancel all debt to the UN list of most needy countries.	✓	✓ *		✓ *	✓	✓		✓	
<b>In the U.S. Community</b>									
33 million people in the U.S. including 13 million children live in households that experience hunger. In order to help to deal with this crisis, I pledge to work to:									
6) Make poverty reduction a major goal of welfare.	✓	✓	Chose Not to Respond	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	Chose Not to Respond
7) Make WIC an entitlement program.	✓	✓		✓ *	✓	✓		✓	
8) Increase funding to cover all who are eligible for the food stamp program.	✓	✓ *		✓	✓	✓	*	✓	
9) Increase educational and job training opportunities for TANF recipients.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
10) Raise the minimum wage to at least \$6.65 an hour and index to inflation.	✓	✓ *		*	✓	✓	*	✓	

\* Additional comments—see other side.

*Food For All is a program of the Network of Religious Communities, a member organization of denominations, congregations, and religious organizations in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario*

**Candidates were given the opportunity to explain their positions in greater detail.  
(The numbers refer to the principles listed on the other side.)**

**Paul Fallon (District 26):**

A war on hunger and poverty is long overdue. There is no morally defensible position where we feed the war machine and neglect those in need.

**Ayesha Nariman (District 26):**

- 2) Yes. However, this should not be accomplished by increasing our federal debt load. Instead we need to have a leaner and more efficient defense department (budget), and by reducing pork barrel spending.
- 5) Yes. Provided their leaders have not filled their Swiss bank accounts. Then they should be held personally liable to repay the debt.
- 8) Yes. But also make sure to reduce fraudulent use of food stamps.
- 10) Yes. Absolutely yes!

**Thomas Casey (District 27):**

- 3) The key to reducing poverty is increasing educational expectations which it has been shown in our present public education system, money cannot buy, and can be wasted if put into an unaccountable system.
- 4) Yes in third world. No in U.S. where we need reform not more money—need school choice.

- 5) Definitely.
- 7) Present administration by some government agencies is very inefficient and condescending to those in need.
- 10) Prefer to fortify Earned Income Tax Credit so people themselves can buy what they need and save bureaucratic salaries.

**Albert LaBruna (District 27):**

- 10) If elected, I would work vigorously to raise the minimum wage, support universal health care, back clean energy and mass transit, as well as protect Social Security and pensions. As the Green candidate, I look forward to raising awareness on hunger issues.

**Congressman Jack Quinn (District 27)—did not complete questionnaire, but sent the following comments in a letter:**

- 4) I have worked hard to fund programs that strengthen agriculture, health care, infrastructure, and education. I will continue to do just that.
- 6) I believe the basis behind any welfare reform plan should be reducing poverty.
- 8) I am a leading advocate of funding food stamps for legal immigrants.
- 10) I also have been a leading advocate of increasing the minimum wage.

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## 1,000 Voters Polled By “Alliance to End Hunger”

A survey conducted in July 2002 of 1,000 likely voters found that 93 percent felt that “fighting the hunger problem” was important when deciding whom to vote for in Congressional elections. By a margin of 69 percent to 19 percent, voters said they preferred a candidate who makes fighting hunger a higher priority to a candidate who says enough is currently being done.

Key findings in the poll include:

- More than half the respondents said the U.S. government does not spend enough money on the problem of hunger in the United States.
- Voters were equally split when asked who could do a better

job of addressing hunger, Democrats or Republicans.

- And, those surveyed favored a combined approach of providing emergency food aid and long-term solutions to hunger.

The Alliance to End Hunger includes religious bodies, businesses, universities, civil rights groups, labor unions and others. Its mission is to engage diverse institutions more deeply in an effort to shift U.S. public opinion, institutions and policies that could dramatically reduce hunger in the United States and internationally.

For additional information visit [http://www.bread.org/alliance\\_to\\_end\\_hunger](http://www.bread.org/alliance_to_end_hunger).



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