



# Food In LOUISVILLE Neighborhoods Community Coalition

## FOOD IS CRITICAL FOR LOUISVILLE!

### Learn what your Metro Council Members and Candidates Think About These Issues

BACKGROUND: Louisville is challenged with food insecurity; resource disparities among Louisville neighborhoods makes access to healthy, appropriate, affordable food difficult for many in our city. During the current coronavirus crisis, people are especially concerned about food security and food system resilience.

The Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition asked each of the Metro Council members and candidates to answer the questions below regarding our local food system. Twelve of them responded, and their answers are included below.

*[Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition](#) (FIN) is a community coalition that supports community efforts to build a just, healthy, and sustainable food system in Louisville, Kentucky. FIN is made up of engaged citizens, non-profit and faith leaders, community activists, educators, gardeners, and scholars who share a commitment to equity and sustainability in the food system. FIN has three Working Groups: Food Access & Markets; Urban Agriculture Coalition; Food Policy Action.*

*All of our members believe in and are working toward a stronger local food economy that will:*

- provide better food access and health outcomes*
- meet strong consumer demand for local food*
- improve our neighborhoods with equitable, non-gentrifying people-centered development*
- expand community access to land, water and green space*
- reduce carbon emissions, and*
- make Louisville more self-reliant and able to mitigate climate changes and other crises*

*[alphabetical by last name]*



## Wyatt Allison

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**1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?**

Food is so important, from my experiences it could effect your mood, growth, and health.

**2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food.**

**How important an issue is this?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to address it?**

It takes a village to make sure nobody goes hungry. It needs to be a comment by everybody. As well as one of Metro Councils priorities.

**3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?**

Everything related to helping people less fortunate has to be a priority and as a group we have to address them with open arms. Moving forward is a big priority.

**4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?**

This could be one of the most beneficial thing to accomplish. It starts with listening to the people on the front lines of this crisis. It is the heart and soul of our food access.

**5) Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?**

We know land is so important, and land must be used for the betterment of the public, this starts with a strong path to clean and heathy food.

**6) Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?**

The goal is to make sure no food is wasted, and fresh food finds its way to the people that are in need.

**7) Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?**

Saving food needs to be an addressed issue. A way to address that issue is to make sure everyone is aware and able to store food, and distribution.

**8) *Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?***

We should challenge ourselves to think creatively and comprehensively regarding food availability and accessibility. We have to fund and share ideas together.



## Jecorey Arthur

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**1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?**

I grew up in the West End's Parkland Neighborhood. At the time we had more liquor stores than food stores. This is the case in many poor neighborhoods.

**2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food. How important an issue is this? Very**

**What suggestions do you have to address it?**

1. We'll need to pick up where Barbara Sexton Smith left off in terms of partnerships to continue mobile programs.
2. There have been successful ordinances in other cities that limit convenient stores in order to attract full-service grocery stores. This needs to be done in our district.
3. We need to organize neighborhood associations to support locally owned grocery stores. There are several in the works, but they need funding. NDF would be the perfect start.

**3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand? Very**

**What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?**

We should prioritize buying local before anything else. The city government should be working to ensure all citizens have access to quality local food. There are less than a handful of sit-in restaurants in the West End of Louisville. We need resources to support our local and potential business owners who want to serve our community's food needs. These resources could be new grant opportunities, more effective trainings, or rotating promotion programs to drive up traffic.

**4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city? Very**

**What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?**

We need proper education about healthy food not only for consumption but also for preparation. We should have multiple community gardens in each neighborhood. It's important to also address our excessive amount of surface lots so we can transition them into green spaces to be used for growing local food.

**5) Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?**

If we reassessed the surface lots in downtown and converted just a quarter of them we would have over 9,000 ft of new green space. That's 25 football fields. This reassessment could happen across the city.

**6) *Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?***

We have an often forgotten unhoused population that could benefit from food that would otherwise go wasted. Every night after dinner, my toddler and I take left overs to people on the streets. We could feed everyone if this was a formal citywide program.

**7) *Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?***

There are countless abandoned warehouses across the West End of Louisville. We lost the Food Port. Let's revisit but thinking of a food network, where these unused spaces are used for storage, but also production, education, and distribution. It will take creative private-public partnerships, including JCPS.

**8) *Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?***

The life expectancy where I live is over a decade less than most parts of town. This needs to be addressed systemically across a web of issues and food might be right in the middle of that web. I lost count of how many school fights I witnessed that stemmed from being hungry. Do you know why school bullies steal lunch money? Because they are hungry. The life that follows this reality is a shorter one.



## **Cassie Chambers Armstrong**

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### ***1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?***

My grandparents owned a small farm in the hills of Eastern Kentucky. As a young child, I remember working in the fields and gardens, and knowing that work was necessary to put food on the table each night. My grandparents always grew an extra garden of food to feed struggling families in the area, and they instilled in me from a young age the importance of working to make sure every member of our community had healthy food to eat.

### ***2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food. How important an issue is this?*** Very

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it?***

One of the things I studied as part of my Master's in Public Health was issues around food insecure communities. I am very interested in initiatives to connect local farmers to food insecure communities, including incentive programs to bring fresh produce and other healthy foods into these communities. New Roots is doing some great work in this area. I also support things like farm to school initiatives and other programs to make sure that every child has access to fresh, affordable food. I also believe in expanding the scope and reach of federal programs that give seniors and mothers of young children access to farmers markets using vouchers.

### ***3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand?*** Very

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?***

I am interested in exploring ways to reinvigorate some of the former farm to table local government initiatives that were recently lost due to budget issues and better understanding how government can promote and support access to local food.

### ***4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city?*** Very

#### ***What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?***

I would like to explore ways for local government to make it easier for those interested in urban agriculture projects to easily and affordably access land. I understand that this has been a challenge in the past, and I would like to hear from your organization about your ideas for ways to support urban agriculture projects.

**5) Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?**

I believe that local government should be a partner to helping those interested in producing local food to obtain the land they need for these projects. Although I understand that much of the land the city owns presents size challenges, I am interested in exploring how land owned by the city could be put toward more urban agriculture projects.

**6) Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?**

I believe that we should better support composting of wasted food. I would give this composted material to local farmers and others who were interested in it.

**7) Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?**

This is not an issue that I am particularly familiar with, but I am interested in learning more from experts.

**8) Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?**

Although I have done some food policy work in the past (mainly around promoting accessibility of healthy foods in communities), I am less familiar with many of the current projects being undertaken in our city. However, I very much recognize the value of these projects and the work your group is doing, and I look forward to learning more about how I can support your work.



## **Ron Bolton**

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### **1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?**

Learning the family recipes. Grandma Bolton's potato salad takes a lot of time and is easy to over season. My mom's apple cake is the only recipe I will not share, especially since I make it better than she does. The secret to both is mixing with your hands. The more you get your hands in it, the better it tastes.

### **2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food. How important an issue is this? Very**

#### **What suggestions do you have to address it?**

I will reach out to smaller concept grocers similar to Aldi's. I want a store on each side of downtown and a distribution warehouse for the extra jobs it will bring. I feel the secret is using the City's assets. We can offer a 50 year lease on land owned by the city for next to nothing, as long as there is a grocery operating there.

### **3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand? Very**

#### **What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?**

In addition to getting more food grown regionally into Louisville, we also need to look at more Urban Agriculture. Not every area has land that can be farmed, but we can find enough to start building a local food supply for residents.

### **4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city? Very**

#### **What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?**

We should be planting more fruit trees where we can. A pocket park with near year round fruit offerings in a neighborhood is a step in the right direction.

### **5) Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?**

The city needs to start focusing on ways to use land it owns to grow food, or to attract new grocers. What we don't need is more city land going to developers who are only after turning a quick buck.

### **6) Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?**

Ease restrictions on donations to food banks and soup kitchens.



**7) Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?**

It is another industry that we lost as companies moved out of the city. I will help push forward any proposal that increases our ability to bring this industry back to the city.

**8) Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?**

I started working with neighborhoods by planting trees. I did this because I was tired of getting a sunburn just by walking down the street. Making the inner neighborhoods green again would make me very happy. I also serve as a member of the board of directors for Louisville Grows. They are an organization dedicated to tree planting and urban agriculture.



## Adam Caperton

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**1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?**

Shucking two dozen oysters with my Father and sitting down and eating them all, YUM!

**2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food.**

**How important an issue is this?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to address it?**

Work with neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations and local restaurants.

**3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?**

Keeping monies local is a win win for all, but also making sure it is affordable. Low-income folks should have the same accessibility to locally grown food via fresh markets in neighborhoods, empowering neighborhoods by allowing garden areas.

**4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?**

Releasing liens on vacant land and opening them up and allow neighborhoods to plant gardens.

**5) Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?**

See above.

**6) Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?**

Donate to zoo for food for animals, composts, if food is not spoiled donate to homeless shelters.

**7) Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?**

I am not but I would like to learn more.

**8) Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?**

Plant trees, encourage local, affordability and I'm willing to learn more.



## **Mera Kathryn Corlett**

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### ***1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?***

First of all, what a wonderful question to ask at the beginning of this survey.

When I was a young teenager, my mother and I were downtown around lunchtime. We decided to stop by the McDonalds on

Broadway to get a bite to eat. As we pulled into the parking lot, my

mom caught sight of someone she knew. She said, “I think that’s Jim” (I have changed the name for confidentiality). I looked in the direction she was looking and saw the man she was referring to standing near the entrance. It seemed that as people walked by him, they were doing their best to not make eye-contact with him. It was apparent in their body language that they did not want to get stuck in a conversation with this man. His very presence made them uncomfortable.

My mother worked at the state psychiatric hospital. It was common for her to see a patient who had been discharged. Often, they were on the streets. Sometimes she would celebrate to see one of them holding a job at Goodwill or someplace else. I suspected he was a former patient. Heading toward the entrance, my mother approached him. Their eyes met and in the most subtle way I saw him recognize her. She asked, “Jim, have you eaten today?” I cannot count the number of times I have heard her ask this question to someone like Jim. His answer was no. “Well, I’d like to buy you lunch. Will you let me do that?” We waited in line in silence for our turn. I watched Jim, disheveled and unorganized. Not certain what to, but having a desire to make him feel welcome, I flashed the biggest smile I could muster. He nodded which I interpreted as his way of accepting this moment we shared.

With the food ordered and picked up at the counter, my mother proclaimed “Come eat with us.” And he did. As we ate our meal my mother asked him about where he was living and inquired about how he was taking care of himself. She said some things Jim found funny. When he chuckled, I saw he knew she cared for him. As I watched them, I looked around the room at all the people who had turned their glance the other way from him, who had changed their path so as not to be close to him. And then, there we were all in the same space eating together, sharing a meal. It was a powerful moment where I encountered oppression and radical justice in a very real way. The compassion modeled to me by my mother on that very ordinary day had a deep and enduring affect on my values and sense of equity.

### ***2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food. How important an issue is this? Very***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it?***

The week that I launched my campaign, another grocery store in District 18 closed its doors. Unfortunately, this has become too common in our city. A little over a year ago, the Courier Journal reported that Louisville had seen over a dozen grocery stores close in just three years. Many of those businesses were located in areas already facing scarcity of fresh food options. Lack of access to healthy, affordable food is an important issue that has major implications.

Addressing the city's food deserts will require a holistic approach of partnering with organizations, government agencies, businesses, and residents themselves. In other cities, non-profit grocery stores have started appearing. Through federal grants, they are able to sell foods to those with the greatest need at affordable prices. One of the more interesting ideas I've seen is bringing the food to neighborhoods by means of mobile grocery stores. I am open to these and other creative solutions to strategically address the problem.

**3) *There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand?*** Very

***What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?***

District 18 currently does not offer a Farmer's Market. When I was knocking doors and speaking with residents, this was one of my points that received the most engagement from residents. Recently, I spoke with a member of the Lyndon City Council about starting one in a Lyndon park. This district is full of people who want to support local growers but have to travel to neighboring areas to do that. Adding options for buying local agriculture is a part of my campaign and connects to one of our central messages of returning focus back to the community. As we search to also support low-income residents, I think it is important to build on programs that are already in place. I would be interested in modeling it on the Kentucky Double Dollars program, which was a project created by Community Farm Alliance and Bluegrass Farm to Table. It incentivized WIC and SNAP users to shop at Farmers Markets and purchase healthy fruits and vegetables.

**4) *A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city?*** Somewhat

***What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?***

One of the passion projects I would like to start upon taking office is to establish community garden locations within the district. There are multiple apartment complexes located throughout District 18 and these residents do not have access to land to grow their own food. I think this will be a resource that helps all residents but especially those living in our many apartment complexes. I would also like to look into something that a friend of mine in California has created. They have a co-op of folks in their neighborhood who grow their own food and rather than selling it to one another, they trade. From what I understand it has been very successful in their community and brings people together from multiple socio-economic levels. I am curious if something like this could work here.

**5) *Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?***

Local government should be engaged with the community and residents they serve. There is an opportunity for our representatives to offer support by collaborating with organizations and communicating services available to people. I believe that we have yet to tap the full potential and it is especially true for how District 18 is currently being represented. I am excited about the

possibility to spearhead committees and work with others to try to creatively address the pressing issues surrounding accessibility and food insecurity.

**6) *Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?***

This matter came up the other day in a phone call with a constituent. She asked, “Did you know there is no centralized place online to locate food banks in our city?” While volunteering, someone had come to her asking where the closest food bank was. I think one of the first things we can do is to streamline communication of the resources that are already available. Next we need to expand and better coordinate with those that have the resources to share and those that have need.

One of the other problems with Food Banks is that the majority do not have the ability to refrigerate food and that contributes to the problem with food waste. If refrigerated food cannot be stored, it must be thrown out. Improving refrigeration in food banks will go a long way in reducing food waste.

I also think that we need to think outside the pantry and get creative. Shepherd’s Pantries are small boxes that resemble the Little Free Libraries you see around town, but are specifically for keeping canned goods or non perishable items so that those in need can discreetly access food without ever leaving their car. I am currently searching for a location to put a Shepherd’s Pantry in our district.

**7) *Louisville’s infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?***

This is not an issue that I feel like I have a deep knowledge of and I would be open to learning more. In the work that I do, it has been important to me that I partner with organizations and others who can lend knowledge so that I have all the information necessary to truly understand the issue at hand. This will be something I intend to bring with me into office. When I am elected Councilmember for District 18, I will want to partner with FIN to address problems like this and others.

**8) *Other ideas you have to address Louisville’s food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?***

This is not an issue that I feel like I have a deep knowledge of and I would be open to learning more. In the work that I do, it has been important to me that I partner with organizations and others who can lend knowledge so that I have all the information necessary to truly understand the issue at hand. This will be something I intend to bring with me into office. When I am elected Councilmember for District 18, I will want to partner with FIN or other organizations in my district like The Food Literacy Project to address problems like this and others.



## **Aletha Fields**

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**1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?**

The lack of food as a young child and being hungry often

**2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food.**

**How important an issue is this?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to address it?**

1. We need to establish and offer incentives for local foods to be sold throughout the community.
2. Promote, protect, and support community gardens.
3. Create and fund community co-op grocery stores.
4. Increase and educate SNAP enrollees so more families have access and the means to purchase nutritious food.
5. Public policies are an effective way to increase access to affordable, healthy food. We can change zoning and tax laws to make it easier to develop new grocery stores, farmers markets, and community gardens.
6. Give voice to community residents as how to best improve access to healthy, affordable food.

**3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?**

1. We need to establish and offer incentives for local foods to be sold throughout the community, it in the more economically vulnerable parts of our community.
2. Promote, protect, and support community gardens and back yard farmers.
3. Increase access to local food through public transportation. Routing buses and creating more stops where local food is available will help with this.
4. Create policies that incentivize and protect local food sources and grocery stores.
5. Remove geographical barriers to local food. Establish and maintain farmers markets and food hubs that are accessible to larger numbers of communities. Bring the food to the communities in need.
6. Metro government should provide adequate, recurring financial and technical support for community gardens, back yard farming, and grocery co-ops.

**4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city?** Very

**What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?**

1. Metro government should provide adequate, recurring financial and technical support for community gardens, back yard farming, and grocery co-ops.

2. Metro government should continually identify solutions and interventions to empower and encourage urban agriculture. We could increase awareness of healthy living through healthy eating. Connecting land to table is critical. Urban agriculture should not be a mystery.
3. Allocated budget line items to fund and make urban agriculture a priority program.
4. Raise awareness and educate communities on the importance of shopping local.

**5) *Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?***

Metro government should provide financial support, dedicated funds, targeted state and federal resources to support land use and acquisition and development. Public parks, public housing, and neighborhood match grants can acquire and maintain land for gardens and urban agriculture. Metro government could also work with local community-based organizations, community land trusts, and community land banks to identify and acquire land and garden sites. Allot municipal open space, parklands, and underdeveloped or blighted properties as community garden space.

**6) *Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?***

1. Increase awareness in the community about local food rescue organizations.
2. Create and employ an educational campaign featuring local, grassroots organizers from within the community. The campaign would raise awareness and identify strategies about preventing food waste.
3. Create toolkits to reduce food waste.
4. Metro government should educate, incentivize, and support composting.
5. Develop culturally appropriate materials for community members to work hand in hand with community outreach efforts.
6. Stock food pantries!

**7) *Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?***

I am not adequately educated about Kentucky's food processing and storage. I would like to be better informed about this matter. The Louisville Local Food Demand Analysis is outdated by eight years.

**8) *Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?***

District 4 in particular suffers from food apartheid. Certain neighborhoods have been obviously and systematically deemed unworthy of having access to nutritious food. Food apartheid intersects with poverty, earlier mortality rates for impoverished communities, and climate change. We need grocery options within this district. Those options must offer affordable, healthy foods that benefit the community members.



## **Robert LeVertis Bell**

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### ***1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?***

Food is central to so many of my memories. I come from a very large family and my grandmother's house on River Park, in West Louisville, is a community hub and our family stronghold. A normal Sunday dinner would often have as many as 40 or 50 guests, mostly family. Mother's Day, Christmas or especially Thanksgiving would be huge events. As recently as a few years ago, a Thanksgiving dinner would easily bring in more than 100 people from our family and the wider community. She's 87 now and has slowed down ever so slightly and the large meals are more infrequent but they're still a big part of my life.

### ***2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food. How important an issue is this? Very***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it?***

Lack of access to affordable, healthy foods is indicative of structural inequalities in our food system that is connected to housing and job insecurity. There are grassroots food justice efforts led by neighbors in Louisville that deserve to be recognized as public goods in our city. Therefore, I would advocate for city resources to be directed towards funding efforts such as Fresh Stop Markets and Urban agriculture. I am inspired by inventive approaches to food security across the country such as the Stocked Full of Produce grant program in Stockton, California. This program provides grants to small corner stores to improve their infrastructure for the sale and storage of healthier food. Additionally, to address the system, I would advocate for a living wage and improved public transportation routes.

### ***3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand? Somewhat***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?***

Everyone should have access to high quality foods. The city's current trickle-down economics strategy to support local food systems development is not equitable or effective. We must redirect our focus to investing in the families and communities most impacted by food insecurity. As a councilperson, I will advocate for greater accountability over current and proposed local food system development funds and recommend that these funds go to support existing community leaders and structures equitable food policies. We need to shift power over the local food narrative in our city.

### ***4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city? Somewhat***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?***



I can start by meeting with the Urban Agriculture Work Group among other groups already advocating for transformative food justice policies. They are on the frontlines of this work and I see my role as supporting their expertise.

**5) *Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?***

Government should play a role in making vacant land accessible to community groups for urban agriculture and should advocate for long-term land tenure arrangements. Additionally, we should work to protect urban agriculture spaces from land speculation and commodification in perpetuity. It is important to raise awareness about the multiple health, social and financial benefits these community-based operations bring. Local government can play an important role in these public education efforts and in providing institutional support for community-led initiatives. We must also guarantee that our Cooperative Extension system is well-funded to provide public support for urban agriculture.

**6) *Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?***

I will advocate for municipal composting. Additionally, the Agriculture Commissioner has publicly stated that Glean Kentucky should have offices in every county, so I would like to work with existing and former gleaners in Louisville to develop a strategy for bringing this successful model to our city.

**7) *Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?***

Yes. I have close colleagues who have worked on this issue. I believe my role on council could be to seek financial capital resources to provide resources on the farm or to develop local food infrastructure in rural areas with guarantees that the food will come back into Louisville. We must develop stronger rural and urban partnerships to develop regional infrastructures.

**8) *Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?***

Louisville needs a Green New Deal. So many of the issues discussed in this questionnaire --food security, poverty, and infrastructural failure -- are issues that are exacerbated by climate change and that we can anticipate to worsen as the effects of our climate catastrophe become more apparent. My district, District 4, borders the Ohio River. Engineers have predicted that climate change will bring significant floods to the river and its tributaries. Such could devastate our communities and any efforts to bring food security and expand urban agriculture within it. As with most consequences of climate catastrophe, locally and globally, the most precarious residents of the community will be the ones most directly and immediately affected: people will be displaced and entire communities wiped out.

The public health consequences are known and ongoing; the heat island effect and the already dismal air quality and sky-high childhood asthma rates among working class Louisvillians are set to worsen. Perpetual environmental racism and dirty infrastructure are part and parcel of the systematic underdevelopment of poor urban communities. We can't talk about food insecurity,

differential access to healthy food, and their devastating effects without discussing these underlying problems.

We need public health investments to ameliorate the damage and we need a municipal component to a Green New Deal to solve the crisis. We must rebuild our world in an equitable way that sustains life, builds and empowers working class, and that counters environmental racism.

My proposed solutions to these problems are many:

- I believe in public ownership of utilities and that the feasibility of transitioning to a cleaner municipal power utility should be studied immediately.
- Another thing I would like to do is to expand our public transportation and to make it free for all. A free at the point of service public transportation system, especially in conjunction with ramping up the electric bus infrastructure, would encourage its use among all people as we transition to a society that uses fewer fossil fuels.
- I will push for a return of the recently cut Office of Sustainability and a return of the Division of Community Forestry.
- I will push for massive legislation that requires all new construction in the city and all city operated buildings to meet the LEED Gold Standard, require all existing buildings in the city larger than 25,000 sq ft to install new windows and retrofits to meet LEED certification. I will propose legislation that offers subsidies for homeowners and small businesses to retrofit their existing homes to be more sustainable.
- I will push encourage partnerships with JCPS and its new academy system, as well as JCTC and existing education facilities in the city, to prepare students, especially those in currently underserved areas, who choose this work for the quality union jobs in green construction to fulfill the labor needs required for such an undertaking.
- \*I want Louisville, in general, especially with its proximity to “coal country” to be a beacon for the possible in our region. We will become a carbon neutral city by 2030 and we can do this in an equitable way that builds and empowers working class and that counters the longstanding environmental racism on which the city’s current dirty infrastructure is built.



## Michael Powell

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### **1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?**

When I was young, I remember picking green beans and tomatoes from my grandmother's garden. She grew a lot of vegetables and would also let me help her can them. It was significant because those memories led me to start a garden to teach my children where vegetables come from. It also gave them a sense of the work required to produce enough to eat. Sadly, you do not see as many people raising a garden anymore.

### **2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food. How important an issue is this? Very**

#### **What suggestions do you have to address it?**

To make food more affordable and accessible, we need to be able to increase production locally. With urban gardens, community gardens along with co-ops, we could produce more food locally. The more supply in the market would naturally decrease the price. The supply would be more widely distributed because it is readily available.

### **3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand? Somewhat**

#### **What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?**

Local government should enable and encourage the community to seek food sustainability. In light of the present pandemic, society now sees the importance of agriculture. We have a prime opportunity to determine how to become a city of urban agrarians. Urban gardens and community gardens could be organized to help meet increasing needs. Some food can be grown on a limited budget and minimal space for personal consumption. Aquaponics and hydroponic systems can be set up from small rooms to warehouses. It is not the role of government to mandate businesses or individuals to seek food security. However, the government can help to equip and educate the community on ways to reach sustainability.

### **4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city? Very**

#### **What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?**

Promote urban gardens, Community gardens, Hydroponics, Aquaponics and co-ops.

### **5) Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?**

There are many vacant and abandoned properties that metro government already owns. Many are located in low-income areas. We should utilize those empty lots by allowing community gardens

to be formed. We do not need to acquire more land when we are not managing our current resources properly.

**6) *Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?***

Wasted food can be used to make compost for growing more food and feeding livestock.

**7) *Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?***

I do not know enough about this issue to comment.

**8) *Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?***

The current pandemic has opened our eyes to the issues in the supply chain. We should take all steps needed to insure that future generations are prepared for similar situations. Laying the groundwork for urban food production would greatly minimize the affects of a supply chain interruption while also providing healthier food options. We could then lower the high rate of heart disease, obesity and diabetes at the same time.



## Shawn Reilly

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### ***1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?***

As the coronavirus pandemic continues its rampage around the globe, this virus is taking its toll on more than just our lives. The rise in unemployment and the closing of many food pantries are exacerbating the problem of food insecurity across the nation. And for those living in food deserts, it's even a more difficult task to find fresh and nutritious meals.

It's one thing reading about this in our papers or watching on television, but I'm hearing the stories of people in our community first-hand.

As the founding member of B.I.G. (Bardstown Road Improvement Group), our goal is to help Louisville's Bardstown Road flourish as a vibrant, safe and unique neighborhood and business corridor. One of our recent improvement projects was to install an unconditional food pantry that is stocked daily with love by Highlands residents.

When our team learned of the closing of Highlands Community Ministries Food Pantry during the pandemic, we immediately jumped to action stocking more food and partnering with Feed Louisville to provide daily sandwich deliveries. I've been stocking this pantry daily since the coronavirus. While the act may be simple, when I'm greeted by smiles and thanks during my daily drop-off, you know you are providing a resource to help our neighbors eat and survive.

### ***2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food. How important an issue is this? Very***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it?***

Ensuring food security and promoting health and nutrition are imperative to building a strong, healthy and flourishing community. Some ways we can address this is to promote policies that support and protect community gardens, ensure that TARC realigns bus routes so that residents can access healthy and affordable food, and require access to free and safe drinking water in public places.

### ***3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand? Very***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?***

Supporting farmers markets, mobile markets, and community supported agriculture programs promote access to healthy foods and can strengthen sustainable food systems. One idea I would like to explore is a program that empowers owners of corner stores in low income and minority neighborhoods to provide healthy food for their communities. Or, take a corner liquor store

which sells sugary beverages and salty chips and convert it to a place that carries healthy produce for consumers.

**4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city? Very**

**What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?**

If there's one thing that we have learned from the coronavirus it's that self-reliance and growing your own food is important. From rooftop gardens and indoor vertical farms to community plots and edible landscapes, I support initiatives which encourage urban agriculture.

**5) Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?**

I believe local government can play a role in increasing access to land in and around the city. Local government can facilitate converting abandoned parking lots and green fields into community gardens and urban farms. Also, I believe Louisville rooftops are a vast, underused resource that could be transformed for food production.

**6) Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?**

Not only is food waste a serious problem but organic matter in landfills provides 20% of all methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes considerably to climate change.

My wife and I subscribe to Misfits Market, which delivers ugly, but otherwise perfectly edible fruits and vegetables right to our door. It's a win-win for our family and for farmers. Efforts like this along with proper education such as shopping smart, being realistic with food purchases and being thoughtful with portion control can help to significantly reduce food waste.

**7) Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?**

**8) Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?**

One of my top priorities is the need to restore Louisville's tree canopy. I have taken part in many green and beautification initiatives with the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association and as a volunteer with Olmsted Parks. Additionally, I completed a tactical urbanism project during Bardstown Road Aglow in 2019 that showed the city how 25 new street trees could be added to just one block of Bardstown Road. Efforts like this help to ignite our community efforts to restore our tree canopy and reduce heat island effect in our city.



## **Darryl Young Jr**

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### ***1) What is a memory you have related to food that is significant to you?***

When I was younger my parents saved to buy a deep, chest freezer. Part of the deal was that it came with a large supply of meat. I've never went hungry in my life, but there have been times that my family could only afford certain foods, and had to rely on food stamps

and once a pantry. I remember feeling anxious anytime the freezer wasn't full, and being afraid that we wouldn't have enough to eat.

### ***2) Many residents do not have access to affordable, healthy food. How important an issue is this? Very***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it?***

Food desserts have long been an issue here in Louisville, with large pockets of people not having access to fresh food and produce. I believe the city should zone more space to utilize for urban agricultural and green spaces. I also believe that while the city should work with major retail chains like Kroger to feel in much needed grocer spaces in neighborhoods, the city should be committed to helping residents create food co-ops in their community and support with grants and low interest loans. I would also look to expand programs like Fresh Stop that brings fresh produce throughout the city. Lastly, part of food insecurity is an issue of transportation. Too many people in our city have to travel long and cumbersome travel routes to reach fresh food. I would work with TARC to create rapid routes with the intention of helping shoppers get to markets easier and quicker.

### ***3) There is high consumer demand for local food in Louisville. How important is it to you that our local government help fill this demand? Very***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to address it, while also paying particular attention to the needs of low-income residents?***

Again I am in support of looking at co-ops as a solution, as they allow residents the opportunity to decided inventory as well as price of what they purchase. I also support programs and initiatives that support efforts like community gardens and green spaces.

### ***4) A number of cities have increased urban agriculture to address food access and food security. How important is it to you that local government support growing more food in our city? Very***

#### ***What suggestions do you have to accomplish this?***

I believe that cities have to put money where their mouths are on this issues. Grants and low interest loans for people who are interested in doing that work, and funding non profits who promote and do the work.

**5) Growing more food requires access to land. What role should local government play in increasing access to land in and around the city?**

I believe in utilizing vacant and abandoned property for community use. There is potential there for growing and storage space. I believe government should work with communities to find ways to utilize these spaces. I also believe local government should be committed to zoning space in community for agricultural use that makes sense and works in an urban setting.

**6) Food insecurity is a serious problem, yet approximately 40% of food is wasted. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with wasted food?**

There are multiple issues that attribute to food waste. A few things are grocery stores that throw away of perfectly good food that isn't aesthetically pleasing any more. There also needs to be a better storage methods for food for preservation, and communication for better gauges on what actual supply and demand is. Lastly, I think there needs to be a way for reastaurants and grocery stores to donate food to pantries and community kitchens which prevents them from being liable but also contains strict safety standards for consumers.

**7) Louisville's infrastructure for processing and storing food from Kentucky farms has been all but lost. Are you familiar with this issue and do you have any ideas on how to address it?**

I would love to learn more about the issue, but I would go back to recommending intentional zoning and repurposing of space that isn't currently being used that the city has rights to, ie- abandoned properties.

**8) Other ideas you have to address Louisville's food insecurity, insufficient local and affordable food, diet-related disease, heat island effect, and/or climate change?**

I think food insecurity has to be considered a city wide issue. It can't be left to charities and food pantries alone to address. The access to fresh food and produce has to be taken as seriously the lack of fresh food and produce. There has to be a comprehensive travel plan with TARC to help residents get to fresh food instead of hour long commutes with multiple bus transfers. And we have to put dollars to community gardening and green spaces.