

## Food Vote 2012: National U.S. Survey

Surveying food & farm practitioners during the 2012 election for U.S. Representatives

Nov. 2019 Note: Due to technical reasons, I no longer have the final draft of the original survey. I have had to piece the survey together from my blogs and from earlier drafts. I am confident that this accurately reflects the survey that people answered in 2012.

### 1. In what state do you reside?

### 2. How did you learn about this survey?

Check all that apply.

Food Policy Council listserv (national Riseup group)  
Women, Food, and Agriculture Network listserv (national)  
Illinois Local Food and Farms Coalition listserv (statewide Yahoo group)  
Illinois Farmers Market Assn. listserv (statewide Google group)  
Advocates for Urban Agriculture listserv (Greater Chicago Google group)  
Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council listserv (Chicago Riseup group)  
Good Greens listserv (Midwest, USDA FNS, Google group)  
Personal email from D. Hillman Strategies  
Word of mouth (friend, family, neighbor, colleague)  
Media story (radio, TV, newspaper, web)  
Other (please specify)

3. National election websites and media do not list FOOD as a campaign issue or even a news topic in 2012. Issues that relate to food are commonly listed as:

Agriculture	Families & Children	Natural Resource Conservation
Budget	Foreign Policy	
Civil Rights	Free Trade	Principles & Values
Community Development	Government Reform	Rural Development
Corporations	Health Care	Social Security
Crime	Homeland Security	Tax Reform
Economic Development	Hunger	Urban development
Education	Immigration	War & Peace
Energy & Oil	Infrastructure & Technology	Welfare & Poverty
Environment	Jobs	

But FOOD is not listed.

**In your district, have any candidates for U.S. Congress (House of Representatives) identified FOOD as a plank in their election platform? In other words, does any candidate list FOOD on his/her list of issues? (website, campaign literature, press releases, etc.)**

Yes  
No

**4. If yes, what are the details?**

Please provide information for each Congressional candidate who has made FOOD a campaign issue in 2012 in your district. If possible, please provide exact words of the candidates' FOOD plank.

Candidate #1 name  
Candidate #1 website  
Candidate #1 food plank

Candidate #2 etc.

**5. Are your FOOD concerns so strong that a candidate's FOOD-related campaign promise might be the deciding factor when you cast your vote on November 6?**

Yes  
No

**6. If yes, what FOOD campaign promise would earn your vote on November 6, no matter who the candidate or what the other issues?**

**7. During this election season (since Dec. 2011), have you personally communicated your FOOD concerns to any Congressional candidate(s) in your district?**

Yes  
No

**8. If yes, how many total times in this election season (since Dec. 2011) have you personally discussed FOOD issues with Congressional candidates in your district?**

Once  
A few times  
Often  
Many times

9. The following are federal policies that have been identified as major leverage points for reducing problems in our food system.

**When talking with Congressional candidates, which policies would you promote (or have you promoted) as the most likely to eliminate or decrease your food concerns? Check all that apply.**

- a. "Community Food and Farm Bill" empowering and funding food councils at local, regional, and state levels
- b. FDA food safety regulations: Adopt two-tiered system (based on business size and efficiencies of locality)
- c. Federal taxpayer subsidies throughout the food chain (transportation, export-import, irrigation, energy, etc.): Eliminate all (except raw materials price parity for farmers)
- d. House Committee on Agriculture: Promote more diversity of membership, especially more urban and suburban members
- e. Corporate and institutional personhood: Eliminate by making corporate charters more project-based
- f. New Congressional Food Committee(s) (House, Senate, and/or Joint): Promote creation of
- g. No Child Left Behind: Repeal to enable schools to teach food literacy and food system skills
- h. Anti-trust laws: Rigorously enforce in a consistent and timely manner
- i. U.S. tax code: Simplify to eliminate loopholes, inconsistencies, and inequities, rewarding earned income only
- j. Banking and monetary systems: Regulate commercial banks + create public banks.
- k. Other (please specify)

10. Food Vote 2012 is interested in any anecdotes, experiences, or opinions you wish to share about building awareness in among all U.S. residents and in Congress about food system issues.

**How can we make FOOD an election issue in 2012?**

Please add any thoughts you have about engaging candidates on food issues. Please share experiences, problems, successes, and suggestions that would help other voters and nonvoters make food a campaign issue.

**11. How can we make FOOD an election issue in the future?**

Please add any thoughts you have about engaging candidates on food issues. Please share experiences, problems, successes, and suggestions that would help other voters and nonvoters make food a campaign issue.

**12.** Some people think that FOOD issues are so complicated and systemic that only a Constitutional amendment can address the multiplicity and structural aspects of FOOD concerns.

**What amendment to the U.S. Constitution would you promote as having the biggest and most long-lasting positive impact on addressing the many food concerns that people have? Check all that apply.**

- a. Right to habitat, food, water, healthcare, education, etc.: Expand Bill of Rights to include more concrete language regarding “general welfare” or “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”
- b. Public control of money supply, banking system (e.g., public banks, local currencies): Clarify, institutionalize, and safeguard
- c. National agricultural land use standard: Adopt food production as a right
- d. Governmental transparency principles (open meetings, easy access to information, etc.) as a Constitutional right: Adopt and applied to all government levels
- e. U.S. commons, accessible by all: Define
- f. None
- g. Personhood as relates to guaranteed individual rights applied to living, breathing organisms (not corporations, institutions, etc.): Define personhood
- h. National “grandparents” food council (elected, minimum age 50 years): Create
- i. National “grandmothers” council (elected, minimum age 50 years) with approval authority over military appropriations, deployment of U.S. troops outside of the U.S., and war declaration: Create
- j. Other (please specify)

**13. What other actions in 2012 would you promote (or have you promoted) to build public awareness about your and other people’s FOOD concerns? Check your top 5 choices.**

- a. Help funders and government officials understand why “community food and farm economies” is a high-impact funding area that can decrease or eliminate most other funding needs
- b. Social media campaign (e.g., Twitter, Carrotmob) on some nationally coordinated issue
- c. Participation in Food Day (Oct. 24: “a nationwide celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food” coordinated by Center for Science in the Public Interest)
- d. Media teach-ins (coordinated on a national level)
- e. National open meeting to identify or create a replacement for the Community Food Security Coalition as an umbrella organization (recently announced that it is closing its doors in 2012)
- f. Webinar or workshop on “Money and Banking Systems for Food System Practitioners”
- g. Webinar or workshop on “Law-making for Food System Practitioners: Public process, Public policy, and the Legislative Pipeline”
- h. National strike (e.g., general, by food systems frontline workers — mothers, farmers, food chain workers)
- i. March (e.g., on Washington, DC, to state capitals, in local streets)
- j. Webinar or workshop on “Participatory Budgeting for Food System Practitioners”
- k. Other (please specify)