



2022 County Council Candidate Questionnaire

The Food Council invited all County Council candidates to complete a 9-item questionnaire, which was developed in collaboration with our community partners. Our goal is to provide information on local candidate's food system priorities and commitments. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, we do not endorse candidates.

For more information, please contact Heather Bruskin, Executive Director at hbruskin@mocofoodcouncil.org.

Name: **Cary Lamari**

Campaign Website: www.carylamari.net

Candidate for: **District 5**

1. Please describe your personal and/or professional engagement in any local food systems initiatives, policies, and programs.

A: I am an Electrical Contractor who has contributed to Civic Activism for over 40 years. Through out this time, I have worked with the Civic Community and at large Civic Organizations and Parent PTA to address nutrition based foods and proper beverages in our Schools as well as protecting our Heritage of farming and our Nationally recognized Agricultural Preserve. Through out the years our population has recognized local farm products and natural grown products protected from pesticides and artificial growth hormones to best be in the public interest. We must protect our air quality, water resources and the land from erosion and pollutants from pesticides and high levels of nitrogen.

2. Please describe any plans you have for creating economic opportunities for individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx/Latino, and/or a person of color, particularly in food and agriculture?

A: I will work to protect our basic natural resources Land Air and Water quality, I will work for initiatives where government involvement creates undue disproportionate obstacles for people of color and I will promote small business set aside small business assistance for our residents of color to be able compete with more affluent white employers whom have enjoyed benefits from centuries of systemic racism which has created unfair advantages for these populations (Those who Identify as Blacks, Indigenous, Latinx/Latino or persons of color)

3. Please describe your position on addressing income insufficiency, which is a major contributor to food insecurity in our County. Please describe any positions or initiatives in your platform that focus on food security.

A: I would continue programs which help people in need access to free food, support initiatives which propel programs where government may work in concert with non-profits to provide a helping hand to our residents of color and those in need of our safety net.



4. What role should the County government have in improving resident access to federal benefit programs, such as SNAP and WIC.

A: Yes and I will look into the Countys community information system to help with expanding outreach among our hundreds of cultures, ethnicities and racial composition. We must not allow residence status or low income residents to prevent our residents and especially their children which are our neighbor families to have proper access to proper nutrition standards. Food is a human Right !

5. It is likely that the impacts of climate change, national and global politics, and future disasters will further disrupt food production, supply chains, and food security networks. Please describe any policies and programs that you will propose or support to address local food system resilience?

A: I will work with our Agricultural Community of which resides on over 30% of our County to enhance and increase production with support from County Government. I will also work to reduce loss of foods that have gone beyond expiration dates within a reasonable time working with our Grocery Stores and Non Profits to make these foods available to those in need where possible.

6. Please describe any initiatives or policies you would propose to increase local food production and access to affordable agricultural land.

A: I will primarily protect the Agricultural Preserve from sprawl and pollution and impacts from overdevelopment down stream. I would also work with the farm community to provide legislation and county programs to enhance this valuable industry. Our Agricultural Community is not only a valuable food contributor but also a major economic stimulus for our County and we owe a responsibility to not only keep this community viable but see it grow.

7. Please describe any initiatives or policies you will propose to reduce food waste and advance zero-waste strategies.

A: Yes my family for many years practice recycling, composting and minimizing waste. I think expanding these practices to Multi Family housing and encouraging more Single Family homes to participate in such programs will carry additional benefits not only in reducing waste streams but also creating valuable alternatives to free fertilizer for our family farms and residents. This may be accomplished by expanding our waste transfer depot collection to accommodate food waste and transfer them to a compost facility in our Up County so our family farms may have easy access to these free natural fertilizers.

8. Where do you see opportunities for the County government to support food education? How can the County support residents in making healthy and sustainable food choices easier?

**A: In todays health culture we are moving from treatment to prevention. It is imperative our County work with Hospitals, Insurance Companies and Non Profit Food organizations to fund and organize wellness forums to help our residents learn more and to hopefully identify health related problems before they become chronic. Wellness is becoming the foundation for a more healthy society and I support any measure which moves in this direction.
IMHO**

9. What do you see as the biggest food system challenges in the County and what do you believe is the role of the County Council in addressing them? How should community stakeholders be engaged in that work?



A: IMO large corporate farms which could have the impact of destroying the viability for the family farm. This could impede availability of seed, farm equipment availability due to cost, Farm Land availability and potential over taxing subsidies. I also as a second concern is the lack of local garden areas for our residents to be able to meet personal family needs which they lack available garden planting spots. We have a significant inventory of Parks Properties and one thing I will do is discuss potential opportunities with County Owned Lands which are not being used for other purposes. Communication, public participation and political will can improve our families health as well as our quality of life.

