

Candidate Hunger Action Challenge

Connie Chan



Running for:
San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 1

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What do you think are the root causes of hunger, and what do you see as the government's role in addressing them?

Income inequality, inequity in our healthcare system, and lack of access to affordable, fresh, healthy, and culturally competent groceries are three root causes of hunger. As Budget Chair, I led efforts to restore funding to food access for seniors, and last year I restored \$17 million in food security programming, to offset the ending of CalFresh benefits. I also want to make sure the state government continues to accept state Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBTs) at Farmers Markets for fresh and healthy groceries.

If elected, how would you ensure coordination between the multiple government departments that fund and administer food assistance programs?

As Budget Chair, I have insight into the various departments that fund and administer food assistance programs. At the Budget Committee my colleagues and I worked to restore some of the food security funding that was reduced in the Mayor's budget proposal. This is why I am running for re-election, because I want to make sure I am there to restore and protect this critical funding.

Studies have shown food can be medicine. If elected, how do you plan to use your position to improve food-related health disparities?

As Supervisor, I have supported programs that aim to bridge the divide between healthcare systems and the food community through the innovation of providing food as medicine through clinic-based food pharmacies.

The San Francisco-Marin Food Bank will be closing all Food Bank-run Pop-up Pantries by June 2025 due to cuts in government pandemic funding. This program currently serves 11,400 households, 75% of which are estimated to lose access to free weekly groceries when the funding ends. If elected, what would you do to ensure that all San Franciscans have access to nutritious foods?

As Supervisor, I have pushed to keep pop-up food pantries in my District open serving the public once the COVID-19 emergency ended. I have fought to provide space for these critical services and will continue to work to preserve access. These pantries, including San Francisco Marin Food Bank, serve the most vulnerable in our neighborhood.