## Candidate Hunger Action Challenge

# Stephen Martin-Pinto



Running for:
**San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 7**

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SF·MARIN
FOOD BANK

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

Poverty, lack of availability of food stores, and lack of awareness of food assistance programs contribute to hunger. Government can assist by linking needy families to the available charities that provide food assistance.

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

I think part of the problem is that if there are multiple city departments that fund and administer food assistance programs, then there are most likely redundancies, waste, and inefficiencies in the processes that fund and administer food programs. There should be one centralized coordination center to link needy families with food programs. As supervisor, I will push for this.

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

We need to promote education in healthy eating habits such as balanced nutrition, and make needy families aware of a balanced healthy diet. I think this would go a long way toward solving health disparities.

### 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?

I hope that the private sector can step in and supplement any gaps in funding required to maintain these food pop up pantries. As supervisor, I would make the private sector aware of this need so that they can hopefully contribute.