

Candidate Hunger Action Challenge

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Running for:
San Francisco

Board of Supervisors, District 7

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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?

The root causes of hunger are affordability and inequality. The rising costs of necessities have forced families to decide how to allocate their income, which often means sacrificing purchasing groceries regularly to pay for housing, medication, and other basic needs. For some, that may mean eating lesser quality food, while for others, it may be just eating less or skipping meals altogether. Many communities do not have access to grocery stores that sell healthy and nutritious foods, forcing people to turn to less healthy options, leading to short-term and long-term medical issues. We need an approach that requires federal, state, and local collaboration to end hunger and to provide help to our most vulnerable communities and families.

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

It is vital that the coordination between governmental departments is flawless so that nothing is stalled and people get the help and resources that they need in a timely manner. We cannot let resources be caught up in bureaucratic processes when people heavily rely on city services.

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 will work to ensure the programs funded by the city work efficiently for the community. We need to eliminate barriers for people living in areas with limited access to a variety of healthy foods. For some children, the only well-rounded meal they receive is when they attend school. When school is out during the summer, the risk of kids not eating is a reality that we must address and work together to solve immediately. For our seniors living on fixed incomes, we need to ensure that they have access to quality, affordable food. I will work with staff at City Hall and with my colleagues to ensure no one in our city faces hunger.

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?

It is crucial that we work together to ensure that people have access to services and that no individual or family is left without nutritious foods. As Supervisor, I will work every day to ensure that the city government is working for all of San Francisco, especially for our most vulnerable populations.

