

Vote to End Hunger Candidate Survey

Danny Sauter



Running For:
**San Francisco Supervisor,
District 3**

"We cannot make economic progress or recovery if we do not nourish and feed the most vulnerable among us. In fact, the expansion of our food access programs can create and/or restore good jobs involved in the services, from delivery drivers to operations staff to chefs and food manufacturers."



COVID-19 has caused a rapid and historic spike in food insecurity, especially among communities of color. If elected, what will you do to increase economic opportunity and food access for our hardest-hit communities?

I have seen this need first-hand in my work as the Executive Director for Neighborhood Centers Together, a nonprofit coalition of 7 community centers in San Francisco. Our centers have seen their food pantry programs explode in usage and demand.

To respond, I would bolster the budget for programs and organizations that provide food access in San Francisco. We cannot make economic progress or recovery if we do not nourish and feed the most vulnerable among us. In fact, the expansion of our food access programs can create and/or restore good jobs involved in the services, from delivery drivers to operations staff to chefs and food manufacturers.

District 3 has the highest concentration of senior residents and the highest number of housing units without a kitchen. We need programs that accommodate these situations, including grocery delivery and unique educational programs for nutrition and cooking in shared kitchen settings.

San Francisco ranks 46th of 58 counties in enrolling eligible people in the CalFresh program. If elected, what actions will you take to improve CalFresh program access and utilization?

Three years ago, I led the effort to start the North Beach Farmers Market and currently serve as its co-director. Through this, I have seen first-hand the power of fresh produce being made available to all within our communities.

I am hopeful that the recent AB1811 legislation will turn our past low enrollment numbers around. We must ensure those who are newly eligible for CalFresh are aware of this and are participating. To that end, I would utilize my office as a way to get the word out and make sure District 3 residents are enrolled successfully in CalFresh, and I would bridge partnerships between SFMFB and San Francisco Human Services to increase participation.

Food insecurity is a major contributor to poor health and higher healthcare costs. What steps or legislative actions would you take to ensure that food insecure people with diet-related diseases have access to nutritious food?

Lack of access to nutritious food is an issue across San Francisco, and in particular, within District 3, the communities of Lower Polk and the Tenderloin. I would seek to build relationships between parties involved in food access in our neighborhoods, including San Francisco's Office of Economic and Workforce Development and on-the-ground providers like the Arab American Grocers Association and the Tenderloin Merchants Association. Currently, only 53% of District 3 grocery stores accept CalFresh EBT, an unacceptable number. We should encourage and incentivize programs that supply fresh, nutritious food at multiple access points, from grocery stores to corner stores, shelters, and workplaces. This is particularly important given that District 3 does not have a single free dining room or shelter meals program.

In SF and Marin, 1 in 5 people experience food insecurity. What other steps or legislative actions

would you take to address poverty and hunger in your community?

I would focus my work in San Francisco on food access for SRO residents, who experience incredible food insecurity and low levels of access to kitchen space. I would work to fund an RFP to improve food security among SRO residents, encouraging ideas such as food vouchers, capital improvements to upgrade kitchen facilities, expansion of home-delivered meals, and nutrition classes.

This work must also happen at a state level, especially in a climate where federal dollars are at risk of being played as political pawns. To that end, I support numerous efforts at the moment to increase food budgets for low-income Californians, including SB822, AB1022, AB1592, and SB3072.