

## Vote to End Hunger Candidate Survey

# Brian Adam



Running For:  
**Supervisor District 10**

*"The government can supplement basic income, supporting the growth of more grocery stores in underserved communities, and expanding access to existing food security programs."*

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

Poverty and inequality.

Lack of adequate pay coupled with growing cost of living issues due to rising rent/mortgage costs. High quality food products are largely out of reach, so food insecure families may depend on local discount or bulk goods grocery stores.

The government can supplement families' and individuals' abilities to buy food with a basic income, supporting the growth of more grocery stores in underserved communities, and expanding access to existing food security programs.

The Food Bank believes that access to nourishing food will ensure our communities thrive. If elected, what policies will you pursue to improve food access, especially within communities of

1. Extend tax breaks to worker-owned / cooperative groceries in San Francisco.
2. Collaborate with state and federal legislators to provide tax benefits to companies that work with worker-owned, local businesses.
3. Extend grants to start and maintain groceries/farmers' markets in underserved neighborhoods; establish a special equity-based benefit district that could potentially shield these businesses from permit or leasing costs if they are worker-owned and locally operated.

SF and Marin remain in the bottom third of counties in enrolling eligible people in the CalFresh program. If elected, what actions will you take to improve CalFresh program access and utilization?

1. Outreach with the community, especially those that currently accept groceries and food from churches and community organizations in San Francisco, to push them to apply
2. Dedicate San Francisco tax dollars to supplement CalFresh to reach more residents, especially where their relatively high income in San Francisco may disqualify them from receiving an EBT card; people who make San Francisco minimum wage who struggle with high cost burden may still benefit, but may not qualify if they are not a certain age, living with a disability, or have a large household.



**SF·MARIN**  
FOOD BANK

**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?**

1. Deploy a food/grocery basic income program for all San Francisco residents that includes a per head adjustment for families. Deploying a \$400 a month program to all City residents would cost a whopping 4 billion dollars (a quarter of the City and County's budget); despite its powerful value, to reduce cost, we could potentially deploy a means-tested program to reach 100-200k residents in San Francisco. Otherwise, we would depend on state and federal grants to supplement the cost of this program.
2. Provides tax incentives and grants to encourage the growth of locally operated and worker-owned grocery cooperatives that, 1. provide more access to food and groceries in underserved neighborhoods; 2. potentially provide significant income and to residents.
3. Alternative policies that could address food insecurity include working with state and federal legislators to further subsidize agriculture while establishing price controls; consumers would be guaranteed cheaper food at the expense of California's agricultural exports. With more control, we could also decide what gets grown based on its potential to feed more individuals rather than the profit of a potential crop, e.g. more wheat and oats versus almonds or avocados where sensible. Changes like this would also minimize water usage and ensure additional farmland is utilized year-round rather than being left fallow due to decreasing water availability.