

Vote to End Hunger Candidate Survey

Cherelle Jackson



Running For:
Supervisor District 6

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

The root causes of hunger are from the disinvestment, racial, and systemic oppressive behaviors of institutions. I also want to emphasize the impact that the pandemic has caused, and the lack investment in black and brown communities to ensure individuals have access to training for good paying jobs to work, that provide a sustainable wage in the city. It's also important to mention the mental health, and substance abuse here in San Francisco has devastated parts of District 6, as well as having sustainable living options, and affordable options. Some people fall on hard times, but it doesn't mean that policy shouldn't represent their needs. The systems in place lack the agile adjustments needed to ensure that resources are accessible. Disenfranchisement, and disadvantage individuals end up in low paying roles which subject them to impoverished living states. Others living on fixed incomes are subjected to low wages to live off of which causes low access to food, medicine, and barely able to afford their needs. Government has to update policy to address these issues. Integrated in our policy, and private sector programs should be options to provide workforce training programs. We also need investment specific software programs that are accessible to it's work to help redirect, assist case management teams, and provided good pay. Good pay is equivalent to the pay of a police officer in San Francisco (6 figures.) \$127,000.00. I will be supporting efforts to ensure funding is available to those serving the most vulnerable. Including funding resources to support hazard pay, and burnout, and mental health breaks for employees. Provide true affordable housing initiatives. Including support initiatives that ban the use of credit reports to determine entry to housing which is a common barrier to access to housing as well as supplemental support for rental options so that individuals who cannot afford it through personal income can be supported through supplemental payment options. I am also in support of rental caps effective until Fiscal Year 2027.

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 color and those with the highest rates of food insecurity?

We will need more funding for mental health, and substance abuse as well as funding for self-harm reduction clinical programs. As far as providing nourishing food and re-centering policy around marginalized, and underrepresented communities. I want to develop policy that really helps aid, and recognizes the true barriers that are commonly faced by those in need. We need to address the little money that some live on to survive for fixed incomes. We should support families access to food by providing the necessary funding, but we should invest in their career development or business depending on what they want to do for their future. Often individuals know what they want to do they just face barriers. So if we remove barriers so that they have access then they can self advocate on their behalf. I would like to see a community farm with fresh fruits and vegetables placed in unused spaces. I also want to make sure that public & private sectors have enough funding to continue to operate efficiently without straining their workers, and resources. I will be developing policy around sustainable grants for non-profits for operational needs, and frontline essential workers. I will also ensure that there is investment in specific food grants, benefit programs such as Healthy Eats SF. I will also provide policy for obtaining healthy food options, and self care/clothing funding grants for recipients of services. The self care grants are to ensure that individuals who are in these conditions have access to clean showers, clothing. A person should be treated with care and decency. Often the first thing to go is self care. So I would like to see funding for care packages to include basic needs such as soaps/body wash, toothpaste, perfumes, vouchers for cosmetic needs such as hair maintenance ect. Often, when an individual looks good, they feel good. Their confidence is up. I will also be developing policy around funding for programs that assist in workforce, skilled building programs. This will also help with individuals who need access to good paying roles in the city. Often individuals are overlooked simply because they don't have a clean neat appearance. In efforts to change that dynamic we invest in these sorts of efforts.

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?

CalFresh is a Federal Program. I am running for local office. The one thing that should be done is adjust the financial support due to cost of living of San Francisco, and inflation rates. Policy has to start moving as fast as the economy is moving. The rates should be adjusted to reflect that. Ensure that once an individual applies to a benefit program that the software automatically asks if they want to enroll in additional programs as well. Also recognize that elderly, and those with mental health conditions are on an auto-enrollment system if their incomes meet that eligibility threshold. Lastly, for families trying to obtain that program can be difficult because their trying to work but may need assistance still while they work. Often times individuals who work sometimes go over the eligibility income limit while trying to get back on their feet. I think what should happen is they should remain eligible until their income is 75% higher over a course of 6 months before cutting the benefit completely off in efforts to ensure the individual is finally financially stable.

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 like to see more funding go towards community ambassadors, field case managers that help pass out food packages. For example, funding for small mini cars that individuals can drive around the city similar to those used by the city who pass out the tickets. Instead of passing out tickets all day we use them for good by contributing back to the community by passing out meals. This also helps with those who want to work in these positions but, can't get out, and walk far distances.

Investment in education resources teachers, staff, and administration. Investment in School Curriculum resources as well as extracurricular activities. Also infrastructure investment. Ensuring there is funding in school for proper healthy meals, and maintaining access to meals in the summer. Investment in health equity for diverse, and disadvantage communities. Investment in workforce promotional career advancement, and training initiatives. Investment in Small business funding, and Investment in funding to help individuals develop small businesses.

The following should have funding in the private & public sector. In efforts to meet people where they are these programs must be funded and supported to ensure that individuals who receive benefits also have access to training, and skills for rapidly changing workforce. Thus, it will be important to work with accredited schools to fund, and train individuals. These should be short workshops where individuals can obtain a skill or certification in efforts to build their resume to obtain future career opportunities.

Workforce Development Programs Policy & Grant Funding

Provide workforce training programs funding for Education & Administration

Provide workforce training programs for community safety ambassadors.

Provide funding for workforce development in sports administration training.

Provide funding for Tech & Computer Programming Workforce Development Programs integrated into private sector non-profits. Provide funding for Entertainment Filming, Social Media Content, Videographers, & Podcaster Workforce Development Programs

Provide funding for Finance & Literacy Workforce Development Programs

Provide funding Cosmetic Workforce Development Programs

Provide funding Health Care Professions Workforce Development

Investment in community safety ambassadors

Funding true affordable initiatives.

Then lastly using these training certifications and requiring within district industries acknowledge certifications, and trainings to ensure that individuals who complete the programs are placed in the industry they choose. So in order to do that work with business industry leaders by providing business tax incentives to those who hire on individuals who are completing these programs.

UBI SF PROGRAM (Universal Basic Income Program)