

Candidate Hunger Action Challenge

Danny Sauter



Running for:
San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 3

"I will champion legislation and programs to make our food assistance programs more accessible to all with modern-day technology, in-language support, and expansion of enrollment and benefits."



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

Hunger comes from poverty and a lack of access to affordable, healthy food. I have seen this need first-hand in my work as the Executive Director for Neighborhood Centers Together, a nonprofit coalition of 8 community centers in San Francisco. Our centers offer a mix of food banks, hot meals, or home delivered groceries. Food nourishes communities and it is the government's role to ensure that no individual in our city is hungry. We can do more by breaking down resource barriers and ensuring healthy food is available and accessible to all.

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

I understand the important of food assistance programs because I've worked directly in these systems. 7 years ago, I led the effort to start the North Beach Farmers Market. For the past 7 years, I have served as the Manager of the market and have administered our EBT system. This has allowed us to serve thousands of residents with access to fresh, healthy produce at our weekly market. I will champion legislation and programs to make our food assistance programs more accessible to all with modern-day technology, in-language support, and expansion of enrollment and benefits.

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

It is important that we work with local providers to provide food that fits the tastes and health needs of each unique San Francisco neighborhood and community. For example, 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.

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?

With Pop-Up pantries closing, we need to move resources to nearby alternatives so that participants can experience as little disruption as possible in accessing food. This includes, but is not limited to: SF-Marin Food bank partners like community centers, expanding utilization at markets and corner stores, home-delivered groceries, and expanding Market Match programs at Farmers Markets.