

CANDIDATE HUNGER ACTION CHALLENGE 2026



**Dion-Jay (DJ)
Brooker**

Running for:
**San Francisco
Board of Supervisors,
District 10**



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

Hunger is not simply a lack of food; it is a symptom of economic insecurity. Families can be working, housed, and still struggle to put enough food on the table because the cost of housing, child care, transportation, health care, utilities, and other basic necessities leaves too little income for groceries. Low wages, high housing costs, inadequate income supports, barriers to public benefits, and unequal access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food all contribute to food insecurity.

I believe food is a human right, and government has a responsibility to ensure that every resident can access healthy, nutritious food with dignity and choice while addressing the economic conditions that cause hunger. That means protecting and strengthening the social safety net, expanding access to CalFresh and other nutrition programs, reducing administrative barriers, and investing in affordable housing, family-sustaining jobs, child care, health care, and other supports that give families greater economic stability.

As Supervisor, I would support sustained public investment in community-based food organizations and neighborhood food access, particularly in communities that have historically experienced underinvestment. I would work to make benefits easier to access through culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach, enrollment assistance, and partnerships with trusted community organizations. I would also support investments that expand access to healthy food in neighborhoods with limited options and build on community-led models that provide residents with choice and culturally relevant food.

Finally, people who have experienced hunger should have a meaningful voice in shaping the policies intended to address it. Government should work alongside community organizations and residents with lived experience to identify gaps, direct resources, and measure whether programs are actually working.

Ending hunger means meeting people's needs today while changing the economic conditions that cause hunger tomorrow.

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

San Francisco needs a coordinated, citywide food-security strategy rather than a collection of programs operating in silos. Residents should not have to navigate a maze of disconnected departments and programs to get the food and support they need.

As Supervisor, I would support a permanent citywide structure responsible for coordinating food-security efforts across departments, including the Human Services Agency, Department of Public Health, Department of Disability and Aging Services, DCYF, SFUSD, and other relevant agencies, while strengthening coordination with community-based organizations. I would also support a community advisory structure that gives residents with lived experience and community organizations a meaningful role in setting priorities, evaluating programs, and holding government accountable.

I would push for a long-term citywide food-security strategy with shared goals, clear responsibilities, coordinated funding, and measurable outcomes. The City should regularly assess where food insecurity is concentrated, where services

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are insufficient, where waitlists exist, and where nonprofit providers lack the staffing or infrastructure needed to meet demand. We should use that information to align resources rather than forcing community organizations to compete against one another for fragmented funding.

Coordination also means making it easier for residents to move between programs. CalFresh enrollment, food distribution, health services, housing assistance, and other supports should connect people to one another rather than requiring residents to repeatedly tell their story and navigate separate systems. The City should strengthen referral systems, data-sharing where appropriate and privacy-protective, outreach, and communication between departments and community providers.

I would also support stronger public reporting so we can measure enrollment, unmet need, service capacity, and outcomes over time.

The goal should be simple: residents should experience one coordinated food-security system, not a maze of disconnected programs.

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

Food is a fundamental part of public health. No one should have to choose between paying their rent and buying healthy food, and a person's health should not depend on their income or ZIP code.

As Supervisor, I would strengthen partnerships between the Department of Public Health, community health centers, health providers, health plans, community-based organizations, and food providers so that nutritious, culturally appropriate food is treated as part of the continuum of health care rather than something separate from it.

I would support expanding medically supportive food programs, including medically tailored meals and groceries, produce prescriptions, Food Pharmacies, and other "food as medicine" interventions for people whose health is affected by food insecurity. These approaches can be particularly valuable for residents managing conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. San Francisco already has a Food Pharmacy at Southeast Health Center in the Bayview that connects food assistance with health care and nutrition education, providing a strong local model to build upon.

I would also invest in neighborhood-based food access, particularly in communities with high rates of food insecurity and diet-related health conditions. In District 10, that means building on community-led efforts such as the District 10 Community Market and ensuring residents have access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food close to where they live.

Government should use public-health data to identify where food insecurity and nutrition-related health disparities overlap and direct resources accordingly, while protecting residents' privacy and avoiding stigma. We should also strengthen connections between food assistance, CalFresh, health care, housing stability, and other economic supports.

Food should not simply be available. It should be accessible, nutritious, culturally appropriate, and connected to the conditions people need to live healthy lives.

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If elected, how would you support the implementation and success of the Community Market model? Would you support county funding?

I strongly support the Community Market model because it treats access to food as a matter of dignity, choice, and community power—not charity. Participants should be able to choose the foods that work for their families, including fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant foods, while also being connected to services that address the underlying causes of food insecurity.

If elected, I would support the expansion and long-term sustainability of Community Markets through stable public funding, stronger partnerships with community-based organizations, and coordination across City departments. I would work with the Food Bank and community partners to identify neighborhoods with the greatest need, secure appropriate facilities, address permitting and other administrative barriers, and connect Community Markets to existing health, housing, employment, and public-benefit programs. I would also support the use of peer navigators and other approaches that center the lived experience of participants.

I would support county funding for the Community Market model. Food insecurity is a countywide public-health and economic-security issue, and the City and County should be investing in infrastructure that can provide consistent, dignified access to healthy food while connecting residents to services that can improve long-term stability. County funding should provide multi-year, predictable support for operations, staffing, facilities, food procurement, and the community-based organizations that help make these markets successful.

I would also want the City to evaluate the model based not simply on how much food is distributed, but on whether markets are reaching residents who need them, providing meaningful choice and culturally appropriate food, connecting people to benefits and services, and improving food security over time.

Community Markets should become a permanent part of San Francisco's food-security infrastructure. Government should help provide the stable public investment needed to make that possible while preserving the community-led, dignified model that makes them different from traditional food distribution.