

CANDIDATE HUNGER ACTION CHALLENGE 2026



**Eric
Lucan**

Running for:
**State Assembly
District 12**
(Marin and Sonoma Counties)



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

The root causes of hunger are poverty and systemic inequities, and I believe that government has the primary role and responsibility to address those causes. These inequities continue to perpetuate, and while the Bay Area—and Marin in particular—has significant affluence, it also experiences significant racial disparities across a variety of factors, including food insecurity.

Having served as a councilmember, mayor, and now county supervisor over the past 15 years, I am well aware of the needs in our community. As a father of three young children, I also see the issue from a deeper, more personal perspective. Having volunteered at various food distribution events over the past several years, I am always struck by the number of vehicles that come through with infant and toddler car seats in the back seats.

We must do better for our children, families, and our entire community when it comes to hunger.

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

Simply put, we need better coordination. I am grateful for the experience and knowledge I have gained while serving as a Marin County Supervisor, because a core function of counties is to administer state programs, including CalFresh. That background and experience will be critical to bring to Sacramento, especially when it comes to boosting CalFresh outreach and enrollment across the state. Based on different estimates, 20–30% of Californians who are eligible for CalFresh are not enrolled. Better coordination between the state and counties for enrollment could close this gap.

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

As a current elected official, I have used and will continue to use my position and platform to raise awareness of and address health disparities related to food insecurity. Given the area I am running to represent in the State Assembly, I know firsthand the importance of raising awareness about the reality of food insecurity in our communities and educating others about the significant disparities that exist.

In Marin, we have neighborhoods that are just a few miles from each other but have a life expectancy gap of up to 15 years between the wealthiest communities and the lowest-income communities.

Food banks statewide are stretched thin after managing a sustained need for food assistance since the onset of the pandemic. If elected to the State Legislature, what would you do to ensure that food banks have enough resources to feed those in need?

Among many competing interests, it ultimately comes down to prioritization, and food assistance is one of the most basic human needs we can provide. As I have done throughout my career in public service, I am committed to working together to feed those in need. Last year, when thousands of Marin residents were at risk of losing their SNAP benefits, we approved \$800,000 in emergency funding to help local food banks get the supplies they needed to support families in crisis. I have prioritized food assistance at the local level, and I will prioritize it in Sacramento.