

CANDIDATE HUNGER ACTION CHALLENGE 2026



**J.R.
Eppler**

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 an individual failure or simply a shortage of food. It is what happens when wages do not cover rent, child-care, medical bills, transportation, and groceries. In District 10, that financial squeeze is compounded by a history of unequal investment. Redlining and decades of public and private disinvestment in Bayview Hunters Point helped leave residents with fewer places to buy fresh food. In Bayview and Visitacion Valley, limited grocery options and unreliable transit still make food harder to reach.

Those conditions were shaped by policy, and government has a responsibility to change them. The City must be a reliable partner to food banks and neighborhood providers, protect access to CalFresh and school meals, and support food assistance that offers people dignity and choice. It must also address the reasons families need that help: housing costs, wages, transit, and the lack of food retail in underserved neighborhoods.

As supervisor, I would fight for housing working families can afford, stronger food access along Third Street, and transit that connects residents to the stores and services they need. I would measure progress by whether fewer neighbors have to choose between paying rent and putting dinner on the table.

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

Families should not have to navigate five separate systems to get help with food. As supervisor, I would call a joint budget and oversight hearing with the Human Services Agency, Public Health, Disability and Aging Services, DCYF, and the school district. I would ask them to show, in one place, where food funding goes, who is being reached, where waitlists and service gaps remain, and who is responsible for closing them.

The Food Security Task Force has ended, but its final recommendations give us a path forward. I support creating an Office of Food with a community advisory board, with a clear mandate to coordinate agencies and providers and report publicly on results. Until that structure is in place, the City needs a forum where food providers and residents can help shape decisions.

In District 10, I would bring pantries, Community Markets, clinics, schools, and neighborhood groups together to identify gaps in hours, location, language access, and referrals. I would also push agencies to help people already enrolled in one benefit apply for other benefits they may qualify for, and to follow up so a referral actually results in help.

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

A clinician can recommend a healthier diet, but that advice is difficult to follow when a patient cannot afford the food or reach a store that sells it. I would work with the Department of Public Health, clinics, Medi-Cal health plans, and community providers to make food insecurity screening a routine part of care, followed by a direct referral that staff can help a patient use.

I would support expanding programs such as EatSF/Vouchers 4 Veggies and medically tailored meals and groceries for

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people who qualify. I would press local providers and health plans to use available Medi-Cal Community Supports and identify where eligible residents are missing out. I would also track whether people receive food assistance after a referral, while protecting their privacy.

Food can be part of treatment. It also has to be within reach. That is why I would pair these health programs with better neighborhood food access and more reliable transit in Bayview and Visitacion Valley.

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

Yes. I would support San Francisco funding for Community Markets, including dependable operating support as the model grows. A grant can help open a market; keeping its doors open on useful days and hours takes sustained funding.

The model gives neighbors something important: the ability to choose fresh foods their families will actually eat, in a welcoming place that can also connect them to benefits and other services. In Bayview, the Food Bank's partnership with the Rafiki Coalition offers a local example to learn from. I would work with the Food Bank and neighborhood partners to assess where another market or expanded hours would fill a real gap, with attention to transit, accessibility, languages, and the schedules of working families.

I would ask the City and the Food Bank to measure whether markets are reaching the households they intend to serve, whether participants can get the foods they need, and whether referrals lead to services. Those results should guide future funding and expansion.