

CANDIDATE HUNGER ACTION CHALLENGE 2026



**Pearci "PJ"
Bastiany**

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 a failure of individuals to budget or work hard enough. In San Francisco, high rents, low or unstable wages, childcare and health-care costs, and an inadequate safety net leave families choosing which basic need to pay for. Racism and other systemic barriers make that choice even harder for many households. The San Francisco–Marin Food Bank reports that many people experiencing food insecurity are working; a paycheck alone does not guarantee enough food in a high-cost city.

Government's role is to make sure everyone can eat and to reduce the pressures that cause hunger. As Supervisor, I would protect funding for neighborhood food pantries and meal programs, make CalFresh enrollment easier, support affordable housing and tenant protections, and connect residents to benefits through trusted community organizations. I would also work with the Food Security Task Force and people experiencing hunger to identify gaps and hold the City accountable for closing them. Food banks are indispensable partners, but charitable donations should not have to substitute for effective public policy.

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

During the pandemic, I worked with the Village Project and went with Miss Adrian Williams to the Food Bank twice a day to pick up produce and groceries, then helped pack bags for neighbors. I also volunteered with my fraternity brothers during my undergraduate years. That experience taught me that food assistance depends on people and organizations working together—and that government should make their work easier, not force them to navigate disconnected programs.

If elected, I would support the proposed Office of Food Security Coordination within the Human Services Agency and use the City's Food Security Council to bring departments, the San Francisco–Marin Food Bank, neighborhood providers, and residents experiencing hunger into one planning process. I would push for shared service maps, coordinated outreach and referrals, simpler funding applications, and regular public reporting on where food access falls short.

For District 10, I would work with the Food Bank and residents to assess the need and feasibility of an additional large-scale food distribution location, connected to farmers markets and community gardens. The goal is dependable access to fresh, culturally relevant food close to home—not another program residents have to struggle to find.

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

I believe nutritious food should be part of preventive health care, not a luxury available only to families who can afford it. I value plant-based foods and natural approaches to wellness, alongside conventional medical care. Nutrition programs should respect cultural traditions and personal choices while relying on sound evidence; no diet or supplement should be presented as a substitute for needed treatment. Research on "food is medicine" programs is promising, though health outcomes vary and programs should be evaluated carefully.

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As Supervisor, I would bring the Department of Public Health, clinics, the San Francisco–Marin Food Bank, and neighborhood organizations together to expand access to fresh produce, nutrition education, and medically tailored meals for residents who need them. I would prioritize affordable, culturally relevant food near senior housing, schools, and health clinics in District 10, and make referrals simple for patients who screen positive for food insecurity. San Francisco has already used food-pharmacy and produce-access approaches; I would build on that work and track whether it reaches residents facing the greatest barriers.

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

Yes, I would support City and County funding for Community Markets, with dependable operating support for the Food Bank and its community partners—not just one-time startup grants. Letting people choose fresh produce, proteins, and culturally relevant groceries on days that fit their schedules is a more dignified and useful model than assuming every household needs the same prepacked bag.

District 10 already has a Community Market listed in Bayview. I would visit it, listen to participants and staff, and work with the Food Bank to identify what would make it more effective—whether that is more hours, reliable food supply, accessible transportation, multilingual outreach, or connections to CalFresh and other services. I would also assess where additional access is needed in Sunnydale, Visitacion Valley, and other underserved areas.

I would seek multi-year funding with clear, participant-informed measures of success: whether families can get the foods they need, reach the market when it is open, and receive respectful service. Community Markets should strengthen existing neighborhood partners, not replace them.