



# Solano County

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## Legislation Text

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Receive a presentation from the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to kick off the Counties Care 2014 "Peace, Love and Veggies Holiday Food Fight" and an update on the friendly challenge issued to Contra Costa County

Published Notice Required? Yes  No   
Public Hearing Required? Yes  No

### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors receive a presentation from the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to kick off the Counties Care 2014 "Peace, Love and Veggies Holiday Food Fight" and an update on the friendly challenge issued to Contra Costa County on November 4, 2014.

### **SUMMARY:**

Larry Sly, Executive Director for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, will give an informative presentation on the food distribution process in Solano County and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano's role in this process. Mr. Sly will also provide an update on the 2014 "Peace, Love and Veggies Holiday Food Fight" challenge and resolution that he delivered to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors on November 4, 2014 on behalf of Solano County.

The challenge has become an annual event to raise funds for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and allows employees at both counties an opportunity to help those in need in their respective county through financial donations. Food insecurity and hunger are a continuing and growing concern in Solano County and throughout California. This will be the eleventh year of the annual event.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no cost associated with this presentation and food fight friendly challenge kick off. Staff time of departmental food fund drive coordinators will be borne by the individual County departments involved in the drive. Solano County employees have contributed over \$227,000 over the last ten years, and together, both counties have contributed over \$870,000 to the Food Bank. In addition, non-employee "Friends of the Food Bank" in Solano County has resulted in an additional cumulative total of over \$26,000 in online donations during the annual county-to-county drive, and almost \$264,000 in Contra Costa County. This represents a ten-year combined employee and non-employee total of over \$1.16 million raised during this annual food drive.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano distributes approximately 7 million pounds of food annually throughout Solano County. Approximately 63,000 hungry people, including children and seniors, in Solano County are served by the Food Bank each month. Both perishable and non-perishable food is also provided to countless nonprofit agencies throughout the County such as food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, senior and child care centers, and group homes.

The Food Bank's mission is "leading the fight to end hunger, in partnership with our community and in service

of our neighbors in need” and through continued community support, the Food Bank is able to accomplish this. More than half of the Food Bank’s income is received from individual donors. Corporate donors, religious groups, service clubs and foundations provide almost a third of Food Bank’s support. The Food Bank also receives support from the State of California and the federal government. The Food Bank is fortunate to receive significant funding from diverse sources so that they do not depend on one major funding source. As long as the Food Bank can depend on the community to provide funding for its operations, individuals to give volunteer time, and people to donate food and funds via their drives, the organization will be able to continue helping hungry people in the Counties of Solano and Contra Costa.

Solano and Contra Costa counties, working with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, have been participating in the annual food fight friendly challenge since 2004 when the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors extended the first challenge to Solano County. The challenge has become an annual event to raise funds for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and allows employees in both counties, as well as area residents known as ‘friends’ of the respective county, an opportunity to help those in need through financial donations. To date, Solano County and Contra Costa County have each held the coveted “Big Apple” trophy five times in the ten year history of the food fight challenge. Last year Solano County narrowly won the challenge with \$10.54 contributed per employee and retained the holder of the “Big Apple” trophy. Contra Costa County collected \$10.31 per employee.

On November 4, 2014, Larry Sly, Executive Director for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, presented the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors with the Solano County resolution, approved by the Board on October 28, 2014, challenging them to the 2014 “Peace, Love and Veggies Holiday Food Fight.” The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors has accepted Solano County’s challenge, making this the eleventh consecutive year for the drive.

This year’s employee-to-employee food fund challenge will run from November 24 through December 31, 2014. Solano County and Contra Costa County employees will strive, through their donations, to make their County the largest-grossing producer for the Food Bank. The County with the largest donated amount per employee will then become the holder of the “Big Apple” trophy.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Board could choose not to receive the presentation and update on Contra Costa County’s response to Solano County’s challenge; however, this is not recommended as the Board has supported the “Counties Care Holiday Food Fight” for the past ten years and has extended the friendly fund drive challenge to Contra Costa County, allowing them an opportunity to regain the “Big Apple” trophy. But more importantly, while providing for some fun and friendly competition, the “Counties Care Holiday Food Fight” provides financial donations for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to purchase food for the needy and hungry in the Counties of Contra Costa and Solano.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano will be coordinating the competition efforts with Contra Costa and Solano Counties to conduct this food drive and friendly competition.