



Objective

Help Heal our Nation's Political Divide by Building an Urban-Rural Alliance.

2026 Vote for Your Food Campaign

America is deeply polarized, with urban-rural divides exacerbating economic and social tensions. The finance, technology, and entertainment sectors dominate coastal cities, while agriculture and resource-based industries remain central to rural regions. Economic decline in former industrial hubs has further widened disparities, fueling political division and media-driven conflict.

California mirrors this national trend: urban coastal areas lean liberal, while rural regions skew conservative. Even within counties, cities vote blue, and rural areas red. Wealth and corporate influence exploit these divides, harming both urban and rural communities.

Roots of Change believes a thriving, resilient food system can bridge these divides. Urban and rural communities are interdependent—farmers, ranchers, and fishers need markets and resources, while urban populations rely on them for healthy, affordable food. By recognizing this mutual reliance, we can create policies that benefit all, transcending partisanship.

By working together, we can bridge divides, strengthen communities, and shape a healthier, more united future.

Let's make it happen—together.

This initiative will unfold in three phases:

1) Listen & Learn

We will host statewide dialogues over shared meals to identify common values and policy priorities.

2) Build & Act

We will develop and advocate for policies that enhance economic opportunity, ecological resilience, and food system sustainability, while also leveraging organizational and legal models to advance this platform. A new Food System Fellows Program will cultivate leaders to drive change.

3) Expand & Share

We will collaborate with universities, media, national partners, CBOs and impacted communities to scale lessons and strategies nationwide.