

Co-op Market Grocery & Deli 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Candidate Profiles & Official Ballot

Co-op Market Grocery & Deli is a member-owned corporation. By electing members of the Board of Directors, you are participating in the democratic operation and oversight of your cooperative.

The Board of Directors we choose acts on behalf of all Owners. The board oversees our co-op's financial condition, connects to our Owners, shapes our co-op's vision and works closely with our General Manager to set long-term strategies. Directors must be current Owners in good standing.

There are three parts to the 2019 election.

1. Election of a board member.
2. Confirmation of two appointed board members to serve the remainder of their terms.
3. Approval of an amendment to the bylaws.

In January 2019 the Board of Directors appointed two Co-op Market Owners to serve the balance of the terms of two vacant positions. The two

appointees drew lots to determine their assigned board seats.

- **Art Gelvin** was appointed to Seat B, which expires in 2019. (Because the term is expiring, this seat is up for election now.)
- **Brian Kassof** was appointed to Seat D, which expires in 2021.

A resignation mid-year vacated Seat I, which expires in 2020. To this seat the board appointed **Anduin McElroy**, who had been elected in 2018 for seat A, which expires in 2019.

Applications for appointment to the board may be submitted year-round and vacancies between elections are filled according to the appointment process. Board appointments are subject to vote of confirmation by Owners at the next annual meeting if an annual meeting occurs before the end of the unexpired term (*Bylaws, 2017, Article 6c*).

See inside for candidate bios and an explanation of the proposed amendment to the Bylaws.

CURRENT BOARD SEAT ASSIGNMENTS

LETTER	NAME	YEAR ELECTED	TERM EXPIRES	VOTE TO CONFIRM	ELECTION	NEXT TERM EXPIRES
A	Vacant		2019		2019	2022
B	Art Gelvin	Appointed 1/19	2019		2019	2022
C	Vacant		2019		2019	2022
D	Brian Kassof	Appointed 1/19	2021	2019		2021
E	Madeline Patterson-O'Dell	2018	2021			2021
F	Hillary Shook	2018	2021			2021
G	Chase Nelson	2017	2020			2020
H	Richard Seifert	2017	2020			2020
I	Anduin McElroy	Appointed 7/19	2020	2019		2020

ART GELVIN



I've been a resident of Fairbanks for nearly 34 years, and I've been a supporter/ Owner of the co-op from the beginning. The co-op is a great place where there is a commitment to the members and of sourcing locally produced products. There is a special feel and smell to the store that is synonymous to all co-op food stores. It's good to be able to spend my money at the local level, in a much more relaxed environment, where I can obtain high quality products for the majority of my food needs.

The co-op can play a vital role with educating the community about the importance of eating well, buying more sustainably produced foods from local and outside sources. As a board member, I'd like to contribute to the efforts of working with and educating the community, and help the board for future growth and development. I recently served on the board for the Fairbank Folk

Fest, and I'm currently a volunteer with Green Star of Interior of Alaska.

I am employed with the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, working on a wide variety of projects throughout Alaska and all places that have snow. I have a B.S. Mechanical Engineering degree from UAF, and I'm working on a Master's Degree in Remote Sensing. I've "done my time" while working at Fred Meyers in the Produce and Bakery departments, where the high pressure sales environment taught me that grocery is a tough business.

I enjoy cooking and sharing what I've learned; it's a great way to get friends together. You can always find me browsing the cookbooks in a bookstore or perusing the shelves in small out-of-the-way food stores.

BRIAN KASSOF



The reason why I love the co-op is simple – it makes Fairbanks a better place to live in many ways. It provides access to healthy, sustainable, ethically sourced food and related items, and, in doing so, strengthens the community in numerous ways. For example, the co-op's support of local farmers helps to increase food security in the Interior, builds and diversifies the local economy, and gives children opportunities to learn where food actually comes from. It is also a place where members can be introduced to new items and new ways of thinking about food and consumption.

My desire to join the board stems directly from the co-op's role in the community. Fairbanks has been my home for almost 10 years, and my wife and I own a home and are raising our two children here. The health and vibrancy of the community matter greatly to me, and so I want to help important

institutions like the co-op continue to grow and thrive.

My skills and experience would allow me to contribute to the board's work. I have experience working in self-governance as a board member at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks and as a participant in organs of academic self-governance at the University of Alaska. In these settings I have demonstrated my ability to work collegially and productively while making the decisions and plans necessary to help these institutions function and develop. My academic training (in history) helped me to develop strong analytical and communication skills, along with an eye for detail.



I have served on the Co-op Market board of directors for six years, five of those as chairperson. I'm proud of the work that we have done as a board to build systems for accountable empowerment and develop internal processes.

My future contribution to the board will be to offer continuity as we build up the next generation of leaders. I want to help our board mature as a team; to this end, I'll continue the work of refining our policies and I will work with the board development committee on training, recruitment, and elections. I want to encourage more people to be committed to and engaged with their co-op with the passion of the Owners that they are.

I have done graduate work in earth systems science and policy and earned a B.S. in political science. I have been a planner and a writer, but I am thankful that my current occupation is a homeschool teacher to my two children.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

In September the Board of Directors approved an amendment to the Bylaws to reduce the number of board members from nine (9) to seven (7), and correspondingly reduce the quorum (the number of board members required to conduct business) from five (5) to four (4). The intent of this change is to enhance board cohesion and continuity, increase the efficiency of board business and enhance retention of directors.

Amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by a majority of the members who participate in the vote (Bylaws, 2017, Article 5).

If the Bylaws amendment passes with a majority of the votes, it will take immediate effect. The two vacant seats (A and C) will be removed from the board register. The candidate who received the most votes will be the winner of the remaining available seat (B).

The proposed amendment reads as follows:

Article 6: Board of Directors and Officers

a. Powers and Duties. Co-op Market shall be governed by a Board of Directors of nine seven members, elected from among members of Co-op Market. Except for matters for which member voting is required, the Board shall have full power to govern Co-op Market, including, but not limited to, hiring management and evaluating its performance, establishing compensation, if any, for the Board, and assuring that the mission of Co-op Market is carried out.

[...]

e. Quorum. A quorum of five four directors shall be required to conduct business at any board meeting.

Cooperative Principle #2:

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Our Owners have equal voting rights.



OFFICIAL BALLOT
2019 BOARD ELECTION

There are three open seats with three-year terms, expiring in 2022. Only one candidate submitted an application. Checking the box indicates that you wish to vote for this candidate. You may also leave it blank.

Art Gelvin

Shall the appointment of Brian Kassof to Seat D be confirmed?

Yes

No

Shall the appointment of Anduin McElroy to Seat I be confirmed?

Yes

No

Shall the the Bylaws be amended as proposed by the decision of the Board of Directors?

Yes

No

Name

Owner Number

Email

Phone

Return this ballot by mail or in person to:

Co-op Market Grocery & Deli
526 Gaffney Road
Fairbanks AK 99701
(907) 457-1023

*Ballots will be accepted until 3:30 p.m. October 19.
Results announced at our annual meeting, 3-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 19, at JP Jones Community Center.*

What does it mean for an Owner to be “in good standing”?

Our Bylaws state that Owners must be in good standing to receive Owner benefits. This is especially important for voting in our annual Board of Directors election.

To be considered “in good standing,” Owners must either have paid their full \$200 investment or have made a payment of at least \$5 toward their investment within the last quarter.

We have made a special effort to help our Owners get up to date in the months leading up to this election. We sent reminder postcards to those who had fallen behind on payments. Cashiers have also been reminding Owners about the requirement. We appreciate those who have responded positively.

Many of the postcards we sent were returned to us as not deliverable. It is critical that we have current contact information for every Owner, so if you haven’t updated your mailing address and email recently, please do. Cashiers may also ask you to review your contact info at the register.

We compiled our voter database from records pulled on September 6th. On that date, we had a total of 4030 Owners. Of those, 3064 were eligible to vote.

For our election to be valid, at least 10% of eligible voters must participate. This means that we will need at least 306 votes.

Democratic control by Owners is the bedrock of the Cooperative Principles.

Thank you for voting!

11th ANNUAL
**CO-OP MARKET
OWNERS’ MEETING**

Saturday, October 19
3 to 5:30 p.m.

JP Jones Community Center
2400 Rickert Street

Please join us!