



2020 Oshkosh Food Cooperative Board of Directors Statement of Nomination

Name: Jay Stoflet
Brief Biography (150 Words or Less):

I've been a resident of the Oshkosh area for nearly 25 years, most of which has been spent living in the rural area between Oshkosh and Omro with my wife and two children. My professional background has primarily involved business and marketing management for a variety of B2C businesses, most recently Community First Credit Union. Over the past 25 years, I have served as a director on a variety of non-profit boards including Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Oshkosh Area United Way, Oshkosh Jaycees, Oshkosh Benevolent & Social Club and the Fox Valley Arts Alliance. Additionally, I have been intimately involved with or coordinated a number of area community fundraising projects over the years, including installation of LED lights on Oshkosh bridges and playground equipment at Christine Ann Center, as well as serving as the chair for a variety of annual non-profit fundraisers.

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board?
A business background in marketing and sales. Board level experience with fiscal review, strategic guidance and policy oversight while maintaining the proper level of contribution without micromanaging. The ability to blend data driven decision making with experience driven intuition and human interest to develop creative and effective solutions. A passion to collaborate with others to improve quality of life for the community as a whole.
2. What is your dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op?
A thriving business built to act the interests of its members, especially the underserved, and provide an outlet for local farmers and producers to deliver their products to market in a manner that benefits everyone. A source of pride for the entire community.

3. Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh community?
The idea of the community grocer facilitating local producers to consumers is lost in today's marketplace in favor of "low-cost" convenience of chain superstores. Shelves are stocked with corporately manufactured food and imported agriculture. Premium retail space is reserved for the highest bidders. Locally-sourced and healthier options get lost on shelves under the illusion of variety comprised of minor variations based on the same basic offerings from large corporate food entities. Having a food co-op in Oshkosh will provide consumers with an alternative to the current retail options and the chance to have a direct say in the kinds of products important to them. It will also allow a more reasonably accessible channel for local producers to get their products to market directly.
4. Why cooperatives?
Cooperatives serve their member-owners more effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together for the betterment of their customers and other cooperatives. When people are part of a cooperative, they have a vested interest in the success of the organization because the profits are invested back to them in the form of better service and comparatively lower costs. Instead of maximization of profits for a select group of individuals, strategic decisions are based on maintaining a fair balance of fiscal and social responsibility to serve the greater good.
5. Please offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op member-owners to know about you.
In addition to being a lifetime credit union member-owner, I have spent many years of my professional career doing credit union marketing because I believe strongly in promoting the spirit of people before profit and how the seven cooperative principles guide the way we do business. I'm eager to share my experience using these principles in business to help the Oshkosh Food Co-op become a successful reality for the benefit of the whole community.