



## 2021 Oshkosh Food Cooperative Board Of Directors Statement of Nomination

Name: Joe Stephenson

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Brief Biography (150 Words or Less):

Joe Stephenson has deep roots and deep care for the greater Oshkosh Community. His family has been a member of the Oshkosh Community for well over a hundred years. Joe Stephenson received a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. In his professional life he is a City Planner for the City of Menasha, where he uses his talents to plan local, walkable, green, community oriented city's that work for everyone. It is this love for his community and passion for local driven development, which first piqued his interest in the Oshkosh Food Co-op.

In recent years Joe has helped to form Midtown Neighborhood Association and is currently the Chairperson of the Association. He also serves on the Oshkosh Public Museum Board and the Board of Education at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. He has high hopes for the Oshkosh Food Co-op and believes that it will serve as a pillar of the community and bring fresh local food to an area that desperately needs it.

Please provide a written nomination statement that addresses the following questions. This will be shared with your fellow member-owners and posted on our blog. Recommended length not to exceed 2 pages:

1. What would you bring/offer to the Oshkosh Food Co-op Board?

I have a mind for future planning and a passion for bettering my community. I have written and reviewed grants for the Coop and will continue to seek additional grant funds for the Coop to ensure our store is not only offering a great local grocery store but is a community asset. In addition my experience in government will continue to help the Coop navigate the often complex and confusing world of government bureaucracy.

2. What is your dream for the Oshkosh Food Co-op?

As a planner I have always advocated for a green, walkable, and community oriented spaces. It is my hope that this food co-op can bring local food to everyone's tables in a sustainable and

community oriented manner. I believe the co-op is an amazing boon to local Oshkosh and can serve as an example of what we can do when we all work together.

3. Why do you think the Oshkosh Food Co-op is important to the greater Oshkosh community?  
The food co-op has two major benefits to the greater Oshkosh area. One, it supplies local high quality foods to people who need it. Much of central Oshkosh is a food desert, a place where it is very hard to find produce in a walkable area. Two, the food co-op will be a pillar of the community that can help to bring about a more community oriented localized change to the way we shop.
  
4. Why cooperatives?  
Because cooperatives have a vested interest in their community. The democratic nature and autonomy of the cooperative means that it makes decisions not solely on profits but on what is actually good for the community as a whole.
  
5. Please offer any additional thoughts you would like Oshkosh Food Co-op member-owners to know about you.  
Oshkosh is my home and my family's home. I truly care about our community and the people in it. This project has such great vision and I can't wait to see where we take it. Serving on the board has been an amazing experience and I look forward to serving many more years.

\*Please note that the OFC Board of Directors or its Governance Committee may modify the format but not content of self-nominations to ensure all self-nomination documents are consistently presented to member-owners for consideration.\*