

Meet the Nominees!

Anne Woiwode

1. Why do you want to serve on the ELFCO Board of Directors?

ELFCO is unique in the mid-Michigan area as the only member owned grocery and health products store, and that alone would be a compelling reason to serve on the Board.

ELFCO members have long supported the principles that the dollars we spend on food and other products should be reinvested locally, that providing organic and environmentally sound products is a top priority, and that everyone from staff to the ELFCO owners to other members of our community should benefit from our existence.

Over the past two years I've served on the ELFCO Board, and as I've learned more I've become more impressed with the potential of ELFCO to serve our community better. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the members of ELFCO on the Board.

2. What is your dream for the co-op in the next two years?

My dreams for ELFCO are that we become increasingly effective at meeting our members and customers needs, interests and demands. In particular, I look forward to continuing to expand our great connection with local food producers and other local providers, and to take the steps we need to grow the cooperative so we can offer more services to more people throughout our region, while keeping true to our policies and principles.

This past year Board members have talked to a lot of ELFCO owners and customers about their hopes and dreams for the future, and the next two years will be an important time for us to ensure we have the tools and resources in place to grow.

3. What should the East Lansing Food Co-op do in light of Whole Foods opening in the next year?

The most important thing for us to recognize is that ELFCO is much more than a grocery store, and increasingly make sure that we are carrying that message to people who care about the environment, about organic and local food, and about reinvesting in our community. We can learn from other cooperatives that saw similar impacts in their community. Our experience will likely be the same—a downturn in sales for a while, but if we actively engage our members and supporters to invite others to join us in a supporting ELFCO, our food cooperative can thrive going forward.

4. What do you think ELFCO's role in the community should be?

ELFCO plays many roles. Most important is that we provide an alternative model for businesses that values a clean environment, access to healthy food produced in a way that supports farmers and workers, and a commitment to reinvesting in our community at the top of our priorities. I also value our ability to educate our community through every thing from workshops on juicing to installing solar lighting tubes and photo-voltaic array on the store. ELFCO members are clear that being a cooperative is about much more than just good food.

5. Why co-ops?

In Michigan these days we are beginning to see increased interest in the importance of businesses caring about more than just the bottom line. Co-ops have been doing that more than 100 years!