

**Nominee Name: Stephen Gasteyer**

**ELFCO Owner number: 2850**

**Email address: [gasteyer@msu.edu](mailto:gasteyer@msu.edu)**

**Please answer the following questions:**

Why would you like to serve on the ELFCO Board of Directors?

I would like to serve on the ELFCO board of directors because I believe that ELFCO is worth saving and transitioning to something that is more viable. There is a niche and a need for ELFCO or something like it in East Lansing, that sells local and ethically produced products – produce, staples, foodstuffs, other things, to consumers.

What is your dream for East Lansing Food Cooperative?

My dream is that we can reopen a venue that becomes a place where students and members of the Lansing/East Lansing area can get fresh, wholesome, good quality local food and other products. Where people can get together and as coop owners work together not just as consumers, but also as members to devise ways of improving our broken production and consumption system.

How should the East Lansing Food Cooperative reimagine itself to serve our owners and the community?

There is not one way, but this rather has to be about developing and innovating new ways of doing even as we develop partnerships with MSU and other local organizations.

What do you think ELFCO's role in our community should be? Why cooperatives?

Please offer any additional thoughts you would like ELFCO owners to know about your interest in ELFCO's future.

Coops are essential especially now because they can provide an alternative model production, distribution, and consumption. ELFCO would ideally be a venue in East Lansing/Lansing that helps provide a daily supply of local produce and products, but also serves as a hub for consideration of how we can change the food system, and indeed the consumption systems in the US and the world. Having something like a venue where people can sit and have coffee, tea, and a pastry in addition to just buying what you need and leaving would be good for this reason – facilitating community and conversation about alternatives. Again, partnerships with Student Housing coop, the Student Organic Farm, other on-campus groups would also be important for this reason...

*Note: Information about ELFCO governance, including the By-laws, are available under the "Governance" tab at <http://elfco.coop>.*