

I just darn love the Co-op. The local food, the bulk bins, the friendly staff... MNFC has welcomed and nourished me since I moved to the area in 2018. I benefited from the Food For All discount while I was serving in AmeriCorps at the Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD). In that role, I consulted with Co-op staff about composting and recycling. And I have shared with employees my appreciation for their use of gender-inclusive language as a non-binary transgender customer. I want to contribute both my personal perspective and my professional background to the Co-op's governance.

As an engineering student at Tufts University, involvement in climate activism taught me that our ecological challenges need social solutions, not purely technological ones. Through board service, I hope to learn about cooperative principles, because I believe co-ops are key to the thriving and just food system I want to be part of building.

My background includes two years at ACSWMD and my current role at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, where I promote on-farm food safety for fruit and vegetable growers. I also serve as co-chair of the board of Lavender Country & Folk Dancers, a group supporting LGBTQ-inclusive dancing. Additionally, working and volunteering on organic farms has filled me with gratitude for the labor that goes into producing our food.

As a team member, I strive to be organized and accountable; to be curious about others' experiences and perspectives; and to be patient and generous with the delightfully messy process of collaborative leadership.

At a core level, I share the Co-op's values of healthy food, local economy, sustainability, and cooperative democratic ownership. The final value, "learning about these values," is why, in a nutshell, I'm running. I am actively building my skills and knowledge to enact all of these values in my life's work—whether paid or volunteer. I believe I have many things to offer; I also believe I have a lot to learn. My candidacy is an opportunity both to add a new perspective to the board and to invest in the development of a new generation of leaders.