

11 Questions for a Lawyer

Since the co-op is considering incorporating in some form, we have been talking to Beloved Community Incubator (BCI) for legal support with this. As a next step, they asked us to answer 11 questions.

This proposal is to get consensus and agreement on how we'll be answering these 11 questions. We've discussed these questions in a couple of meetings, and already had agreement in several of them.

1. **How do you want the coop to be managed? By an elected board, by the members themselves, by one or more managers?**
 1. Relevant membership agreement.
2. **How will major decisions be made? Majority vote, super majority, consensus, modified consensus?**
 1. Relevant governance proposal.
3. **What are some decisions that you think should be considered "major"? For example: Deciding when to buy more paper towels vs. deciding to convert your coop bakery into a coop bowling alley.**
 1. The current list from the governance proposal is: "proposals that would increase costs to members, use the cooperative's funds, or make changes to the membership agreement."
 2. To ask lawyer: is what we have enough? Are there other major categories/principles we should consider.
4. **Do you want to have committees? What sort of committees might make sense?**
 1. We do currently have committees (working groups):
 1. Social & Comms (onboarding)
 2. Products (getting the things)
 3. Governance
 4. Finance (two co-treasurers)
 5. Business Development
5. **Will all workers be members? (i.e. will there be employees that never become members?)**
 1. General agreement that paid employees should be members, but would need to be a different category of member (e.g., might not be required to contribute additions labor or pay dues). Would this pose any issues with labor laws? How would this impact which path we choose for legal incorporation?
6. **Will there be a probationary period before a worker can become a member? What is this period?**
 1. Relevant proposal on probationary periods. Note that we've also discussed re-evaluating proposals regularly.

7. Will all the workers have the legal right to work in the U.S.?

1. We want anyone to be able to receive payment for if we decide to pay people to do work. Generally in favor of paying employees but want to be able to do so. We don't yet know if these workers will be employees or worker members.

8. How do you intend to pay your members? Salaries? Commissions? Profit Distributions? Some combination of these?

1. At the moment we don't intend to pay members, unless (as mentioned above) we hire employees (salaried but also an owner class?). Then they would be salaried. At the moment we don't think we'll be do profit distributions, preferring to re-invest all profit into the co-op.

9. How will you decide whether to admit new members?

1. Relevant membership agreement. They must also pass the probationary period.

10. How will you decide whether to remove/expel members?

1. Relevant membership agreement.

11. Is it important to you to use the word “cooperative” in your name?

1. No

The vote in this proposal is a simple Yes / No on accepting these answers and taking them to BCI to talk to a lawyer.

Results

- The total number of eligible voting members was 20, so the number of votes needed for the proposal to be approved was 11.
- The number of ballots cast was 14 ballots (14 valid ballots, 0 empty ballots), all 14 of which voted to approve the proposal.
- Thus, the proposal passed.

11 Questions for a Lawyer Results

This page shows final results for this election. You can also recount the ballots for free using all of the counting methods supported by OpaVote or download the ballots to recount them on your own.

These results will be available until Dec 28, 2025.

Summary

Of the 20 voters in this election, 14 cast ballots. Approve is the winner after counting the ballots using Plurality/FPTV/SNTV.

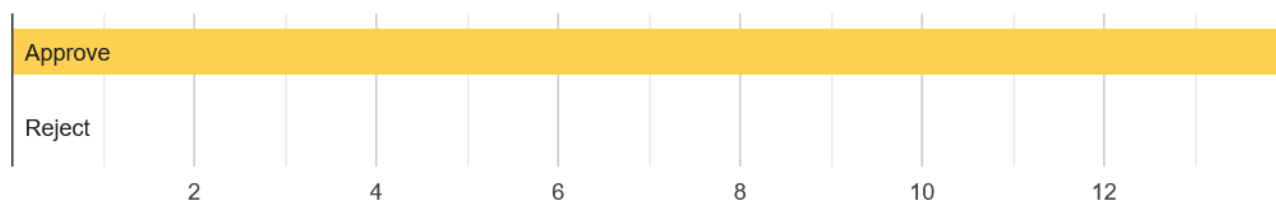
Ballots: [🔄 Recount Ballots](#) [👁 View Ballots](#) [📄 Download Ballots](#)

Other Report Formats: [Text Report](#) [CSV Report](#) [JSON Report](#)

Detailed Results

Counting ballots using Plurality/FPTV/SNTV. There are 2 candidates competing for 1 seat. The number of ballots is 14 and there were 14 valid ballots and 0 empty ballots.

The bar charts below show the vote counts for each candidate. Place the mouse over a bar to see the number of votes.



Winners

Winner is Approve.

OpaVote is your online voting expert. You can create your own [online election](#).

Revision #6

Created 15 October 2025 16:06:14 by Simon

Updated 25 September 2026 21:49:16 by Luigi Nuñez