Adoption of the Greens & Beans Grocery Co-operative Bylaws

Background

Since its inception, Greens & Beans has grown from an informal organizing group into a functioning community grocery co-operative. During that time, members have approved a number of individual agreements relating to governance, membership, voting, finances, operations, and organizational structure.

While these individual agreements have helped guide the Co-operative, they currently exist across multiple documents and proposals. This makes it difficult for both current and prospective members to understand the complete governance framework and creates the potential for inconsistencies or uncertainty as the Co-operative continues to grow.

Without a single governing document, the Co-operative faces several challenges:

- Governance decisions are spread across numerous proposals and meeting records
- Members may interpret approved policies differently or be unaware of existing decisions
- It is difficult to identify whether new proposals conflict with previously adopted agreements
- As membership grows, onboarding becomes more complicated because there is no single reference document explaining how the Co-operative is governed
- Legal incorporation and organizational continuity require a clear governance framework

Although operating policies can continue to evolve over time, the Co-operative also needs a stable set of governing principles that define its organizational structure, membership rights, decision-making processes, and allocation of authority.

Solution

To address this, the Administration Committee has consolidated the approved agreements into a single Bylaws document. The document incorporates standard organizational governance provisions, such as the purpose of the Co-operative, committee structure, dissolution, and the

relationship between bylaws and operating policies, while preserving the intent of previously approved member decisions.

The proposed bylaws consolidate previously approved governance decisions into a single document while distinguishing between **Bylaws**, which establish the Co-operative's core governance framework and require approval by the membership to amend, and **Operating Policies**, which provide procedures and day-to-day guidance that may be developed and updated by the appropriate committee within the authority established by the bylaws.

If adopted, these bylaws will become the primary governing document of Greens & Beans and supersede any conflicting governance language contained in previously approved standalone proposals. Existing operational policies that are consistent with the bylaws will remain in effect until amended through the appropriate committee process.

Review Process

Members are encouraged to carefully review the draft bylaws before voting and discuss below (in the "Members discussion" section). The review period will remain open for **two (2) weeks** following distribution of this proposal.

During this time:

- Members may submit comments, questions, or suggested revisions.
- The Administration Committee will collect feedback and may recommend non-substantive edits for clarity or consistency.
- If significant issues are identified that materially affect the proposal, the committee may determine that a revised draft should be circulated before voting begins.

The purpose of this review period is to ensure members have sufficient opportunity to understand the proposed bylaws and identify any remaining concerns before a final vote.

Member discussion

In this section, members are invited to share their perspectives before the proposal moves to a vote. If you would like to contribute, please add your name and then statement. If possible, clearly state whether you are "In Favor", "In Favor With Reservations", or "Against" (and why) within your statement. This helps measure overall positions on the proposal. The goal of this section is to capture nuance and surface concerns early, in addition to conversations that happen at meetings and in online communication channels, so that members can make an informed decision.

- *simon: in favor. Really grateful to folks who've helped shepherd this along. We'll have to have a party.*
- *Jon: In favor. Thanks to the Admin committee! Super minor edits:*
  - *For consistency, I suggest a find/replace "Co-operative" to "cooperative" since our incorporation paperwork has no dash in that word.*

    - *Article IV, Section 3, i.,* "the Committee votes on the final Board" **-** *I don't understand what this provision means. Do we mean the* ***membership*** *votes on the committee nominees to determine final composition of the Board?*
- *luigi: fixed the board approval piece to “Each committee nominates its representative through an internal selection process, and then the membership votes on the proposed slate of Board representatives, in accordance with Article V, Section 5.”*
- *luigi: edited to say ‘“Co-operative” and “Cooperative” may be used interchangeably for internal purposes; the legal entity, per the articles of incorporation, uses the non-hyphened version.’*

Results

OpaVote

Adoption of the Greens & Beans Grocery Co-operative Bylaws 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 Oct 15, 2026.

Summary

Of the 23 voters in this election, 18 cast ballots. Yes is the winner after counting the ballots using Plurality/FPTP/SNTV.

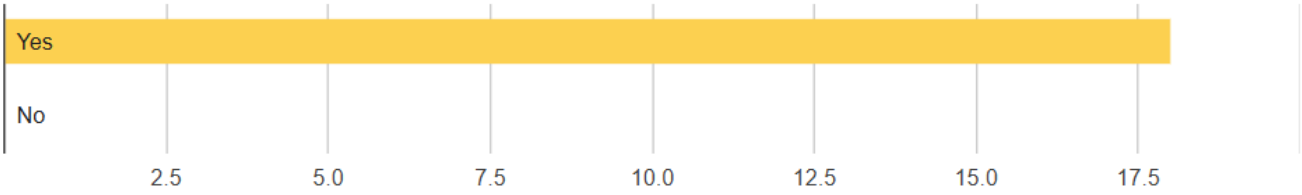
Ballots: Recount Ballots | View Ballots | Download Ballots

Other Report Formats: Text Report | CSV Report | JSON Report

Detailed Results

Counting ballots using Plurality/FPTP/SNTV. There are 2 candidates competing for 1 seat. The number of ballots is 18 and there were 18 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 Yes.

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