

# ❖ Welcome to the 2026 ELECTION for our BOARD OF DIRECTORS ❖

Below are our candidates' information and instructions. We have 2 open seats and 3 candidates.

In keeping with our bylaws, members can vote for the Board of Directors by submitting the provided ballot. Ballots may be dropped off at the Co-op by 4pm on 6/2/2026, mailed in ahead of the meeting, or cast in person at the Annual Meeting.

The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on June 3rd. If mailing, please allow for delivery time.



**Matthew Coolbeth**  
(incumbent)

Matthew grew up in Ashford and Mansfield and first became acquainted with the Co-op while living in Willimantic as a student at the University of Connecticut, from which he holds a BS and MS in Computer Science. He has been a professional software engineer since 2009. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Co-op since 2020, and as the Board Chair for the past year. Matthew believes the Co-op is an important institution that helps define the character of the Willimantic Region and serves the local community in myriad ways. He also sees community-scale organizations and local, small-scale agriculture as crucial means of building a more ecologically-friendly global society.



**Monica van Beusekom**

I have been a member of the Co-op since 1997. I have relied on it to provide my family and me with healthy, sustainable, organic food for many years. Having recently retired, I would like to give some of my time to the Co-op and the community it nourishes and sustains.

Through my work experience in the non-profit and higher education sectors, I have developed strong organizational and communication skills. I have also served on volunteer boards and committees where I have learned about the nuances of nurturing collaboration among volunteers. I have most enjoyed both the paid and volunteer work settings where folks listen and value each other's ideas and contributions and are ready to work through disagreement or conflict with a generous spirit.

I would be honored to be part of the team that helps guide the Co-op through the challenges and opportunities it may face in the coming years, including the ongoing consideration of expansion. I also welcome the opportunity to serve as a bridge to members and to nurture greater knowledge of and participation by members in the life of the Co-op.

## HOW TO VOTE:

1. Use the attached ballot. Copies are also available at the store.
2. Mark your vote. You can vote for up to two candidates.
3. You also have the option to abstain. By choosing abstain, you will be counted as participating and no votes for any candidates will be registered.
4. To ensure "one member, one vote," write the last 6 digits of your Member Number (including the tiny one at the end) in the space provided. This is the number below the barcode on your membership card. If you don't know your member number, please include your full name. Ballots without any identifying information will not be counted. We do our best to preserve anonymity with paper ballots but cannot guarantee it, especially if you provide a name rather than a member number. To ensure your vote is anonymous in the future, provide us with a unique, valid email address below or when visiting the store so that you can vote electronically next year.
5. Drop off your ballot at the store, bring it to the Annual Meeting, or mail it to the store:  
**Willimantic Food Co-op**  
**91 Valley St.**  
**Willimantic, CT 06226**
6. Ballots must be RECEIVED at the store by 4 pm on Tuesday, June 2nd in order to be counted. Alternatively, you can attend the meeting to cast your vote.



**Stephen Rouse**

As a community-owned entity, I have been impressed with the Co-op's focus on providing healthy, organic, and local produce in a community-based setting. I feel I could contribute my more than 40 years as a business owner, whose management skills have always centered on wellness and operational efficiency. I have served on administrative boards and community-focused organizations, including Eastern and UConn. I also created and managed three medical offices during that period of time, and I would like to use this experience to contribute to the continuing success of the Co-op, a fine institution.

## BALLOT

**Election of Directors  
of the Willimantic  
Food Co-operative  
May 2026**

**Member Number: 403611...**  
(This is the number below the barcode on your membership card, including the tiny one at the end.)


**The Board of Directors  
nominates the following  
candidates:**

(vote for up to two)

**Matthew Coolbeth**  
(incumbent)

**Stephen Rouse**

**Monica van  
Beusekom**

Or

**Abstain**

*Please consider saving Co-op resources by providing us with your email address – we now use electronic voting, which is easy, secure, and environmentally friendly!*

Member Name

Email Address