BUTTE FOOD CO-OP

Voting Standards & Processes in Board of Directors Elections for the Butte Food Co-Op

BYLAWS & ELECTIONS:
Elections are specified in Section II & Section III of the Butte Food Co-Op Bylaws **(APPROVED February 1, 2021)**

GENERAL OVERVIEW:
- All board candidates MUST be in good standing in order to run for the board (member-owner dues paid, member-owner agreement signed);
- All member-owners MUST be in good standing in order for their vote to be counted (member-owner dues paid, member-owner agreement signed);

BALLOTS:
- Ballots will be distributed electronically.
- Ballots will be mailed to member-owners who do not have a registered email on file.
- Hard copies may be requested by emailing the Butte Food Co-Op at buttefoodcoop@gmail.com. Hard copies will NOT be distributed unless requested or no registered email has been provided.

DETERMINING DIRECTORS:
- Whomever has the most votes will be declared the winner. If there are multiple vacancies (EX: three), the top-voted candidates (most votes) will be declared the winners.
- Member-owners may vote for as many seats as are open. For example, if seven seats are open, member-owners will be able to vote for seven candidates. If two seats are open, member-owners will only be able to vote for two candidates.
- In the event of a TIE for a seated position, a secondary election will take place with the tied candidates. Whomever has the most votes will be declared the winner.
- If it is an uncontested election (i.e. there are seven seats, but only five candidates), all candidates must receive at least ONE vote to be considered for the Board.
- It will be the discretion of the Board to either appoint a Director to fill an unclaimed seat or leave the seat vacant (**SEE BYLAWS**).

DETERMINING OFFICERS:

GENERAL ELECTION PROCESS:

- Board elections will be held annually.
- Board election timeline will be as follows (NOTE: Dates may change):
    - **October 8, 2026** – Board Applications GO LIVE
    - **October 26, 2026** – Board Applications DUE
    - **October 28, 2026** – Annual Meeting
    - **October 29, 2026*** - Electronic Ballot Sent & Elections Commence
    - **November 11, 2026** - Electronic Ballot Closes
    - **November 12, 2026** – Hard Copy Ballot Deadline
    - **November 30, 2026** - Results Announced
    - **December 1 - 31, 2026** - Board Onboarding
    - **January 1, 2027** - New Board Members Take Office

*If there are nominations from the floor, ballots will go out 48 hours after the annual meeting (floor candidates must submit a bio and picture within 48 hours).

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

- Nominations from the floor will be accepted. All nominees MUST be in good standing in order to accept their nomination. All nominees MUST be willing and able to read through board member expectations and requirements prior to submitting their materials.
- Nominees must be present to accept their nomination or express in writing prior to the annual meeting that they would accept a nomination from the floor. They must accept their nomination and provide all relevant materials (information for ballot, etc.) to the board within 48 hours of the nomination. All nominees MUST be willing and able to read through board member expectations and requirements prior to submitting their materials. They will be required to sign a confirmation that they have read and understand the expectations. This is in place of the board information session that board applicants are required to attend.