

PLEASE NOTE:

- ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE!
- MEMBER NUMBER IS REQUIRED FOR BALLOT TO BE VALID.
- YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IF YOU PAID THE \$60 MEMBER SHARE IN FULL, OR ARE CURRENT WITH YOUR PAYMENT PLAN.
- ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL ON RECORD AS A MEMBER MAY VOTE.
- IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER YOUR MEMBER NUMBER CALL PFC (734)994-9174 OR ASK A CASHIER.

REMEMBER: Individuals are members of the Co-op. Although members may share benefits with another person of their choosing there is no "couple" or "family" membership per se.

**YOU CAN VOTE ONLINE:
GO TO PFC.SIMPLYVOTING.COM**

ALL VOTING WILL BEGIN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4 & END THURSDAY, APRIL 26 AT 6PM SHARP!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT US AT (734)994-4589 OR INFO@PEOPLESFOOD.COOP.

Member Name _____

Street Address _____

City / State / Zip Code _____

E-mail Check if New Address _____

Member Number (REQUIRED) _____

PLEASE JOIN US

For The

ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 26, 2018

6:30 - 8:30PM

KERRYTOWN CONCERT HOUSE

415 N 4TH AVE, ANN ARBOR, MI



**THIS BALLOT CAN BE MAILED IN OR RETURNED TO THE STORE.
BALLOT MUST REACH THE STORE BY 6PM SHARP ON THURSDAY, APRIL 26.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vote for no more than three (3) people for the 3 year term to represent you on the PFC Board of Directors. If you vote for more, your ballot will be invalid.

GREG UPSHUR
 LORRAINE (RAINEY) LAMEY

JAIME MAGIERA
 NONE OF THE ABOVE CANDIDATES

Choose 3 for a 3 Year term

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES:

YES NO

Referenda to reduce quorum from 10% of the membership to the equivalence of 10% of member-owners who purchased from the co-op in the previous year.

Shall the following bylaw changes be made? (Note: Proposed changes to the bylaws are that strikethrough text shall be eliminated from the bylaws and *text that is bold and italics* shall be added to the bylaws.)

4.3 QUORUM 4.3 Quorum at any Annual or Special Meeting shall be ten percent (10%) of the membership or one hundred (100) members, whichever is smaller. Business may be discussed, but no official action may be taken without a quorum. *Quorum for elections of the board of directors, referenda, and amendments to the bylaws shall be defined as equivalent to 10% of member owners who made any purchase from the Co-op during the previous calendar year.*

4.7 REFERENDA Questions of policy or operations may be referred to a membership referendum by the Board of Directors, or by a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the membership. The Board of Directors shall supervise such referenda and shall insure that questions are fairly presented, with adequate space given to opposing viewpoints. Referenda balloting must be carried on for at least twenty-one (21) days. A simple majority may be sufficient to decide questions presented in referenda, provided that at least ten percent (10%) of the members cast ballots: *quorum is reached*. If the minimum number of votes is not obtained within three (3) weeks, the time for casting ballots will be extended by twenty-one (21) days. If the minimum number is not obtained after twenty-one (21) days, the Board of Directors shall have the power to decide the question presented in the referendum, and shall count the ballots and treat them as an advisory vote.

5.6 QUORUM No election of Directors shall be valid unless ten percent (10%) or more of the members return ballots: *quorum is reached*.

13.3 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting in a membership referendum, provided that no such vote shall be effective unless ten percent (10%) of the members cast ballots: *quorum is reached*.

PROS AND CONS:

PROS:

This by law change is necessary in order for us to continue to reach quorum and have successful elections. In 2016 PFC experienced a failed election because quorum of 10% was not met. When an election fails, the board members with expired terms must remain on the Board until the next election, or they can resign. In the case of resignation, the Board then appoints someone to fill the seat (thus denying member input).

As membership continues to grow the percentage of membership engagement has decreased making quorum harder to achieve and having the risk of future failed elections.

In reviewing the practices of other food cooperatives, quorum as high as 10% is rare. Most co-ops require a 5% quorum rate and some require no quorum.

CONS:

This by law change may be considered as lessening the requirement for members to engage and as such a lessening of our Co-op democracy. If the co-op put forth enough effort, reaching the current quorum should be attainable. Democracy is worth that effort.

Encouraging members to vote is encouraging member engagement. Members who vote are more likely to acknowledge their role as owners. Get out the vote efforts usually stop once Quorum is reached so a lower quorum means less member engagement.

Member apathy may reflect a membership enrollment process with a bar too low. Instead of lowering quorum the board could raise that bar, by for instance, raising the cost of membership. This might lead to fewer apathetic members.

STEP 2: fold this part down and seal

STEP 1: fold this edge up to the dotted line and TAPE IT!

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE PRIVACY OF YOUR BALLOT:

