



2021 Board Candidate

## Brian Puchala



I am a research scientist at the University of Michigan, in the field of computational materials science. Our family, which includes children, ages 7, 6, and 3, joined the Ypsilanti Food Co-op because we were looking for ways to better support the local community and good business practices, including environmental sustainability and animal welfare. I believe the Co-op's mission to support the local economy and be a model for sustainable environmental and cooperative business practices and democratic governance is very important to support and would love to be more involved. I would bring to the board the perspective of a new member and parent of a younger family. My goal as a board member would simply be to serve the mission of the Co-op and its members to the best of my ability.

### 1. What role do you think the Ypsilanti Food Co-op will play in Ypsilanti's future?

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op will provide the entire Ypsilanti community with 1) a source of healthy, sustainably produced food, 2) education about sustainable and equitable business practices, 3) a means to collectively support local, sustainable food and business, and 4) a model of democratic governance.

### 2. In what ways are you working to contribute to and improve the Ypsilanti community?

I am a relative newcomer to Ypsilanti, and whether or not I am elected I hope to find a way to support the Co-op and get to know the entire community better.

3. If you can find healthy, organic food at another grocery store, why choose the Ypsilanti Food Co-op?

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op provides a sense of trust that products are chosen with consideration for quality, how they are produced, and how they support the local economy. The Co-op provides friendly personal service, including curbside pickup, at competitive prices, including bulk special orders for additional discounts.

4. What issue within the food system is the most important to you, and how would you address it?

To me, accessibility and affordability of good food, and worker and animal welfare are among the most important issues. The Co-op can educate members and the community about the costs of choices we make, and what legal changes can ensure living wages, good working conditions, and humane treatment of animals.

5. What is your past experience with the Ypsilanti Food Co-op and cooperatives in general (working, volunteering, shopping, etc.)? Include what you have done to improve and support the Ypsilanti Food Co-op.

Our family joined the Ypsilanti Food Co-op about 1 year ago and over the course of the year it has become our primary weekly grocery shopping choice.

6. What has the Ypsilanti Food Co-op done for you?

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op has provided us with a great way to support the local community while getting healthy food with great service.

7. What skills and strengths would you contribute to the Board

As a board member I will bring enthusiasm and dedication to building community around the Co-op's mission, a commitment to involving all Co-op members and stakeholders in that mission, and an attention to detail to ensure the board's role as a fiduciary is fulfilled.