

Voter Guide

Please use this guide to aid your decision in casting this year's ballot. The board's hope is to provide additional, transparent information about candidates.

	TAMI BAUERS Cooperative Project Coordinator	LADONNA SANDERS REDMOND (INCUMBENT) Organizational Development Consultant	SAMUEL SIMMONS Behavioral Consultant	JEFFREY SWAINHART Contractor/Carpenter	MOSES VIVEROS Market Manager - NATIFS	CLAIRE PURVEY HOUSTON Bookkeeper DESIGNATED EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR CANDIDATE
How many hours/month are you able to commit to BOD duties?	10-15 hours	I can commit to 8 to 10 hours a week.	20 hours	Being semi-retired my schedule is flexible. I'll be able to invest the time needed to get up to speed and to take on whatever issues the position requires.	8-12 hours per month and have the flexibility to commit any additional time as needed.	As many as needed within reason, typically 5–12 hours a month in my experience.
In a sentence, what do you think is the most important role of the board?	To be accountable to owners through board-created policies that care for Seward Co-op through oversight of the General Manager, who executes the day-to-day operations of the co-op to achieve the Ends.	The most important role of the board is to steward the resources of the co-op and to represent the owners of the cooperative.	I believe the board's most important role is to articulate an inclusive vision for the future of the co-op and serve as an ambassador to other owners and our community to meet that vision.	The board must provide clear, long-term vision to assist management in achieving the organization's stated goals.	To support the current health and longevity of the co-op and ensure that we are staying true to our Ends Statement.	To simultaneously understand where we as a business are coming from, what we are currently doing, and where we need to go, while guiding the future vision with empathy and justice.
In a sentence, what do you think is the most important role of individual directors?	To stay informed and prepared, remain open-minded, speak one's opinion and commit to board decisions.	The most important role of individual directors is to show up prepared to work collaboratively.	I believe the most critical role of individual directors is to represent the inclusive voice and vision of other owners and our community.	It is important for board members to not only shoulder their individual responsibility but to assist the other board members and the group process through good preparation, openness, and skilled communication.	To act as an ambassador of the co-op by engaging with owners, staff, vendors, and other community stakeholders to ensure that the co-op is serving the needs of the communities that we work in.	To work with each other by challenging and supporting each other and present a united front.
What top two skills, qualities, or expertise would you bring to the board?	My ability to collaborate and compromise to reach agreements that are rooted in policy and bylaws, while considering multiple stakeholders. My 28-year career serving co-ops gives me a unique expertise.	Negotiation and vision.	My work involves the development of culturally relevant approaches that focus on ways to assist communities of color in addressing health disparities confronting families and the community. Also, my ability to build collaborations with likely and unlikely partners to challenge systems inside and outside of the community that create barriers to healthy foods and empowerment to achieve a healthy community.	I've run my own construction business for the majority of my 40-year career and also worked eight years as a project manager in both residential and commercial construction; from that experience I've gained the good communication and problem solving skills that will be useful in board deliberations.	I have countless experience organizing and working collaboratively with community stakeholders. Additionally, I've also held various managerial positions in retail/food spaces that have allowed me to inform and execute policy and procedures.	I bring the perspective of a current employee and an understanding of the business, logic, and a desire to be a strong community.
In a sentence, what is your vision for Seward Co-op?	To keep its roots of being an excellent grocer, a quality employer, a trusted source for food-sourcing and information, and a marketplace for local producers and farmers, while addressing the systemic problems that restrict healthy food access for everyone.	I envision Seward Co-op as an inclusive place in every sense of the word.	My vision for Seward Co-op is to build on the belief in the honesty, openness, and social responsibility that all individuals, no matter their background, feel included in responsible food practices to sustain a healthy community.	I see the co-op as an energetic center in the body of the greater community; one that provides quality employment and reasonably priced food, while interacting with the community in wholesome, environmentally conscientious ways.	To be a community-centered space that advocates for food sovereignty in the communities that we work in and also serve as a model to inspire other co-ops and similar organizations.	To grow our local food dependencies and work around supply chain issues, creating a stronger and more self-reliant community.
How long have you been an owner of Seward Co-op?	Since 1995	8 years	8 years	5 years	Since April 2022	14 years
Have you ever served on a board before? If so, where? What boards do you currently serve on?	I served on Seward Co-op's board from 2000-2002. I do not currently serve on any boards.	Yes, I have served on the board. I am running for the 2nd term on Seward Board. I am also a board member of the National Cooperative Business Association.	Yes, Northpoint Clinic and Volunteers of America, and currently on the Volunteers of America board.	Seward Co-op would be my first board service.	No, this will be my first time serving on a board.	Yes, this one for 2 years.
Do you have any potential or perceived conflicts of interest serving on Seward Co-op's board?	Because I work in the co-op sector, there might be perceived conflicts of interest at times, but I would disclose those appropriately as outlined in board policy.	I do not believe I have any conflicts of interest.	No	No	No	No