



# 2009 CMC Election Calendar

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## March

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**13** Friday  
**Member Initiative Deadline**  
Last day to turn in board declarations and policy initiatives for ballot

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## March

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**16** Monday  
**Candidate Statement for Voter's Pamphlet Deadline: 4:00pm.** Photos, Pro & Con Arguments (earlier delivery appreciated!)

**20** Friday  
**Mailing Date**  
Voters' Pamphlet and Annual Meeting Notice mailed to shareholders in good standing. Election begins as soon as members receive mailing (about 3 days later)

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## April

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**21** Tuesday  
**Annual Membership Meeting**  
Location, 6pm  
CMC will provide main course, please bring a side dish or dessert

Community Market Cooperative  
Board Candidate's Packet

2009

"Yes, I want  
to be  
a candidate for  
**CMC's Board of  
Directors!**"



For more about the Board, see  
[communitymarketcoop.com](http://communitymarketcoop.com)

Questions? write  
[cmc@communitymarketcoop.com](mailto:cmc@communitymarketcoop.com)  
or call  
712.830.1125

**You think you might want to run for the Board? Great!**

Being a Director is a very rewarding experience. You get to work with a great team of smart, dedicated people who emulate respect and cooperation and make a real impact.

The more members know your name, qualifications and reason for running, the more likely you are to get elected. The best way to accomplish this is to get your name, picture and Candidate's Statement into the 2009 Voters' Pamphlet that is mailed to all shareholders in good standing. The deadline for this is Monday, March 16.

If you do not submit a Candidate's Statement, your name will still be printed in the Voters' Pamphlet. However, CMC members will not have a chance to get to know you.

**Who can run? Who can serve?**

There are two different standards: one for running and another for serving as a Director. To run, you must have been a member in good standing at least from January 1, 2009 to April 15, 2009. It does count if you have been a member of some other shareholder's household. Being in good standing means Patron share paid in full and no suspension or revocation of membership, even briefly.

In order to be eligible to serve on the Board, you must be a shareholder in good standing by May 1, 2009 when your term would begin. If you aren't already a shareholder, you may become one by purchasing a membership.

Only one member of a family or household can serve on the Board at a time. If you have any questions about your eligibility, contact Denise Webber, 712.830.1125 or [cmc@communitymarketcoop.com](mailto:cmc@communitymarketcoop.com).

**About the Board election.**

Our coop has a 6-member Board of Directors, with each Director serving a 3-year term, except for those initial directors whose terms expire in one (1) or two (2) years as described in our Bylaws.

**How to Run.**

All you have to do to become a candidate is to fill out and turn in the Declaration of Candidacy that is in the middle of this booklet. It should be mailed, faxed or dropped off at the M&M Divide RC&D's office at 1917 N Hwy 71, Suite 3 in Carroll, fax number 712.792.4239.

You can declare candidacy now through March 13, 2009. Your name will be listed in the Voters' Pamphlet. As mentioned earlier, you can also

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submit a Candidate's Statement explaining why you are running and why the members should vote for you.

### **Is experience necessary?**

No! Some experience is helpful, because it means you'll catch on more quickly to how the board operates and what your role will be. What counts the most is your interest in bringing a cooperative grocery store to Carroll, your good sense and your willingness to spend the time and energy that it takes.

As board meetings are currently open to members, you may attend any of our board meetings to observe and learn more about our processes. You can also volunteer to help with a current committee to gain more knowledge about the coop.

### **Time commitments.**

Current board meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 6-8pm. Other meetings may be necessary as we get closer to opening the store. The board may also choose to hold training sessions and retreats. As each Director is encouraged to sit on a sub-committee, there may be additional meetings to attend. Some "off-meeting" work may also be necessary to prepare for meetings or other work necessary to complete tasks.

### **Legal liabilities.**

The Board is legally responsible for running the Coop. Directors have the responsibility to keep informed, to think carefully, and to act for what they believe are the best interests of the Coop.

Board of Directors can make mistakes. When they do, they can't be held liable for losses resulting from errors of judgement. They are not insurers of Coop success. But Directors can be held liable if they are negligent, dishonest, or disloyal.

Negligence means failing to make sure that prudent business practices are followed, that regular relevant reports are made and that records are kept and audited. Disloyalty includes using a Director's position to gain special advantages for oneself or for a particular faction, or anything done knowing that it works against the best interest of the Coop as a whole.

### **Candidate's Statement**

We strongly encourage you to decide early that you are running, so you can get your Candidate's Statement into the Voters' Pamphlet. All statements, including those that don't make this deadline will be posted on

the website and in the newsletter. In your statement you can explain your involvement with the Coop, your qualifications for being a Director, your views of the Coop and anything else you think is important.

The limit for statements is set at 350 words. If you go over 350 words, you will be cut off after the 350th word. Please include your name and phone number (and/or email address); none of this counts towards your limit. Use the Declaration to tell us whether you want this contact information published. We will not edit your statement so please proof-read before submitting.

### **Meetings to attend.**

You're encouraged to start attending Board meetings as soon as you decide you're running. Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Carroll County Courthouse meeting room. Check our website and newsletter or contact any Director for more information.

You should definitely plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on the evening of Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

### **Campaigning.**

Candidates and their supporters are discouraged from spending large amounts of money on campaigns. Once you have submitted your Declaration, we will print your Candidate's Statement in the April newsletter as well as the website.

Candidates and proponents or opponents of ballot issues cannot have direct access to the membership address or phone list. However, if you want something mailed out to the membership, the Coop will mail it for you, but at your expense.

### **Election and Annual Meeting volunteers.**

If you aren't a candidate and would like to assist with the election or preparations to the annual meeting, please contact Denise Webber at 712.830.1125 or [cmc@communitymarketcoop.com](mailto:cmc@communitymarketcoop.com). Volunteers help with sending out Voters' Pamphlets, signature checking to verify good standing and other tasks as is necessary.

### **Voting.**

The election calendar is listed on the back of this pamphlet. Please review it to become familiar with all the deadlines. As noted, Voters' Pamphlets will be mailed on March 20, 2009. At that time voting will commence. According to our bylaws, members may vote by proxy; but must

notify the Board of Directors in writing prior to the proxy vote being sent. Votes can be mailed or brought to the Annual Meeting. More information on voting will be discussed in the Voters' Pamphlet.

### **Make this your coop.**

As a CMC member, the future of this cooperative rests on you and all the other members. If you are passionate about bringing a natural and local foods store to the Carroll area then we ask that you get involved. If you are not ready to run for a Director position then please consider being involved with one of our committees or helping out with different tasks. Being involved in this grass-roots organization can be a rewarding experience both personally and professionally. We look forward to welcoming you to our group of volunteers who are working tirelessly to create an economic outlet for our area producers and bring healthier food options to our communities.

