

Isla Vista Food Cooperative  
2022 Annual Owner Meeting Agenda  
Sunday November 6, 2022 at 5pm

Location:

Isla Vista Community Center  
976 Embarcadero del Mar

Agenda:

- 1) Owner Welcome 5:00-5:10pm
- 2) Owner Quorum Count 5:10pm-5:15pm
- 3) Annual Report from the Board President 5:15pm-5:25pm
- 4) Annual Report from the General Manager 5:25pm-5:45pm
- 5) Owner Questions and Comments 5:45pm-5:55pm
- 6) Appreciation and Dinner 6pm-7:30pm

# Board Directors Report



2022

# MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Lisa  
oglesby**

Board President  
2022-2024



**Raphael  
chinchilla**

Board Treasurer  
2021-2023

**Cody Nunn**

Board Director  
2021-2023



**Jillian  
Tempesta**

Board Secretary  
2021-2023

**Julia  
Barbosa**

Board Director  
2022-2024



# What is the role of the Board?



## Co-op Governance

In the summer of 2021, the Board hired a new General Manager. Over the past year, we have worked closely with him to better understand our operational challenges and improve our outcomes. The detailed work of the Finance Committee and the general work of the full Board continues to focus on recovery, stability, and growth as we move into the next year. Together we implemented plans to ensure our co-op weathers the upcoming storms while maintaining and promoting our core values.

The Board is also very active in outward engagement for the co-op. Directors take part in community organizations and meetings to ensure the co-op is at the table for important conversations. The Board's Owner Engagement Committee does regular tabling and outreach on the co-op patio to spread the word about our store, our goals, and the cooperative model - and to get feedback from Owners and shoppers. We also work with the Outreach team to support co-op events, like this spring's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party and last month's Community Patio Party. Look for us on the December events calendar for another Meet The Board event!

# IVFC Bylaws

Over the past 5 years, your Board has been working on updating and refining our primary organizing documents. The IVFC Ownership approved an update to our Articles of Incorporation in 2019. Then we began working on our bylaws!

A co-op's bylaws state how we organize our cooperative and conduct business. Substantive changes to the bylaws require approval by co-op Owners as they are considered legally binding among Owners.

Our current bylaws were last revised in full in 2005, then had sections added in 2010. This latest revision is looking to bring the co-op's bylaws into compliance with current California Cooperative Law and add important sections missing from our current bylaws, as well as clarifying exactly how the Owners want the co-op to be organized. This extensive process is nearly complete!

When ready, the new bylaws and explanations of all proposed changes will be shared with Owners. There will be tabling at the store, as well as meetings in person and on Zoom, to ensure that the revised bylaws are clear to all. We look forward to discussing this important revision with all of you. If all goes well, the revised bylaws will be brought to the Owners for a vote of approval in spring 2023.

# Community Advocacy Committee

Cooperatives across the country and around the world have been in discussion to add an 8<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Principle: one that addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives (or DEI). While these conversations are ongoing, your co-op is working now to see how we can better achieve our Strategic Priority of Community Advocacy.

Starting in January, the IVFC Board will launch the Community Advocacy Committee. This committee will work on co-op specific programs, and with community partners, to strengthen our commitment to community advocacy and institutionalize the work into the cooperative.

We invite you to join us and serve on the committee!

## Community Advocacy

Nourish and sustain a  
culture of inclusion  
for our diverse community.

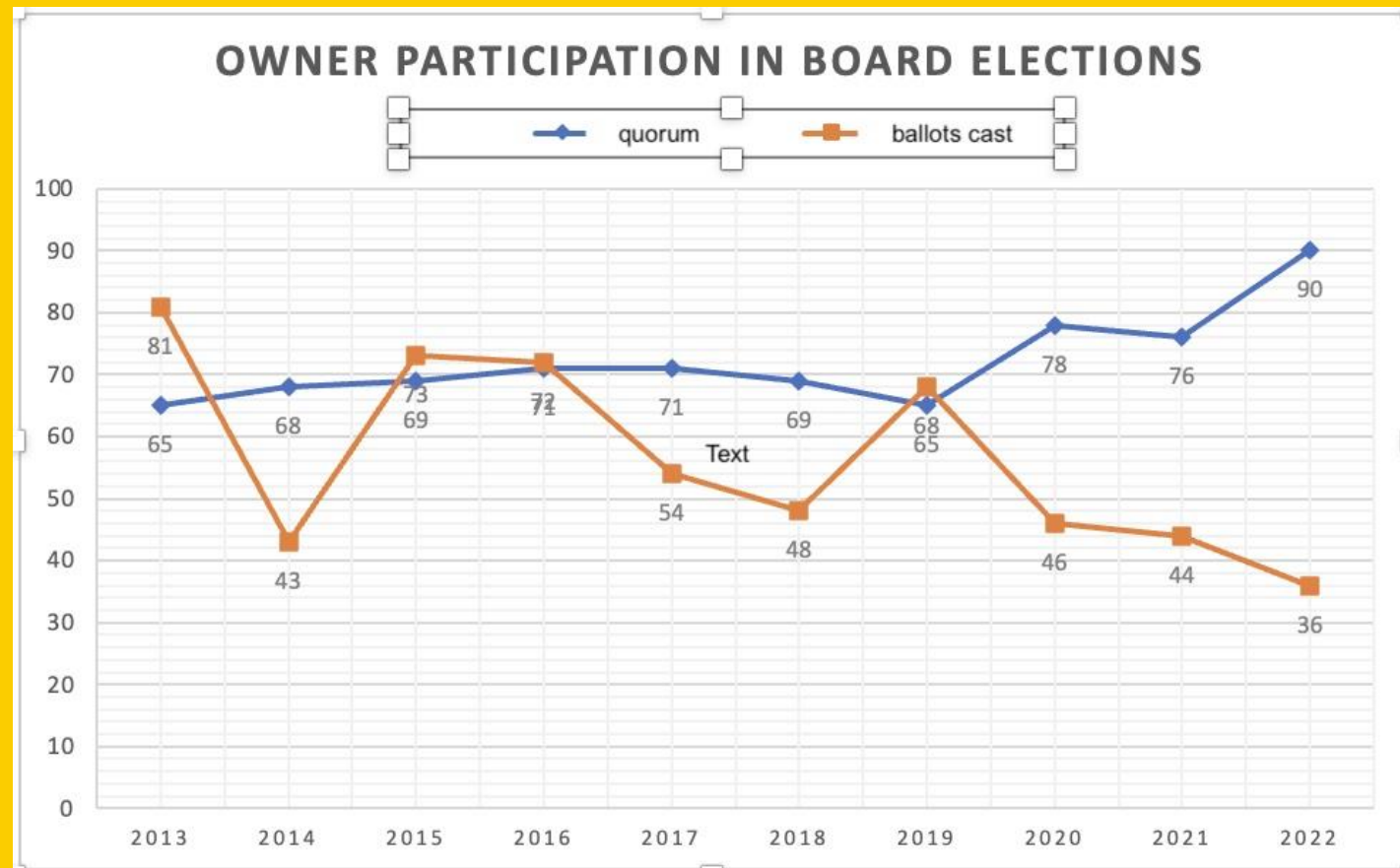
*2020 Update: Maintain a culture of inclusion and anti-discrimination through community conversation and supportive actions.  
Empower marginalized communities through partnerships and access to healthy food*



# Co-op Governance

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cooperative Principle: Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policy and making decisions. Members serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Active participation in Democratic Member Control is critical to the health of our co-op. However, participation in our co-op's governance has been underperforming. Only 4 of the last 10 election cycles have met the requirements of quorum, which is 5% of the active Owners. Only the 2016 election was contested. Most years we have just enough candidates to fill the seats on the Board. After our most recent election, we have 2 vacant seats.



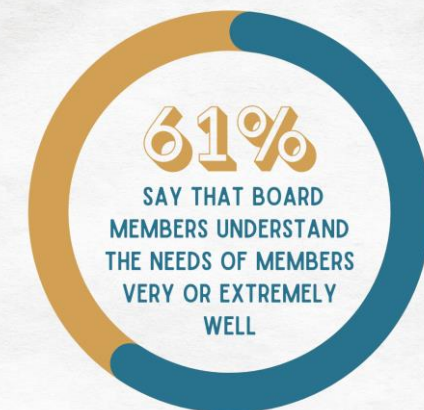
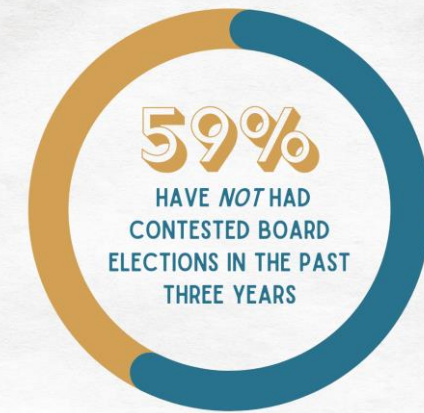


***The challenges we face in Board governance are echoed throughout other cooperatives as well.***

This year, the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Cooperatives released their findings from their first Cooperative Governance Research Initial (CRGI) survey. Over 500 cooperatives completed this survey, 25% of which were food cooperatives of various sizes that practice representative democracy just like we do.

*“What explains the high percentage of participating cooperatives without contested elections? We suspect that a variety of dynamics are at play, each with distinct implications for governance. For example, perhaps a cooperative is small and thus the pool of potential directors is limited. [...] Perhaps it is difficult to recruit board candidates because members are disengaged due to apathy, frustration, or even satisfaction with their cooperative's performance.” (from CRGI report)*

Still, the findings suggest that most co-op's enjoy support for those willing to serve in governance.



## ***How do we increase owner participation in our cooperative's elections and governance?***

- *What motivates you to vote for or serve on the Board, or not?*
- *Should we change something about how we search for candidates or how elections are run?*
- *Should we be doing more outreach and engagement?*
- *Should we decrease the size of the Board from 7 to 5?*
- *Do you have recommendations for who should fill the Board vacancies left on the 2022-2024 term?*

# Want to get more involved?

come to a Board meeting



Serve on the owner  
Engagement Committee

Run for a seat on your  
Board of Directors



# Ways you can support your Co-op:



Tell your friends  
about the Co-op

For more info contact us at:  
[board@islavistafood.coop](mailto:board@islavistafood.coop)

Thank you for coming to  
our Annual owner Meeting!

