



Thank you for your thought and attention to this survey.

It has been an inspiring and, at times, difficult journey to opening a cooperative grocery store that lives our values and serves our community.

The time is running very short.

Your dedication to the Co-op has made years of community building, community education, and community events possible. You have 1,100 fellow owners who have all given an intentional step towards a stronger community.

How do we go forward?

The Co-op Board must make a critical choice this month:

- 1) Open a smaller / cheaper store (total cost estimated at \$800,000, compared to approximately \$2,000,000 before). We would lower costs by using reconditioned equipment, leveraging the skills of our owners to do some construction tasks and building some of our cabinets and fixtures. Some additional efforts will be required to raise the remaining funds.
- 2) Go out of business. Stop all activities and turn over assets to a trustee to administer payments to creditors. Disregard positive growth and attitude in ownership.

The Board wants to hear your opinion. We have held a series of open meetings to provide more details and answer questions. A final meeting will be held on September 11. We have published details on our website for those who cannot attend a meeting. If you want more context about these two options, you can visit the website at www.columbusmarket.coop/futuredirection and find the presentation slides from August 9, 2018. You may also complete the survey online.

This survey is an opportunity for you to voice your opinion. We encourage you to speak out. Every survey completed before September 14 will be considered by the Board at our September 17 meeting.

Name: _____ E-mail _____ Phone: _____

Date: _____

Question #1: Which option do you support?

- 1) Open a smaller / cheaper store.
- 2) Go out of business.

Comments:

Question #2: If you support opening a smaller / cheaper store, together with your fellow owners, how much would you be willing to pledge to open?

Amount: _____

Comments:

Question #3: Our volunteers have been nothing short of inspiring and heroic. What skills could you volunteer to help the Co-op open and/or operate in order to save costs?

Comments:

Question #4: A cooperative grocery is different by design. Which of the 7 cooperative principles speaks to you the most?

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, & Information
6. Cooperative Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Comments:

Please take all the time you need to thoughtfully consider these questions, **but please ensure you have returned it to us no later than September 14, 2018.** Thank you for your time thus far.

While the next few days are critical, a cooperative's strength is in its diversity and population. This project can happen with a focused and inspired ownership.

Please mail responses back to:

Columbus Food Co-op
PO Box 1270
Columbus, IN 47202

Or complete the survey online:

www.columbusmarket.coop/futuredirection