

Great Elections

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Tip #1

Help members prepare for their role in elections...

Members are responsible for making 4 governance decisions in their co-op. Electing directors is by far the most important. Members play an important role in elections – they cast their votes, they stand for election and they serve as directors.

Tip #2

What makes elections successful?

- ✓ All members are involved: they run for the Board or they nominate a member they believe would be a good director
- ✓ An actual vote and not an acclamation
- ✓ Lots of voters casting “good” ballots
- ✓ Election procedures that the members understand and trust
- ✓ Getting a board that “**works**”
 - ✓ Makes good decisions
 - ✓ Is accountable
 - ✓ Puts the co-op first
 - ✓ Plans
 - ✓ Has no resignations or removals
 - ✓ Gives good member service

Tip #3

When recruiting candidates, think about:

- Starting well before the election
- What the members think about the Board and running for the Board
- Making running for the Board something that is valued by the membership
- Helping members feel they can run
- What stops members from running
- Looking for new leaders and supporting them to become great
- The qualification to run – any member that is qualified can run

Tip #4

Create an election “buzz” with:

- Election newsletters
- Countdown calendar
- Thermometer showing the number of candidates
- Advertise the AGM as an event
- Plan something special for the AGM



What does your Board need to succeed?

- Support from the members
- Support from management
- Clear, concise and up-to-date by-laws
- A plan with identifiable goals

What qualities should directors have?

- Strong ethical values
- Respect for the members and the decisions they make
- A willingness to be transparent and keep the members informed
- A commitment to their duty as a director