



Thomas Gram

I'm T Gram, I'm a Plainfield resident now, but I mostly grew up in Montpelier. I've been a lifelong activist supporting social and environmental causes and I believe cooperatives of workers or of consumers are a key way of organizing people to meet their needs more fairly and democratically.

I am a working-class person depending on the Co-op Cares program to make ends meet and I want to make sure that perspective is heard in our collective decision-making. I also have years of experience working in the local food industry and some negotiation and communication experience through political advocacy and through working in education—particularly across language barriers tutoring refugees and other international students.

Our big opportunity is to embrace the democratic principles that define cooperatives and help expand the concept of economic democracy to the surround environment in ways that create better deals for workers and consumers. Our big challenge is dealing with a larger national economic system that is still mostly undemocratic and which dictates many vendor prices and the prices for homes and other survival needs that Co-op workers must pay. So, where our challenge and our opportunity meet is in the need to protect our workers, members and other consumers from the cost of living crisis to the best of our ability.

I'm a lifelong activist for social causes and food industry veteran. I want to help bring about a more transparent and accountable approach to making decisions where we must balance the priorities of fair pay for workers, fair costs for members and fair trade for with suppliers. Crucially, I want to ensure strong accountability features are in place after the abuse scandal a few years ago.

Thank you

Candidate Education Checklist: Candidates received up to five apples for each council-related educational item completed.

