



## Tabling & Petitioning Policy

Monadnock Food Co-op honors the diversity of our membership and recognizes that individual Member-Owners may hold a wide range of opinions on any given local, regional, or national issue. While we encourage Member-Owners to individually and collectively participate in community education and the political process, we do not allow tabling or petitioning on Monadnock Food Co-op property except as stated herein.

Monadnock Food Co-op provides opportunities for partnering not-for-profit organizations (501c3) to network with our community on Co-op property. Priority will be given to groups that have a direct impact on our Mission and Ends Policy or Cooperative Principles.

In general, the Co-op prioritizes the following issues: Cooperatives, Food and Food Access, Nutrition and Health Products, Sustainable Agriculture, Local Economy Building, Environmental Issues, Consumer Safety, and Social and Economic Justice.

Individuals or other groups seeking to make their voices heard through tabling or petitioning on Co-op property should collaborate with one of our non-profit partners. Issues that are particularly divisive, politically partisan, or religious in nature will be excluded from consideration for purposes of tabling or petitioning. Individuals and groups are not allowed to ask for on-site donations. Permission to table or petition at the co-op does not equal co-op endorsement of an issue or support for a particular side of an issue. It is expected that partnering organizations will educate and inform in a fair and balanced manner. Monadnock Food Co-op management reserves the right to use its discretion in interpreting this policy.

The following is required to table or collect petition signatures on Co-op property:

1. Eligible organizations (see above) interested in tabling or petitioning at the Co-op are required to fill out the Tabling & Petitioning Form (see below) **at least three weeks in advance**. Fundraising or the sale of any items in front of the store must be approved on a case-by-case basis. Signature gathering for petitions is **not** permitted unless it concerns an issue that the Co-op chooses to sponsor, such as legislation of organic food production standards or the labeling of GMO ingredients.
2. Generally, tabling or petitioning is limited to up to two times per month per group. Only one group at a time may table or collect petition signatures.
3. Upon arrival, before setting up, check-in with management is required. Tablers or petitioners will be instructed as to where to set up and will be given a copy of our current Tabling Policy.

4. Groups must provide their own table and chairs.

5. A display with materials about the organization's goals or relevant materials and staffed with the organization's representatives is required. The organization must be clearly identifiable. Representatives of the organization or others present with the organization are also requested to refrain from wearing any political or religious messages or endorsements while tabling.

6. Monadnock Food Co-op's Advocacy Policy states that no religious or political party-affiliated groups may table and/or receive donations from the Co-op.

7. Harassment of our customers is our greatest concern. Individuals working or volunteering for the approved organization are requested NOT to directly (verbally or physically) approach people entering or exiting the Co-op, or in the Co-op's parking lot. Co-op Staff who observe tablers or petitioners violating these guidelines, or not upholding respectful and appropriate behavior, have the authority to ask groups to change their behavior or leave the premises. Customer complaints about solicitation will be taken very seriously. Overly aggressive tactics or harassment will lead to the permanent loss of an organization's privileges.



# monadnock FOOD CO•OP Tabling & Petitioning Form

Please fill out and return this form to the Customer Service Desk at the Monadnock Food Co-op, email it to [outreach@monadnockfood.coop](mailto:outreach@monadnockfood.coop)

**Requests should be made at least two weeks in advance.**

If you have any questions, please call the Outreach Coordinator at 603-283-5401.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide non-profit tax ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

When would you like to table at the Monadnock Food Co-op?

Would you like to include a petition at your table? If so, please offer us details.

Please describe how your group has a direct impact on our Mission and Ends Policy or Cooperative Principle (see next page).

## **Monadnock Food Co-op Ends Policies**

The Monadnock Food Co-op is cooperatively owned and operated by people in our community, and exists to meet our community's need for:

- An accessible, community-owned downtown food market
- A marketplace that welcomes and connects community
- A healthy, sustainable food system
- The support of local farmers and producers
- Education to promote healthy living
- A strong, sustainable and improving local economy

## **Cooperative Principles**

Cooperatives around the world generally operate according to the same core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance in 1995. Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

### **1. Voluntary and Open Membership**

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use its services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### **2. Democratic Member Control**

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members—those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

### **3. Members' Economic Participation**

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

### **4. Autonomy and Independence**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative's autonomy.

### **5. Education, Training and Information**

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

## **6. Cooperation among Cooperatives**

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

## **7. Concern for Community**

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

*Revised 11/11/24*