

Member Proposal #1

Proposal

That the Board research, discuss and report back to the membership on alternative voting systems for electing members to the Board. Specifically, I would like the system called Cumulative Voting to be researched and discussed and that the results of this process be reported back to the membership.

Statement of the Intent of the Proposal

Under New Business, paragraph 6 of the AGM minutes of April 11, 2017, Mike Moeller asked about voting procedures for the Board of Directors and why there is a requirement for members to vote for a specific number of candidates. In the last sentence of the paragraph, Board of Directors' President, Mary Oxner, indicates that "...the Board will take this item back and discuss at a future Board meeting, and communicate the results of their discussion to the membership".

As far as I can recall, the results of this discussion have not been communicated to the membership. I attended the 2018 AGM and I did not hear anything regarding this discussion.

Like member Moeller, I too am interested in alternative methods of voting for Board members. In particular, I am interested in a system of voting called Cumulative Voting. Using this system, for instance, there could be 4 positions available and 6 candidates for the 4 positions. A member could choose to place only 2 votes, instead of the 4 votes required. Choosing to place only 2 votes would have the result of weighing the member's votes. But this is not permitted by the current voting system used by ECCU. In the current system, a member must vote for 4 candidates (or whatever number is required to replace the positions) or the ballot is declared null and void.

It is argued that the Cumulative Voting method can improve the chances of minorities, giving them better representation. I think this would be a positive development in our credit union. Therefore, I am proposing that the Board research, discuss and report back to the membership regarding voting methods and on the Cumulative Voting method, in particular.

Statement in Support of Proposal

While admiring the current Board and appreciating their efforts on behalf of the ECCU and acknowledging that the Nominations Committee makes its best efforts to identify and encourage nominations from eligible members that are representative of the diversity of the credit union, and who possess the skills, knowledge and expertise required to serve on the Board of Directors, I'm concerned that when members who are more representative of the diversity of the credit union do run for election that they aren't elected. A different voting system could help with this. I am proposing that the Board explore alternative voting methods in hopes that another method would bring more diversity to the fore. The system of voting called Cumulative Voting might help achieve this goal. It allows members to limit the number of candidates they support without losing voting power. At this time, I am not necessarily proposing that the voting system change but that it first be explored.

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