

## **ROY SIRENGO (Board Candidate, 2021)**

TRUST is the beating heart of good governance and relies on a foundation of openness and fair disclosure. Serving on the board is best done as a service to others than for any personal reason. I want to help rebuild our governance systems on this foundation.

Building on the monthly, virtual town halls that we started last year, I'm running to encourage more shareholder participation in shaping and re-making our co-op community. I'm running on a platform for shareholder participation, more disclosure and using technology tools to improve disclosure and reduce the burden of coop. governance.

There's always the letter and the spirit of the law. Boards have a lot of power and can use legal frameworks to limit or expand basic shareholder rights. The interpretation is largely a function of the mindset of those governing. We've chosen to limit shareholder participation in several ways here, I'll cite an example: at least two, recent midterm elections have been filled with hand-picked candidates without even telling shareholders of the vacancy. While the board is legally allowed to make this decision, doing so without notifying shareholders or interviewing all eligible, interested candidates does not, in my mind, ensure the selection of the best candidate. Another example is the way we carry out capital projects: shareholders (actual owners) don't receive reports detailing some basic and universally accepted details: bidders, selected party, the amount they were paid, and technical reports of what was done (including warranty for work done etc.) This has already cost us dearly with the (\$5MM) repointing project which resulted in numerous apartments leaking, requiring us to pay for those repairs as well. If we're about to embark on another multi-million dollar capital project, wouldn't you want to ensure we use a system that can function more efficiently? We can do better.

I believe that new energy and ideas can foster more shareholder involvement. We must begin with instituting transparent policies to guide us away from arbitrary decision-making based on the whims of one or more directors. I will work to make sub-committees more autonomous with more power to make decisions. We can all acknowledge the impracticality of trying to govern by consensus on every matter. But this does not mean, no consensus required on any matter or that the Board should keep shareholders on a need-to-know basis.

I've lived in this community for 11 years now and am running to help bring change. I'm a chemical engineer with a graduate degree in environmental engineering and an MBA. I bring 20+ years of diverse business expertise in various industries including environmental, construction, cost estimation, technology and pharmaceuticals. I believe in innovation and think the best kind is rooted in listening and encouraging ideas from our diverse shareholder community.

I've founded two startups including ecoMUKTI that powered gift experiences for children, building curiosity and a better future world. In my current venture, I'm helping underrepresented businesses (women and minority-owned firms) succeed in government contracting. I enjoy cooking, spending time outdoors, yoga, wellness and have spent the last ten years providing free-tech support to seniors. I learned environmentalism from the clear skies, clean water and fresh air of the Blue Mountains of South India, but I have also embraced the heterogeneity that comes from living in a neighborhood like Jackson Heights.

Many of us have witnessed the mismanagement of shareholder finances, poor amenities and selective responses to shareholder questions. None of us will live here forever but must each play our (small) roles in improving this place for the next set of shareholders. Vote for change! Help bring in new, improved governance at Berkeley, so we can all feel proud to call this community our home.