



**480 Wilson Road, Room 172  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
Ph: (517) 432-3381  
Fx: (517) 353-7961  
[www.mifma.org](http://www.mifma.org)**

January 27, 2014

Dear MIFMA Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors Nominating Committee, we are excited to announce that MIFMA's Board of Directors elections will take place on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at our Annual Meeting to be held in East Lansing during the Michigan Farmers Market Conference. **Please join us in finding great candidates to lead MIFMA!**

MIFMA's current bylaws specify an eleven-member Board. Seven positions are to be held by farmers market representatives, one from each of the seven MIFMA regions (map enclosed), and four positions are to be held by Michigan farmers who sell their own products at farmers markets.

The Nominating Committee is working to prepare a slate of candidates for MIFMA members to vote on and we need your input. **Please consider nominating yourself or a fellow MIFMA member.** Board members serve on a volunteer basis and only one person per membership may serve on the Board at a time. The job is rewarding and we need people who are passionate about advancing Michigan farmers markets to join us in building the association.

Please review the enclosed Board member nomination packet, consider running for the MIFMA Board of Directors yourself, or nominate a fellow member. **Nomination forms are due February 15, 2014.**

Please contact the MIFMA office at (517) 432-3381 with any questions you may have regarding Board member nominations or this process.

Sincerely,

Dru Montri  
Director

Frank Blisset  
Board Member and Nominating Committee Chair





## Board of Directors Information for Nominees

Individuals interested in serving on the MIFMA Board of Directors should read all of the materials in this packet and **complete the enclosed nomination form by February 15, 2014**. Please contact the MIFMA office at (517) 432-3381 with any questions.

### Board of Directors Members Pledge:

I understand that as a member of the Michigan Farmers Market Association Board of Directors I have a responsibility to ensure that the association does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals. I believe in MIFMA's mission to advance farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products and I am committed to working with MIFMA to guide its growth. Therefore, I pledge to devote myself to the following roles and responsibilities:

- I will be a member of MIFMA in good standing.
- I am willing and able to contribute approximately six hours monthly to MIFMA activities.
- I will attend ALL Board meetings face-to-face and by conference calls. I will notify the President or the Director if I absolutely cannot attend due to an allowable absence (planned event or an unforeseen emergency).
- I will attend at least one of MIFMA's major events annually. Examples include the farmers market focus at Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo, the Market Manager Certificate Program or the Michigan Farmers Market Conference.
- I will participate in at least one MIFMA committee (Organizational Development, Marketing and Membership, Professional Development, Policy or Food Assistance Partnership). I understand that this involves, at minimum, a one-hour conference call each month as established by the committees.
- I will participate in an annual performance review of the MIFMA Director.
- I will help recruit and orient new Board members.
- I will stay informed about the activities and current issues in my region and statewide. I will represent my region at Board meetings, in my every day actions and decision making.
- I will review all materials prior to Board meetings (meeting minutes for review, agendas, budgets, etc.)
- I will return all emails and/or phone calls in a timely, professional manner.
- I understand that if I cannot fulfill the above roles and responsibilities I may be asked by the Board to resign.
- I may relinquish my position on the Board at anytime by submitting a letter of resignation to either the Board President or the Director.

**Qualifications:** Each person elected to the Board of Directors must be a MIFMA member in good standing and remain so during the term. Board members serve on a volunteer basis and only one person per membership may serve on the Board at the same time. The Board of Directors will act in good faith on behalf of the whole.

**Membership:** The Board of Directors will consist of eleven members with seven positions to be held by farmers market representatives, one from each of the seven MIFMA regions (map on page 3). Four positions are to be held by Michigan farmers who sell their own products at farmers markets.

**Terms of Office:** Board members may serve three consecutive two-year terms. This year farmers market members from Regions 1, 3, 5, and 7 will be elected for two-year terms. In addition, two farmer members will be elected for two-year terms. Farmer positions are to be held by farmers who sell their own products at farmers markets.

**Election:** The MIFMA Board of Directors shall be elected by the members at the MIFMA Annual Meeting to be held at 9 am on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at the Plant and Soil Science Building on Michigan State University's campus in East Lansing, Michigan.

**Meetings:** An organizational board meeting will be scheduled following the Annual Meeting to elect officers and set the meeting calendar for 2014.

**Officers:** Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors at the organizational meeting.

- President – presides over the MIFMA Board of Directors and the annual meeting.
- Vice-president – acts as the president in the absence of the president.
- Secretary – takes minutes at all meetings, assures that the minutes of the meetings are made available to any member that requests them, assures that notice of all meetings is provided to the membership, and assures that a record giving the names and addresses of the members entitled to vote are kept at the registered office and provided at all membership meetings.
- Treasurer – maintains financial records and make reports to the Board and membership as needed. This position may be held by a Board Member, delegated to staff, delegated to membership or contracted.

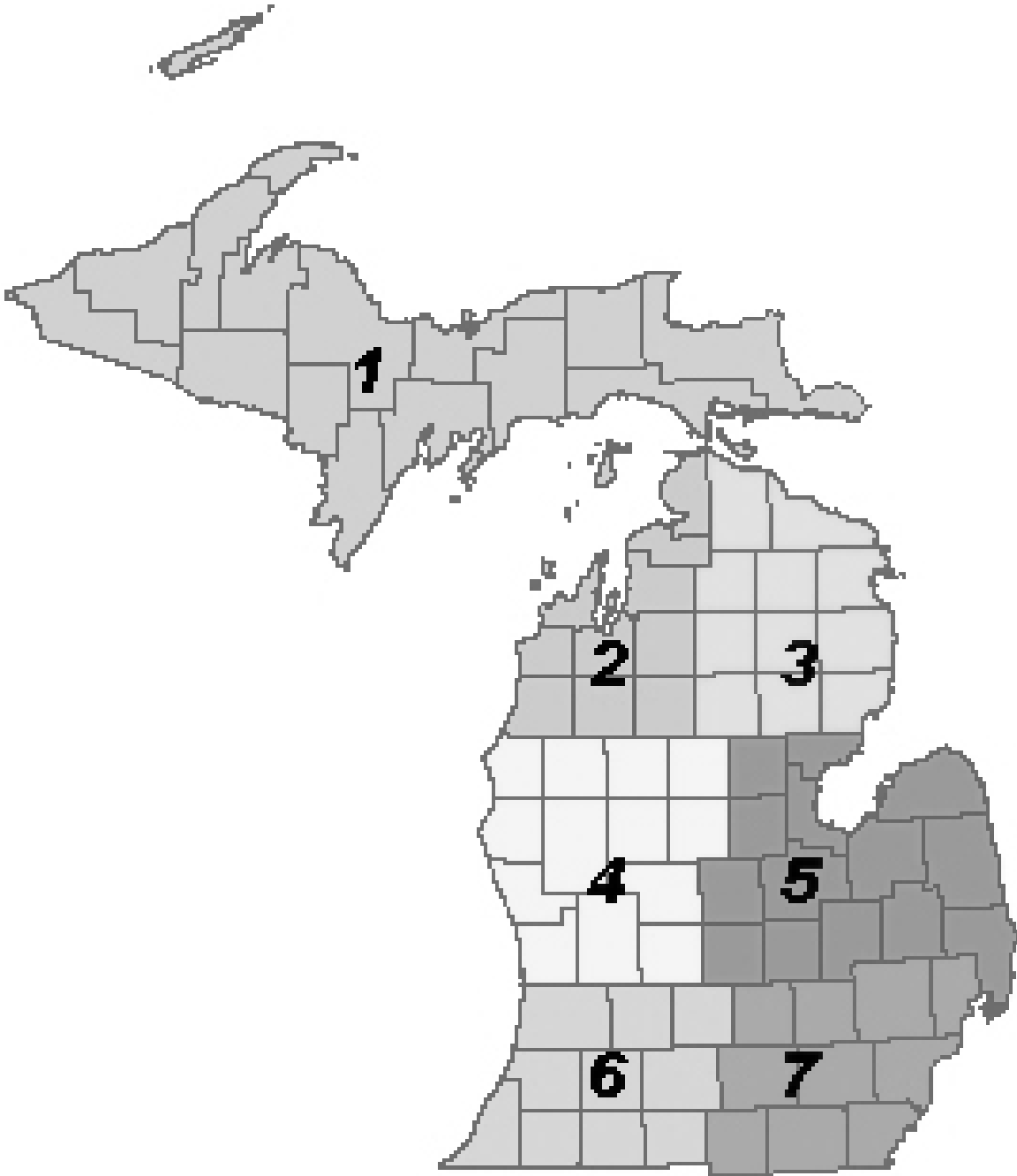
**Resignation:** Board members may resign at any time by providing written notice to the Board.

**Removal:** Any member may be removed, with or without cause, by a 2/3 majority vote of the full MIFMA Board.

**Board Vacancies:** If a vacancy occurs on the Board, the Board then in office may, by majority vote, choose a successor to fill that position until the next annual meeting when the members shall elect a replacement to complete the remainder of the term.

**Conflict of Interest:** Members shall be mindful of potential conflicts of interest that may arise for them individually on matters that come before the Board. The Board is to uphold a high standard of transparency in transactions and processes and to commit itself to maintaining the integrity of the association. Potential conflicts arising from employment, marital, or proprietary relationships should be avoided in order to prevent the appearance of impropriety. Board members shall abstain from voting if a conflict of interest arises.

**Map of MIFMA Farmers Markets Regions – Regions 1, 3, 5 and 7 Eligible for Nomination**



**Michigan Farmers Market Association  
2014 Board of Directors Nomination Form**

Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Phone	Cell Phone	E-Mail
MIFMA Member Yes _____ No _____		
Level of MIFMA Membership Farmers Market _____ Farmer/Vendor _____		
<i>If Representing a Farmers Market:</i>		
Name of Farmers Market _____		
Region 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____		
Years of Experience with Farmers Markets		
Experience with other Board of Directors Yes _____ No _____		
With Whom and Position(s) Held		

To help our membership in this election we are asking each nominee to answer the following questions in **250 words or less**. Your response will be published and submitted to our membership for their review prior to board elections.

- Why are you seeking a position on the MIFMA Board of Directors?
- What will you bring to the Michigan Farmers Market Association?

Please include all information you feel conveys your desire to become a part of this growing and vital association. **Please attach your typed or clearly printed response to this form.** In addition, **we are asking for a photo that can be published with your response** as we submit your request for consideration to our membership during this election. This is by no means mandatory. Send all materials to Dru Montri, Michigan Farmers Market Association, 480 Wilson Road, Room 172 Natural Resources Building, East Lansing, MI 48824 or submit electronically to [dru@mifma.org](mailto:dru@mifma.org).

---

Please accept the following document(s) supporting my nomination to the slate of candidates for the MIFMA Board of Directors elections. I have read the information for nominees, realize the responsibilities and time commitment expected of a MIFMA board member and therefore submit my qualifications.

---

Printed Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only:	Date rec'd _____	Reviewed by _____
------------------	------------------	-------------------