

JAMES HUNTER

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

The cooperative model is one of the most powerful tools available to build an inclusive and equitable economy. I am seeking to serve on NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors because I believe the cooperative movement must be both protected and boldly expanded in this moment.

My career has been rooted in strengthening credit unions as Community Development Financial Institutions and ensuring access to capital for communities that have historically been under-resourced. Through my work in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Africa, I have seen firsthand how cooperatives create economic stability, democratic participation and generational opportunity.

As a member of the board of Inclusiv, I have contributed to national efforts to advance financial inclusion and strengthen small and mission-driven credit unions. As board chair of Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West and as an executive director of a nonprofit organization, I bring extensive experience in governance, fiduciary responsibility and strategic leadership. I understand the importance of balancing innovation with accountability and mission with measurable outcomes.

The cooperative principles and values are not theoretical to me; they guide my leadership. Democratic member control ensures accountability. Cooperation among cooperatives strengthens collective impact. Concern for community requires measurable investment in people and place. Education and Training build long-term sustainability. These principles are essential as cooperatives navigate economic volatility, regulatory pressures and shifting community needs.

NCBA CLUSA plays a vital role as the national voice of cooperatives—advocating at the federal level, elevating public awareness and supporting cooperative development domestically and internationally. I believe my governance experience, international cooperative engagement and deep roots in credit union development position me to contribute meaningfully to this work.

If elected, I will focus on strengthening cross-sector collaboration, amplifying the visibility of the cooperative model and ensuring that cooperative enterprises remain accessible tools for economic participation in communities across the country and globally.

The future of the cooperative movement depends on disciplined governance, bold advocacy and unwavering commitment to our shared values. I am prepared to serve with integrity, collaboration and purpose.