

Voting Guide for Thoreau Society Members

In July the Thoreau Society adopted a bylaw revision to allow electronic voting. We will vote electronically on this merger proposal. All active and life members at the date of the ballot release are eligible to vote.

We will be using Election Buddy, an online, secure system that verifies voting eligibility but protects the anonymity of votes. Election Buddy was selected after testing several options for ease-of-use and reliability. Your electronic ballot will be delivered/ verified confidentially using your email address on file with the Thoreau Society.

Voting is open from **November 15 – December 15, 2025**. You may vote anytime during this window, but you may only vote once. Please consider the proposal carefully before voting.

All active and life members with an email address on file will receive an electronic ballot from Election Buddy. Please be sure to check your spam/junk folder for your ballot. All members who have confirmed they have no email address will receive a paper ballot.

Votes will be tallied by the Election Buddy and confirmed by the Committee on Nominations and Elections. Approval requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting members.

If APPROVED, the merger could take legal effect January 2026, with rolling administrative changes in the new year. All programs and projects would continue uninterrupted.

If the bylaw change/merger is NOT APPROVED, the Board would revisit strategic planning at its winter meeting.

If you are a Thoreau Society member and have questions about your membership or updates to your information, please be in touch with membership@thoreausociety.org or call

Bring Questions and Comments to an Open Forum

We invite all members and friends to join our open forums—dedicated spaces for understanding the upcoming vote, asking questions about the proposed merger, and sharing any concerns. These sessions are designed to ensure everyone has clear information about the proposal they are voting on.

Tuesday, November 18, 10am on Zoom
Friday, November 21, 1pm on Zoom
Saturday, November 22, 2pm on Zoom
Sunday, November 23, 11am on Zoom
Wednesday, November 26, 10am on Zoom
Sunday, December 7, 2pm on Zoom
Wednesday, December 10, 7pm on Zoom
Thursday, December 11, 9am on Zoom

Questions may continue to be directed to the office (info@thoreausociety.org; 978-369-5321); John Kucich (jkucich@bridgew.edu); or to the [Google Form](#).

Call for Responses: Submit Public Comment on the Merger Proposal

The boards of the Thoreau Society and Thoreau Farm have reviewed and approved this detailed merger proposal, developed in response to community input and questions. We now invite Thoreau Society members to share their support or opposition in published public comments that will appear on the dedicated page: thoreausociety.org/merger. This is an opportunity to contribute to the conversation and have your voice heard by the wider membership.

Guidelines for Responses:

- **Focus: Responses should be statements that address the merger proposal as presented.** They should not be used to ask questions. *Questions may continue to be directed to the office (info@thoreausociety.org; 978-369-5321); John Kucich (jkucich@bridgew.edu); or to the Google Form.*
- **Position: Clearly indicate whether you support or oppose the proposal.** *If you are undecided, please feel free to share questions, concerns, and comments in our Google Form or in an upcoming Open Forum.*
- **Length: Responses should be fewer than 250 words.**
- **Format: Please submit your response in the body of the email, NOT as an attachment.** Each submission must include your name; unsigned responses will not be shared.
- **Limit: Each member may submit one response.**

Think of this like a letter to the editor: it is a short opinion piece that will be published publicly.

Submit your comment by emailing your response to: comments@thoreausociety.org

Please indicate “Support” or “Opposition” in your subject line.

Responses will be reviewed on a rolling basis by Kathleen Kelly for clarity and adherence to the guidelines. She will be in touch with questions. They will be posted on the dedicated web page (thoreausociety.org/merger).

We value your thoughtful engagement and look forward to sharing a range of perspectives with the membership.