

# Make the Roads Safe



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO RYAN BARTLETT

**SAFETY IS, WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE A PRIORITY AT TAYLOR ELECTRIC Cooperative.** This includes the safety of you, our members, as well as that of our employees.

We are proud of our safety record and the measures that we put in place to safeguard those who work to bring you a steady supply of electricity. That especially goes for our lineworkers and support crews, who have some of the most dangerous jobs around.

Our constant focus on safety includes meetings and classes in which employees receive training in staying safe around dangerous equipment and in hazardous situations. Our co-op's strategic plan always contains a strong safety component designed to keep our workers and the public out of harm's way.

Working around electricity, often far above the ground and in all weather conditions, is inherently dangerous. But not all the dangers our employees face come from the weather, climbing or power lines. If you are not paying attention when you are behind the wheel, the danger might come from you.

Sometimes the job of building a line or restoring power places our crews at the sides of



BURWELL AND BURWELL PHOTOGRAPHY | ISTOCK

**While some of our crews' most dangerous work is high in the sky, distracted drivers on the ground also pose a significant risk.**

narrow roads that run through our service territory. It's in these situations that you can help keep your electric cooperative workers safe.

If you see utility vehicles and line crews working, give them and the road ahead all of your attention.

Slow down and, if it is safe, move over to give crews as much space as possible.

Respect traffic cones, flashing lights and other signals. They could be the only thing between your car and workers or equipment.

With your cooperation, the dangers of line work don't have to be increased by traffic. There is much our crews can do to enhance their safety, but there's not much protection from a distracted driver.

Please be careful, be aware, slow down and help protect Taylor EC's most valuable asset: our people.



ISTOCK.COM

## Don't Hang That Sign!

**THERE ARE MORE THAN 130 MILLION** wooden utility poles in the United States, estimates the North American Wood Pole Council. That ample vertical real estate may look appealing when you need somewhere to hang your sign, deer stand, basketball hoop, clothesline or satellite dish.

Don't make that mistake. Attaching items to utility poles is not only illegal, it's dangerous, too.

It may seem innocent, but one pin-hole from a tack, nail or staple lodged in a pole can pierce a lineworker's glove, stripping away critical protection from thousands of volts of electricity. Obstructions also can impede lineworkers' ability to climb and inspect poles.

Anyone placing items on poles also risks exposing themselves to thousands of volts of electricity. This is especially true of structures anchored to poles. It's always wise to keep any structure at least 10 feet away from utility poles.

Please help Taylor EC keep our linemen—and our community—safe. Don't attach unauthorized, dangerous items to our poles.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**TAYLOR EC**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Thursday, April 19 | Abilene Convention Center**

**Mail-In Ballots Must Be  
Postmarked by 5 p.m., April 11**

**MEMBERS WHO CANNOT ATTEND TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S ANNUAL MEETING**

April 19 can cast their ballots through the mail. Each cooperative member is entitled to one vote. Absentee ballots are available upon request from the cooperative. Call (325) 793-8500 to have a ballot sent to your home or business. You will receive a pre-paid envelope for the ballot return. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by April 11 to Taylor EC headquarters and will be deposited into a secure ballot box, which will be opened by election administrators.



**Taylor Electric Cooperative**

226 County Road 287 • P.O. Box 250  
Merkel, TX 79536

**PRESIDENT/CEO**

Ryan Bartlett

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, *Zone 1*

Leland Robinson, Board Vice Chairman, *Zone 1*

Parks Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer, *Zone 3*

Garland Carter, *Zone 2*

David McFall, *Zone 2*

Richard Petree, *At-Large*

Kathy Rainey, *Zone 3*

**HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL**

**Online**

[taylorelectric.com](http://taylorelectric.com)

**Taylor Electric App**

Available on your Apple or Android product

**By Phone**

**(325) 793-8500**

*Visa, MasterCard, checks accepted*

*Payments credited immediately*

**In Person**

**Main office hours:**

**7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Monday–Friday**

226 CR 287, off I-20, west of Abilene

Wells Lane exit 274 between Tye and

Merkel

**Abilene office hours:**

**7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Monday–Friday**

7966 Hwy 83, Abilene 79602

*Visa, MasterCard, checks, cash and money orders accepted*

*Payments credited immediately*

**Drop Box**

**Main office drop box at front gate: 24/7**

**Abilene office drop box (next to middle door): 24/7**

*Checks and money orders accepted*

*Payments credited next business day*

**Pay Stations**

**• Food Plaza #4**

109 S.E. Fifth St., Cross Plains

**• Check Express**

906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

*Cash, checks, money orders and debit cards accepted*

*Payments credited next business day*



# Nominating Committee To Meet February 20

*Candidate applications due February 15 at 5 p.m.*

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL MEET FEBRUARY 20 TO** select candidates for the 2018 board of directors ballot.

Committee members, who each represent a respective zone within Taylor EC's service territory, will screen and interview applicants to be placed on the ballot. Voting for the director seats will take place at the 78th annual meeting.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for a seat on the board of directors, an eligibility checklist can be found below, and the application begins on the adjacent page. Additional copies are available at Taylor EC's headquarters.

Applications are due by 5 p.m., February 15. Completed applications can be mailed or faxed to Taylor EC headquarters:

**Taylor Electric Cooperative**  
**ATTN: Nominating Committee**  
**P.O. Box 250**  
**Merkel, TX 79536**  
**Fax: (325) 793-9680**

## Nominating Committee Members

- Melvin Bachhofer . . . . . (325) 537-2736
- Craig Bessent . . . . . (325) 692-5937
- Terry Locklar . . . . . (325) 320-6349
- Jesse Mulanax . . . . . (325) 235-4278
- Colleen Richards . . . . . (325) 692-7122
- Mary Ussery . . . . . (325) 798-3645
- Dee Vinson . . . . . (325) 537-9323

# How To Serve as a Taylor EC Director

## Requirements To Serve as a Director:

- ▶ Be a Taylor Electric Cooperative member in good standing for five years
- ▶ Have no criminal history

## Process To Serve as a Director:

- ▶ Must complete and return application by February 15 (can be found on Page 21 and requested anytime at Taylor EC's headquarters)
- ▶ The Nominating Committee meets February 20 and interviews candidates
- ▶ Directors elected at the 79th annual meeting, April 19

## Duties of a Director:

- ▶ Review and approve work plans and budgets
- ▶ Review the annual financial audit and management letter
- ▶ Approve all applications for cooperative membership
- ▶ Select and appoint legal counsel
- ▶ Select and appoint auditors
- ▶ Ensure an adequate and reliable supply of power for the members
- ▶ Review and approve major contracts,

such as wholesale power contracts, loan agreements and construction contracts

- ▶ Hire and supervise the president/CEO, who hires cooperative staff
- ▶ Comply with all board policies and bylaws, including attendance at cooperative meetings, training and certifications
- ▶ Conduct membership meetings
- ▶ Authorize the construction of major facilities necessary for the efficient operations of the cooperative
- ▶ Protect the cooperative's assets through review, approval and procurement of appropriate insurance coverage; adhere to all regulatory requirements on local, state and federal levels
- ▶ Review and approve cooperative strategies, ideas and objectives for future membership needs

Directors must expect to spend at least 16–20 days a year conducting cooperative business. This time includes regular board meetings and additional workshops or conventions associated

with state or national affiliations. Directors must also expect and plan for extended overnight travel each year.

Local board policy requires directors to secure their certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. These courses train each director in the fundamentals of the power industry and explain all personal liabilities associated with the position.

Taylor EC directors receive no salary for their work on behalf of the cooperative. They may receive a per diem and mileage payments for their time and service. No other benefits are provided.

The directors have made extensive efforts to reduce expenses for out-of-state travel.

In recent years, the directors have voted to eliminate the payment of expenses for spouses to travel and voted to eliminate health insurance for directors.

For the protection of the cooperative, all nominees are subject to personal and financial background checks.

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION

## Director Candidate Eligibility Application

<b>NAME</b>		<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	
<b>CONTACT NUMBER(S)</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>WORK</b>	<b>FAX</b>
<b>MAILING ADDRESS</b>		<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b> <b>ZIP</b>
<b>RESIDENCE ADDRESS</b>		<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b> <b>ZIP</b>
<b>OCCUPATION</b>		<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
<b>TAYLOR EC ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>		<b>NAME(S) ON ACCOUNT</b>	

Please note that Taylor Electric Cooperative bylaws provide the guidelines for director candidate eligibility. A “Yes” answer to any question 1–5 may indicate a conflict of interest. If you answer “Yes” to any question 1–5 below, please explain below:

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- Are you currently holding an elected public office for which compensation is paid?  YES  NO
- If your membership account is currently held jointly by husband and wife, is your spouse currently a director?  YES  NO
- Have you or a close relative (spouse, brother, sister, son, daughter, mother or father, including any of the above by marriage) been employed by or received compensation for serving the cooperative in the past year?  YES  NO
- In the past year, have you been employed by or had a financial interest in an entity that competes with the cooperative or poses a conflict of interest; or, have you been employed by or shared a material financial interest with another director?  YES  NO
- Does your employer or business sell products or services to the cooperative?  YES  NO
- Do you attend the cooperative’s annual meeting each year and vote in director elections?  YES  NO
- Do you have any experience on other boards or committees such as assemblies, councils, school boards, hospitals, churches, etc., that you think should be considered among your qualifications? If so, please list below.

ORGANIZATION	YEARS SERVED	STILL SERVING?		YOUR CAPACITY
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	_____
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	_____
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	_____
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	_____

continued on reverse

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION** *continued*

**8.** Aside from your membership with Taylor Electric Cooperative, what other cooperative memberships have you held?

COOPERATIVE	YEARS	YOUR CAPACITY
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**9.** A director typically spends about 50 hours each year in cooperative business meetings in Merkel. Additional time may be required for meetings and training away from Merkel. If you become a cooperative director, how difficult will it be for you to find time for the following commitments?

	NO PROBLEM	RARE PROBLEM	REAL PROBLEM
Monthly, half-day to daylong board meeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Board committee meetings, usually two hours or less, with one or two weeks' notice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Two- or three-day state or national meetings or seminars with at least one month's notice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Two- or three-day meetings or seminars anywhere in the United States with at least one month's and usually several months' notice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**10.** Are you willing to attend state and national training courses for directors?  YES  NO

**11.** In your opinion, what are the greatest challenges facing Taylor Electric Cooperative in the future?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**12.** What is your most important qualification to serve as a Taylor Electric Cooperative director?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**13.** Why do you want to serve on the Taylor Electric Cooperative Board of Directors?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**By signing this application, I agree to allow the Taylor Electric Cooperative Board of Directors to check my background and credit history as a part of my qualification to serve on the board of directors.**

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please submit a résumé, references or a letter of application if you desire to add more information.*

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS FEBRUARY 15.**

*Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc., Director Candidate Eligibility Checklist Approved 07/16/07*

# Scammers Ramping Up

*Slow them down with skepticism, vigilance*

## SCAMMERS ARE TARGETING UNSUSPECTING

citizens with greater frequency—and increasing creativity. Crooks now threaten victims with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home. Or they pretend to help victims avoid complications with utility, cellphone, video streaming, bank or other accounts.

But there is good news: Scams are being recognized and reported more often. And all it takes to thwart one is awareness and vigilance.

## A Few Common Scams

Staying alert and cautious every day can help you avoid these common scams.

**The Utility Scam:** An individual poses as an employee of your electric cooperative, telling you that your power will be turned off for nonpayment of your bill. The scammer says you can avoid disconnection by giving them money via prepaid credit or debit card.

**The Something-for-Nothing Scam:** A con artist claims to represent a government program that helps pay utility bills. They say your bill can be paid with stimulus money; all you have to do is “verify” your bank account, credit card or Social Security number. No such government program exists. Sharing this information puts you at risk for identity theft and financial damage—and for electricity disconnection when the bill isn’t actually paid by the bogus program.

**The Netflix Scam:** This email scam targets subscribers of the Netflix video streaming service, warning that their account is being canceled. The objective is to steal personal and credit card information. The professional-looking, personalized email often bears the subject line “Your suspension notification” and includes a link to a fake Netflix page, where you are prompted to enter your login information and credit card number.

## Avoid Being Scammed

Despite differing tactics, all scams share one objective: to get money or sensitive information from you. Never provide passwords or PINs, nor your Social Security, credit card, bank or other account numbers, unless you initiated the contact and trust the person with whom you are speaking. No legitimate business should ever contact you to ask for personal financial information.

▶ If someone comes to your home claiming to be a cooperative employee and demands to collect money or inspect parts of



your property, note the person’s identification, then make them wait outside your locked door. Call the co-op immediately to verify whether the person is, in fact, an employee. If not, call local police and do not let the individual into your home.

▶ If you receive a call from someone who pressures you for immediate payment or personal information, do not respond to their requests. Instead, hang up. Call the company they claimed to represent, then local authorities.

▶ Think before you respond to an email. View with suspicion any emails that push you to click on links or otherwise act immediately. If you want to change settings for any account, never click on links in an email. Instead, independently navigate to the site in your browser.

## After a Scam

If you suspect you’ve already been the target of a scam:

**Be proactive.** If you already have provided financial information to someone you later suspect as fraudulent, immediately contact your bank.

**Report the incident.** Notify the organization that the scammer claimed to represent and the police. They might not be able to do anything, but every report helps build a body of information to identify and stop these scams in the future.

**Do not fall for a “recovery” scam.** Don’t give anybody any more money on the promise that they will get your lost money back. It’s just another scam.

**Inform others.** Share this information with friends and family so they do not fall prey to scams.