

# CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,  
President / CEO

## Resolve to Get Involved

With the flip of a calendar and the stroke of a clock, a new year is here. The fresh start is a prime opportunity to reflect and assess—to take stock of the year that’s just wrapped up and consider changes for 2022.

Perhaps you have an annual ritual, as I do, of building on those reflections by setting a resolution or two. Some of my mainstays include reminding myself to practice gratitude and express empathy, spend more time with the people I love, and of course, eat more fruits and veggies.

In addition to improving the quality of your life and your health, resolutions can help you make the most of your membership with Taylor Electric Cooperative. Here are a few to consider.

**Attend the annual meeting this April 21st.** Participating in our drive through experience offers members the opportunity to connect with employees and experience the co-op in new ways.

**Vote.** While you’re at the annual meeting, exercise your Democratic Member Control, one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, by voting to elect directors. Since our board guides the co-op’s development, your participation in the election affects the plans and trajectory of the organization. Have your say.

**Contribute to Operation Round Up.** Of all the ways Taylor EC seeks to support the community, Operation Round Up is especially close to my heart because it enlists the generosity and compassion of our members. Those who volunteer to round up their bills to the next dollar provide meaningful support to our volunteer fire departments who serve our membership and the surrounding areas.

Maybe you’re already doing some of these things or have thought about them. But there’s no better time than the beginning of the year to turn over a new leaf.

You might find branching out and engaging with your co-op more fulfilling than you anticipated—a small way to make your 2022 a little happier and healthier.



# CEO CORNER

# 4 Tips for Winter Safety

**WINTER MONTHS BRING** increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. That's because during the coldest months, folks pull out space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators for added heat.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction, resulting in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from Electrical Safety Foundation International.

**Don't overload outlets.** Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections; they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs.

**Never leave space heaters unattended.** Turn them off before leaving the room. Make sure they are at least 3 feet away from flammable items, and remember that space heaters take a toll on your power bill.

**Inspect heating pads and electric blankets.** Look for charred or frayed spots, and make sure the cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

**Use portable generators safely.** Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator to your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet on the generator. Start the generator before you plug in appliances and always run it in a well-ventilated area outside your home. ■



**THURSDAY**  
**21**  
APRIL

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Taylor EC's 83rd Annual Meeting**  
April 21, 2022

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**POWER TIP**

This winter, make sure that your thermostat isn't near any sources of cold air that might skew the reading and make the heater run more.



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## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

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

**Phone** (325) 793-8500

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

### President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### Board of Directors

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, Zone 1

Leland Robinson, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 1

David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2

Garland Carter, Zone 2

Richard Petree, At-Large

Kathryn Rainey, Zone 3

Gay Simmons, Zone 3

**24/7**

**Outage  
Hotline**

For information and to report outages, please call us.

**LOCAL**

(325) 793-8500

### HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

#### ONLINE

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

#### TAYLOR ELECTRIC APP

Available on your Apple or Android device.

#### BY PHONE

(325) 793-8500

Payments credited immediately.

#### IN PERSON

**Hours** Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

**Merkel** 226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

**Abilene** 7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Payments credited immediately.

#### DROP BOX

**Merkel** office at front gate.

**Abilene** office next to first door on the left.

Payments credited next business day.

#### PAY STATIONS

• Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene

• United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene

• Check Express, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Payments credited next business day.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

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



Check us out at

[TexasCoopPower.com/taylor](http://TexasCoopPower.com/taylor)

# Nominating Committee To Meet February 15

Candidate applications due February 1 at 5:30 p.m.

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S NOMINATING** committee will meet February 15 at 10 a.m. to elect candidates for the 2022 board of directors ballot.

Committee members, who each represent a 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 83rd 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 Page 21. Additional copies are available at Taylor EC's headquarters.

Applications are due by 5:30 p.m. February 1. Completed applications can be mailed or faxed to the Taylor EC headquarters:

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

## Taylor EC Nominating Committee

### Zone 1—Taylor County

Craig Bessent, Chairman,  
(325) 692-5937

Colleen Richards, (325) 829-7228

### Zone 2—Callahan, Eastland, Jones and Shackelford counties

Tom Edd Johnson, (806) 928-8872

Ashley Thompson, (325) 529-6643

Dee Vinson, (325) 668-6096

### Zone 3—Coke, Fisher and Nolan counties

Terry Locklar, (325) 320-6349

Jesse Mulanax, (325) 235-4278

Mary Ussery, (325) 798-3645

## How To Serve as a Taylor EC Director

### Requirements To Serve as a Director:

- ▶ Be a Taylor Electric Cooperative member in good standing for 10 years.
- ▶ Have no criminal history.

### Process To Serve as a Director:

- ▶ Must complete and return application by February 1 (can be found on Page 21 and requested anytime at Taylor EC's headquarters).
- ▶ The nominating committee meets February 15, when it will interview candidates.
- ▶ Directors elected at the annual meeting April 21.

### 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 co-op's assets through review, approval and procurement of appropriate insurance coverage and 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 and national affiliations.

Directors must also expect and plan

for extended overnight travel each year.

Local board policy requires directors to secure certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. These courses train directors 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. ■

# Board of Directors Application

## Director Candidate Eligibility Application

Name		Email Address	
Contact Number(s)	Home	Work	Fax
Mailing Address		City	State Zip
Residence Address		City	State Zip
Occupation		Employer	Years
Taylor EC Account Number		Name(s) on account	

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	_____
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	_____
_____	_____	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	_____

## 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"/>
Special Board 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?

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

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

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**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 1.**



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## Notice of Deadline To File Applications for Board Election

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT APPLICATIONS FOR A PLACE ON THE TAYLOR** Electric Cooperative Board of Directors regular election ballot may be filed during the following time.

### **FILING WINDOW**

**Begins:** January 1, 2022

**Ends:** February 1, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

**Office hours:** Weekdays 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

### **Physical address for filing board applications in person:**

Taylor Electric Cooperative  
Headquarters office  
226 CR 287, Merkel, TX 79536

**Address to send board applications by mail—**  
must be postmarked on/before February 1, 2022:  
Taylor Electric Cooperative  
Attention: Early election clerk  
P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536

### **Taylor EC Board Member Incumbents Seeking Reelection**

Leland Robinson, Zone 1  
Garland Carter, Zone 2  
Kathryn Rainey, Zone 3

# Taylor EC Bylaws Excerpts

## Article 4—Board of Directors

**Section 4.1 Board of Directors.** The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of nine (9) Directors which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative conferred upon or reserved to the members. In a process developed by the Board, the number of Directors shall be reduced to seven (7) over an eight (8) year period in order to reflect governance in line with similarly-situated Cooperatives and to utilize the long-term cost savings of having fewer Directors. The Board shall have full power and authority to exercise all of the general powers as stated in the Texas Utilities Code, including, but not limited to, the following: Said Board may perform any other acts for the Cooperative or its members or for another electric Cooperative or its members, and exercise any other power that may be necessary, convenient or appropriate to accomplish the purpose for which the Cooperative is organized, including other or additional purposes benefitting members and non-members whether directly or through affiliates. The Board shall further have full power and authority to create and organize for profit and/or non-profit, subsidiary corporations, which shall be owned by the Cooperative.

**Section 4.2 Director Zones.** The service area of the Cooperative is divided into three (3) Zones for the purpose of election of Directors. The Zones are as follows: Zone 1 - part of Taylor County from south of IH-20 to the Callahan County line and the Coleman County line and the Runnels County line; from the boundary line to the west of Taylor County that begins on IH-20 going south on Taylor County road 385 until it turns into Farm to Market road 126; still traveling south on Farm to Market road 126 until it becomes Taylor County road 389 while still traveling south in Taylor County until Taylor County road 389 runs into Taylor County road 355; turn right (to the West) on Taylor County road 355 until it runs into Farm to Market road 126; continue south on Farm to Market road 126 until it reaches Taylor County road 350; travel south on Taylor County road 350 until it runs into Taylor County road 351 where you will continue south on Taylor County road 351 until you reach Farm to Market road 89; from Farm to Market road 89 traveling south to east you will reach State Highway 277; travel south on State Highway 277 until it reaches the Nolan County line or leaves Taylor County; Zone 2 - Callahan, Eastland, Jones, Shackelford, Coleman Counties and part of Taylor County using IH-20 as the southern boundary; Callahan County line as the eastern boundary and Taylor County road 412/Wells Lane

from IH-20 traveling north until it curves into Taylor County road 410 traveling north until it curves into Taylor County road 414 traveling north until you reach the Jones County line; and Zone 3 - Coke, Fisher, Runnels, Mitchell, Nolan Counties and part of Taylor County that is north of IH-20 and not in Zone 2 or Zone 1. And part of Taylor County that is west of the boundary established as the western boundary in Zone 1. The zone boundaries are established to address parity of membership numbers in each zone while keeping communities of interest together in each zone. The entire membership of the Cooperative shall be eligible to vote in the election of Directors from all three Zones. At each Annual Meeting of the members, Directors shall be elected by ballot, by and from the members, to serve until their successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified, subject to the provisions of these Bylaws with respect to the removal of Directors.

The Board of Directors for the cooperative shall consist of two (2) Directors from each Zone and one (1) at-large Director who may be from any Zone. Directors shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the membership to serve for a three (3) year term. No more than one (1) Director from each Zone can be up for election in any one year; however, the at-large Director may come up for election in the same year as any other Director.

Periodically the Board may review the Director Districts to ensure that the Director Districts equitably represent the Members while keeping communities of interest together in each zone.

**Section 4.3 Director Qualifications.** A Director or Director candidate must comply with this Bylaw.

(a) General Director Qualifications. To become and remain a Director, a Person must comply with the following general qualifications:

- (1) be an individual;
- (2) have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;
- (3) not have been previously removed or disqualified as a Director;
- (4) while a Director, and during the five (5) years immediately before becoming a Director, not be convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or two (2) misdemeanors; or found guilty of any offense involving moral turpitude;
- (5) except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, receive a Credentialed Cooperative Director designation, Directors certificate, or similar designation or certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association within three (3) years of becoming a Director;

(6) before becoming a Director, graduate from high school or earn an equivalent degree or certification;

(7) except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend at least two-thirds (2/3) of all Board Meetings during each twelve (12) month period;

(8) comply with any other reasonable qualifications determined by the Board; and

(9) maintain the confidentiality of Cooperative business discussed by the Board. Confidential Cooperative business includes: all undisclosed matters covered or discussed in executive session of the Board; as well as all confidential information and business plans and trade secrets; private directors, employee or member information; potential or pending acquisition of real or personal property of the Cooperative; operational plans and business promotions; power supply and generation interests; and all power distribution plans; until the Board has collectively agreed to the terms and timing for public disclosure of such information.

(b) Membership Director Qualifications. To become and remain a Director, an individual must comply with the following membership qualifications:

(1) Natural Person Member

A natural person Member, while a Director and during the ten (10) years immediately before becoming a Director:

(A) be an unsuspended Member; and

(B) permanently reside or use electric energy provided by the Cooperative, at the individuals principal residence as defined under federal tax law within either the Cooperative Service area, or the Director Zone from which the Director is nominated or elected.

(C) Independent Director Qualifications. To become and remain a Director, an individual must comply with the following independence qualifications:

(1) annually complete and sign an independence certification and disclosure form approved by the Board;

(2) while a Director and during the eight (8) years immediately before becoming a Director, not be an employee of the Cooperative or an employee of an entity controlled by the Cooperative or in which the Cooperative owns a majority interest;

(3) while a Director and during the three (3) years immediately before becoming a Director, not be an employee of an entity in which the Cooperative is a Member or owner;

(4) while a Director, not be a close relative of a Cooperative official, Director or Cooperative employee;

(5) while a Director, not be employed by another Director, or be employed by, or

receive more than ten percent (10%) of Annual gross income from, an entity for which another Director controls, owns more than ten percent (10%), or is a Director or Officer; and

(6) while a Director and during the one (1) year immediately before becoming a Director, not be employed by, control, own more than ten percent (10%) of, serve as a Director or Officer of, or receive more than ten percent (10%) of Annual gross income from an entity that:

(A) advances the entity's pecuniary interest by competing with the Cooperative or a Cooperative subsidiary or Cooperative affiliate, providing a good or service similar to a good or service provided by the Cooperative or a Cooperative subsidiary or a Cooperative affiliate providing electric energy or a good or service related to providing electric energy.

(7) while a Director, not engage in any behavior, actions or activities that (i) subject either the Director or the Cooperative to ridicule or embarrassment; (ii) adversely affect the Directors or the Cooperatives reputation; (iii) interfere with or diminish the Directors standing as a Cooperative ambassador and representative; or (iv) are contrary to the best interests of the Cooperative and its employees.

(d) Director Disqualification. After being elected, designated, or appointed, if a Director does not comply with all general Director Qualifications, Membership Director Qualifications, and Independent Director Qualifications (collectively, Director Qualifications) existing when the Director was elected, designated, or appointed, then, except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, the Board shall disqualify the Director and the individual is no longer a Director if:

(1) the Board notifies the Director in writing of the basis for, and provides the Director an opportunity to comment regarding, the Board's proposed disqualification; and

(2) within twenty (20) days after the Board notifies the Director of the proposed disqualification, the Director neither complies with nor meets the Director qualification.

If a majority of Directors authorized by these Bylaws complies with the Director qualifications and approves a Board action, then the failure of a Director to comply with the Director qualifications does not affect the Board action.

**Section 4.4 Director Nominations.** For each Director position scheduled for election by Members at a meeting, the nominating members or Members shall nominate individuals as provided in this Bylaw.

(a) Nominating Committee Nominations. At least forty-five (45) days before the meeting at which members are scheduled to elect Directors, the N&E Committee, as formed under Section 3.8, shall meet for the purpose of considering candidates to

be nominated for Director. The Cooperative's Board Attorney shall attend the Nominating Committee meetings and provide counsel to the Nominating Committee. The committee shall B

(1) require director candidate(s) to attend the Nominating Committee Meeting at which time candidate(s) will be interviewed by the Committee; except for good cause;

(2) nominate at least one (1) individual to run for election for each Director position scheduled for election by Members at the meeting; and

(3) display the Nominating Committee nominations at the Cooperatives principal office.

Nominating Committee members and three (3) generations of their immediate family shall not be eligible for nomination for a Director position while said appointee serves on the Nominating Committee. In cases where there is no incumbent Director seeking reelection, the open seat on the Board shall have at least two nominees on the ballot at the Annual Meeting.

(b) Member Petition Nominations. In addition to Nominating Committee Nominations, Members may nominate, through a petition, individuals to run for election for a Director position scheduled for election. Members make Member Petition nominations by delivering to the Nominating Committee at least fifteen (15) business days before the meeting of the Nominating Committee to set the Annual Meeting ballot a writing for each Member Petition Nomination:

(1) listing, on each page of the Member Petition, the name of the Member Petition Nominee;

(2) indicating, on each page of the Member Petition, the Director position for which the Member Petition Nominee will run; and

(3) containing the printed names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and original dated signatures signed within sixty (60) days of the first signature, of at least thirty-five (35) nominating members.

After verifying that a Member Petition complies with this Bylaw, the Cooperative shall display the Petition Nomination in approximately the same location as the Committee Nominations.

(c) No Nominations from the Floor. Members may not nominate at, or from the floor of, a meeting an individual to run for election to a Director position scheduled for election at the meeting, due to the lack of proper notice to the membership.

(d) Notice of Director Nominations. At least ten (10) days before a meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, the Cooperative shall notify Members of the:

(1) Director positions scheduled for election by Members;

(2) names and corresponding Director positions of all Committee Nominations;

and

(3) names and corresponding Director positions of all Petition Nominations.

**Section 4.5 Director Elections.** At each meeting at which a Director position is scheduled for election by Members, Members shall elect the Director from the Committee Nominations or Petition Nominations by a majority of votes cast by Members with a quorum present in person. Members may not vote for write-in candidates. As determined by the individual presiding at the meeting, the number of votes received by each nominee will or will not be announced. The candidate receiving the plurality of votes shall be the winner of the election. In cases of a tie, the winner shall be decided by lot, pursuant to a method determined by the presiding officer.

If only one individual is nominated to run for election for a Director position scheduled for election by Members at the Meeting, then the individual presiding at the Meeting may announce that the nominated individual is elected by acclamation and no vote is required.

**Section 4.6 Director Terms.** Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a Directors term is three (3) years or until a successor Director is elected or appointed and takes office. A Directors term begins: (1) after the individual consents to being elected or appointed as a Director; and (2) immediately after adjournment of the Meeting at which the Director is elected, or at the beginning of the first Board meeting held after the Director is appointed. A Directors term ends after: (1) a successor Director consents to being elected as a Director; and (2) immediately after adjournment of the meeting at which a successor Director is elected, or at the beginning of the first Board meeting held after a successor Director is appointed.

The Cooperative shall stagger Director terms by dividing the total number of authorized Directors into groups of approximately equal number. Members must annually elect Directors.

Subject to a Directors consent, decreasing the number of Directors or length of Director terms may not shorten an incumbent Directors term.

**Section 4.7 Director Resignation.** A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a Notice of Resignation to the Board, Board Chairman or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a Notice of Resignation, a Directors Resignation is effective when the Board, Board Chairman or Secretary receives the Notice of Resignation. If a Directors Resignation is effective at a later date, and if the successor Director does not take office until the effective date of the Directors Resignation, then the pending Director vacancy may be filled before the effective date of the Directors Resignation.