

# CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,  
President / CEO

## Resolve to Save Energy in 2025

THE START OF THE new year always seems to bring about lists for improving one's life. You know: lose weight, stop smoking, exercise more—conserve electricity.

That last one might not be on your list, but it can be just as important as any personal health goals, both to your financial bottom line and the overall health of our cooperative and the state's electricity system.

When temperatures are moderate, there's an adequate supply of electricity to serve Texas' needs, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the grid operator for 85% of the state. However, as the vicious winter storm of 2021 demonstrated, with more extreme conditions, there could be a shortfall.

But if we all do our part and make energy conservation a habit, we may be able to avoid outages.

As one saying goes, it takes 21 days to create a new habit. During that time, it may take a conscious effort to change your behavior—for instance, remembering to switch off lights as you leave a room.

But you'll likely find, after a few repetitions of a new behavior, you eventually won't even have to think about it. You'll turn off lights automatically.

Here are other energy-saving resolutions that you might consider for 2025:

- Unplug computers, TVs and phone chargers, plus the coffee maker and other kitchen counter-

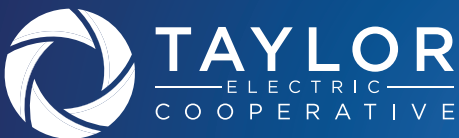
top appliances, when you're through using them. These items draw electricity as long as they're plugged in, even if they're turned off. Collectively, their energy use adds up.

- If any of the overhead fixtures, table lamps or outdoor lights around your house still have those old, inefficient incandescent light bulbs, change them to LEDs, which use significantly less power.

- Explore LED fixtures. The light is built into the fixture—for all kinds of decorative and task lighting. With no bulbs to burn out, the light works as long as the fixture does. They aren't as cheap as other options, but prices are dropping. In the long run, they'll pay for themselves.

- Install a programmable thermostat. Use it to lower the heat by a few degrees once the family leaves the house every day and to raise it back up just before everybody gets home. You won't feel any less comfortable at home, but you'll notice a dip in your bill.

If everyone in Taylor Electric Cooperative's membership embraces just one or two of these ideas, or took other energy-efficiency measures, the effect would be magnified by our entire membership. And if everyone in Texas embraced even the simplest of these ideas, like turning off unused lights, it could add up to significant savings and would help keep the lights on for all of us.



WE WISH YOU A HAPPY



NEW YEAR



# SAVE THE DATE

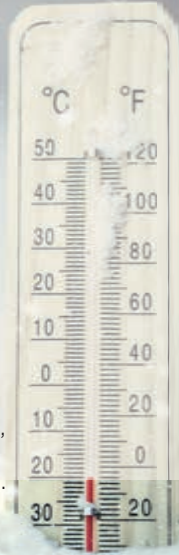
Taylor EC's  
86th Annual Meeting  
THURSDAY  
APRIL 17, 2025

## DID YOU KNOW?

The coldest temperature recorded in Texas—23 degrees below zero—was felt February 12, 1899, in Tulia and February 8, 1933, in Seminole

## POWER TIP

Check out DIY window insulation kits. They're inexpensive, easy to install, make your home feel warmer and lower energy bills.



## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

226 County Road 287, Merkel, TX 79536

P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536

**Phone** (325) 793-8500

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

### President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### Board of Directors

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, Zone 1

Kathryn Rainey, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 3

David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2

Craig Bessent, Zone 1

Garland Carter, Zone 2

Richard Petree, At-Large

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

[tayloelectric.com](http://tayloelectric.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. Located near the entrance of the building.

**Abilene** office. Located at the southeast portion of the parking lot. 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.

#### NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2023, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

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



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/taylor](http://TexasCoopPower.com/taylor)

# 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:

## FILING WINDOW

**Begins:** January 2, 2025

**Ends:** 5:30 p.m. February 4, 2025

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

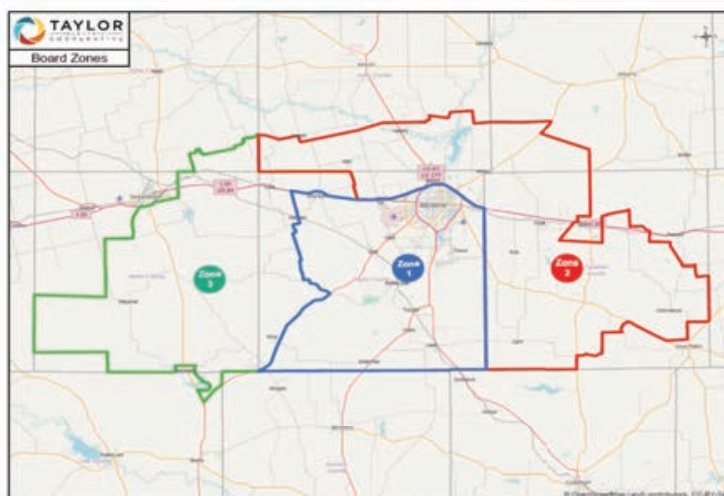
## Physical address for filing board applications in person:

Taylor Electric Cooperative  
Headquarters office  
226 CR 287, Merkel, TX 79536  
Fax: (325) 793-9680

## Address to send board applications by mail—

Must be postmarked on/before February 4, 2025:

Taylor Electric Cooperative  
Attention: Early election clerk  
P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536  
Fax: (325) 793-9680



## Taylor EC Incumbent Board Members Seeking Reelection



Zone 1: Craig Bessent



Zone 2: Garland Carter



Zone 3: Kathryn Rainey

# Nominating Committee To Meet February 18

Candidate applications due at 5:30 p.m. February 4

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S NOMINATING** committee will meet at 10 a.m. February 18th to interview and approve nominees for the 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 86th 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 on the following page. Additional copies are available at Taylor EC's headquarters.

Applications are due by 5:30 p.m. February 4.

## Taylor EC Nominating Committee

**Zone 1 - Taylor County**  
**Mrs. Kristi Allyn** | Tuscola  
**Mr. Chad Widder** | Abilene  
**Mrs. Colleen Richards** | View

**Zone 2 - Callahan, Jones, Eastland, Shackelford Counties**  
**Mr. Tom Edd Johnson** | Cross Plains  
**Mrs. Ashley Thompson** | Clyde

**Zone 3 - Coke, Fisher, Nolan Counties**  
**Mr. Glenn Barton** | Sweetwater  
**Mr. Terry Locklar, chairman** | Sweetwater  
**Mr. Jesse Mulanax** | Sweetwater

## 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 4 (can be found on the following page and can be requested anytime at Taylor EC's headquarters).
- ▶ The nominating committee meets February 18, when it will nominate candidates for the ballot.
- ▶ Directors will be elected at the annual meeting April 18.

### Duties of a Director

- ▶ Review and approve the financials and the annual operating plan.
- ▶ Review and accept the annual financial audit report 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 the wholesale power contract.
- ▶ 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 per 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.

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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1. Are you currently holding an elected public office for which compensation is paid?
 Yes  No
2. If your membership account is currently held jointly by husband and wife, is your spouse currently a director?
 Yes  No
3. 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
4. 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
5. Does your employer or business sell products or services to the cooperative?
 Yes  No
6. Do you attend the cooperative's annual meeting each year and vote in director elections?
 Yes  No
7. 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.**

**By Mail:** Taylor Electric Cooperative

Attention: Early election clerk  
P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536

**In Person:** Taylor Electric Cooperative

Headquarters office  
226 CR 287, Merkel, TX 79536  
**Fax:** (325) 793-9680

**Deadline for submission is February 4, 2025 at 5:30p.m.**



# 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 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 described as; Beginning at the intersection of I-20 and the Taylor/Callahan County line, run West along I-20, past the town of Merkel, to the intersection of CR 385; thence run South along CR 385 to the intersection of FM 126, continuing South to the intersection of CR 389, continuing South to the intersection of CR 355, thence West a short distance to FM 126, thence continuing South along FM 126 to the intersection of CR 350, continuing South to the intersection of CR 351, continuing South to the intersection of FM 89; thence continuing Southeast along FM 89 to the intersection of US Hwy 277; thence run Southwest on Hwy 277 to the intersection of the Nolan/Taylor County border, thence South a short distance to the Nolan/Taylor/Runnels County corner boundary; thence run East along the Southern border of Taylor County to the intersection of Callahan County, thence run North along the Taylor/Callahan border to the point of beginning.

Zone 2 – Parts of Taylor, Jones, Shackelford, and Callahan Counties described as; Beginning at the intersection of I-20 and the Taylor/Callahan County line, run West along I-20 to the intersection of CR 412 (Wells Lane), thence run North to the intersection of CR 410, continuing North to the intersection of CR 414, continuing North to the intersection of the Jones County line; thence run West to the intersection with Fisher County, thence run North along the Fisher/Jones County line, approximately 5.5 miles, to the intersection with the Taylor EC Service Area boundary; thence run East along the Taylor EC Service Area boundary continuing through Jones, Shackelford and Callahan counties until reaching the intersection of US Hwy 283 South and the Coleman County line; thence run West to the Southeast corner of Taylor County, thence run North along the Taylor/Callahan County line to the point of beginning.

Zone 3 – Parts of Taylor, Fisher, Nolan and Coke Counties described as; Beginning at the intersection of I-20 and CR 412 (Wells Lane), run North to the intersection of CR 410, continuing North to the intersection of CR 414, continuing North to the intersection of the Jones County line; thence run West to the intersection with Fisher County, thence run North along the Fisher/Jones County line, approximately 5.5 miles, to the intersection with the Taylor EC Service Area boundary; thence run West along the Taylor EC Service Area boundary continuing through Fisher, Nolan and Coke Counties to the intersection of Nolan, Taylor and Runnels County; thence run North along the western and part of the Northern border of Zone 1 to the point of beginning.

\*\*\* Service Area boundaries generally correspond to Service Area boundaries approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

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.

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 ten (10) 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, Director's 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 with some college preferred;

(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. All Board Members must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) annually

(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 individual's 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 ten (10) 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 ten (10) years immediately before becoming a Board Member, not be a close relative.

(4) while a Director and during the five (5) years immediately before becoming a Director, not be an employee of an entity in which the Cooperative is a Member or owner;

(5) while a Director not be a former employee who is classified as "not eligible for re-hire" or any close relative of the former employee who is classified as "not eligible for re-hire."

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

(7) 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

(8) 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.

(9) 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 Cooperative's reputation; (iii) interfere with or diminish the Director's standing as a Cooperative ambassador and representative; or (iv) are contrary to the best interests of the Cooperative and its employees.; or (v) that intentionally damage or hold a vendetta against the Cooperative.

(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 Board Member 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 Board Member 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 Board 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 Nominating Committee, 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:

(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 in Texas Co-Op Power.

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 should 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 the Cooperative's Attorney verifies that a Member Petition complies with this Bylaw, the Cooperative shall display the Petition Nomination.

(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** Board of 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** Board Member Terms. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a Director's term is three (3) years or until a successor Director is elected or appointed and takes office. A Director's 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 Director's 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 Director's term.

**Section 4.7** Board Member 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 Director's Resignation is effective when the Board, Board Chairman or Secretary receives the Notice of Resignation. If a Director's Resignation is effective at a later date, and if the successor Director does not take office until the effective date of the Director's Resignation, then the pending Director Vacancy may be filled before the effective date of the Director's Resignation.