

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 01/26



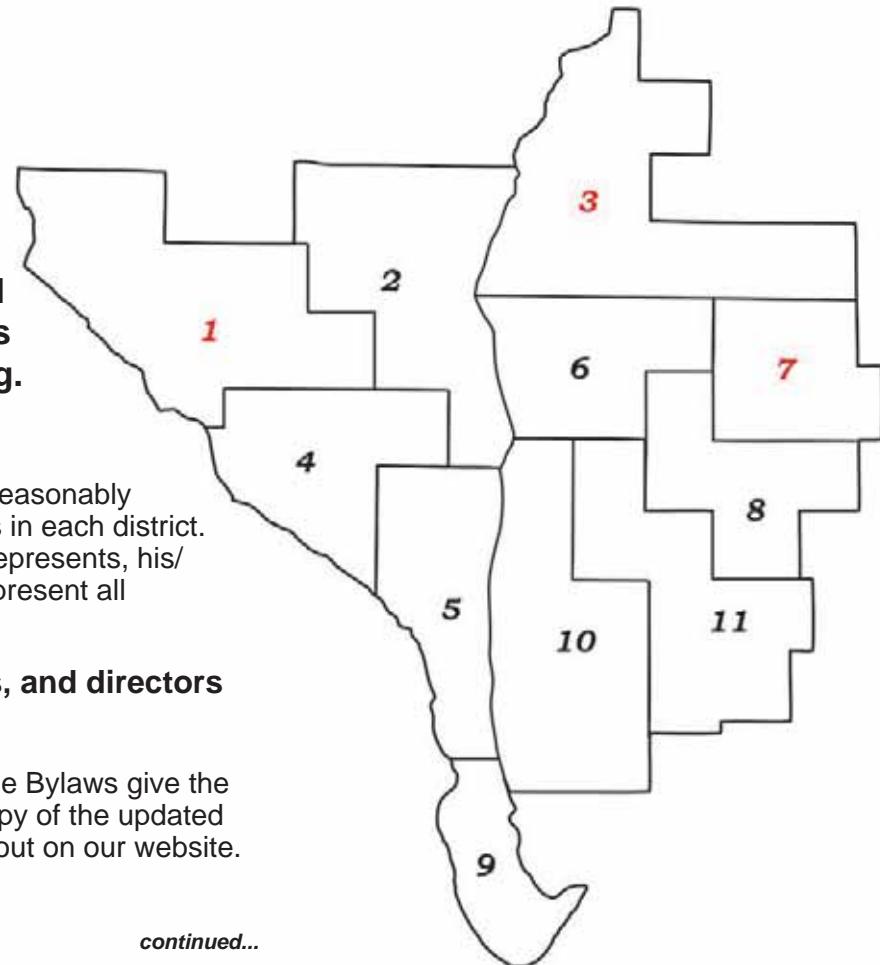
2026 Annual Meeting June 13, 2026

This year three directors will be elected to represent districts 1,3, and 7 at the Annual Meeting.

Director districts have, as close as reasonably possible, the same number of members in each district. Regardless of which district a director represents, his/her duties and responsibilities are to represent all members.

In all, there are eleven districts, and directors serve staggered three-year terms.

This map shows the districts, and the Bylaws give the legal description. Give us a call for a copy of the updated Bylaws if you want one, or check them out on our website.



continued...



Illinois Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 80, Two South Main Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694

www.e-co-op.com
1-800-468-4732

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative The Touchstone Energy logo consists of three stylized human figures in red, blue, and yellow, standing together.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve since 1936.

Directors Can Be Nominated in Two Ways, But Not from the Floor at the Meeting.

The Bylaws set up a mechanism for a nominating committee, which shall not include current members of the board of directors. Only a Class A member is eligible to serve on the board, as well as vote. Class A members are those who purchase electricity from the co-op.

That nominating committee is appointed not less than 90 days or more than 210 days before the Annual Meeting, and its nominations are to be posted in the office at least 45 days before the meeting.

If you want to communicate with the Nominating Committee about a possible candidate, or any other matter, write to:

**2026 Nominating Committee
Illinois Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 80 Winchester, IL 62694**

Your letter will be given to the committee unopened.

Any fifteen Class A members may also nominate another member to serve on the board, and such nominations will be on the ballot with those from the nominating committee.

If you want to participate in the election by submitting a petition signed by fifteen members, be certain that in addition to the Class A members' signatures, there is a printed name and address so that the petition can be verified in time for posting 45 days before the meeting.

Remember that often a husband and wife are one membership, not two. A single member may also have more than one meter, but not more than one membership.

When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected as a director.

Nominations for the 2026 Election Must Be Posted in the Cooperative's Office No Later than April 29, 2026.

A nomination from fifteen Class A members must be received at the cooperative's office no later than 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

Section 3 of Article 4 of the Bylaws Sets Qualifications and Tenure.

"No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless they meet all of the qualifications in this Section 3, including that they are an actual consumer of goods and services provided by the Cooperative, and that they actually reside in the district for which they are nominated or otherwise seek election. For purposes of this Section 3, residing in the district and receiving goods and services of the Cooperative requires the following: (1) that their primary residence (one at which they reside 183 days or more in the calendar year) is located in the district; (2) that they are eligible to vote in the precinct in which the primary residence is located; and (3) that the primary residence receives electric service from the Cooperative. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director if he/she has in anyway been employed by or holds more than 5% financial interest in a competing enterprise. Failure of a Director to remain qualified during his/her tenure will require that Director to resign. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a Director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or

remain a Director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth. Nothing in this section contained shall, or shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors."

What Do Directors Do? What Do They Get For It?

Together, Illinois Electric and its subsidiary, IRTC, are a \$162,742,000 business, which supplies electricity and internet service to about 16,800 accounts in all or part of 10 counties. There are 51 full-time employees and two part-time employees.

The cooperative, itself, is about average sized among America's 900 electric cooperatives.

The cooperative's directors are responsible for its financial integrity and for its policies.

The cooperative's board of directors is responsible for the organization and IRTC. The board has additional responsibilities to the cooperative's lenders, employees, and the general community.

Basic law requires that a director shall, among other things, undertake the following duties:

- **Care** - Exercise due care and diligence that an ordinary, prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, devoting such time and effort to the duties of a board member as may be necessary to oversee the business and affairs;
- **Loyalty** - Be loyal to the cooperative, acting at all times in good faith for its best interests and unaffected by any personal interest that is in conflict with the best interests of the cooperative;
- **Obedience** - Be obedient to the cooperative by adhering to all applicable requirements of law, the Bylaws, policies, contracts, and the cooperative's duly made decisions; and

- **Attention** - Be attentive to and study reports from management on the cooperative, and be attentive to and study additional sources of information concerning the industry and business generally so that the best decisions can be made.

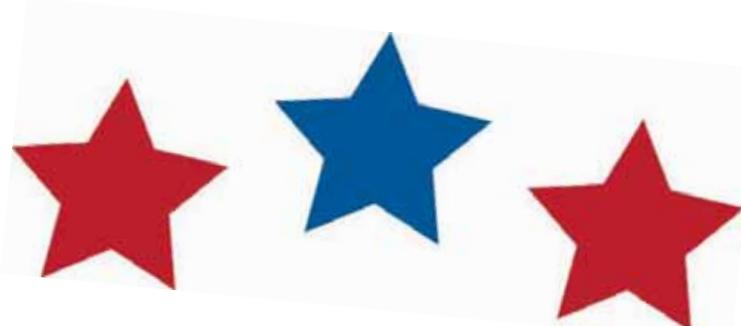
Directors attend monthly meetings, at a minimum, to review financial and management reports and to consider matters brought to them by management and/or other directors.

Directors receive monthly reports and financial statements about the cooperative and IRTC before board meetings. There are additional articles, memos and trade publications they're expected to read.

Five members of the co-op's board serve on the technology committee.

The co-op board and the technology committee meet monthly, and there are additional committee meetings throughout the year, as well as meetings sponsored by electric co-op trade associations and banks.

Serving as a member of the Cooperative's board of directors is a time consuming responsibility. Excluding travel time to meetings, directors spend at least two full days a month on Cooperative business - attending meetings and training and reading to be prepared.



All of the members of the board are expected to pursue ongoing training in Springfield and at other locations.

Directors attend state, regional and national trade association meetings for additional training and to keep abreast of the best practices in the industry.

Directors receive up to \$350 per day and out-of-pocket expenses for attending meetings. Additionally, since it's in the cooperative's interests that directors have good internet service to receive material by e-mail, directors get wireless, fiber, or satellite based internet service.

There are two ways members can vote in the election. First, you can vote by being present at the meeting, or, second, by sending your proxy with a member who is attending. Members can vote up to three proxies at the Annual Meeting.

What Does a Petition Look Like?

Here's an example of the form of a petition to nominate a fictional member of the cooperative.

It's important that it state the person's name and address so that we can verify his/her membership.

We, the undersigned Class A members of Illinois Electric Cooperative, nominate **Joe Smith, 348 Green Street, Appleville, Illinois** to stand for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting of Members for the seat on the Cooperative's Board of Directors representing District **Five**.

Signature

Printed Name

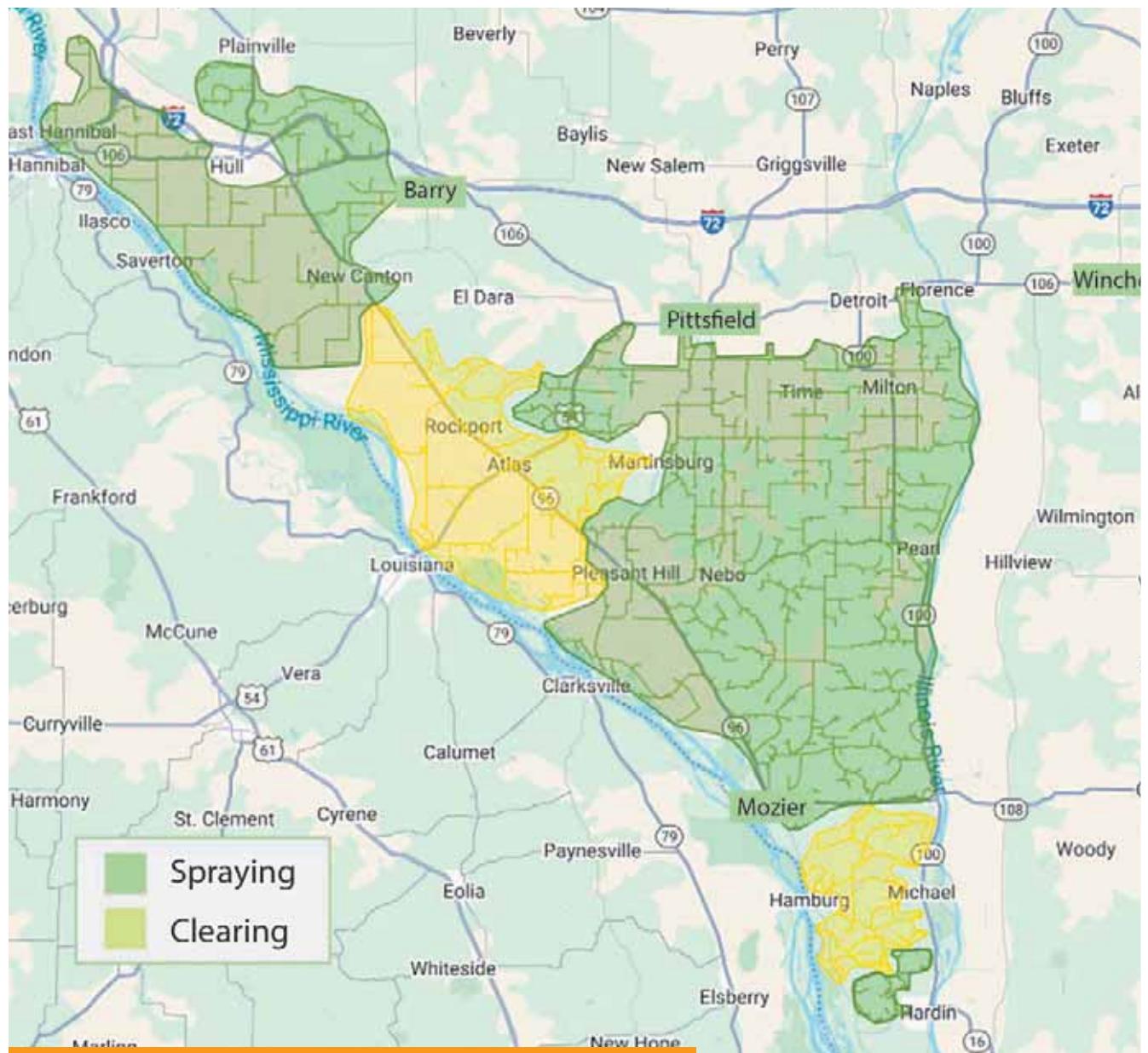
Address

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

15 Class A members' signatures are needed, however, to ensure things, it's probably best to have a few extras. Class A members buy electricity from the cooperative.



2026 Right-of-Way Maintenance

The co-op and contractor crews are beginning to do right-of-way clearing and spraying. The map above outlines where crews will be clearing and spraying in 2026.

We trim and cut trees to reduce blinks and outages, and trees in the electric lines are potentially a serious danger. We also do follow up spraying as it's more cost effective than removal. All of our personnel who

spray have passed the Illinois Department of Natural Resources tests to ensure full compliance.

For more information on right-of-way clearing, visit our website e-co-op.com and click on Tree Trimming under the Services tab. If you have any questions, concerns, or requests, please contact Roger Fletcher at (217) 742-3128 ext. 1140.



Congratulations to Danny Smith on his retirement! Danny has served the co-op for 35 years. Thank you for your dedication and the many contributions you've made over the years. We appreciate everything you've done for the cooperative and the members we serve.

Update Your Address

Having your correct address in our system is essential to receiving your bill in a timely manner. If your county has adopted 911 addresses, we encourage you to contact us with your new address. Doing so will help your local post office and ensure you receive your bill on time. If you have done away with your landline telephone, we ask that you let us know your current phone number as well.

To update your address or phone number with the co-op, give us a call at 1 (800) 468-4732 or submit your updated information online by clicking on "contact us" on our website at www.e-co-op.com.



Co-op's Rates to Increase an Average of 0.9% with Bills Mailed in February

As your electric cooperative, it's our responsibility to provide safe and reliable service. To do so requires continuous rebuilding of the distribution system. We operate and maintain about 3,000 miles of line, consisting of more than 80,000 poles. Our crews replace poles virtually every day. And as demand increases, we must completely rebuild the oldest parts of the system.

As a result of proper maintenance, Illinois Electric's reliability is among the best in Illinois, and far better than national averages. But it also causes the need for modest rate increases. Although our expenses continue to increase, we have successfully kept rate increases substantially below the rate of inflation.

Effective February 1, rates will increase by an average of 0.9%. This equates to approximately \$1.90 on the average monthly residential bill.

Despite no growth and rising expenses, I can assure you that your cooperative will do everything possible to keep future increases to a minimum. A detailed rate schedule can be found on our website at www.e-co-op.com. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

Randy B. Long
General Manager
Illinois Electric Cooperative

CO-OP OUTAGE MAP

Did you know we have an outage map on our website? The outage map shows outages across our service territory and is essential during storms. Members can view the map on a desktop or mobile phone.

In case of an outage, please call 1-800-468-4732 to report your outage. Calling in to report an outage ensures your outage is logged into our system. For those registered, we have a text message service that we utilize as well.

We always recommend having a plan of action in the event of a significant weather event, along with electronics, such as your phone, charged and some essential supplies on hand.

View our outage map by visiting our website at e-co-op.com.



Employee Spotlight

Jared Pegue

Internet Technician

About the Employee

Jared Pegue joined the co-op as an internet technician in 2015. He and his wife, Carly, son Wade and daughter Hattie reside in Fieldon.

Jared's favorite part of his job is helping members in his community and throughout the co-op's service territory by making sure they have reliable internet service.

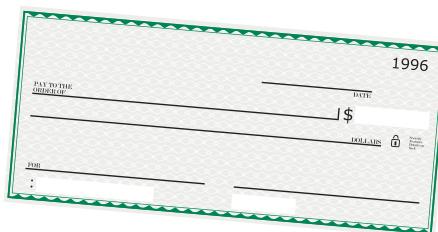
Outside of work, Jared loves spending time with his family. If he's not at work or with his family, there's a good chance he's hunting or just spending time outdoors.



Jared Pegue with his wife Carly, son Wade, and daughter Hattie.

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