

★ Illinois Electric Cooperative ★ *Annual Meeting 2026*

Members of the Board of Directors

Thomas D. Meehan, III, President
Roodhouse. District 8.
Director since 1995.

Jenna Morrow, Vice President
New Canton. District 1.
Director since 2017.

Jim Freeman, Treasurer
Bluffs. District 3.
Director since 2012.

Kevin Brannan, Secretary
Eldred. District 10.
Director since 2001.

Julie Rhoads
Carrollton. District 11.
Director since 2007.

Luke Fraley
Hardin. District 5.
Director since 2015.

Pat Stendback
Pleasant Hill. District 4.
Director Since 2016.

Kevin Klein
Murrayville. District 7.
Director since 2017.

Bryan Hubbert
Winchester. District 6.
Director since 2018.

Kristine Bingham
Griggsville. District 2.
Director since 2019.

Patrick Simon
Golden Eagle. District 9.
Director since 2024.



Join us for our 2026 Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 13th at the Cornerstone Baptist Church in Winchester! We'll be giving away four \$500 and twenty \$100 door prizes. You could also win one of eleven \$500 prizes for your favorite charity. Each member will receive a \$15 credit at our drive-through registration from 8:00-10:00 a.m.

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

www.e-co-op.com

Announcement of the 2026 Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the members of Illinois Electric Cooperative will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Drive-through registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Cornerstone Baptist Church in Winchester, Illinois. The meeting will be held in Cornerstone Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. Members will elect three directors and hear reports on the condition of their cooperative.

If you cannot attend in person, we urge you to send your proxy with a neighbor or a friend.

Kevin Brannan
Secretary

To The Membership:

It is hard to believe that we will celebrate 90 years of electric cooperatives at this year's Annual Meeting of the Membership. Ninety years is a significant milestone, and it offers all of us a chance to reflect on how far we have come and to look ahead to what is still in front of us. Throughout the year, we have the pleasure of seeing many of you at member meetings, Coffee with the Co-op, at the office, or out in the community, but the annual meeting gives us a special opportunity to come together in one place. Whether you have been a member for just a few years or for decades, your attendance is valued, and we encourage you to attend your cooperative's annual meeting.

This year, we will hold the annual meeting at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Winchester. In past years, we have met at the Winchester Grade School, but due to structural issues in the gymnasium, we had to change venues. We will have our drive-through registration in the church parking lot, where members can receive their bill credit and pick up some goodies.

Illinois Electric is more than a utility provider. We are a cooperative, which means our members are also our owners. That concept took root in 1936, when a group of farmers, much like you, organized and formed the cooperative. Because no investor-owned utility was willing to build into the sparsely populated rural areas, they applied for and received low-interest loans from the federal government to build and operate their own electric system. Those pioneers took control of their future, electing a Board of Directors and hiring employees to run day-to-day operations. Ninety years later, that spirit of ownership has not changed. You are not just a member, you are an owner, and you have a voice in the cooperative you own.

Your attendance at this meeting is one of the ways you exercise that voice. You will have the opportunity to elect directors to represent you, and to participate in the business of the cooperative. This year, we will hold a vote on a bylaw change regarding the co-op's debt limit that we discussed at last year's annual meeting, at member meetings, and in our Illinois Country Living magazine center section. Unlike investor-owned utilities that are regulated by a government agency, cooperatives are governed locally by a board of directors elected by the membership. It's local control, and it ensures that decisions are made with the best interests of the members in mind.

While much has changed over the past 90 years, our mission to provide safe, reliable, and affordable service has not. The distribution system is now well over 80 years old in many places

and requires constant attention. We have continued to make substantial investments in replacing poles and conductor, and in maintaining our rights-of-way to the best practice level. Being proactive in maintaining the system has not only improved reliability, but it is also more cost-effective than waiting for outages to occur and making repairs on overtime. Reliability today remains at an all-time high, and we will continue to strive to provide the best service possible.

We also continue to pursue improvements and expansion of our internet service. We began offering internet service in 1993 for the same reasons we began providing electric service in 1936: to bring service to areas that would otherwise have subpar service or no service at all. Our fixed wireless system has grown to serve thousands of members across our service territory and beyond. We are now offering wireless internet service that is four times faster than our previous top offering one year ago. These are comparable to fiber speeds delivered wirelessly. We are working hard to roll this new offering out across the service territory. On the fiber side, our multi-year project in Calhoun County is near completion. We are pleased to provide a high-speed broadband service that can enable online education, telehealth services, and remote employment opportunities. It aligns well with our mission to improve the quality of life for the families we serve.

None of what we do would be possible without our employees. I can't say enough about the group of individuals we are fortunate to have working for you. From our linemen who answer the call 24/7, to our highly trained internet technicians and exceptional office staff, they do an amazing job of providing exceptional service in an ever-changing environment. It would be difficult to assemble another group of employees that is as talented or as dedicated.

I also want to thank our Board of Directors. Each director puts in countless hours every month attending meetings, taking continuing director education courses, serving on committees, and representing the cooperative. They make my job as board president much easier, and I am grateful for their commitment to the cooperative and its members. It is an honor to serve alongside each of them.

The electric and telecommunications industries continue to change at a rapid pace. As things evolve, I can assure you that Illinois Electric will remain focused on providing you with the best electric and internet service possible, while watching for new ways to improve the quality of life for the families we serve.

In closing, I want to thank you for your past support. Your involvement in "your cooperative" is much appreciated by the Board of Directors and the employees.

Thomas Meehan III,
President

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee met on February 2nd, 2026, at the cooperative's office in Winchester. Prior to the meeting, the committee received the Bylaws and Policies pertaining to nominations, as well as bios for the incumbent directors.

The committee reviewed the cooperative's operational and financial status, its economic development efforts, and its strategic plan for the coming years.

The committee elected Mark Heffington as Chairperson. They then reviewed the qualifications and educational achievements of the incumbent directors seeking nomination. They also examined the current board's diversity.

Following a thorough review, the committee nominated Jenna Morrow as their candidate for Director representing District 1; Jim Freeman for Director representing District 3; and Kevin Klein for Director representing District 7.

The election for these three positions will be held at the Annual Meeting of the Members on June 13, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Heffington, Chair, Batchtown
Marlin Spencer, Nortonville
Caleb Briscoe, Athensville
Drew Dukett, Roodhouse
Maria Carmody, Hardin

Fred Clifford, Manchester
Larry Hembrough, Winchester

Proxy

I, _____, a member of Illinois Electric
(please print)
Cooperative, do hereby appoint _____ to be my Proxy
(please print)
for all matters to come before the membership at the Annual Meeting of
Members to be held June 13, 2026.

Signature

Date

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.