

# NEWS



**Crawford Electric**  
A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Crawford Electric director election petition cycle opens June 17**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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BOURBON – Thursday, June 17, is the start of the open nomination period for Crawford Electric consumer-members who want to run for the co-op’s board of directors. Three positions on the board need to be filled with an election coinciding with the annual meeting of members on Wednesday, Sept. 15. Co-op consumer-members interested in running for the board can begin filing their nominating petitions on Thursday, June 17. The petitions must be signed by at least 15 co-op members. Candidate information packets are currently available at the co-op office (10301 N. Service Rd., Bourbon) or online in the My Cooperative>Co-op 101>Board of Directors section of the co-op’s website: <https://www.crawfordelec.com/content/board-directors>

The director election will be decided by a vote of the co-op membership. There will be an early voting period that runs from Aug. 13 to Sept. 13, during which members may vote using a mail-in ballot or via a secure portal on the SmartHub app. Members voting early will be entered in a random drawing for more than 50 electric credits – free electricity – up to a grand prize of \$500. Directions for requesting a mail-in ballot or for accessing the voting portal will be made available to members later in the summer.

The co-op also hopes to be able to host an in-person meeting on Sept. 15, with some modifications due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Members attending that event who haven’t already done so will be able to vote for directors from 8-11 a.m. only. More details about the annual meeting will be shared as the event gets closer.

“I would encourage members to take advantage of the early voting period,” said Laura Hengstenberg, who organizes the co-op’s annual meeting. “Members will have plenty of time to vote at their convenience. The process will be easy and secure, and members can win prizes!”

As a community-focused organization, Crawford Electric Cooperative is led by a board of nine locally elected consumer-members, who understand and listen to the community. The board sets policy and develops long-range goals, always safeguarding the interests of fellow co-op members. Each year, one-third of the board is up for election.

To be a candidate for a position on the board, a person must be a member of the cooperative whose permanent residence is in the co-op’s service territory. In addition, the co-op’s bylaws list potential conflicts of interest that preclude an individual’s candidacy. Members interested in running for the board should request a copy of the co-op’s bylaws. The candidate must declare which district position he or she will seek and should contact the co-op to verify district residency.

Three three-year board positions – one from each of the co-op’s three geographic districts – are up for election at each annual meeting. The expiring director positions currently are held by Justin “Bink” Blankenship of Sullivan (District 1), Doug Murphy of Bourbon (District 2) and Jim Cottrell of Cherryville (District 3).

All candidates get nominated to the election ballot by submitting nominating petitions signed by at least 15 co-op members. Such petitions must be delivered to the co-op office during the official petition period, which begins this year at 8 a.m. June 17 and runs through 5 p.m. Friday, July 30. First-day filers will draw random numbers to determine ballot order placement. Thereafter, candidates will be listed in the order petitions are received at the co-op.

Crawford Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of locally owned, community-minded electric co-ops with high standards of service. Crawford Electric serves about 20,000 meters along almost 3,000 miles of distribution lines in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Dent counties.