

NEWS



Crawford Electric
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**July 31 deadline approaches for
Crawford Electric board petitioners;**
*Members will vote for directors via
absentee methods, no in-person vote*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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BOURBON – Although the traditional public gathering for the Crawford Electric Cooperative annual meeting will not occur this September, the election of directors will go on as scheduled. The slate of board candidates is still being decided because the nominations process for members interested in running for the board remains open through the end of July.

Individuals interested in serving on the co-op's board of directors have until 5 p.m. Friday, July 31, to submit a nominating petition signed by at least 15 co-op members. The petition period opened in mid-June.

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 bylaws list potential conflicts of interest that preclude an individual's candidacy. 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>.

Nominating petitions signed by at least 15 co-op members need to be delivered to the co-op office during the official petition period, which began on June 18 and runs through the close of business on Friday, July 31.

The absentee voting window for co-op members will open Aug. 14; it will close on Sept. 14. Members may vote using a mail-in ballot or a secure website. Members will receive details about the voting process in their August billing statements and in their August member newsletter. The election results will be announced during a special meeting on Sept. 16, which will be a virtual, online event. There will be no public gathering at the co-op and no in-person voting.

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. The expiring director positions currently are held by Janice Dorson of Sullivan (District 1), Debbie Willette of Sullivan (District 2) and Joe Cason of Cuba (District 3).

"Through absentee balloting and the special meeting, the co-op is offering a way for all duly nominated director candidates to have the opportunity to be elected," said Laura Hengstenberg, who has organized Crawford Electric's meeting for more than 25 years. "It's important for our consumer-members to be able to exercise their voting rights, so I'm glad we have a way to accomplish this in a safe and secure manner."

As announced earlier this summer, the Crawford Electric board of directors made the difficult decision to cancel the Sept. 16 annual meeting of members. Due to the ongoing pandemic, an event that typically draws more than 500 registered members and about 1,000 total attendees and workers was unworkable. In its place, the board is calling for a special meeting to occur on Sept. 16 for the sole purpose of electing directors and approving 2019 reports. This will be a virtual meeting only and voting for directors will be via absentee balloting. The official notice of the special meeting will include details about how members may participate in the online event.

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.

