



NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
*Handbook*

# Thank you

## FOR SERVING ON OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE!

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative is owned by our members and is governed by a nine-person board of trustees. Board members are members like you — they receive electricity from Butler Rural Electric Cooperative and live in your community.

Co-op members choose who's on the board by voting for candidates each spring. As a nominating committee member, you're responsible for finding these candidates.

We provide electricity to over 11,800 homes and businesses in Butler, Hamilton, Preble, and Montgomery counties and employ almost 50 people. Our service territory is divided into nine districts, which are below.

DISTRICT 1  
Oxford and Reily townships

DISTRICT 2  
Milford Township

DISTRICT 3  
Israel and Somers Township

DISTRICT 4  
German and Gratis townships

DISTRICT 5  
Madison and Wayne townships

DISTRICT 6  
Morgan Township

DISTRICT 7  
Hanover and St. Clair townships

DISTRICT 8  
Colerain, Crosby, and Harrison townships

DISTRICT 9  
Fairfield and Ross townships



## OUR MISSION

To be a dynamic, progressive organization guided by cooperative principles and to provide energy and other value-added services to members. The cooperative will participate in its community, providing leadership and support to improve the quality of life for all of its citizens.

# YOUR ROLE ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

Co-op members serve on the nominating committee — two from each district. The committee members for the 2026 election are below.

Larry Niehoff  
Susan Rooney

Kevin Blakley  
Bob Ison

Ted Cornthwaite  
Lewis Willeford

Christine Geisen

Christopher Flowers  
Steven Wells


Mike Egbert  
Ernst Schlichter

Ralph Gross  
Edward Ulreich

Tom Boyd  
Ryan Shupp

Kenneth Estep  
June Niederman

## RESPONSIBILITIES

You're encouraged to find at least two candidates in each district up for election. Use the board member requirements on page 5 and 6 as a guide when choosing candidates. 

You will receive a list of members living in the districts up for election. If you know someone on the list who would be a qualified candidate, reach out to them about running for the board. Members interested in serving on the board can view the Trustee Handbook on our website, [butlerrural.coop](http://butlerrural.coop). The handbook explains the requirements, responsibilities, and time commitment for board members.

## FEES AND EXPENSES

You will receive \$100 for attending each nominating committee meeting, which are listed on page 4. The cooperative will also cover approved travel expenses.

# 2026 ELECTION TIMELINE

## JULY 2025

**14th**

Nominating committee meets with co-op's attorney to discuss responsibilities and the election process.

## AUGUST 2025

Members living in districts 6, 7, and 8 receive mail and email notices letting them know they can run for the board of trustees. Interested members can contact the co-op to receive a Trustee Handbook and candidate information form, which is similar to an application.

## SEPTEMBER 2025

**15th**

Nominating committee meets with attorney to develop plan to recruit candidates.

## OCTOBER 2025

**15th**

Deadline for members to apply to run for the board of trustees.

## NOVEMBER 2025

**18th**

Nominating committee interviews members running for the board. After the interviews, the committee will select up to two candidates for each district.

## DECEMBER 2025

**30th**

Petitions due at co-op's office. Qualified members can submit petitions with 25 member signatures to run for the board.

## JANUARY 2026

**12th**

Nominating committee interviews candidate(s) who filed petitions, if needed.

## MARCH 2026

**23rd**

Election begins. Members can vote for one candidate in each district. Voting is completed by mail, online, or through SmartHub.

## APRIL 2026

**28th**

Election ends.

**30th**

Election results announced during annual meeting.

## ELECTION CYCLES

Three board seats are up for election each year. Upcoming election cycles are below.

### 2026

DISTRICT 6

Morgan Township

DISTRICT 7

Hanover and St. Clair townships

DISTRICT 8

Colerain, Crosby, and Harrison townships

### 2027

DISTRICT 1

Oxford and Reily townships

DISTRICT 2

Milford Township

DISTRICT 5

Madison and Wayne townships

### 2028

DISTRICT 3

Israel and Somers Township

DISTRICT 4

German and Gratis townships

DISTRICT 9

Fairfield and Ross townships

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings will be in our office's conference center at 3888 Stillwell Beckett Road in Oxford.

## JULY 2025

**Monday, July 14 at 6 p.m.**

The meeting will be led by the cooperative's attorney, Lee Geiger. You will discuss the committee's responsibilities, review the election process, and select a committee chair.

## SEPTEMBER 2025

**Monday, September 15 at 6 p.m.**

You will review completed candidate information forms, discuss potential candidates, and develop a plan if you lack qualified candidates.

## NOVEMBER 2025

**Tuesday, November 18 at 6 p.m.**

You will interview members running for the board. You will ask candidates about their background and experience, their views on Butler Rural Electric Cooperative and the electric industry, and their commitment to serving the community. All candidates will be interviewed, including incumbent board members.

The committee will chose two candidates from each district after the interviews. These candidates will appear on the ballots for the 2026 election. Candidates who are not nominated can run by petition, which are due December 30.

## JANUARY 2026

**Monday, January 12 at 6 p.m.**

This meeting will only take place if member(s) file petitions to run for the board of trustees. Members can submit petitions with 25 member signatures to run for the board. You will interview these candidate(s) and determine if they are qualified to run for the board of trustees.

## 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

**Thursday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.**

Election results will be announced and the nominating committee members for the 2027 election will be confirmed during the meeting.

# BOARD MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

Board members meet with the co-op's attorney, general manager, and management staff each month and work together to make important decisions that impact the day-to-day operations of the co-op. They represent *all* members, not only the members in the district they live in. Our board members are listed below.

DAVID EVANS  
*President*  
District 1

JIM MEADOR  
*Vice President*  
District 2

MIKE TILTON  
*Secretary and Treasurer*  
District 7

THOMAS L. MCQUISTON  
District 3

JAY T. HASBROOK  
District 4

VICKIE JO BARGER  
District 5

RONALD KOLB  
District 6

ROBERT SPAETH  
District 8

SCOTT LESSING  
District 9

## EDUCATION AND BACKGROUND

Board members have unique backgrounds and experiences.


Board candidates do not need to have electric or utility knowledge or a college degree. Orientations are provided to newly-elected board members. Board members complete training courses covering the roles, responsibilities, knowledge, and skills to govern Butler Rural Electric Cooperative. These courses address board governance, financial decision-making, strategic planning, and current and emerging issues.

### A person is eligible to become a board member if they

- > Are a member of the cooperative.
- > Are not employed by or financially interested in a competing business selling electricity; a business selling supplies to the cooperative; or a business selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to co-op members.
- > Have not been a co-op employee within the last five years.
- > Is not employed by a governmental regulatory agency having jurisdiction or authority over the cooperative.
- > Has not been adjudged legally incompetent by any court of law.
- > Has not been convicted of a felony, crime of theft, or moral turpitude within the previous 10 years.

# BOARD MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

## TIME COMMITMENT

Board members spend around 25 to 30 hours per month attending meetings and training and reviewing documents. 

This includes attending board meetings at the cooperative's office on the last Wednesday of each month. The meetings begin at 9 a.m. and typically conclude by 2 p.m.

### **Board members are required to fulfill the following duties**

- > Hire, delegate, and appraise the general manager
- > Set policies and plans
- > Provide direction through strategic planning
- > Authorize resources consistent with the strategic plan and the long-range financial plan
- > Set rates
- > Monitor the cooperative
- > Improve the quality of life in our community
- > Participate in state and national associations to drive policy supporting electric cooperatives
- > Engage members to support local, state, and federal elected officials who support electric cooperatives

## MEETINGS AND TRAINING

While monthly board meetings are held locally at the co-op's office, statewide conferences are in Columbus and national meeting locations vary.

## COMPENSATION

The cooperative provides equitable compensation (per diem) for trustees for attending board meetings, conferences, and training programs. The average annual compensation for Butler Rural Electric Cooperative's board members is \$15,000. Board members do not receive health insurance through the cooperative.

# Questions?

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Cooperative, Inc.

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