



FREESTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.

The Outlet

FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Larry Butel

Overbrook

Bill Conley

Delia

Karol Lohman

Leavenworth

Don Montgomery

Burlingame

Jeanine Murphy

Leavenworth

Ralph Phillips

Mayetta

Rob Sage

Maple Hill

Matthew Turecek

Valley Falls

Mark Wulfkuhle

Lawrence

STAFF

Christopher Parr

CEO

DISTRICT OFFICES

MCLOUTH OFFICE

P.O. Box 70

McLouth, KS 66054-0070

TOPEKA OFFICE

1100 SW Auburn Road

Topeka, KS 66615

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

The FreeState offices will be **CLOSED ON THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024**, for an all-employee meeting. To report outages, call 800-794-1989.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF

FreeState Electric Cooperative Inc.'s, Annual Meeting

To the attention of all members of FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc., organized and existing under and by virtue of Chapter 17, Article 46, of the laws and the State of Kansas.

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 30th day of April 2024, the annual meeting of said FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc., referred to above, will be held at 6 p.m. at the Topeka FreeState office at 1100

S.W. Auburn Road, Topeka, Kansas 66615 in Shawnee County to take action on the following matters:

- ▶ The report of officers, trustees and committees.
- ▶ The election of three trustees of the cooperative.
- ▶ All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.



LineWorker Appreciation Day!

Monday, April 8, 2024



Scan the QR Code to learn more about thanking our lineworkers any day of the year!

Candidates Seeking BOARD SEATS

VOTING GUIDELINES

The entire FreeState membership will vote for all trustee positions up for election. Members will vote for two trustees in the West District and one trustee in the East District. The candidates who receive the most votes in each district will serve three-year terms as member-elected cooperative trustees. We understand that not every member can attend the annual meeting, but we want to ensure you can participate in the election. Each FreeState member gets only one vote, and every membership has options available: **VOTE BY MAIL OR VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.**

SUBMIT BUSINESS IN ADVANCE

Members with cooperative business to bring before the board of trustees are asked to submit information in advance of the annual meeting. To submit information, visit www.freestate.coop/coopbusiness or call the office 800-794-1989 **BY MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024.** Once submissions are reviewed, the submitting member will be contacted with further information.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

Visit WWW.FREESTATE.COOP/CANDIDATECORNER or scan the QR code for more candidate information including their philosophies on board leadership and the cooperative.



Trustees are vital to the wellness of the cooperative. These individuals are seeking the opportunity to be elected to serve members on the FreeState Board of Trustees.



BILL CONLEY — WEST DISTRICT

DELIA, INCUMBENT

Bill has served the cooperative as a second-generation trustee since 2014 and has been a member since 1980. He lives in the rural Delia area with his wife, Tricia. They have three children and one grandchild.



ROBERT SAGE — WEST DISTRICT

MAPLE HILL, INCUMBENT

Rob has lived in Wabaunsee County his entire life and has been a cooperative member since 1990, serving on the cooperative board of trustees for 20 years. He and his wife, Denise, have two children, Reed and Raven. Being active in the community is important to Rob and his family. Rob has been an area Farm Bureau Financial Services agent for 22 years.



MATT TURECEK — EAST DISTRICT

VALLEY FALLS, INCUMBENT

Matt has served on the FreeState Board of Trustees for two terms. He enjoys being a voice for the members while keeping the financial stability of the co-op in mind. He continues to work on the board director classes and stays involved in his job as a trustee and the responsibilities required.



MISTY STEPHENSON — EAST DISTRICT

LAWRENCE, CHALLENGER

Misty is a native Kansan who has lived all over the world as part of her husband's military career. They moved back to Kansas almost five years ago. Misty, her husband, and four children live in rural Leavenworth County. She believes community involvement and leadership are important.

Candidate Q & A

As part of the application process, all trustee candidates were asked the same questions about serving member-owners of FreeState. Below are the answers each candidate provided to those questions.

EXPLAIN THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE.

CONLEY – Being a member of a cooperative means you are more than just an account number. You are represented and you have a voice.

SAGE – Cooperatives are about helping your friends and neighbors and providing them with an affordable, safe and reliable electric power source.

TURECEK – The co-op difference is the ability for the members to realize that they are part owners of the business. They will get patronage checks back when the co-op is profitable.

STEPHENSON – The cooperative difference is being a member-owner. It's driven by all members who use the service and all members have a voice and responsibility in the organization, not by strangers being paid to act on our behalf.

WHAT CRITICAL ISSUES DO YOU BELIEVE THE CO-OP SHOULD FOCUS ON IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

CONLEY – Cost-of-service study and maintaining an excellent workforce.

SAGE – Cybersecurity, safety awareness and electric grid reliability.

TURECEK – Electric vehicles and charging stations, and maintaining reliable and affordable electric service for members.

STEPHENSON – Understanding changing stressors on the power grid due to weather. Keeping costs as low as possible, and keeping infrastructure up to date and reliable.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE WOULD YOU BRING TO FREESTATE'S BOARD AND MEMBERS?

CONLEY – I have experience leading the cooperative and would appreciate the opportunity to continue in that role.

SAGE – I have many years of board experience, specifically in budget and finance.

TURECEK – As a business owner and farmer, I work with many co-ops. The electrical industry knowledge from being on the board these past six years has helped me understand and collaborate with other board members and the co-op staff in making decisions on behalf of the co-op and the members.

STEPHENSON – Having lived all over the world as a military spouse, I'd bring fresh perspective to the board and members. Being an involved and active member and leader in many community organizations has always been important to me. I have a willingness to serve and a natural curiosity to learn as much as I can — whether that be about my fellow members or about rural electric as a whole.

WHAT MAKES YOU THE IDEAL TRUSTEE?

CONLEY – As a trustee, I aim to promote reliable, safe and economical service to all by striving to implement new and cutting-edge technology and continued education to the cooperative member-owners. I am proud to support our youth programs and our rural communities through the Operation Round-Up program.

SAGE – I am an active member of our communities and available to visit with any members about cooperative concerns at any time. I take pride in serving my friends and neighbors and look forward to the opportunity to continue to represent members in the board room.

TURECEK – I am the ideal trustee because of my experience as a director for six years, educating myself with the director classes and being involved in the electrical industry. I work with a lot of different co-ops in my business. I am vocal in the board meetings, expressing my feelings about what my co-op members would want. Thank you for your vote and for allowing me to keep serving you on the FreeState Electric Co-op Board.

STEPHENSON – I am a person who commits to something and puts in the time and effort to make it the best it can be. Involvement and representing those who are members and may not be active and involved is important.

Annual Meeting Info

Join us April 30 at the Topeka FreeState Office

It's time to mark your calendars for the next FreeState Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on April 30, 2024, at the Topeka FreeState office (1100 S.W. Auburn Road). Members attending will receive a \$10 bill credit after registering. Members attending will also be served a meal and given a gift while supplies last.

Registration opens, and meal service begins at 5:30 p.m. The cooperative business meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The meeting will also be streamed live on the cooperative website.

AT-LARGE TRUSTEE ELECTION

On Feb. 6, 2024, members of the FreeState nominating committee, appointed by the board of trustees, met to present candidates for election to the FreeState Board. The candidates listed will be presented to the membership for consideration at the upcoming annual meeting on April 30, 2024.

During the annual meeting, three board members will be elected. FreeState members will vote by an at-large system. Members can vote for any of the nominees in any district. The candidate receiving the most votes in the east district will be elected to a three-year term. The two candidates receiving the most votes in the west district will both be elected to three-year terms.

WEST DISTRICT

(top two vote-getters will serve as a trustee)

- ▶ **BILL CONLEY**, Delia (incumbent)
- ▶ **ROB SAGE**, Maple Hill (incumbent)

EAST DISTRICT

(top vote-getter will serve as a trustee)

- ▶ **MATT TURECEK**, Valley Falls (incumbent)
- ▶ **MISTY STEPHENSON**, Lawrence (challenger)

FreeState is governed by the policies set by our board, all of whom are FreeState cooperative members. Our board connects with our membership and the community at large.

HOW CAN I VOTE?

We understand that not every member can attend the annual meeting, but we want to ensure you can participate in the election. Each FreeState membership gets only one vote, and every member has three voting options available.

- ▶ Vote by mail.
- ▶ Vote at the annual meeting.
- ▶ Vote by proxy (call the office if you need this option).

VOTE BY MAIL

Ballots will be mailed beginning April 3, 2024, and **MUST BE RETURNED BY APRIL 26, 2024**, to ensure they are counted. It is simple to vote by mail. Complete the ballot using the instructions listed and return it as directed in the postage-paid envelope provided. Please return the ballot using the postage-paid envelope. Do not bring ballots to the office.

VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at the Topeka FreeState office. Members will be issued a ballot when they register with their service address if they have not voted by mail before the meeting.

MEETING FAQ

WHERE IS THE MEETING?

The meeting will be in the FreeState Topeka warehouse (1100 S.W. Auburn Road, Topeka, KS 66615). Parking is located south of the building and members will be directed as they arrive. Handicap accessible parking is available near the entrance. FreeState staff will be on standby to assist members as needed.

WHEN CAN I GET INTO THE BUILDING?

Doors will open promptly at 5:30 p.m. Members will not be admitted early to ensure safety and allow for final meeting preparations. No seating is available outside the warehouse. If you arrive before 5:30 p.m., please wait in your vehicle until doors open.

WHAT ARE WE EATING FOR DINNER?

The first 350 attendees are guaranteed a dinner including barbecue sandwich, chips, dessert and a drink.

HOW CAN I EARN MY BILL CREDIT?

Members attending in-person will receive a \$10 bill credit added to the primary account of the member. Virtual attendees will not receive a credit.

WHAT WILL I LEARN AT THE MEETING?

Attending the meeting is a great way to stay updated on your cooperative. This year, we'll discuss the state of the cooperative, and future plans to provide you reliable service. Your trustees will also be available following the meeting to answer questions.



QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING?

CALL: 800-794-1989

EMAIL: customerservice@freestate.coop