

2026 Special Election Timeline

Deadline	Description
1/5/2026	Director candidate applications posted on the website for members – Districts 6 and 8
1/23/2026 – 5 pm	Director candidate applications due to the Credentials and Elections Committee (“Committee”)
By 2/13/2026	Committee determines qualified applicants, conducts interviews, provides list of nominated candidates, and notifies all applicants of their status
2/20/2026 – 5 pm	Director candidate applications due to the Committee for qualified applicants seeking nomination by member petition
By 2/25/2026	Committee confirms all candidate names for the ballot, notifies candidates of their status, and informs the Board
By 3/2/2026	Orientation materials emailed to all candidates
3/24/2026 – 8 am	Election opens; voting begins
4/2/2026 – 5 pm	Election closes; voting deadline
4/6/2026	Virtual Member Meeting – election results announced

2026 Regular Election Timeline

Deadline	Description
6/22/2026	Director candidate applications posted on the website for members – Districts 1, 2, and 4
7/10/2026 – 5 pm	Director candidate applications due to Credentials and Elections Committee (“Committee”)
By 7/31/2026	Committee determines qualified applicants, conducts interviews, provides list of nominated candidates, and notifies all applicants of their status
8/7/2026 – 5 pm	Director candidate applications due to Committee for qualified applicants seeking nomination by member petition
By 8/12/2026	Committee confirms all candidate names for the ballot, notifies candidates of their status, and informs the Board
By 8/17/2026	Orientation materials emails to all candidates
9/8/2026 – 8 am	Election opens; voting begins
9/17/2026 – 5 pm	Election closes; voting deadline
9/22/2026	Virtual Annual Meeting – election results announced

2026 Director Election Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for Tri-County Electric Cooperative ("Cooperative") director elections intended to ensure fair and consistent practices and uphold the integrity of the election process. The Cooperative's Bylaws supersede any actual or perceived conflict with this policy.

Director Candidate Applications

Application materials will be posted to the Cooperative's website by the deadline established in the most recent Director Election Schedule ("election schedule").

Application Requirements

Legal Name Requirement:

Applicants must complete the Board of Directors application using their legal first and last name for the election ballot consistent with Internal Revenue Service and Cooperative Bylaw requirements. Titles, forms of address, designations, professional titles, or other credentials, such as education, military rank, or occupation, are prohibited.

Required Application Materials:

Applicants must complete all forms in the application packet and agree to all background checks and disclose information for conflict of interest. They must also complete an affidavit to attest to the accuracy of the information provided.

Petition Requirement:

Each applicant must submit, as part of their initial application, a petition containing twenty-five (25) handwritten and verifiable signatures of current members with voting residence in the director district the applicant seeks to represent. One signature per membership is permitted. All signatures must comply with the Cooperative's Bylaws and must be submitted on the petition form provided in the application materials.

Application Fee:

Following confirmation that the submitted application is complete, an invoice for the required application fee will be emailed to the applicant. Payment must be received by the invoice due date in order for the application to be reviewed.

Biography:

Applicants must submit a biography in an electronic format compatible with Microsoft Word. Applicants are solely responsible for the content and must adhere to a 400-word limit. The Cooperative will not edit applicant submitted materials but reserves the right to require edits if content is deemed inappropriate for distribution to members or the public. Updates or resubmissions will not be accepted after the application deadline.

Credentials and Elections Committee

All applicants must apply to be nominated by the Credentials and Elections Committee ("Committee"), which will include an interview. Failure to participate in an interview will result in the applicant's removal from all election consideration.

All application materials must be fully completed and submitted to a designated Committee email address provided in the application materials by the date indicated on the current year's election schedule. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Committee shall verify the applicant's submission of all required materials to be considered for nomination and determine an applicant's qualification based on the Cooperative Bylaws. Upon the Committee's request, the Applicant must provide additional information necessary to determine qualification.

If an applicant is deemed qualified to be a candidate but is not nominated by the Committee, they may apply to become a petitioning candidate by resubmitting all application materials along with a petition containing an additional twenty-five signatures that meet the petition requirements by the deadline established in the election schedule.

The Committee shall provide a list of candidates, both nomination and petition candidates, to the Cooperative and contact all candidates with their decision.

Candidate Orientation

Candidate orientation materials shall be emailed to all Candidates by the deadline specified in the election schedule.

Candidate Questions

Questions will be answered by the Committee upon delivery by email at the designated email address provided in the application materials. Answers to questions submitted will be provided to all candidates unless the question applies uniquely to the Candidate's personal information.

Campaigning

"Campaigning" is defined for this policy as the distribution, posting, or display of any materials or direct communication to members (verbal, written, electronic, or otherwise) intended to influence the outcome of a Cooperative election. All campaigning activities must comply with federal, state, and local laws, including regulations governing direct communication and electronic messaging.

Campaigning on Cooperative premises, physical or electronic, is prohibited. Physical premises include parking lots, building exteriors or interiors, and any area of any facility where a Cooperative sponsored event, meeting, or activity is being held. Electronic premises include all Cooperative controlled digital spaces such as websites, social media channels, comment sections, apps, newsletters, and any other electronic platform operated or managed by the Cooperative.

This section applies to candidates and their representatives. Candidates will be disqualified for any violations of this rule.

Use of the Cooperative Brand

Candidates may not deploy web pages or other campaign materials that suggest their candidacy is endorsed or supported by the Cooperative and may not use Cooperative logos or trademarks. Candidates who are incumbent directors may not use the director materials provided by the Cooperative or any other Cooperative resources for correspondence related to the election.

Candidate Withdrawal

A Candidate may withdraw from the election at any time by submitting a signed letter by email to the official election email address provided in the election materials. The Cooperative will use reasonable methods to advise the membership of the withdrawal if the Candidate's name has been made public. If time does not permit the withdrawn Candidate's name to be removed from the ballot, votes cast for the withdrawn Candidate will be counted but will be void.

Voting

- A member is entitled to vote in accordance with the Cooperative's Bylaws. The election service provider shall ensure all voting is consistent with the Bylaws.
- Candidates' names shall appear on the ballot in alphabetical order by last name, with their nomination type indicated (incumbent, nomination candidate, or petition candidate).

- Voting shall open and close on the dates designated in the election schedule.
- For each position, the Candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. If the Candidate with the highest number of votes has withdrawn, the Candidate with the next highest number of votes shall be elected.
- Once the election service provider has certified the election results, an election service provider representative will announce the results at the Member Meeting and provide a written certification of results for inclusion in the Minutes of the Member Meeting.

Post-Election

After the conclusion of the Member Meeting, all elected Directors must execute and deliver all post-election documents and attend a director orientation.

Confidentiality

Cooperative employees performing duties under these procedures shall, to the fullest extent practical, keep confidential the name of any member who has made an inquiry or application seeking nomination until such time as noted in the election schedule.

All signatory-specific information on applicant petitions is private member information and will not be disclosed. Directors may not seek or be provided access to Candidate information by Cooperative employees except as necessary for such Directors to perform duties mandated by law, Cooperative governing documents, or this policy, notwithstanding Directors' usual access to confidential Cooperative information.