



Self-Regulation Voting Procedures in Place

East Central members will soon decide whether to be self-regulated or remain under the control of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC). Information packets will include a ballot and voting instructions which will be mailed to all co-op members.

The proposal, if approved by members, will remove East Central from Corporation Commission control and return regulation to members through the cooperative's board of trustees.

"East Central has been under the control, rules and regulations of the Corporation Commission since 1972," says Fred Smith, East Central's general manager.

"For more than 30 years prior to 1972, co-ops were successfully governed by their member-elected trustees."

Smith says during the week of July 5th, all members will receive packets of information on this proposal. Each packet will contain a letter from the board of trustees, a question-and-answer brochure, a ballot and a postage-paid envelope in which to mail the completed ballot.

Members should understand they will

receive only one ballot, and it will arrive in the information packet. Due to the voting process, ECE cannot give members more than one ballot.

Smith explains once members have voted, they should place the completed ballot in the pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope. This envelope will be included in the information packet. Members should then mail it to the auditing firm who will be handling the voting tabulation.

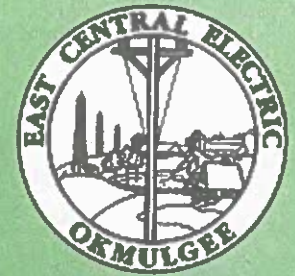
"The auditing firm is overseeing the balloting process for us in order to protect the integrity of the election," Smith explains.

Jimmy Eller, president of East Central's board of trustees, says the trustees feel it is in the best interest of East Central's membership to return to local control of the cooperative.

"The trustees are members of the cooperative too," he says. "We feel we are closer to the issues, and understand how those issues can affect our members, better than members of the Corporation Commission can."

Voting out from under Corporation Commission regulation will also eliminate Commission-mandated fees.

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How to Cast Your Ballot

During the week of July 5th, you will receive an information packet from us containing a question-and-answer brochure, a letter from your board of trustees, a ballot and a postage-paid envelope. Voting instructions are included in the letter.

This is the only ballot you will receive. Duplicate ballots cannot be issued.

We strongly encourage you to read this information, complete your ballot and mail it to our auditing firm in the addressed, postage-paid envelope. If you have questions about the balloting procedure, call our office at (918) 756-0833.

The Vote to End Corporation Commission Control... *Continued from page 1.*

"In the mid-1990s, the Commission started assessing utilities for its oversight of their operations. East Central members were charged

\$28,984 in 2003 as part of the regulation assessment. By law, this amount is passed directly to the members on their monthly billing," says Eller.

He says in addition to the assessment fees, it can cost the co-op thousands of dollars and take a considerable amount of time when there is a decision

which requires Commission action.

"Voting to end the duplicate regulation would eliminate the need for members to pay fees to the OCC, yet still allow members to maintain control of their cooperative," says Eller.

In a previous edition, we stated 20 of the Oklahoma's 28 electric cooperatives have already voted out from under Corporation Commission regulation. However, the actual number is 17 which are no longer regulated by the OCC.

Every co-op whose members have been given the opportunity to vote have overwhelmingly approved the return to self control.



East Central Electric Cooperative

We're a part of your community too

East Central Electric line workers, like Jason Childress, fulfill a job description unlike many other professions.

They work long, unpredictable hours under hazardous working conditions because they understand the importance of keeping electricity in your homes and businesses. You'll see them everywhere, either working to restore your electricity or being active within your community.

Our members know if their power goes out, our crews go out too. Your appreciation is a big reason they take such pride in a very tough job. When you see one of East Central Electric's crews out ... let them know you appreciate their dedication to keeping your lights on.

Holiday Office Closing

East Central offices will be closed Monday, July 5 in recognition of Independence Day.

Dispatchers and service personnel will be on duty throughout the three-day holiday. Call (918) 756-0833 to report an interruption in your electric service.



Member Supports Self-Regulation

Louis Harding of Bristow committee member since 1995



A committee made up of ECE members voted unanimously to support the membership vote to eliminate Corporation Commission regulation. Louis Harding from Bristow is one of the committee members who supports this self-regulation.

"This is worthwhile and something we need to do. It (Corporation Commission control) is a terrible cost to East Central and the (financial) assessments to the co-op are just going to continue on down the road," Harding said.

Harding said he encourages every member to vote YES on their ballot.

From the Kitchen of a Friend

Hot Mexi Guacamole Dip

- 2 avocados
- 1 cup salad shrimp
- 8 oz. green onion dip
- 1/2 cup cilantro, finely chopped
- 2 lg. garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 cup green pimento olives, diced
- 1/3 cup water



Mash avocados to a paste, add garlic. Combine all ingredients and thoroughly mix. Add 1/3 cup of water to hold green color. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cover and refrigerate. Serve with chips or vegetables.

Summertime Brisket

- 5 lb. brisket
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 pkg. (dry) Lipton onion soup mix
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsps. horseradish
- 2 Tbsps. mustard

Put brisket on heavy foil. Rub horseradish on brisket. Rub mustard on brisket. Sprinkle on brown sugar, then sprinkle on onion soup mix. Pour 3/4 cup water on brisket. Wrap in heavy foil and grill for 3 hours.

Billing Cycle Information

Cycle 1

Mailing Date: June 10
Bill Due Date: June 30

Cycle 2

Mailing Date: June 17
Bill Due Date: July 7

Cycle 3

Mailing Date: June 25
Bill Due Date: July 15

Cycle 4

Mailing Date: July 2
Bill Due Date: July 22

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