

2023 VOTER GUIDE



**Cuivre River
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The 2023 ballot includes the names of candidates in each of four districts. You are eligible to choose one candidate for each district. You may vote online or request a paper ballot by mail. Instructions for marking your ballot are stated on the paper ballot and are available through the online ballot portal. Online ballots must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. CST on Monday, August 21**; paper ballots must be delivered to Survey & Ballot Systems by mail before the close of business on **Monday, August 21**.

Ballots may not be delivered to CREC offices or brought and cast at the Annual Meeting. However:

- If you request a paper ballot and don't use it, you may attend the meeting at our Troy office on Thursday, August 24, and receive a new ballot when you register.

- If you're not sure you mailed your ballot in time you may attend the meeting and verify receipt of your ballot. If your ballot did not arrive by the August 21 deadline you may receive a new ballot.

All members who vote (either online, by paper ballot or at the annual meeting) will be entered into a drawing for free electricity.

Regarding prize drawings: you are NOT required to attend the annual meeting in order to win prizes. The names of winners will be drawn **in the week following the annual meeting** for these free electricity awards:

- One member will receive a \$1,500 bill credit
- Two members will each receive a \$500 bill credit
- Two others will each receive a \$250 bill credit
- Twelve members will each receive a bill credit for a month's use of electricity (*up to \$200*)

Vote online

If you have a valid email address on file, you may receive an email containing a direct link to your ballot. No email? If you do not receive the email link or prefer not to use it, type **directvote.net/crec/** directly into your web browser (*not into a search engine*) to access the login page of the 2023 Cuivre River Electric Cooperative Ballot. You will be asked to provide your member number (*without the dash or numbers after the dash*) and the zip code of your billing address.

Vote by mail

Send your ballot in the postage-paid return envelope to: **Survey & Ballot Systems**, 7653 Anagram Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Do not mail your ballot to Cuivre River Electric. Please allow time for delivery by August 21.

About your ballot

The ballot order for all candidates was drawn randomly by the Nominating Committee. An asterisk (*) denotes current officeholders. Candidates were asked to respond to five questions.

Candidate questions

- What knowledge, experience or special abilities would you bring to the board?
- What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on the next few years?
- Which of the following is the most important feature of the electricity Cuivre River provides: (1) Affordable, (2) Reliable, (3) Environmentally clean.
- What is the best way to meet present and future energy needs?
- What interests you most about serving on the board?

Meet Your Director Candidates

Please choose one candidate in each district

Lincoln County District 1: Vote for One of Two



Christopher Williams • Troy, MO

Christopher has been a CREC member since 2012. He is a manager for Product Management (software) at Centene, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, and is in the process of obtaining his Master's in Business. He's worked in the healthcare industry for the past 14 years in various leadership roles, in both operations and technology. He also owned and operated a lawn business for nearly five years in Lincoln County, providing discounted rates for all police, fire, and military as well as assistance with lawn care for those in the community struggling to care/pay for lawn maintenance.

Christopher is running for CREC's board to be a voice for all those in his district, especially lower-income households, understanding their needs/struggles and fighting for solutions to ensure no one is without help or electricity. He says that what interests him the most about serving as a CREC board member is a chance to advocate for his community, look at all possible options to assist our neighbors in need, and lower costs overall while keeping reliability high. "I know firsthand what it feels like to grow up in a home where choices had to be made between less food or having the electricity cut off. I believe there can be multiple avenues to prevent this from happening to any of our neighbors who may have a temporary hardship as we did when I was a kid," he says.

Christopher's background includes business knowledge from an operations perspective as well as technical knowledge from a software perspective. His experience spans communications, outreach/advocacy, electrical repairs, masonry, landscape design, pharmaceuticals, automotive mechanics, and more. "I've always believed I can do anything I put my mind to, therefore I get my hands in many different areas to gain knowledge, challenge myself, and build skills that can then open more volunteer opportunities for my community," he says.

Christopher's community and leadership experiences include being an active HOA/Architectural Review Board member within his home community, leading various development teams in the field of healthcare, as well as various other volunteer opportunities. "I volunteer any chance I can, both through Sacred Heart in Troy as well as local businesses such as the upcoming Bridge of Hope coming to our city to assist low-income and struggling families with housing expenses," he says.

His views: Christopher says that the areas he believes the board needs to focus on should be continued efforts to keep costs low for members, create/increase community-oriented events to educate and bring awareness to ways of saving on monthly electricity costs, and find ways we can further assist those members who may be struggling to pay during a hardship. He also believes CREC should continue to invest in upgrades, such as LED bulbs within the communities we serve, and provide incentives or assistance to members to make similar upgrades in their homes, to lower overall energy consumption and monthly costs. "Supporting a targeted approach on new technologies to maximize efficiency and reliability can help to keep our members' costs as low as possible, while also strengthening our grid reserves to better position us in the event of an unexpected transfer of energy needs around the country," he says.

Issues voting online?

Call 952-974-2339 or email support@directvote.net. Support is available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays.

(Lincoln County District 1 continues on following page)

Lincoln County District 1: Vote for One of Two



Mike Cherry* • Troy, MO

Mike has been a CREC member since March 2018 and currently serves on the board of directors for the co-op. He was formerly with the Lincoln County Fire Protection District where he served in every position, including fire chief for 12-plus years. He is now a safety director with 3 Phase Line Construction and continues to volunteer with the Old Monroe Fire Protection District. He is an East Central College graduate and is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Leadership. Mike is married to Emma Cherry.

Mike has owned or worked for an electrical contractor since graduating high school. "I have an extensive electrical background as well as safety," he says. He has been in the fire service for 38 years—20 as a career. He continues to serve as an instructor and regional coordinator for the Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute at the University of Missouri Columbia, teaching firefighting, leadership, and management courses all over the country.

His views: System reliability, expansion capabilities, and additional services using owned equipment are the areas Mike believes the board needs to focus on in the next few years. He is also focused on making sure CREC has the capacity to serve growing demands and system reliability.

He feels that reliability is the most important feature of electricity that CREC provides. "In today's world, electricity is depended on for every aspect of life including life-saving devices located in homes," Mike says.

The best way to meet present and future energy needs, he says, is to ensure we have a very reliable system, plan for expansion to new areas by building partnerships with developers, and conduct ongoing evaluations of demands on the system.

When asked what interests him the most about serving as a CREC board member, Mike says that he has a strong desire to serve his community and use his life experience to improve the community he lives in. "I have always been interested in the electrical industry and have worked closely with all utilities as a contractor and emergency responder in the past."

CREC *Mission and Vision*

As a cooperative, it is CREC's responsibility to serve our members today, and tomorrow. CREC's Board of Directors adopted both mission and vision statements to help continue guiding us as we move forward to fulfill that responsibility.

Mission

Cuivre River Electric Cooperative will be a progressive leader in the energy industry, empowering employees to serve our members using innovative energy solutions, while safely providing reliable service at the lowest possible cost.

Vision

Cuivre River Electric aspires to be a trusted energy partner that is prepared to embrace opportunities in a changing utility industry while providing our members with maximum value and improving our communities.

Warren County District 3: Vote for One of Two



Phillip Dunk* • Wright City, MO

Phil has been a CREC member since 2006 and currently serves on the board of directors. He is the manufacturing manager for Hellebusch Tool and Die (maker of precision die cast and plastic injection molds). He has a background in manufacturing, engineering, tooling, and project development, and holds a degree in Machine Tool Technology. He and his wife JoAnn have been married 40 years and have two children.

Whether working side-by-side with his fellow board members or standing in team leadership roles, Phil is enthusiastic and adept at identifying new opportunities and addressing problems. He values developing clear strategies and solutions that equate to progress and improvements for CREC and its members.

He is a past Elder at Wentzville Christian Church, serves on the advisory boards of several trade schools & industry associations, and has volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Kairos Prison Ministry, Autism Society of America, and NWTY Youth Outdoors Program.

His views: Reliable, affordable power are what Phil believes should remain the board's top priorities.

Phil says that the best way to meet present and future energy needs is through a responsible "balanced" mix of clean, high-efficiency conventional resources, and continued use and investment in renewable energy technologies.

"As a leading provider of energy to a diverse mix of rural and urban members, it's critical that CREC keeps pace with advancements in technology in order to meet the changing and varied demands of our members," he says. "Throughout these challenging times, CREC has remained committed to maximizing reliability, controlling rates, and returning capital credits to our members, while steadily increasing our use of renewable energy sources."

"I would greatly appreciate the continued opportunity to work with this outstanding team to provide maximum value to our members throughout the entire CREC service area," Phil says.

Voting FAQs

Q. Can I bring my paper ballot to the office?

A. No. Paper ballots should be mailed to SBS in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Q. Can I bring my paper ballot to the meeting?

A. No. Paper ballots will not be accepted at the meeting. If you request a paper ballot you do not use, you can receive a replacement ballot when you register at the meeting.

Warren County District 3: Vote for One of Two



Mark Konya • Innsbrook, MO

Mark has been a CREC member since 2020 and recently retired as an engineer/utility industry consultant with SAS Institute, Inc. He and his wife Susan have three adult children.

Mark has over 45 years in the energy industry in various engineering and management roles. He holds a B.S. in Physics, B.S. in Mathematics, an M.S. in Nuclear Engineering, and an M.A. in Physics. He is a licensed professional engineer in Missouri, a senior member of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), and an active member of the IEEE Distribution Reliability/Resiliency Working Groups. His leadership experience includes serving as supervisor of customer experience analytics, supervisor of continuous improvement, project manager credit scoring, power plant supervisor/test director, and principal consultant. “I have extensive technical and business knowledge regarding utilities because of filling various engineering, management, and consulting roles. I have also presented at numerous industry conferences such as NRECA’s TechAdvantage Exposition, the National Governor’s Association Resiliency Conference, DistribuTECH, and Utility Analytics Summit,” he says.

Mark is a former Brownie troop leader, a current member of the Innsbrook Historical Society, and a legacy member of the 37th Division Veterans Association.

His views: Mark believes the board needs to (1) focus on ensuring contracts are in place to secure affordable and reliable sources of energy, (2) maintain a high level of reliability through preventive/predictive maintenance, and (3) pursue regular training/outreach to ensure health and safety of employees/public.

Reliability, Mark says, is the most important feature of the service CREC provides. “A diverse set of generating resources should be utilized to provide a hedge against over-reliance on renewables. These resources should include coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, and pumped storage at a minimum,” he says.

Representing members in Warren County District 3 to help ensure their needs are being met by CREC is what interests Mark most about serving on the board. He says, “If allowed the privilege to serve on CREC’s board of directors I will contribute my industry knowledge, skills, and abilities to help ensure safe, reliable, resilient, and affordable energy continues to be delivered to our members.”

Fun Facts

About Cuivre River Electric Cooperative

Cuivre River Electric's service area has more than 5,600 miles of electric distribution line.

The original 12 incorporators of our cooperative were from Foristell, Wentzville, Foley, Winfield, Troy, Wright City, Warrenton, O'Fallon, Elsberry and Clarksville.

St. Charles County District 4: Vote for One of Three



Karen Berra* • St. Charles, MO

Karen has been a CREC member since 2007 and currently serves on the CREC Board of Directors. She is the fuel administrator/wholesale billing coordinator for CF Altitude, LLC, formerly Western Oil, and has been with them for 25 years. She attended college at Southwest Missouri State University and St. Louis Community College. Karen has two daughters and a new grandson.

Karen's professional experience includes working in the fuel industry with several large oil companies such as Conoco Phillips, BP, Citgo, and ExxonMobil. Her community service includes volunteering for the past 20-plus years helping to raise millions of dollars for charities including Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, Folds of Honor, Backstoppers, and Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation.

Her views: Karen believes the board needs to find the most cost-efficient means of producing energy using solar, wind, hydro, and coal and maintaining reliability. "We also need to find ways for the co-op to help provide additional assistance to its members," she says.

Reliability, Karen says, is the most important feature of the service CREC provides. "As a member, I am impressed with the reliability that CREC provides. Looking to provide clean, sustainable energy for our members all while providing an affordable form of energy is the best way to meet present and future energy needs," she says.

Karen says she's most interested in serving on CREC's Board of Directors to constantly learn more about the co-op, its efficiency, and pride along with providing excellent service to its members, as well as helping to find new ways to continue to maintain one of the highest satisfaction ratings in the industry.

Voting FAQs

Q. During the voting period, can I request a paper ballot kit for another person?

A. No. You may only obtain a paper ballot kit for yourself by calling SBS at 952-974-2339. You may also vote online through August 21 by using a secure web portal at www.directvote.net/crec/. Verification of your membership will be required. Ballots are not available at Cuivre River Electric offices, however a computer station is available for members' use to vote online during normal lobby hours through August 21.

Q. Can my spouse and I both vote?

A. No. Only one vote may be cast per member—household or business. To be eligible, your name should appear on your family's account.

St. Charles County District 4: Vote for One of Three



Arthur Madden • Weldon Spring, MO

Arthur has been a CREC member since 2020. He is a retired chief financial officer and former school board president and past board member of the Tri-County Commission. As a retiree, Arthur works for Dierberg's and is also a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Civil Air Patrol member. He has an M.S. in Economics with a focus on energy price effects on the economy and is a Certified Professional Accountant.

Arthur's community service includes providing training on disaster response to statewide Civil Air Patrol members and various county emergency management personnel.

His views: Arthur believes that in the next few years, the CREC board needs to focus on the increase in energy demand and electric power delivery upgrades.

"Affordability and reliability are the most important attributes of the service CREC provides to electricity consumers. The best way to meet present and future energy needs is additional power lines and hookups, possible substation growth, and cost recovery, as required by an expanding population," he says.

Arthur says he's most interested in serving on CREC's Board of Directors to contribute to solutions for delivering energy and maintaining confidence and trust with our consumers into the future.

CREC is ... A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

What is Touchstone Energy[®]?

It is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, like **Cuivre River Electric Cooperative**, which commit themselves to providing high standards of service to customers large and small.

There are Touchstone Energy[®] cooperatives in 45 states. Together we deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million customers every day.

Touchstone Energy[®] cooperatives serve their members with **integrity, accountability, innovation** and a long-standing **commitment to our communities**.

St. Charles County District 4: Vote for One of Three



Shirley Pecoraro • Cottleville, MO

Shirley has been a member of CREC since 2004. She is retired from the Parkway School District where she served as a senior buyer with the district's purchasing department. Her 25 years of buying experience includes working for municipal government and higher education, helping meet the needs of various departments such as engineering, planning utilities, public works, maintenance, parks, and police.

Shirley's community background includes serving as a director with the St. Charles County Domestic Violence Board and volunteering as Rebecca Boone with the St. Charles County Parks Historic Daniel Boone Home. Her achievements include receiving the St. Charles County Parks 2016 Outstanding Volunteer Award, the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) 2020 National Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer Award, and the 2018 Regional Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer Award. She earned and has maintained Certified Interpretive Guide credentials from NAI. She holds a B.S. in Education.

Her views: Regarding some of the important issues the cooperative board needs to focus on in the next few years, Shirley believes there are many issues facing any energy provider. "Among the most critical are maintaining reliability, affordability, sustainability (in sourcing, producing, and providing energy) and efforts to balance stewardship for the environment and our members' needs," she says.

When it comes to present and future energy needs, Shirley says she believes this is an extremely challenging time for the energy sector. "Creativity and seeking new and varied ways of providing adequate electricity, maintaining and seeking additional partnerships, and ongoing monitoring and working with government officials concerning legislation are all ways to help meet those needs," Shirley says.

Shirley says it would be an honor to serve as a Board director for CREC, which provides an essential service to our members. "It is important to be involved and contribute to our community. I believe my 25 years of purchasing experience in the public sector would serve CREC well, should I have the privilege of becoming a cooperative board director."

Voting FAQs

Q. Who counts the ballots?

A. Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS), the independent firm assisting Cuivre River with voting, will collect and count the online ballots and paper ballots from the July 18-August 21 voting period, and certify those results. Our cooperative's attorney and the Nominating Committee will count and certify ballots collected at the Annual Meeting on August 24; they will add these ballots to the total online/paper ballot count from SBS and then certify all. The Nominating Committee and election officials deputized by the cooperative's attorney will also be present to assist with questions.

Q. If I vote online or by paper ballot can I still attend the meeting?

A. Yes. You will not receive another ballot, but you will be able to be present at the meeting if you wish.

St. Charles County District 5: Vote for One of Two



Ted House* • St. Charles, MO

Ted became a member of CREC in 1987 and currently serves on the board of directors for the co-op. Ted is a retired circuit court judge for the State of Missouri. He has also served the people of St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren, Pike, and Montgomery counties as our state senator.

Ted is a former emergency medical technician. He earned his J.D. degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law and holds a B.A. from Central Methodist University. Ted's wife Mardi is an engineer at Boeing. They have three children.

Ted's leadership and community service background include serving as the presiding judge for the 11th Judicial Circuit Court in St. Charles County and as the chairperson for the board of directors with the Crider Health Center.

His views: Ted is a passionate supporter of the cooperative business model. "CREC is owned by the members, governed by the members, and operated for the members. Because we don't siphon off profits for stockholders, our extra revenue is invested in the growth of the cooperative or refunded back to the members."

Ted believes that CREC is an exceptionally efficient and well-run organization. "From the President/CEO and the executive team through the line workers and all the staff, the culture of professionalism and excellence shines through every day. The dedication that CREC employees bring to the job is inspirational," he says.

When it comes to present and future energy needs, Ted believes that challenges do lie ahead in navigating the inevitable transition to renewable energy. "None of us can function without electricity. Reliability, he says, is the most important feature of the service CREC provides. "It is imperative that we maintain the reliability of our electricity supply while we continue to reduce carbon emissions through the diversification of generation resources and improved power plant efficiency," he says.

Serving his CREC neighbors as a board director has been a great privilege, Ted says. "I hope to help CREC continue to be a strong voice for reliable, affordable, and responsibly generated electricity."

CREC

Is governed by a policy-making board of 12 directors, three of whom reside in Lincoln County, one who resides in Pike County, five of whom reside in St. Charles County and three of whom reside in Warren County. The directors serve terms of three years each.



(St. Charles County District 5 continues on the following page)

St. Charles County District 5: Vote for One of Two



Joseph Frazier • St. Charles, MO

Joe has lived in St. Charles County for over 25 years and joined CREC in 2021. He is self-employed as a real estate developer and is also engaged in farming.

Joe joined the United States Air Force shortly after high school and served for six years, four of those years being stationed abroad. He attended college while in the military and finished his accounting degree at the University of Missouri after returning to the U.S. He has worked for Ernst & Young, MEMC, and Emerson Electric where he managed the global financial forensics department. Joe is a CPA and has served on the homeowner association boards for both Trails of Jacob Summit and Windcastle.

His professional background includes experience in audit, financial analysis, forensics, professional networking, management, and board experience. Joe was a director at Emerson Electric. He is married with four sons and six grandchildren.

His views: Joe says that some of the important issues the cooperative board needs to focus on in the next few years include safety, sustainable long-term strategy/vision, cost containment, member relationships, and reliable energy.

Affordability is the most important feature of the service CREC provides. “Affordability creates the foundation for efficient markets,” Joe says. The best way to meet present energy needs, he says, is efficient and reliable energy delivery using existing technologies, and for the future, efficient and reliable energy delivery using advanced sustainable technologies.

When it comes to serving as a Board director for CREC, Joe says he’s been blessed on many fronts and feels it is his responsibility to participate and donate his financial and managerial knowledge and labor to activities related to his community. Joe would be proud to serve on the CREC board and represent its members.

Thank You

**for participating in the 2023 election
of your Board of Directors!**