

# NEWS



**Crawford Electric**  
A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Crawford electric reports strong voter participation in annual meeting; two new directors elected**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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BOURBON – Crawford Electric Cooperative's 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members was held on Sept. 17. More than 2,300 members participated in this year's election, resulting in two new directors, one returning director and the passage of Proposition A.

In District 1, Paul Gross unseated incumbent director Janet Morrow, receiving 1,164 votes to Morrow's 1,065. In District 2, members re-elected unopposed incumbent director Jim Biermann. In District 3, Kenny Staples unseated incumbent director Gary Mullen with 1,557 votes to Mullen's 682. All directors were elected to serve a three-year term.

A total of 2,371 ballots were cast, 2,204 during the monthlong early voting period and 167 in person at the meeting. This represents almost 14% of eligible members.

The recent trend in increased voter participation can be traced to strong member interest in the early voting period facilitated by industry-leading independent contractor Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS). The early vote ran from Aug. 15 to Sept. 15. Most early voters used the secure digital options; 176 members used a mail-in ballot.

SBS conducted a random drawing for electric credits from among all early voters, and member Kevin Hoag of St. Clair won the early-vote grand prize of \$500 of free electricity.

Online voters had an opportunity to participate in a survey, with more than 93% of responses indicating satisfaction with the process.

"This process keeps it simple, convenient, and assures that most of us can have the opportunity to vote," one member said. "It's nice to be able to vote online," said another. "You make it so easy to vote."

This year's annual meeting drew 449 members and guests, who enjoyed a hot breakfast catered by Rich's Famous Burgers and pastries from Cuba Bakery and Deli while listening to live Americana bluegrass music by *As the Crowe Flies*. They also participated in random drawings for prizes. Member Tom Perschbacher of Leasburg won the \$300 electric credit grand prize.

During the business session, Michael Cremer addressed members for the first time in his new role as CEO/General Manager. He emphasized the importance of balancing affordability and reliability, highlighted the cooperative's continued commitment to community and noted efforts to keep rates competitive despite rising costs. Cremer also emphasized the vital role of employees in providing safe, dependable service and shared updates on our generation partner's portfolio and future power supply plans.

In the new business portion of the meeting, members approved a motion to place a proposed bylaw amendment on next year's ballot that would change the insurance benefit directors receive. Parliamentarian Shawn Battagler facilitated an open discussion before the motion was brought to a vote and passed.

Crawford Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of locally owned, community-minded electric co-ops with high standards of service. Crawford Electric serves about 20,000 meters along almost 3,000 miles of distribution lines mainly in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Dent counties.