



CONNECT

A newsletter for the members of JEFFERSON ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Make Your Voice Heard: Register and Vote



Chris Dillard, President and CEO

There's an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, not only are you missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, but you're also allowing others to chart a course (10051071-001) that affects your future. That's why we're encouraging all Jefferson Energy Cooperative (JEC) members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22, 2020. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

Your vision, your vote

Local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, but they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

As with the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more important, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board or an electric co-op

board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Jefferson Energy board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

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Staying in sync with the community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is

to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. JEC board members provide their perspective on community priorities, enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

However, boards are not perfect, and we need you—the members of the co-op—to help keep the system in check. We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so that we can stay on course and ensure we are in sync with the community that we serve.

A strong voter turnout demonstrates investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of

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Sept. 30 Is Last Day to Claim Capital Credits

In compliance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, Jefferson Energy Cooperative is attempting to locate members whose capital credit checks were issued in 2014, but which have been returned by the United States Post



Office as “undeliverable” or have otherwise been unclaimed. These returned capital credits are for patronage allocated during years 1984-1986.

A current list of these members, and their last known addresses, is posted on the JEC website (www.jec.coop) and maintained at our corporate office located at 3077 Highway 17 North, Wrens, Georgia, for review from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you believe you may be entitled to receive a patronage capital allocation (10039873-001) that was paid by Jefferson Energy Cooperative in 2014, please contact Customer Service at 1-877-JEFFERSON or (877) 533-3377. To claim these funds, you must show adequate proof of identity as well as provide information relating to your membership account with Jefferson Energy Cooperative.

The last possible date to claim these funds is **Sept. 30, 2020**. If capital credit refunds are not claimed by this date, they will be used for economic development or education or donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236.

Make Your Voice Heard,



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views are represented. The entire community benefits when more people participate in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you serve as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues that are on the ballot and get out and vote!

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Jefferson Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Keep Safety First During Fall Chores



Labor Day means summer's over, and it's time to prepare your house and lawn for fall and winter.

The first thing to prepare: power tools and electrical cords—including extension cords—in the home, garage, shed and yard.

Before you begin any outdoor project, check that your power tool is designed for outdoor use and that its wire is

not damaged. Never carry a power tool by the wire or use it near water. Check to see that the tool is in good working condition before use. If it isn't, take it to a licensed electrician or return it to the manufacturer.

Don't overlook extension cords. Some safety tips:

- For outdoor jobs, use extension cords designed for outdoor use. They're thicker and more durable and have connectors molded on them to prevent moisture damage.
- Do not use a longer cord than you need.
- Check the amperage rating of the extension cord to make sure it is high enough to meet the power demand of the tool you are using.
- Use three-wire extension cords with three-pronged plugs. Never cut the third prong off of a power tool plug to make it fit into an outlet or a cord.
- Push plugs all the way into outlets to ensure complete connection.
- Do not plug one extension cord into another. Use the proper length.
- Never leave an open extension cord that is plugged into an outlet. Unplug it when you're finished using it.
- Store extension cords indoors so they won't be exposed to snow and cold weather.



Jefferson Energy Cooperative Holds Virtual Annual Meeting

Due to the uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic, Jefferson Energy Cooperative (JEC) recently held its 83rd Annual Meeting of the Membership virtually. After the invocation provided by JEC's Johnathan Clements and the Pledge of Allegiance (10065041-001) led by JEC's Quincy Thomas, the business meeting was called to order by JEC Board Chairman Joe Shurley.

During the business meeting, incumbent Directors Jim Gay, Eugene Tanzymore and Larry Hadden were re-elected to new three-year terms on the board. JEC President and CEO Chris Dillard reported on the finan-

cial of the co-op, provided information on system reliability and talked about JEC's community involvement and its ongoing commitment to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

The meeting wrapped up with 10 lucky members having their name drawn for \$100 bill credits. One other member received a \$500 bill credit.





CONNECT

Jefferson Energy Cooperative

Jefferson Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 457
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Wrens, Georgia 30833-0457
<http://www.jec.coop>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOE SHURLEY
*Chairman
North Region*

MARK DAVIS
*Vice Chairman
South Region*

JAMES L. GAY
*Secretary/Treasurer
South Region*

WILLIAM HOWARD
North Region

LARRY HADDEN
North Region

OPHELIA McCAIN
Richmond County Region

DEREK PARTRIDGE
Richmond County Region

EUGENE TANZYMORE
Richmond County Region

TIM GARRETT
South Region

A consumer-owned Georgia cooperative since 1937

OFFICE HOURS

All offices: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

CHRIS DILLARD
President/CEO

STEVE CHALKER, CCC
Director of Public Relations/Editor

For your convenience, bills can be paid anytime at the Corporate Headquarters, Richmond, Louisville or Thomson offices.

TOLL-FREE SERVICE NUMBER

1-877-533-3377

24-hour Dispatching Daily

Published monthly and mailed to all members of Jefferson Energy Cooperative.

KEEP INFORMED AND WIN \$25

It pays to keep informed about JEC's business. Read and find your account number in "CONNECT." Call our Member Services Department to claim your award—a \$25 credit on your bill.

WITH YOUR CORRECT PHONE NUMBER, WE CAN GET THE LIGHTS ON FASTER

During large outages, Jefferson Energy Cooperative receives thousands of calls at once. Having your correct phone number helps our Outage Call Answering System retrieve your information faster.

Please check the phone number and service address listed on your electric bill. If they are incorrect, please call 877-JEFFERSON (877-533-3377) with the correct information so we can better serve you.

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Text Power Makes It Easy

Sign up for JEC's Text Power service and enjoy the convenience of texting outages, receiving important information about what's going on at JEC and more. For outage reporting and updates, text JECOUTAGE to (877) JEFFERSON, or (877) 533-3377.

For other general updates, text JECCONNECT to 877-JEFFERSON. Or simply provide your cellphone number to a member services representative and let them know you'd like to join the program. Call (706) 547-2167 for details.



Thank a Lineman!



In 2017, Jefferson Energy and Georgia's EMCs partnered with Electric Cities of Georgia and Georgia Power Co. to create the "Thank a Lineman" license plate to honor electric utility linemen across the state. Proceeds from the sale (10026415-003) of each plate have been donated to the Burn Foundation of America (formerly the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation) in Augusta, which helps families of burn patients being treated at the facility.

These prestige plates are a great way to support a worthwhile cause while showing your appreciation to those who keep the lights on. For more information about purchasing a plate, visit burnfoundation.net/Thank-A-Lineman-License-Plate.