

Your Voice, Your Vote: Understanding Electric Cooperatives and Annual Meetings

What is an Electric Cooperative?

An electric cooperative is a member-owned, not-for-profit organization that provides electricity to its community. Unlike investor-owned utilities that focus on profits for shareholders, electric cooperatives are owned and controlled by the members they serve – meaning you, as a member, are both a customer and an owner. This unique structure ensures that decisions are made with your community's best interests in mind, not to maximize profits.

Why is the Annual Meeting Important?

Your annual meeting is the cornerstone of cooperative democracy. As a member-owner, you have real power to influence how your cooperative operates, from setting policies to electing board members who represent your interests. The meeting also provides transparency through financial reports and gives you the opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and stay informed about your cooperative's performance. In a world where many feel disconnected from the companies that serve them, your electric cooperative gives you a genuine voice and ownership stake in an essential service that powers your daily life.