

power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Democratic Control: The Heart Of The 'Cooperative Difference'



Shaun Lamp

President &
Chief Executive Officer

The devastating ice storm that impacted GLE's northern service area earlier this year illustrated the important role leadership plays in an organization's success.

Strong leadership enabled us to respond to an unprecedented storm with grit and tenacity, and it will play an equally important role in the coming months and years as GLE continues to recover from the storm's long-term impacts.

Built on the cooperative principle of democratic control, GLE's leadership starts with our board of directors. The board is made up of nine directors who are nominated and elected from among the members in their respective districts. The board governs the cooperative and is actively involved in setting policies and making decisions that guide the organization.

Part of the value of being a cooperative member is that **you**, not GLE staff or other outside entities, determine who serves on the board. You can play a vital role in shaping the way your co-op is run. Qualified members can run for a board seat, sign a candidate's nominating petition, or simply vote.

Every member's vote carries equal weight. Whether it's a business with several owners, a home with a single owner, or a married couple, each primary account holder has one vote.

Board members serve three-year terms, and each year, three of the nine seats of the nine board seats are up for election. This year, voting will take place for seats in districts 6, 8, and 9. Members in those districts can read about their respective candidates in this issue of Country Lines and then cast their vote. For all other members, your opportunity to vote will come in 2026 or 2027.

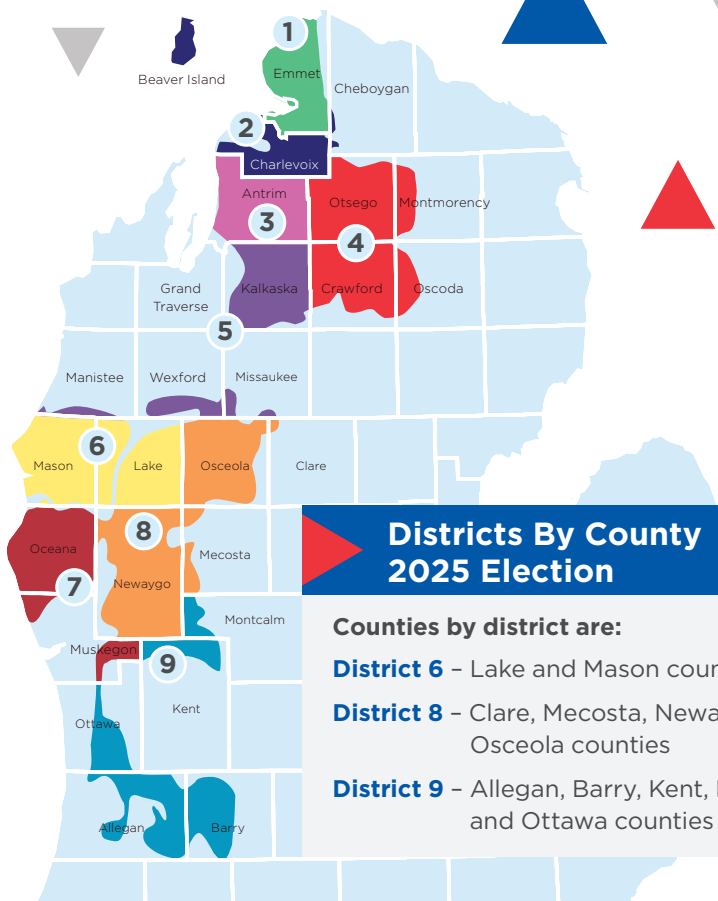
Two years ago, we began offering an online voting option in addition to a mail-in ballot to make it even easier for members to participate

in the democratic process that shapes the face of their electric cooperative. In the 2024 election for districts 1, 2, and 7, more than two-thirds of the members who voted used the online voting option.

To ensure the election is conducted fairly and efficiently, all voting will be administered by a third-party partner, Survey Balloting Systems (SBS). The ballot and instructions on how to vote are included on the cover wrap that accompanies this issue in voting districts. Be sure your vote is submitted before the election closes at 5 p.m. on Aug. 21. If you are using a mail-in ballot, be sure to allow enough time for it to arrive at SBS in Minnesota.

I highly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to have your voice heard.

It's the cooperative difference.



Districts By County 2025 Election

Counties by district are:

District 6 – Lake and Mason counties

District 8 – Clare, Mecosta, Newaygo, and Osceola counties

District 9 – Allegan, Barry, Kent, Montcalm, and Ottawa counties



SIGN UP

For Generator Safety

The ice storm that caused extensive damage to the northern portions of our service area earlier this year clearly illustrated the benefits that a generator can offer for members during a power outage.

Although GLE always works hard to ensure service reliability and restore power to our members as quickly and safely as possible when outages do occur, sometimes major storms can lead to outages that last hours or days. In these situations, a generator can help keep the lights on and essential appliances running until your power is restored. For less than \$1,000, a portable generator can provide just enough power to keep some essentials running. For a more sizable investment, a standby generator can automatically turn on to provide nearly all your home's electric needs until electric service is restored.

While having a generator can be a blessing in the event of a power outage, it's important that you are aware of several very important safety considerations ahead of time. It could be a matter of life and death.



To watch a video with more generator safety information, visit gtlakes.com/generators or use the QR code.

LET US KNOW!

If you've had a generator for a long time or if the recent ice storm prompted you to invest in one, please be sure to let us know by calling **(888) 485-2537** or emailing glenergy@glenergy.com so we can add a note to your account.

Please note: Generator account notations are made to enhance the safety of our lineworkers and are not a factor in our restoration process.

Use a Transfer Switch

If you plan to connect a generator to your home's electrical system, it is very important that you use a transfer switch to isolate your home's wiring from the outside electrical grid. If you don't already have one, contact a licensed electrician to ensure a quality transfer switch is safely installed. There are two reasons why it's important to use a transfer switch while your generator is in use:



PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK RISK TO LINEWORKERS AND OTHERS

A transfer switch prevents electricity from a generator connected to a home's wiring from flowing back into the power lines and endangering the lives of our crews working to restore your power and others who may encounter a downed line. Always assume a downed power line is energized and keep clear.



AVOID DAMAGE TO HOME APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS

Using a transfer switch when a generator is supplying power to your home will also prevent damage to electronics and appliances that could happen if power from Great Lakes Energy is restored while the generator is still running.



AVOID FIRE RISKS

Be sure not to overload your generator, especially for portable models. This can lead to overheating and pose a fire hazard. Also, do not refuel the generator until it has cooled off. If you don't, you could cause an explosion.



BEWARE OF DEADLY CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Operate a portable generator outdoors at least 25 feet away from the house and away from doors, windows, and vents.



**GREAT LAKES
ENERGY**



truestream
powered by Great Lakes Energy

Headquarters:
1323 Boyne Avenue,
Boyne City, MI 49712



gtlakes.com



facebook.com/greatlakesenergy



truestreamfiber.com



facebook.com/jointruestream



(888) 485-2537



glenergy@glenergy.com

Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.