

power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



THE POWER OF COOPERATION



Shaun Lamp

President &
Chief Executive Officer



October is National Cooperative Month, a time to thank you, our members, and highlight what it means to be part of a cooperative such as GLE.

This year, we are reflecting on the seven cooperative principles that guide us, and all cooperatives, and how they served as our bedrock during the unprecedented March ice storm and the challenges that followed.

The storm that struck northern portions of our service area in late March caused widespread damage, unlike anything GLE has ever experienced. Beyond the thousands of power and internet outages our members experienced in the days that followed the storm, the financial impact of the \$155 million in storm restoration and rebuilding costs will be felt by our not-for-profit cooperative for years to come.

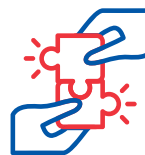
While we await further information on potential federal or state disaster relief funding, please know that we are working tirelessly on your behalf, exploring every available avenue to secure the resources needed for recovery. Our commitment to the long-term stability of your cooperative remains unwavering, and we will continue to advocate for the support our members deserve.

After thoughtful consideration, at an open member meeting on Sept. 17, your board of directors approved rate increases across all rate classes. We know this decision affects every member and do not take it lightly. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we must recover our expenses through rates. Every dollar our rates generate is reinvested in your cooperative. Your board, made up of members like you, takes its fiduciary responsibility seriously. Board members weigh many options to ensure both long-term stability and continued reliable service.

It is in times like these that the strength of the “cooperative difference” is most evident.

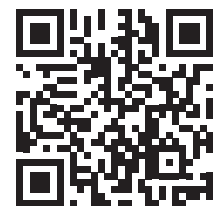
The cooperative principle of **democratic control** is at the heart of how we operate. Our board is elected by members to represent members, ensuring that your voice shapes the direction of GLE. Decisions are also guided by the principle of **equitable member economic participation**, which means the burdens and benefits of our cooperative are shared fairly among all members.

We also experienced the power of **cooperation among cooperatives** firsthand in the wake of the storm. When our lights went out, crews from other cooperatives came to our aid without hesitation. Their support was critical, not only in the field as crews worked tirelessly to restore service, but also behind the scenes as we coordinated logistics and resources. This solidarity is a powerful reminder that cooperatives form a network, a family, and we are stronger together.



This October, we are proud of the spirit of cooperation that defines us. Thank you for your understanding, your support, and for being part of this resilient cooperative. Together, we can weather any storm.

For more information on the ice storm and its impact on GLE,
visit: gtlakes.com/ice-storm-information/
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.





Members Reelect Three Board Members

Great Lakes Energy voters in voting districts 6, 8, and 9 have reelected the current board members in their respective districts.

The results for the election, which took place from July 7-Aug. 21, were announced at the board's annual meeting on Aug. 27

In District 6, incumbent Janet Andersen received 775 votes in an uncontested race. Janet was first elected to the board in 2022.

In District 8, voters selected incumbent Howard Bowersox over challenger Andrew (Drew) Laughlin by a 534 to 390 margin. Howard was first elected to the board in 2019.

In District 9, incumbent John LaForge received 446 votes in an uncontested race. John was first elected to the board in 2016.

This year's election marks the third year voters have had the option of voting online, which means each of GLE's nine voting districts has now had this option for one election cycle. About two-thirds of the votes in this year's election were cast online.



GLE Board Approves Rate Changes

Great Lakes Energy (GLE) incurred more than \$155 million in costs related to the ice storm that caused unprecedented damage to the northern portions of our service area earlier this year. To offset these costs, along with rising energy supply, infrastructure investment, and other operational costs, the GLE Board of Directors approved rate changes that will result in a net increase across all rate classes at an open member meeting on Sept. 17.

Under the newly approved rates, the kilowatt-hour (kWh) energy use rate for residential and seasonal members will increase by \$0.01040 per kWh, and the fixed monthly charge will increase by \$6.88. The board also approved an increase of \$0.00118 per kWh to the Energy Optimization surcharge, which will help GLE comply with new, more stringent state-mandated energy waste reduction requirements. These changes equate to a \$17.18 monthly increase for the average residential member using 800 kWh per month.

As a member-owned not-for-profit electric cooperative without investors, GLE must rely on the rates members pay to cover any storm costs that aren't covered by any disaster relief funding the cooperative may be awarded from federal

RESIDENTIAL/SEASONAL RATES

	APPROVED				
kWh		300	800	2,000	Change
Monthly Charge	\$50.05	\$50.05	\$50.05	\$50.05	\$6.88/mo.
Energy Usage	\$0.14742	\$44.23	\$117.94	\$294.84	\$0.01040/kWh
PSCR on Energy Use	\$0.00188	\$0.56	\$1.50	\$3.76	
Energy Optimization Surcharge*	\$0.00316	\$0.95	\$2.53	\$6.32	\$0.00118/kWh
Low Income Fund State Tax*		\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$0.38/mo.
State Sales Tax (4.0%)*		\$3.83	\$6.88	\$14.20	
		\$100.87	\$180.15	\$370.42	

Difference **\$11.15** **\$17.18** **\$31.62**

12.43% **10.54%** **9.33%**

**State-mandated charges*

and state sources. The rate changes are designed to fairly distribute the responsibility for covering these costs among our membership while generating sufficient revenue to ensure the cooperative's long-term financial stability and its ability to provide members with the service they need to power their homes and businesses.

The new monthly and energy-use rates will take effect on bills rendered in November 2025, and the new Energy Optimization surcharge will take effect on bills rendered in January 2026.

In compliance with legal requirements, notice of these rate changes was published in the October issue of Country Lines magazine. The notice is not required to appear in PowerTalk because this newsletter arrives with members' bills at various times throughout the month. Visit countrylines.com to see the latest issue.



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ENERGY**



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