

# THERE'S STILL TIME!



## Consider Representing Your Cooperative as a Director

Director Elections for  
Districts 3 and 5 will be  
held at the CVEC Annual  
Meeting.

**Paperwork Deadline:**  
February 9.



This is a reminder that if your primary residence is in District 3 or District 5, and you're interested in being a candidate for the upcoming director election at CVEC's 89th Annual Meeting of Members to be held Thursday, March 26, the deadline for submitting your completed application is Monday, February 9, 2026.

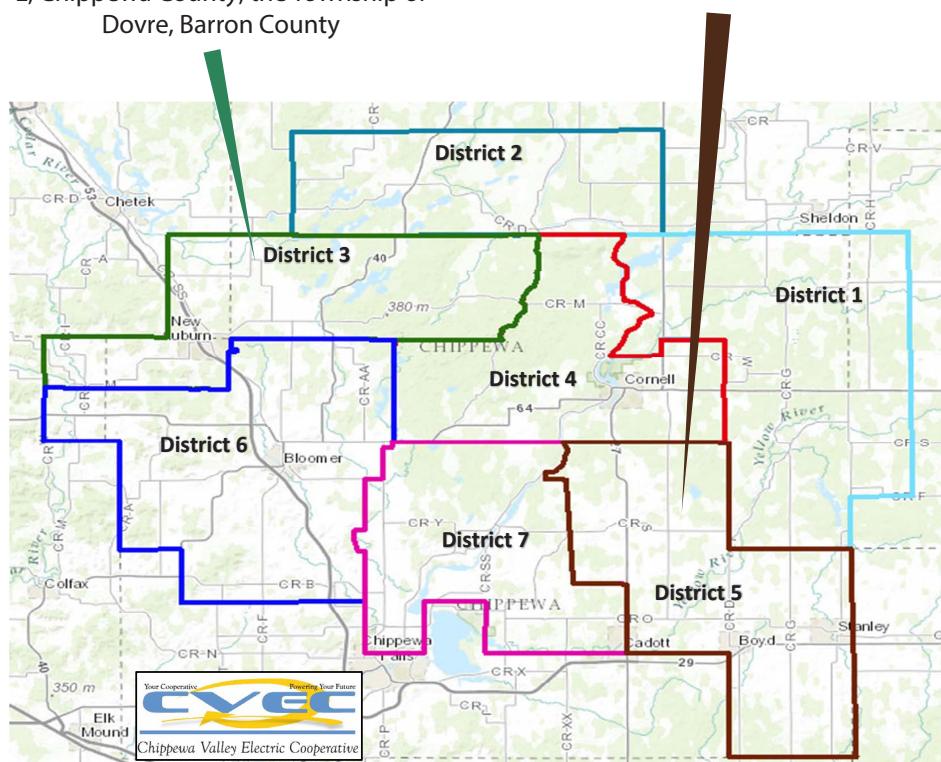
The following board members are currently serving and have the option to campaign again for these positions:

### District 3 – Frank Draxler 3-Year Term

Township of Sand Creek, Dunn County; the north half of the Township of Auburn and the entire Village of New Auburn; the Township of Sampson; that portion of the Township of Birch Creek located west of County Highway E, Chippewa County; the Township of Dovre, Barron County

### District 5 – Joe Melville 3-Year Term

The entire Townships of Arthur, Delmar, and Edson and that portion of the Township of Colburn located west of County Highway D; that portion of the Township of Goetz located east of State Highway 27, Chippewa County



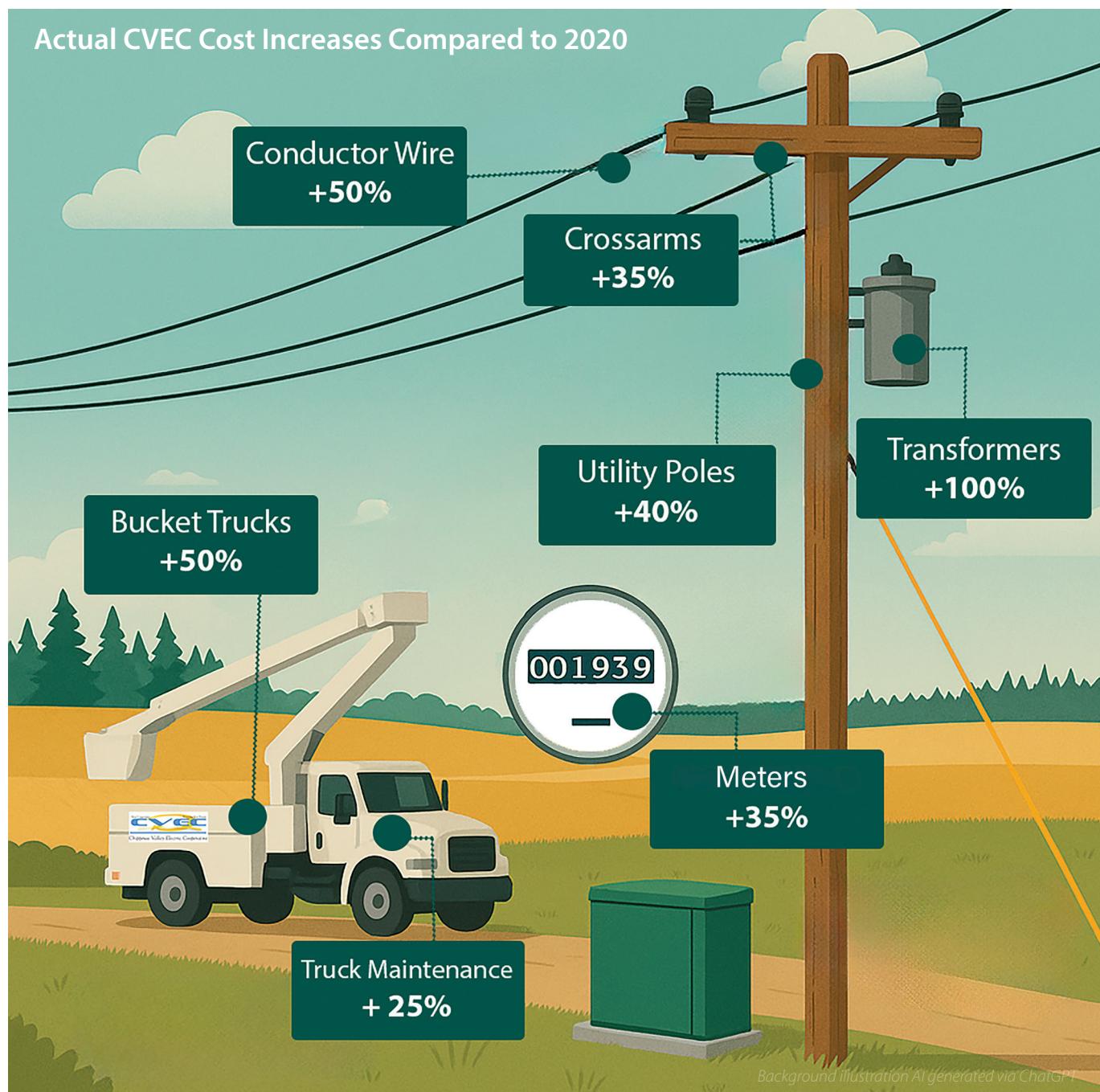
For applications or more details about board elections, contact Rebecca at [rpehlke@cve.coop](mailto:rpehlke@cve.coop) or call 715-239-6800. The deadline for completed director candidate paperwork is February 9, 2026.

# ADDRESSING INFLATION AND THE IMPACT

At Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, we understand affordability and reliability matter to you, our members. Like many businesses and households, CVEC is facing higher costs across the board. The increased costs of essential materials to maintain and build out the electric grid—like wire, poles, transformers, and protective equipment—have gone up in price significantly (see graphic below).

In many cases, these costs have continued to rise over the past five years, without significant increases to our rates. It has gotten to the point where the rising costs are too substantial to absorb without an adjustment to our rates.

To continue delivering safe, reliable electricity while maintaining financial stability, CVEC will implement a



# OF RISING ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY COSTS

necessary 5% rate adjustment for the majority of our rate classes.

Residential members will see their monthly service charge increase by just under \$2.00. For a typical residential member consuming 1,000 kWh per month, the result of a 5% rate adjustment comes out to \$8.90.

With tight budgets for many families, we are aware that any change impacts monthly expenses. This rate increase isn't about generating profit—it's about covering the real cost of delivering power to you, our rural electric members. As a not-for-profit cooperative, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative doesn't have shareholders or aim to make money. Instead, every dollar we collect goes directly toward operating expenses, system improvements, and services that benefit the full membership.

The decision to make a rate adjustment is not taken lightly. Decisions around rates are made only after careful review of our costs, future needs, and long-term goals. Our Board of Directors made up of you, our members, weighs in heavily to guide the co-op's future and ultimately decides on all rate changes.

Members will see the change on their February billing statement for January 1-31 usage. We want to remind members that if you're facing financial hardship or have questions about your bill, we are always here to help and do our best to connect you with resources.

As your local cooperative, we remain committed to keeping you informed, listening to your concerns, and making decisions with your best interest in mind—because at the end of the day, our members are why we do what we do.

For more information about the rates, visit our website at [cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com) or give us a call at 800.300.6800.

## Your Monthly Service Charge Explained

**A**lthough the name of this fee may vary depending on the electric utility, the monthly service charge, or fixed charges, are necessary for all electric utilities for rate equity among ratepayers, or members in our case. It helps to cover the cost to maintain the infrastructure (poles, wire, transformers,

etc.) to deliver electricity to your meter, regardless of how much energy you use.

For each of the 9,000 meter points in Chippewa Valley Electric's service territory, we make a significant investment and we must maintain this investment to ensure reliability and safety.

## What is a monthly service charge?

A monthly service charge covers all fixed cooperative expenses that do not vary based on members energy usage.

These costs must be covered in order to ensure power is available when you need it.



• Fleet Trucks



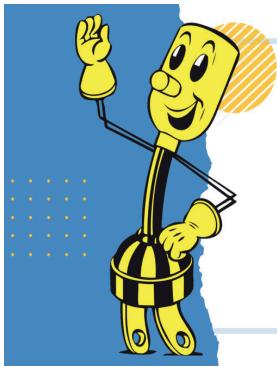
• Utility Poles  
• Power lines  
• Underground Wire



• Power Transmission Substations  
• Transformers



• Insurance Coverage  
• Property Taxes



Your Cooperative  
**CVEC** Powering Your Future

# CO-OP NEWS

CELEBRATING OUR CO-OP COMMUNITY!

Sparks

## 2026 Incentives Program Launches

The new year brings a new energy efficiency incentives program. You may be eligible for an incentive on a recent investment in energy efficiency. Check out all of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's offerings at [cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com) or call the office at 715-239-6800 for more details. Requirements state you must submit your incentive documents within three months of your install or purchase date.

## Scholarships Available for High School Seniors



This spring, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) will be awarding several \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors of member families through our Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Program. The scholarship program is funded entirely from unclaimed capital credits issued by the cooperative and from members who wish to donate their capital credits' earnings to the scholarship program. Please contact CVEC if you wish to do so.

Applications can be obtained from CVEC's website ([cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com)) or by contacting the cooperative office.

The completed scholarship application must be returned to the cooperative office by April 1. Scholarships will be awarded to the students at an honors ceremony or at graduation.

If you have any questions about the scholarship program, please contact Rebecca at CVEC 715-239-6800 or [rpehlke@cve.coop](mailto:rpehlke@cve.coop).

## Community Is at the Core of What We Do

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative is proud of the role we play in supporting the communities we serve.

Recently, we made a contribution to the Cadott Community Library in support of their new building project. We were thankful to have Dairyland Power Cooperative match our contribution to the library.

At CVEC, we work every day to power the future of the rural communities we serve. The new library will be another addition to help the Cadott community continue to thrive.



CVEC representatives presented a contribution to the Cadott Library in support of their new building project. Pictured from left to right: Cookie Kaste, Cadott Library Board Vice-President and Project Chair; Patti Harm, Capital Campaign Co-Chair; Nicole Whipp-Sime, CVEC Director of Member Services; Guy Habeck, Capital Campaign Co-Chair; and Russ Falkenberg, CVEC President/CEO.

Your Cooperative  
**CVEC** Powering Your Future  
Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## Board of Directors

District 1 – Sue Frei  
District 2 – Dr. Eugene Buchner  
District 3 – Frank Draxler  
District 4 – Kevin Meistad  
District 5 – Joe Melville  
District 6 – Steve Wall  
District 7 – John Petska

**Russ Falkenberg, President/CEO**

Powering Your Future  
• Safe Way  
• Right Way  
• Every Day  
Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

Follow us on Facebook Monday — Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Rebecca Pehlke, Editor**