

VOTE DISTRICTS 1 & 4 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION



The Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative service territory is divided into nine districts and is governed by a nine-member board. Each year, the cooperative accepts nominations for election to three seats on the board of directors. District candidates must submit nominating petitions bearing at least 25 signatures of members residing in their district to qualify for the election. According to the LMRE Code of Regulations, if only one candidate submits a valid petition in any given district they are automatically deemed elected and no election needs to be held.

This year, four candidates submitted valid petitions for districts 1 and 4. **Members in ALL DISTRICTS are allowed to cast a ballot for one of the two candidates seeking election this year in both districts.**

Members elect directors using a mail-in or online ballot. Board members serve three-year terms. The outcome of the 2026 districts 1 and 4 elections will be announced at the cooperative's annual meeting on July 14. Following are the biographical summaries of all four 2025 candidates for districts 1 and 4 on the board of directors.

**ALL VOTES MUST BE RECEIVED, EITHER BY MAIL OR ONLINE, BY
11:59 P.M. ON JUNE 18, 2026.**

VOTING INFORMATION

- **The most cost-effective method to cast a ballot is online. Please visit our website, www.lmre.org, for more information.**
- **Vote for only one candidate in each district (District 1 & District 4).**
- **According to the code of regulations, voting is open to all LMRE members, even those outside of districts 1 & 4.**
- **All ballots must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, June 18. Online voting will close at this time.**

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

Candidate bios are always listed in alphabetical order by last name.



Allison Brady, 25, of Rochester Township in Lorain County, recently became a member of LMRE but has lived on cooperative lines her entire life. Brady currently works as an auditor for a federal government agency where she has been for the last three years. She is a 2022 and 2023 graduate of Ashland University with a Bachelor's of Accounting and Business Management, and a Master of Business Administration with a focus on accounting.

What does being a member of a cooperative mean to you?

"Being a member of a cooperative means being part of something that is owned and guided by the people it serves. It represents fairness, shared responsibility, and a commitment to putting members first rather than profits. I value the idea that members have a voice and a role in the direction of the cooperative. To me, it also means supporting a system that benefits the community as a whole. Being a member is both a privilege and a responsibility."

What are your top three reasons for being interested in becoming a director?

"My top three reasons for wanting to serve as director are my commitment to the members and community the cooperative serves, my interest in helping ensure the cooperative remains reliable and financially strong for the future, and my desire to contribute in a meaningful way through responsible and transparent leadership. I believe this role is an opportunity to represent members' needs, support sound long-term decisions, and give back to the community in a practical and positive way."

If elected, what are three goals you would like to see achieved as an LMRE director?

"If elected, my three main goals would be to help maintain reliable and affordable service for members, support responsible financial planning that protects the long-term strength of the cooperative, and encourage clear communication between the board and the members it serves. I believe focusing on reliability, strong long-term decision making, and transparency will help ensure the cooperative continues to serve its members effectively both now and in the future."



Nicholas Mencl, 45, of Rochester Township has been a cooperative member for 12 years with his wife and two sons. Mencl, who was raised in Rochester Township and owns and operates his family farm here, received his Bachelors of Ag Engineering from The Ohio State University in 2003, and has spent the last six years working for Resource Pro. Currently, he serves as president for the Ruritan Club's New London chapter, and has previously acted as a coach for New London's Little League and Youth Basketball programs.

What does being a member of a cooperative mean to you?

"To me, being part of a cooperative is a sense of community and ownership. I'm part of something that provides a service but is local to me. Principles among members are similar, allowing the cooperative to achieve common goals, standards, and practices. In doing this, we keep people outside of our community out and since we are not-for-profit we can keep prices fair."

What are your top three reasons for being interested in becoming a director?

"My top three reasons for joining the LMRE board include giving back to the community and community involvement, learning about and being involved in an industry that has always interested me, and to make a difference in improving and growing our cooperative."

If elected, what are three goals you would like to see achieved as an LMRE director?

"If elected, I would aim to maintain exceptional service to the LMRE members, keep costs low, and invest in maintenance and infrastructure to keep outages to a minimum."

DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES

Candidate bios are always listed in alphabetical order by last name.



Rodney “John” Eaton, 77, is a 53-year member of LMRE residing in Huntington Township and has been a member of the LMRE Board of Directors for 39 years, holding the position of board chair since 2013. During his time on the board, Eaton has earned his Board Leadership Certificate, Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate, and Director Gold certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and currently serves on the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives board of directors. Outside of LMRE, he and his wife continue to farm in the Wellington area.

During his time on the board, Eaton has been most proud of the improvements made in LMRE’s safety culture, the use of new technology to improve the reliability of the cooperative’s system, and the construction of a new facility that allows employees a workspace to perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

What does being a member of a cooperative mean to you?

“The Cooperative business model gives its members a voice in the governance of the business. A cooperative also supports the communities which it serves, and returns all of the money that is earned above the cost of doing business to its members in the form of capital credits.”

What are your top three reasons for being interested in becoming a director?

“I am currently on the board and enjoy working with the other directors and the management team. There have been many improvements to our system over the years, and I would like to see that progress continue. Additionally, it is important to build a working relationship between the board and management, and as the chair of the board, I feel I have developed a strong and effective relationship with those individuals.”

If elected, what are three goals you would like to see achieved as an LMRE director?

“If elected, I would continue the efforts to make our system the most reliable and cost effective for our members. Also, I would like to work towards getting more member involvement in the programs offered by the cooperative, and make sure our members who are interested in solar are informed and educated on all of the costs and potential pitfalls of the arrays. I am not against solar, but I want our members to be treated fairly and not be scammed or taken advantage of by third parties.”



Michael Sword, 48, is a 13-year member of LMRE residing in Wellington Township with his wife and two sons. After completing a Bachelor’s of Science in Agricultural Engineering from The Ohio State University in 2000 and a Master of Science, also in Agricultural Engineering, from Penn State University in 2002, Sword now works for The Ohio State University and has been active there for 17 years. Outside of work, he acts as a 4H Advisor for the Rochester Winning Workers, participates in the New London Ruritan chapter, and acts as a Wellington Youth Basketball coach. Previously, Sword served on the 4H Advisory Council, as well as coaching youth soccer and Hot Stove teams.

What does being a member of a cooperative mean to you?

“Being part of a cooperative matters to me because it means having a real voice in the services my family and farm rely on every day.

As a member of both electric and farm cooperatives, I value the shared commitment to fairness, transparency, and decisions that put people—not profits—first. Working together as member-owners strengthens our communities and ensures the resources we depend on stay reliable, affordable, and rooted in local needs.”

What are your top three reasons for being interested in becoming a director?

“I can bring valuable expertise to the board through my engineering education and experience as a superintendent of operations, both of which give me a strong understanding of complex systems, infrastructure, and long-term planning – skills that directly support delivering reliable, affordable power to members. Also, I understand the needs of rural families and agriculture. As a farmer, I see firsthand how essential dependable electricity is to daily home life, farm operations, and small businesses, giving me a grounded perspective on the cooperative’s impact. Lastly, I want to strengthen my community through member-focused leadership. Serving as a director would allow me to help guide sustainable, transparent, and forward-looking decisions that support modernization and resilience while staying true to cooperative values.”

If elected, what are three goals you would like to see achieved as an LMRE director?

“If elected, I would strive to build continuity while bringing fresh perspectives, honoring the board’s service legacy of being accessible, communicative, and focused on keeping the cooperatives member driven and future ready. I would also aim to strengthen reliability with practical, technical insight using my education and experience to support small infrastructure planning, modern technology adoption, and long-term system reliability. And finally, assist in preparing for challenges such as grid upgrades, new power source integration, cybersecurity, and workforce transitions, ensuring the co-op remains resilient and member-focused for decades to come.”



All four individuals have filmed director candidate videos that are available on the LMRE website. Scan the QR code on the left to view the videos, or visit <https://lmre.org/voting-opens-2026-lmre-director-elections>.

Questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the communications division at 440-647-2133, or by email at lmre@fesco-oh.org.