

Vote 2021

DISTRICT 5 TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

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 Trustees. District candidates must submit nominating petitions bearing at least 25 signatures of members residing in their district to qualify for the election. Due to a code amendment passed in 2020, if only one candidate submits a valid petition in any given district, they are automatically deemed elected in their district and no election needs to be held.

*This year, two candidates submitted valid petitions for District 5 on the LMRE Board of Trustees representing LaGrange Township. **Members in ALL DISTRICTS are asked to cast a ballot for one of the two candidates seeking election this year.** Elections for district 2 and 8 are uncontested, and thus no vote will be needed by the membership.*

Members elect trustees using a mail or online ballot. Board members serve three-year terms. The outcome of the 2021 District 5 election will be announced at the cooperative's annual meeting on July 20. Following are the biographical summaries of both of the 2021 candidates for District 5 on the Board of Trustees.

VOTING INFORMATION

- ★ The most cost-effective method to cast a ballot is online at the cooperative's website, www.lmre.org.
- ★ Vote for one candidate in District 5
- ★ **Voting is open to all Lorain-Medina Rural Electric members, even those outside of District 5.**
- ★ All ballots must be received by 11:59 a.m. Friday, July 9.



Questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the communications department at 800-222-5673, or by email at lmre@fesco-oh.org.

Turn this sheet over for candidate information.

DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES



Judy Pickworth, 69, of LaGrange Township in Lorain County, has been a cooperative member for 46 years and is seeking her sixth term as District 5 Trustee. She and her husband, Ron, have three children and six grandchildren and operate a 250-acre grain farm. Pickworth retired from teaching at the Wellington Exempted Village School District, and now serves as a Farm Service Agency committee member and is a member of both the Lorain County Extension Advisory Board and the Friends of Lorain County Junior Fair. During her time on the LMRE Board of Trustees, Pickworth has earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership Certificate, and Director Gold Credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP THREE REASONS FOR BEING INTERESTED IN CONTINUING AS A TRUSTEE?

“As an informed trustee, I bring my knowledge to the board to keep our cooperative running smoothly. I have committed numerous hours studying the electrical industry through related classwork at state and national levels. As your trustee, I have also carefully studied the financial reports and budgets, ensuring we remain financially sound so we can continue to provide our members with excellent service.

Also, I have continued to put the interest of our members as my priority by helping keep reliable service and cost efficiency programs available to our members over the last 15 years.”

IF RE-ELECTED, WHAT ARE THREE GOALS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACHIEVED AS AN LMRE TRUSTEE?

“I will continue to support rebate programs that help our members become or remain energy efficient with lower electric costs, as well as continue to be a supporter or safety and training for cooperative staff and continue with programs that upgrade our lines to keep power reliable to our members

I would also like to see LMRE bring broadband to our area at an affordable rate so our members can be better connected to our community, and our world. I know how hard it has been this past year for members and their children to be able to keep up with work and school with poor internet service.”

View Judy’s candidate video at <https://youtu.be/gkDe4Af22fU>



Kathleen Duplaga, 59, of LaGrange Township in Lorain County, has been a cooperative member for 31 years and is seeking her first term as the District 5 Trustee. Duplaga and her husband, Brian, have two daughters and currently own and operate a family farm raising Limousin beef cattle and about 1,000 acres of cropland. She was previously the co-owner of Piwinski Trucking, Inc., and a program technician at Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services. Duplaga attends Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Grafton, is a Farm Bureau member, and is a former 4-H advisor.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP THREE REASONS FOR BEING INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TRUSTEE?

“I would like to serve as an effective co-op trustee and serve members effectively, listening to the members’ concerns, taking action on their behalf, and being transparent and accountable with the decisions to achieve the best possible goals. I would also like to expand my knowledge of how electric utilities work on the national, state, and local levels, including communicating co-op goals to other members.

Lastly, I would also like to focus on understanding electricity needs and challenges to assist in future planning so that co-op benefits are increased and efficient electricity is provided to all members. I am fully committed to creating a sustainable future for co-op members and future generations.”

IF ELECTED, WHAT ARE THREE GOALS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACHIEVED AS AN LMRE TRUSTEE?

“I would like to strengthen open communication and increase accountability in service to members so they know their best interest is the priority. I would also like to ensure the co-op uses the most up-to-date technology that is sustainable to best position the organization for the future. Lastly, I want to continue the tradition of providing affordable, reliable, and safe electricity to all members.”

View Kathleen’s candidate video at <https://youtu.be/5RjSpfZquSE>