

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2020 ELECTION OFFICIAL BALLOT

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill in the circle next to your choice using a black or blue ink pen or a No. 2 pencil.
2. Place ballot in white, postage-paid return envelope.
3. To be counted, ballots must be received by 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 16, 2020.
4. Ballots will be counted remotely by Survey & Ballot Systems in conjunction with NHEC election tellers.
5. If voting online, do not return this ballot.

Marking Instructions

- Use black or blue ink or No. 2 pencil only.
- Fill circles completely.
- If marked in error, erase or draw line through candidate name.

Correct Mark



ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE (3).

Ballots with more than three (3) votes will be voided.

Statements from candidates appear in the accompanying brochure.

Please read the Nominating Committee's report in the accompanying brochure.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> William Darcy
<i>Nominated by Petition</i> | <input type="radio"/> Mark Portu
<i>Nominated by Nominating Committee</i> |
| <input type="radio"/> Leo Dwyer
<i>Nominated by Nominating Committee</i> | <input type="radio"/> Harry Viens
<i>Nominated by Nominating Committee</i> |
| <input type="radio"/> Madeline McElaney
<i>Nominated by Nominating Committee</i> | |

Write-in other than candidates listed above

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CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION AMENDMENT

This question was proposed by petition.

The NHEC Board of Directors does not recommend approval of this proposal.

Shall the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative amend Article II of its Certificate of Organization dated 18 July 1939 by adding the words "including facilitating access to broadband internet for members" to make the amended article read as follows:

The purposes for which the Association is formed are to generate, purchase, transmit and distribute electrical energy and to render any and all other services in connection therewith including facilitating access to broadband internet for members as provided in Section 3-a of the "Co-operative Marketing Law."

Yes No



STATEMENT FROM PETITIONERS (PROPONENTS)

As the coronavirus pandemic shows, reliable, affordable, high-speed internet is vital to all New Hampshire residents. Communities lacking it are hamstrung in economic development, education, health care communication, community cohesion and families' everyday quality of life. Its absence lowers property values.

The member-owned NHEC has a critical role to play in solving this problem. The hardest part of providing internet service is not the cost of stringing fiber-optic cable but securing permission to attach it to utility poles. With control of its poles and rights-of-way, NHEC is uniquely positioned to facilitate the building of broadband infrastructure, providing certainty and predictability to the process.

This proposed amendment to NHEC's bylaws would state in the Coop's foundational document that facilitating broadband is part of its core mission. "Facilitate" fundamentally involves timely, concrete actions toward providing broadband service to NHEC members. This amendment would not require NHEC to finance, own or operate a broadband network. It would complement – not compete with – NHEC's primary mission to provide power, since it would make possible an efficient, "smart" electrical grid. It would not require raising members' rates.

The need for fast, affordable internet service is gaining support every day. Major new sources of funding are emerging. NHEC members need to take advantage of these opportunities without unnecessary roadblocks. More than 100 electric cooperatives across the nation are involved in providing this necessary utility to members' homes and businesses. If you believe NHEC should join this movement, please vote YES.

More here: www.nhbroadband.com

STATEMENT FROM NHEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OPPONENTS)

The Board of Directors (by a vote of 7-3, with one abstention) opposes the ballot question which, if adopted, would change NHEC's articles of incorporation to include an additional purpose for the organization. Therefore, the Board recommends a "no" vote.

A change to NHEC's articles of incorporation is unnecessary and could be harmful to NHEC's primary mission: providing our members safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

Support for the ballot question may create a new competing priority, which could impact how NHEC uses its human and financial resources, which are needed to fulfill its founding mission. Supporting the ballot question may also increase NHEC's costs, and therefore electric rates, as a result.

In 2018, to explore if NHEC has a role in facilitating broadband, the Board engaged a consultant to review the business case for NHEC offering residential broadband service. After careful review, the Board determined that the investment required posed an unacceptable risk to our members' electric service.

Additionally, NHEC continues to actively work to support the expansion of broadband in the communities it serves. NHEC provides broadband companies, municipalities, and all others with non-discriminatory access to our poles to provide broadband services. This is our policy, and it is the law.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors urges members to vote "no" on the proposed question to create a new, competing purpose for NHEC.