



CODY HOWLAND

DISTRICT #1 TRUSTEE NOMINEE

BIO

I am 45 years old and have been married to my wife Becky for 17 years and we have 2 children ages 15 and 11. I currently work on the family farm in NE Trego County and have been doing so since 2015. Before that I worked at Nex-Tech for 14 years in I.T. services. I am currently serving my seventh year on the board of directors for Golden Belt COOP in Ellis and have enjoyed serving the members as a representative.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Graduated High School at Palco in 1998.
Attended Fort Hays for 2 years, left and started working at Nex-Tech

WHAT IS YOUR COMMUNITY OR BOARD EXPERIENCE?

Currently serving my 3rd term for the Golden Belt COOP in my 7th year overall

EXPLAIN THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Electric cooperatives are vital for ensuring that rural Kansans have access to the same quality of life and opportunities as those in more urban areas. Their focus on community, reliability, and local investment makes them indispensable to the rural landscape. They provide access to electricity for sparsely populated areas. They are owned by the members who are also the customers they serve so all decisions are made with the best interests of the community in mind. Customer service is local which provides great customer service and due to them being local they are better equipped to address the areas specific needs. I believe they provide economic development for the area by providing access to electricity and jobs and engage with the communities they serve by sponsoring local events and contributing to local projects.

WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST ABOUT SERVING ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

Serving on a board is a great opportunity to directly impact the community it serves. I enjoy trying to contribute to the shared vision and strategic direction of the organization. I also enjoy working with the group of individuals that bring differing perspectives and ideas to reach goals.

WHAT ARE THREE CRITICAL ISSUES THAT YOU BELIEVE THE COOPERATIVE SHOULD FOCUS ON IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

1. Technological Advancements:
Adopting new technologies for improved operations and member services.
Ensuring data security and privacy.
Leveraging data analytics to make informed decisions.
2. Financial Stability and Growth:
Optimizing operational efficiency.
Securing funding and investment opportunities.
3. Regulatory Compliance and Governance:
Keeping up-to-date with changing regulations.
Ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.
Enhancing risk management practices.
4. Member Engagement and Satisfaction:
Enhancing member services and benefits.
Improving communication channels with members.
Offering education and training programs for members.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE WOULD YOU BRING TO WESTERN'S BOARD AND MEMBERS?

Currently being on a cooperative board, I bring experience to the table. I have knowledge in the key areas of: Financial management and budgeting, Strategic planning and having been an I.T. technician I have first-hand knowledge of many newer technologies and how they operate in computerized environments."

AS A TRUSTEE, HOW WOULD YOU PROMOTE THE COOPERATIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

I believe that I am honest and trustworthy. I can make objective decisions based on information provided. I have technical knowledge with previous employment and being a farmer I have problem solving skills that I leverage every day. I enjoy being a part of a team setting and working together with said team for common goals.

WHAT MAKES YOU THE IDEAL TRUSTEE?

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