



MARK FERGUSON

DISTRICT #1 TRUSTEE NOMINEE

BIO

As a member of WCE and someone who values strong communities, I am honored to be nominated for the board. I have a diverse background in financial services, utilities, government, and manufacturing, along with firsthand experience working with electric cooperatives. I spent four years working with CORE Electric Cooperative in Sedalia, Colorado, and Midwest Energy in Hays, Kansas, where I implemented an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. This role gave me a deep understanding of cooperative operations and how they serve members like you & me.

I currently live in St. Peter with my wife, Donna. We enjoy the outdoors hunting, fishing, ATVing, and traveling and are avid gardeners. We have two children and four grandkids.

Cooperative service also runs in the family my son-in-law spent 11 years as a lineman and now has worked 4 years as an inspector for new builds at CORE Electric Cooperative. With a background in project and program management, I have led large-scale initiatives that required efficiency, transparency, and long-term planning. I believe in supporting cooperative members by advocating for reliable, affordable electricity and making smart investments in the future.

However, I also believe that any change must make common sense and directly benefit our members; we shouldn't modernize just for the sake of it.

If elected, I will bring a fresh perspective with a focus on financial responsibility, practical modernization, and listening to our members. I appreciate your support and your vote!

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

BSBA in Computer Information Systems

DO YOU HAVE ANY AWARDS OR HONORS TO SHARE?

Certified Private Pilot with Instrument Rating
Part 107 - Commercial Drone Pilot License

WHAT IS YOUR COMMUNITY OR BOARD EXPERIENCE?

President of Board - Summit Technology Group
President of Board - Crown Information Technology
Member of Board - Castle Pines Village Technology

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

As a trustee, I would actively promote the cooperative by fostering open communication, increasing community engagement, and advocating for the benefits of cooperative membership. I would ensure members are well-informed about key initiatives, rate structures, and service improvements by participating in local events, engaging with members directly, and leveraging various communication channels. Additionally, I would work to strengthen relationships between the cooperative and the community by listening to member concerns, addressing their needs, and ensuring that cooperative decisions align with the best interests of those we serve

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

Keeping Electricity Reliable & Affordable Ensuring stable rates while maintaining a reliable power supply, especially with rising costs and evolving energy regulations. Investments should be smart, cost-effective, and directly benefit members.

Infrastructure & Technology Upgrades with Common Sense Modernizing the grid and operations where it makes sense, balancing innovation with practicality to avoid unnecessary costs for members. This includes improving system efficiency and outage response times.

Member Engagement & Transparency Strengthening communication between the cooperative and its members, ensuring that decisions reflect the needs of rural communities. This means increasing outreach, listening to concerns, and making cooperative operations more accessible.

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

I have been a member of an electrical cooperative for the past 20 years, giving me firsthand insight into the importance of reliable and member-focused service. Professionally, I have been responsible for understanding the internal operations of cooperatives, including how each department functions and collaborates to effectively serve members. My experience has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of cooperative operations, ensuring that decisions are made with both efficiency and member benefits in mind.

WHAT MAKES YOU THE IDEAL TRUSTEE?

I bring a unique combination of cooperative experience, leadership skills, and a deep commitment to serving our community. With over 20 years as a cooperative member and professional experience understanding cooperative operations, I have a comprehensive view of how different departments work together to serve members effectively. My background in project management, financial oversight, and strategic planning enables me to contribute to sound decision-making that prioritizes reliability, affordability, and long-term sustainability. Additionally, my down-to-earth approach ensures that I will listen to and advocate for the needs of our members, making thoughtful, common-sense decisions that benefit the cooperative as a whole

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

Representing Members & Their Needs I want to ensure that cooperative decisions reflect the priorities and concerns of the members, keeping electricity reliable, affordable, and accessible. Providing Practical Leadership & Oversight With my experience in project management and financial oversight, I am eager to contribute to strategic decisions that promote long-term sustainability while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Supporting Practical Growth & Innovation I am interested in helping the cooperative navigate modernization in a way that makes sense implementing improvements that truly benefit members while avoiding unnecessary costs.

Strengthening Community Connections As a cooperative member myself, I want to enhance transparency, improve communication, and ensure that members feel heard and valued in the decision-making process.