



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

March 2025



1.877.394.7804  
hcelectric.com

CEO Message



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

HCE has focused on preventive maintenance and pole change outs which have proven to be very effective in limiting our outages. We continue to strive for reliable and affordable energy.

WAPA and Basin, our electric generation providers, have both told us that HCE should expect increases to cost of power over the years to come. The financial pressures exerted by this rising cost of power continue to go up for HCE.

When HCE was first informed of our expected energy generation increase, it was supposed to be approximately 8% over three years. Now we have been informed that the cost impact on our cooperative is expected to average a 7% increase per year. The new kWh rate for each class of service at HCE will go into effect June 1, 2025. The new rate for irrigation accounts will go into effect on April 1, 2025.

If you need financial assistance, there are programs available to help with energy costs through HRDC and HCE Energy Assistance programs. More information can be found at www.hcelectric.com/my-account/energy-assistance

This decision was not made lightly by our Board of Trustees. We will continue to keep our cooperative cost as low as possible and will work to mitigate our raising cost of generated energy.

Always remember to stay safe!

Additional information can be found at www.hcelectric.com.



**Congratulations to our Washington D.C.
Youth Tour Winners!**

*Dirk Wolery, Trustee Leslie Smith,
Luke Stevenson*

2025 Nominations for Board of Trustee

Important Information

It is time for members to consider running for the Hill County Electric Board of Trustees. District 1 is the district up for election this year.

Nominee requirements to run:

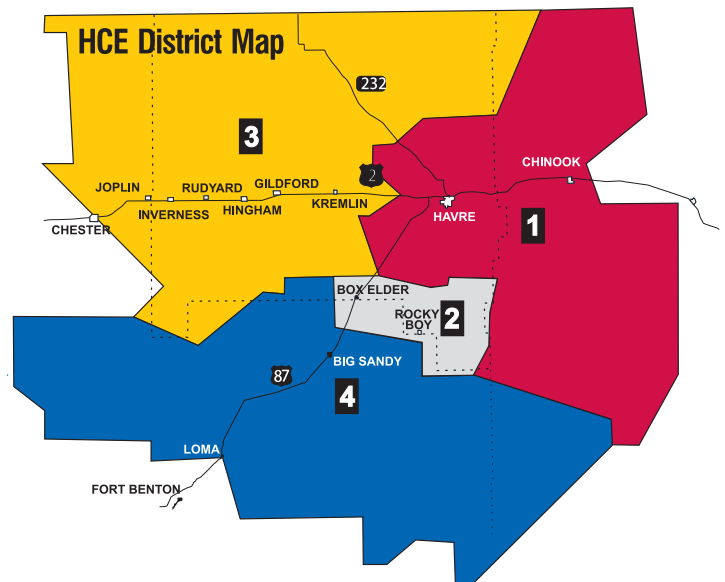
- Petition with district number and name of nominee
- Collect 15 current members' printed name, address and signature on petition
- Nominee must live within the district in which they are running
- To sign the petition, a member does not have to live in the same district as the nominee
- Submit a signed petition to the cooperative no later than **March 26th, 2025**

After the petition is submitted, it will be reviewed for accuracy and if it passes the low threshold of 15 valid signatures, the name of the nominee will appear in the mail-in ballot, as well as on the ballot at the annual meeting for those who do not mail their ballot for the election of the Board of Trustees.

If you have any questions as to which district a nominee lives in, you can call us at 406-394-7804 and someone will help you with the district information.

If you have any questions about our bylaws, please visit

www.hcelectric.com/hce-bylaws



Keeping Pace with the Times: Proposed Bylaw Changes for Hill County Electric

HCE is committed to providing affordable, reliable electrical services to its members. As the cooperative evolves to meet the changing needs of its members, it is crucial to review and update the bylaws to ensure they remain relevant, effective and meet the needs of today. The original bylaws were written over 80 years ago and many sections have remained the same. Below is a summary of the proposed changes that will be presented to our membership this spring:

Summary of proposed changes

Addressing Mail Delays

Recognizing the recent challenges with mail delivery and increased lead times for printing of the notice of members' meeting, the cooperative proposes extending the number of days before the meeting that the member will receive their notice of members' meeting. This extended amount of time will allow for the mail-in ballots to coincide with the mailing of the notice of members' meeting more closely.

Voting List

This requested bylaw change is a grammatic issue clean up that clarifies that the voting list is pulled for both the annual meeting and the mail-in/online voting.

Ensuring Trustees can be insured once elected

This proposed bylaw change would require all trustee candidates to undergo a felony conviction background check. This measure helps HCE obtain Director and Officer insurance coverage.

The proposed bylaw changes are a testament to the cooperative's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. The bylaw changes will be published in the notice of the members' meeting for you to review in full. The cooperative encourages all members to review the proposed changes, and we respectfully request that you accept these bylaw changes. Please watch for your mail-in ballot to arrive in April and come in person to the Annual Meeting on May 10, 2025. This year we will host the annual meeting at Hill County Electric in Building 8. We are excited to host our membership on the HCE campus.

As always, please contact your local board member or the General Manager with any questions or concerns.

SAVE THE DATE!

Hill County Electric's 80th Annual Meeting of Members

May 10th, 2025 | HCE Campus
Registration at 9am • Business Meeting at 10am

NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR!

The Annual Meeting will be on the HCE Campus.
2121 US Hwy 2 in Havre

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

**Denotes photo available on website*

Metal Roofing

18 sheets of 29 gauge Tuff Rib-9'1" long and 36" wide. Color burnished slate. Asking \$600.00. Call 406.265.6974

Cattle Stock Trailer

48 ft. (older but in good shape) asking \$10,000.00 – Call 406.301.4035.

Complete Stained Glass Crafting System for Sale

Includes grinder, foiler, scoring machine, cutting pad and many tools. Also glass. Call for details, asking \$200. Call 406.547.2184.

Wilray Flat Bed Trailer*

Wilray Flat Bed Trailer, \$2,400, Deck size 81"x10'. Torsion bar, 3500 lbs. axle. Extra cross stringers, 2011 model. Spare tire included. Call 406.437.1187.

Toro Snowblower

Very nice 21-inch, electric start Toro Snowblower, like new, asking \$375, call 406.378.3226.

2015 F250 Platinum Crew Cab Diesel

2015 F250 Platinum Crew Cab Diesel, black, 111,000 miles. Asking \$36,900, call 406.945.2180.

Livestock Guardian Pups*

Anatolian Shepherd/Karakachan. Guard goats, sheep, chickens, cows and kittens. Call or text 931-0225 or email Hoofnpawworkingstock@gmail.com.

Makita Cordless Weed Trimmer

Brand new Makita cordless weed trimmer, includes 2 batteries, charger, goggles, cinch sack. Asking \$395. Call 406.374.2406.

Wanted to Buy

8-12' triple k. Three point or hitch. Call 406.759.5670.

Wanted 1955 to 1959 Chevy or GMC Pickup or Parts

Call 406.326.2287.

Original Can Filter

1 original can filter, 12"diameter, 13" tall. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

1993 Safari Motorhome

3430 Cummins, 8.3 turbo-charged, intercooled. Allison World transmission with 6 speed and 2 overdrive gears. Well kept records, 98,600 miles. Asking \$15,000. Call 406.547.2184.

Leader Accessories Brand Travel Trailer (camper) cover

Fits 24 to 27 foot camper. Made of 100% polypropylene. Used, but in excellent condition. Call 406.357.2891.

Cattle Squeeze Chute

Powder River Squeeze chute. Asking \$2,000 Call 406.301.4035.

LGD Pups For Sale

Two females left, out of great working mother. She is Ackbash/Komondor. Sire is Ackbash/pyrenees/Anatolian. Born July 4, 2024. Ready to go, right with flock. Asking \$450. Near Moore, MT Call 406.374.2406.

1984 Rare Cultivator

Rare 60 ft Cultivator, Morris. Model CP-760 Magnum. Harrows included. Asking \$7,500. Call 406-262-4466.

Hydrofarm Grow Light Fixtures

\$20 each or 4 for \$60. Call 406.547.2184.

Boat, Motor, Trailer and Motorcycles For Sale

15 ft. boat, motor & trailer
2004 Harley Davidson Fat Boy (5000 actual miles)
2013 Harley Davidson v-Rod
2012 Suzuki V-Strom (5000 actual miles)
Call 406.399.4949

Craftsman 2 stage snowblower with tire chains

Craftsman 28-inch electric start, 2 stage snowblower with tire chains. Asking \$500 OBO, call 406.395.4581.

Tubular Aluminum Table

Tubular aluminum inversion table, lightly used. Asking \$50. Call 406.395.4581.

Wheat Straw Bales

Small square wheat bales, out of conventional combine. \$5.00 per bale, located just a few miles north of Havre, MT. Limited quantities available. Call 406.230.2281.

Whole or Half Pork 2025 Processed

Processed at Pay-N-Save in Saco, MT with pick up in Havre, MT Processing is September 2025 with limited quantities available. Whole price: \$450* Half: \$250*Processing is an additional fee.

Trailer Needed

Trailer needed for hired men. Call 406.930.2276.

Makita Cordless Weed Trimmer

Brand new Makita cordless weed trimmer, includes 2 batteries, charger, goggles, cinch sack. Asking \$395. Call 406.374.2406.

2016 Ford F350 Super Duty Crew Cab

Has 161,136 miles. Asking \$20,000. Call 406.394.2879

1984 Rare Cultivator

Rare 60 ft Cultivator, Morris. Model CP-760 Magnum. Harrows included. Asking \$7,500.00. Call 406-262-4466.

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping.