



Eastern Illini  
Electric  
Cooperative

# **COOPERATIVE BYLAWS**

**Providing our members with  
safe, reliable energy solutions  
and exceptional service.**

Amended June 10, 2021

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## **ARTICLE I MEMBERS**

### **Section 1.1: Requirements for Membership**

Any natural person, firm, association, corporation, partnership, company, trust, estate, or body politic or subdivision thereof shall be eligible to become a member of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Cooperative"), upon receipt of electric service from the Cooperative provided that he, she or it has first:

- A. Submitted an application for membership in the Cooperative;
- B. Agreed to purchase from the Cooperative electric energy, all electric energy distribution services and all associated electric services as hereinafter specified;
- C. Agreed to comply with and be bound by the Articles of Consolidation and Bylaws of the Cooperative and by any of its rules, regulations or policies adopted by its Board of Directors;
- D. Paid the membership fee hereinafter specified; provided that no application for membership shall be disapproved except for good cause shown and such shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any applicant whose application has been disapproved may, by filing a written request with the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days prior to the next meeting of members, have such application submitted to and approved or disapproved by the vote of the members at such meeting at which the applicant shall be entitled to be present and be heard;
- E. No member may hold more than one membership in the Cooperative and no membership in the Cooperative shall be transferable, except as provided in these Bylaws.

### **Section 1.2: Membership Fee**

Unless waived by the Board of Directors under policies of general application, the membership fee shall be as fixed, from time to time, by the Board of Directors. The issuance of a membership certificate shall make the member eligible for service.

### **Section 1.3: Acceptance into Membership**

Upon complying with the requirements for membership set forth herein, any applicant for membership shall be accepted into membership in the Cooperative by Board resolution unless the Board of Directors shall determine that such applicant is not willing or is not able to satisfy and abide by the Cooperative's terms and conditions of membership or that such application should be rejected for other good cause; provided that any person whose application has been submitted to but not approved by the Board of Directors for sixty (60) days or longer may, by filing a written request therefor with the Cooperative, at least thirty (30) days prior to the next meeting of members, have his or her application submitted to and approved or disapproved by the vote of the members at such meeting at which the applicant shall be entitled to be present and heard.

#### **Section 1.4: Purchase of Electric Energy and/or Electric Power Distribution Services**

Except as hereinafter provided, each member shall, as soon as electric energy, electric power distribution services and/or associated electric services shall be available, purchase from the Cooperative all electric energy, all electric power distribution services and all associated electric services purchased by the member for use on the premises specified in said member's application for membership/service and shall pay therefor, at rates which shall from time to time be fixed by the Board; however, provide that as required or allowed by law and as determined by the Board, the member may purchase such electric energy from other sources for use on such premises as the member may determine, but subject to conditions established from time to time by the Board of Directors. In addition to such rates, the members shall also be required to pay such other fees and charges as may be approved by the Board of Directors and all other obligations which may from time to time become due and payable by such member to the Cooperative as and when the same shall become due and payable. All amounts paid for electric energy, electric power distribution and/or associated electric services in excess of the cost of service are furnished by the member as capital and each member shall be credited with the capital so furnished in the manner provided in Article XIII of the Bylaws.

Production or use of electric energy on the member's premises, regardless of the source thereof, by means of facilities which shall be interconnected with the Cooperative facilities, shall be subject to appropriate regulations as shall be fixed from time to time by the Cooperative.

#### **Section 1.5: Non-Liability for Corporate Debts**

The private property of the members of the Cooperative shall be exempt from execution for the debts of the Cooperative and no member shall be individually liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Cooperative.

#### **Section 1.6: Expulsion of Members**

The Board of Directors of the Cooperative may, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members thereof, expel any member of the Cooperative who shall have violated or refused to comply with any of the provisions of the Articles of Consolidation or the Bylaws of the Cooperative or any policies, rules or regulations adopted from time to time by the Board of Directors. Any member so expelled may be reinstated as a member by a vote of the members of the Cooperative at any annual or special meeting of the members, but such member shall not be entitled to receive services from the Cooperative until all debts and obligations of such member have been paid in full. The action of the members with reference to such reinstatement shall be final.

#### **Section 1.7: Withdrawal from Membership**

Any member of the Cooperative may withdraw from membership upon payment in full of all of his, her or its debts and liabilities to the Cooperative and upon compliance with and performance of such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

### **Section 1.8: Termination of Membership**

The Board of Directors may further, by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3), terminate the membership of any member who has not received electric service from the Cooperative, or who, having received such service, has discontinued the use thereof and is not using electric service from the Cooperative. Membership in the Cooperative and the certificate representing the same shall not be transferable, and upon the death, cessation of existence, or withdrawal of a member, or upon the expulsion of a member or termination of a membership by the Board of Directors, the membership of such member shall thereupon terminate and the certificate of membership shall be surrendered forthwith to the Cooperative. Termination of membership in any manner shall operate as a release of all right, title and interest of the member in and to the property and assets of the Cooperative, except such rights, if any, as such member may be entitled to under the provisions of Article XIII of these Bylaws; provided, however, that such termination of membership shall not constitute a release from the debts or liabilities of such member to the Cooperative.

### **Section 1.9: Joint Membership**

Two persons may apply for joint membership and, subject to compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 1.1 of this Article, may be accepted for such membership. The term “member” as used in these Bylaws shall be deemed to include two people holding a joint membership, and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the effect of the hereinafter specified actions by or in respect to the holders of a joint membership shall be as follows:

- A. The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member and shall have the effect of constituting a joint waiver of notice of the meeting;
- B. The vote of either separately or both jointly shall constitute one vote;
- C. A waiver of notice signed by either or both shall constitute a joint waiver and notice to either shall constitute notice to both;
- D. Termination of membership of either shall constitute termination of the joint membership and withdrawal of either from membership shall terminate the joint membership;
- E. Either, but not both concurrently, shall be eligible to serve as a director of the Cooperative.

A membership may be converted to a joint membership upon the written request of the holder thereof and upon conversion the joint members shall comply with the Articles of Consolidation, Bylaws of the Cooperative and the rules, regulations and policies adopted by the Board of Directors. The outstanding membership certificate shall be surrendered and shall be reissued by the Cooperative in such manner as shall indicate the changed membership status.

Upon the death of either person holding of a joint membership, such membership shall continue to be held solely by the survivor, in the same manner and to the same effect as though such membership had never been joint; provided, that the estate of the deceased joint member shall not be released from any debts due to the Cooperative.

Upon the withdrawal of either party of a joint membership, the outstanding joint membership certificate shall be surrendered and a new membership certificate shall be issued to the member who continues to occupy the premises in such manner as shall indicate the changed membership status, provided that the other joint member shall not be released from any debts due to the Cooperative from the holders of such joint membership.

## **ARTICLE II MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

### **Section 2.1: Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of members of the Cooperative shall be held on a date and at a time in the month of June at such place in one of the counties within which the Cooperative serves, as the Board of Directors shall from year to year fix, unless some other place, date and/or time shall be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors adopted at a meeting thereof held not less than one month nor more than three months prior to the regular date of said annual meeting, for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may properly come before said meeting. If the election of directors shall not be held on the date fixed for such annual meeting or at any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of members as soon thereafter as such meeting may reasonably and conveniently be held. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time and place shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

### **Section 2.2: Special Meetings**

A special meeting of members may be called by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, by the Chairman of the Board, or by petition signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of the members of the Cooperative and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary/Treasurer to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided in Section 2.3 of this Article II. Such special meeting shall be held at such time and place in the city of Paxton, Illinois, or as may be otherwise specified in the notice of such meeting.

### **Section 2.3: Notice of Members' Meeting**

Electronic, written, printed notice of meetings of members, stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than seven (7) days nor more than forty-five (45) days before the date of such meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary/Treasurer, or by the persons calling the meeting, to each member of the Cooperative. If delivered electronically, such

notice shall be deemed delivered at the time the notice is sent. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his, her or its address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. Failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at such annual or special meeting.

**Section 2.4: Quorum**

Business may not be transacted at any meeting of the members unless there are present in person at least 100 members of the Cooperative except that, if less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person may, without further notice, adjourn the meeting to another time, not earlier than 9:00 a.m. or later than 8:00 p.m., and date, not less than 40 days thereafter, to any place in one of the counties in which the Cooperative serves. At all meetings of the members, whether a quorum be present or not, the Secretary/Treasurer shall annex to the minutes of such meeting, or incorporate therein by reference, a list of those members who were registered as being present in person. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present and voted, shall be the act of the members, unless the vote of a greater number or voting by classes is required by law or Articles of Consolidation, or the Bylaws.

**Section 2.5: Voting Rights**

Each member shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. At all meetings of members at which a quorum is present, all questions shall be decided by a vote of the majority of the members present in person, or who have voted by mail or other method except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Consolidation or these Bylaws; provided that voting by proxy is prohibited.

**Section 2.6: Voting**

For each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members of the Cooperative, members will have the choice of voting at the meeting itself or prior to the meeting by mail or other method permitted by law; provided that voting by proxy is prohibited. For all matters submitted to a vote, the tabulation of votes and completion of the election process shall take place at such meeting of members. All votes submitted at the meeting or prior to the meeting by mail or other method permitted by law shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the person or persons so participating and shall be counted for the purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

Members may be entitled to vote and participate in and act at any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or interactive technology, including but not limited to electronic transmission, Internet usage, or remote communication. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person

at the meeting of the person or persons so participating and shall be counted for the purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

The election of directors shall be by ballot and each member shall have the right to cast one vote for each director to be elected; provided that if no more than one candidate has been nominated for election as a director for a particular directorate district, so that there is no contest for that district up for election, then the election for that directorate district may be by voice vote if a majority of the members present at said meeting shall so determine. The candidate to be elected from each directorate district, as specified elsewhere in these Bylaws, receiving the highest number of valid votes shall be elected for the term of office for which he or she has been nominated.

At all elections determined by ballot, spoiled or blank ballots shall not be counted as ballots "voted" in determining the total number of votes cast at such election. In the event of a tie vote for any election, it shall be resolved by drawing of lots.

### **Section 2.7: Order of Business**

The order of business at the annual meeting of members and, insofar as practicable or desirable, at all other meetings of members shall be essentially as follows:

- A. Determination if a quorum is present.
- B. Reading of the notice of the meeting and the proof of mailing of such notice.
- C. Presentation and consideration of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon, unless such reading is waived by a unanimous vote of the members present in person, in which event the minutes may be approved without reading.
- D. Presentation and consideration of, and action upon, reports of officers, directors and committees.
- E. Election of directors.
- F. Unfinished business.
- G. New business.
- H. Adjournment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors or the members themselves may from time to time establish a different order of business for the purpose of assuring the earlier consideration of and action upon any item of business the transaction of which is necessary or desirable in advance of any other item of business; provided, that no business other than adjournment of the meeting to another time and place may be transacted unless and until the existence of a quorum is first established.

### **Section 2.8: Rules of Order**

At all meetings of the members, meeting procedures, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Consolidation or these Bylaws, shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.



## **ARTICLE III DIRECTORS**

### **Section 3.1: Number and General Powers**

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of Directors which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by the Cooperative's Articles of Consolidation or bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

Such Board shall be comprised of not more than nine (9) members who shall be elected by the membership of the Cooperative following fair and equitable rules and procedures to be established by the Board of Directors but subject to the following requirements. The Board shall establish nine (9) Directorate Districts numbered one (1) through nine (9) and shall determine the geographical boundaries of each of said Districts; provided that all Districts shall contain approximately the same number of members of the Cooperative residing therein so that all members shall have fair and substantially equal representation on the Board of Directors. The boundaries of such Districts may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors when it deems it necessary to accommodate population changes to equalize member representation by the Board; provided the membership shall be given reasonable notice of any such change at least sixty (60) days prior to the next annual meeting of members.

One director shall be elected from each Directorate District by vote of members of the Cooperative voting in said election held at the Cooperative's annual meeting. Candidates standing for election must reside in the District from which they seek election and receive Cooperative electric service at their principal residential abode. Three (3) directors shall be elected by all members of the Cooperative voting in said election at the annual meeting each year. Except as provided in these bylaws, all other rules and regulations governing the election of directors, shall be determined by the Directors, whose decision in such matter shall control and be final.

### **Section 3.2: Election and Terms of Office**

The term of office for each director shall be three (3) years or until his or her successor shall have been elected and qualified.

### **Section 3.3: Qualifications**

A person shall not be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative unless he or she is a bona fide member of the Cooperative receiving service from the Cooperative at his or her principal residential abode. In addition, a person cannot become a director if he or she either in his or her own right or directly or indirectly through a joint membership, spousal or civil union relationship, is an employee or former employee (who was employed by the Cooperative within five years prior to the subject director election) of the Cooperative; or is in any way employed in a managerial capacity with, or has more than a minor financial interest

in, any enterprise which operates electrical facilities, competes to a material degree with the Cooperative, or a business selling electric energy or merchandise to the Cooperative, or a business substantially engaged in selling electrical facilities, materials, fixtures or supplies to the members of the co-op. Further, so long as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association shall provide a director training and certification program, no director shall be eligible to be re-elected to the Board of Directors after having served three full terms on the Board, unless he or she has been certified by said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as having successfully completed its course of training for rural electric cooperative directors. Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing qualification requirements, the Board may remove such director from office by the affirmative vote of the majority of the total membership of the Board. Nothing contained in this section shall affect, in any manner, any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 3.4: Election**

At each annual meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by counting the votes cast except as provided in Section 2.6 of Article II of these Bylaws permitting election by a voice vote under the conditions therein prescribed. Only one director shall be elected from each directorate district. Candidates must have their principal residential abode in the directorate district from which they seek to be elected. Voting for directors shall be from the membership of the entire Cooperative at large and shall not be restricted to districts.

### **Section 3.5: Nominations**

Any member of the Cooperative in good standing who desires to be elected to its Board of Directors may be nominated by petition signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members and filed with the Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of members. Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted. The Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative shall cause to be prepared and posted at the principal office of the Cooperative at least forty-five (45) days before the annual meeting, a list of the nominations for Directors thus filed with him or her.

A specimen ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names and addresses of all candidates listed in the order of priority determined by the date and time when the Cooperative received the respective completed candidate information shall be printed in or mailed with the notice of the meeting. In the event that multiple candidates' completed information is received on the same date and at the same time for the same directorate district, the ballot order shall be determined by lot conducted by the Board of Directors. The Secretary/Treasurer shall also have printed in or mailed with the said notice of the meeting or separately not less than seven (7) days prior to said annual meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the district from which they are to be elected.

If a particular directorate district does not have a contested election, that director can be elected by a voice vote as provided in Section 2.6 of Article II of the Bylaws. In such case, the name of the candidate for that specific directorate district shall not be required to be placed on the specimen and actual ballots.

### **Section 3.6: Credentials Committee**

The Board of Directors shall appoint a Credentials Committee comprised of five (5) members to be selected by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative whose duty shall be to review the qualifications of all candidates who have filed nominating petitions, to determine their eligibility to serve as Directors of the Cooperative.

### **Section 3.7: Vacancies**

In the event of any vacancy on the Board of Directors through death, resignation or otherwise the remaining directors may, by a majority vote, elect a successor to fill such vacancy to hold office until the election of directors at the next annual meeting of members, at which time a director to fill such vacancy shall be elected by the members voting at large, for the remainder of the term of the director whose position is vacant. Any director appointed or elected to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors must receive service at his or her principal residential abode in the same directorate district as the director whose position he or she has been appointed or elected to fill.

### **Section 3.8: Removal of Directors**

Any member may bring one or more charges for cause against any one or more Directors and may request the removal of such Director or Directors by reason thereof by filing with the Secretary/Treasurer, in writing, a detailed and specific statement of such charges together with a petition signed by not less than ten percent of the total membership of the Cooperative requesting the removal of such Director or Directors, which petition calls for a special member meeting the stated purpose of which shall be to hear and act on such charges and, if one or more Directors are recalled, to elect their successors. Such petition shall specify the place, time (between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.) and date of such special meeting not less than forty (40) days after the filing of such petition and the Secretary/Treasurer shall give notice of such special meeting as provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws.

The Director or Directors against whom such shall have been filed shall be informed in writing of the charges set forth in such petition immediately after such petition has been filed and no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members at which the charges are to be considered. He, she or they shall have an opportunity at such meeting to be heard in person, by witnesses, by counsel or any combination of such and to present evidence in respect to the charges. The person or persons bringing the charges shall have the same opportunity but must be heard first.

The question of the removal of such Director or Directors shall, separately for each, if more than one has been charged, be considered and voted upon at such meeting; provided that the question of the removal of a Director shall not be voted upon at all unless some substantial evidence in support of the charges against him or her shall have been presented during the meeting. Any vacancy created by such removal shall be filled by a majority vote of the members present at such meeting in person without compliance with the other provisions of these Bylaws with respect to nominations, except that nominations shall be made from the floor. Nominations and voting by proxy are prohibited. Any newly-elected Director at such meeting shall be from and must have his or her principal residential abode in the same directorate district as was the Director whose office he or she succeeds and shall serve for the unexpired portion of the removed Director's term.

### **Section 3.9: Compensation and Expenses**

Directors shall, if authorized by a resolution of the Board of Directors, receive, on a per diem basis, a fixed fee for attending meetings or transacting affairs which, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, will promote the interests of the Cooperative and in addition thereto, may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in connection therewith. No director shall receive compensation for serving the Cooperative in any other capacity nor shall any close relative of a director receive compensation for serving the Cooperative unless the payment and amount of such compensation shall be specifically authorized by a vote of the members or unless such payment and amount shall be specifically authorized by the Board of Directors upon their certification of such as an emergency measure.

### **Section 3.10: Additional Powers of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, adopt, amend, abolish and promulgate such policies, rules, regulations, rate schedules, contracts, security and other types of deposits, payments or charges, not inconsistent with law or the Cooperative's Articles of Consolidation or Bylaws, as it may deem advisable for the proper management, administration and regulation of the business and affairs of the Cooperative.

### **Section 3.11: Accounting System and Reports**

The Board of Directors shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system which, among other things, subject to applicable laws and rules and regulations of any regulatory body, shall conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as prescribed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All accounts of the Cooperative shall be examined by a committee of the Board of Directors which shall render reports to the Board of Directors at least four times a year at regular meetings of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall also, after the close of each fiscal year, cause to be made a full and complete audit of the accounts, books and financial condition of the Cooperative

as of the end of such fiscal year. Such audit report, or an accurate summary thereof, shall be submitted to the members at the following annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE IV MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS**

### **Section 4.1: Regular Meetings**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without notice immediately after, and at the same place as, the annual meeting of members. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall also be held monthly and at such time and place in one of the counties served by the Cooperative, as the Board of Directors may provide by resolution. Such regular monthly meetings may be held without notice other than the resolution fixing the time and place thereof.

### **Section 4.2: Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by Board resolution or by the Chairman of the Board or by any three directors. The persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Directors may fix the date, time and place which must be in one of the counties in which the Cooperative serves, unless all directors consent, in writing, to its being held in some other place in the State of Illinois or elsewhere.

### **Section 4.3: Notice of Directors' Meetings**

Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of any special meeting shall be given at least five (5) days previous thereto, by written notice, delivered electronically, personally, or mailed to each director at his or her last known address. If delivered electronically, such notice shall be deemed delivered at the time the notice is sent. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. The attendance of a director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except in case a director shall attend a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting shall not have been lawfully called or convened.

### **Section 4.4: Quorum**

The presence in person of a majority of the directors in office shall be required for the transaction of business of the Board of Directors and the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors present shall be required for any action to be taken; provided that, if less than a quorum is present at a meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time but shall cause the absent directors to be duly and timely notified of the date, time and place of such adjourned meeting.

### **Section 4.5: Manner of Acting**

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the act of the majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 4.6: Rules of Order**

At all meetings of the Board of Directors, meeting procedures, except as provided by law or the Articles of Consolidation, shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

### **ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND DUTIES THEREOF**

#### **Section 5.1: Classes, Number and Title**

Cooperative officers shall be of two classifications: Board Officers and Staff Officers. Board Officers shall be: Chairman of the Board, Vice Chairman of the Board, Secretary/Treasurer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, and such other Board Officers as may be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors from time to time.

Staff Officers shall be the President and Chief Executive Officer and such other Staff Officers as the Board of Directors may, in its discretion, appoint and designate titles therefor. Staff Officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. Staff Officers, other than the President/CEO of the Cooperative, shall perform such duties as the President/CEO of the Cooperative shall assign to each of them, from time to time.

#### **Section 5.2: Election and Terms of Office**

The Board Officers of the Cooperative shall be elected, by ballot, annually, at the first meeting of the Board of Directors held after each annual meeting of the members, by and from the Board of Directors, except that the President and Chief Executive Officer may serve as an officer though not a member of the Board of Directors. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be scheduled. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the next annual meeting of members or until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified.

#### **Section 5.3: Removal**

Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Cooperative would be served thereby.

#### **Section 5.4: Vacancies**

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

#### **Section 5.5: Chairman of the Board**

The Chairman of the Board:

- A. Shall be the principal officer of the Cooperative and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and, unless determined otherwise by the Board of Directors, at all meetings of the members;

- B. Shall sign with the Secretary/Treasurer certificates of membership of the Cooperative, and may sign any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and
- C. In general shall perform all duties incident to the office of Chairman of the Board and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

### **Section 5.6: Vice-Chairman of the Board**

In the absence of the Chairman of the Board, or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Vice-Chairman of the Board shall perform the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to, all the restrictions upon the Chairman, and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 5.7: Secretary/Treasurer**

The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

- A. Keep or cause to be kept the minutes of meetings of the members and the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for that purpose;
- B. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with these Bylaws or as required by law;
- C. Be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the Cooperative and see that the seal of the Cooperative is affixed to all certificates of membership prior to the issue thereof and to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Cooperative under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws;
- D. Keep or cause to be kept a register of the post office address of each member which shall be furnished to the Secretary/Treasurer by such member;
- E. Sign with the Chairman of the Board certificates of membership of the Cooperative, the issuance of which shall have been authorized by resolution of the Board of Directors;
- F. Have general charge of the books of the Cooperative in which a record of the members is kept;
- G. Keep on file at all times a complete copy of the Bylaws of the Cooperative containing all amendments thereto, which copy shall always be open to the inspection of any member, and at the expense of the Cooperative forward a copy of the Bylaws and of all amendments thereto to each member;
- H. Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Cooperative;
- I. Receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the Cooperative from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of

the Cooperative in all such banks as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws; and

- J. In general perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary/Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 5.8: Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**

In the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer, or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer shall perform the duties of the Secretary/Treasurer, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Secretary/Treasurer, and shall perform such other duties as from time to time assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 5.9: Delegation of Secretary/Treasurer Responsibilities**

Notwithstanding the duties, responsibilities and authorities of the Secretary/Treasurer herein before provided in Section 5.7, the Board of Directors, by resolution, may, except as otherwise limited by law, delegate wholly or in part, the responsibility and authority for, and the regular or routine administration of, one or more of each such officer's duties to one or more agents, other officers, or employees of the Cooperative who are not directors.

### **Section 5.10: President**

The President of the Cooperative shall be its Chief Executive Officer and shall be responsible for the management and operation of the Cooperative and direct and control its business affairs, manage its personnel, be responsible for its financial operations, provide guidance and direction to the Board and, in general, operate, manage, control and direct the business of the Cooperative, performing such other duties and exercising such authority as is consistent with those duties and responsibilities; subject, however, to the approval and control of the Board of Directors to which he or she, at all times, shall be responsible. He or she may sign, with the Secretary/Treasurer, any deeds, mortgages, notes or other written obligations of the Cooperative, security agreements, financing statements, bonds, contracts and other instruments authorized by the Board of Directors except in cases in which the signing thereof shall be expressly delegated by said Board or these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed.

### **Section 5.11: Bonds of Officers**

The Board of Directors shall require the Secretary/Treasurer, or any other officer of the Cooperative charged with responsibility for custody of any of its funds or property, to give a bond for the faithful discharge of his or her duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board of Directors shall determine or as may be required by law. The Board of Directors in its discretion may also require any other officer, agent or employee of this Cooperative to give such bonds in such amounts, with such surety or sureties, and containing such terms and conditions as



it shall determine or as may be required by law. The cost of all such bonds shall be paid by the Cooperative.

**Section 5.12: Compensation and Indemnification**

The compensation, if any, of any officer, agent or employee who is also a director or close relative of a director shall be determined by the members as provided elsewhere in these Bylaws. The powers, duties and compensations of all other officers, agents or employees of the Cooperative shall be fixed by the Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws. The Cooperative may indemnify directors, officers, including the President, agents and employees to the extent provided in the General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois, or as otherwise provided by law. The Cooperative may purchase insurance to cover such indemnification.

**Section 5.13: Reports**

The Officers of the Cooperative shall submit at each annual meeting of the member's reports covering the business of the Cooperative for the previous fiscal year and showing the condition of the Cooperative at the close of such fiscal year. The President or Chairman of the Board or such officer as shall be designated by the Board of Directors shall make or cause to be made any reports to state or federal officials as may be required by law or by such officials.

**ARTICLE VI  
CONTRACTS, CHECKS, AND DEPOSITS**

**Section 6.1: Contracts**

Except as limited elsewhere by these Bylaws, the Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Cooperative, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**Section 6.2: Checks, Drafts, Monetary Transactions, Etc.**

All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, and all notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Cooperative shall be signed or approved by such officer or officers, agent or agents, employee or employees of the Cooperative and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

**Section 6.3: Deposits**

All funds of the Cooperative shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Cooperative in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors may select.

**ARTICLE VII  
MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES**

**Section 7.1: Certificates of Membership**

Membership in the Cooperative shall be evidenced by a certificate of membership-

ownership which shall be in such form and shall contain such provisions as shall be determined by the Board of Directors not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the Articles of Consolidation or the Bylaws of the Cooperative. Such certificate shall be signed by the President and by the Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative and shall be sealed with its corporate seal, provided that the seal and the signatures of the Chairman of the Board and the Secretary/Treasurer may be imprinted thereon by facsimile.

### **Section 7.2: Issue of Membership Certificates**

No membership-ownership certificate shall be issued for less than the membership fee fixed by the Board of Directors (unless such fee has been waived by the Board of Directors acting under policies of general application), nor until such membership fee, any required service security deposits, facilities extension deposits, service connection fees, contributions in aid of construction or any unpaid obligation due the Cooperative from the applicant, have been fully paid.

### **Section 7.3: Lost Certificates**

In case of a lost, destroyed or mutilated certificate, a new certificate may be issued therefore upon such terms and such indemnity to the Cooperative as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

## **ARTICLE VIII WAIVER OF NOTICE**

Any member, director or officer may waive, in writing, any notice of meetings required to be given by these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IX DISPOSITION AND PLEDGING OF PROPERTY**

### **Section 9.1: Sale, Lease, Exchange or Other Disposition of Property**

The Cooperative may not sell, lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of any of its property, other than:

- A. Property which in the judgment of the Board of Directors is, or will be, neither necessary nor useful in operating or maintaining the Cooperative's system, provided sales of such property, in any calendar year, shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the value of all of the property, real and personal, of the Cooperative;
- B. Services of all kinds, including electric energy; and
- C. Personal property acquired for resale; unless and until such sale, lease, exchange or other disposition has been authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes present and voted in person or other method permitted by law; provided that voting by proxy is prohibited, at any regular meeting of members or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The notice of any such meeting, regular or special, shall contain a statement of such purpose and a general description of the terms of the proposed sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of the Cooperative's property. At the election held for such purpose, a spoiled or blank ballot shall not be counted as "voted."

### **Section 9.2: Mortgage and Pledge of Cooperative Property**

The Board of Directors, without authorization by the members, shall have authority to borrow money solely for the proper purposes of the Cooperative and in the usual and regular course of the conduct of the affairs of the Cooperative and to execute and deliver promissory notes or other evidences of indebtedness and one or more mortgages or deeds of trust, pledging and encumbering any or all of the property, revenues, and assets of every kind of the Cooperative, to secure the indebtedness thus incurred.

### **Section 9.3: Non-Applicability**

The provisions of this article shall not apply to a sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of the Cooperative property to one or more other rural electric cooperatives if the substantial or actual legal effect thereof is to merge or consolidate with such other cooperative or cooperatives.

## **ARTICLE X FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Cooperative shall begin on the first day of January of each year and end on the thirty-first day of December in the same year.

## **ARTICLE XI SEAL**

The Corporate Seal of the Cooperative shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the cooperative and the words "Corporate Seal Illinois."

## **ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 12.1: Amendments to Articles of Consolidation**

The Articles of Consolidation of the Cooperative may be amended from time to time in the following manner:

- A. The Board of Directors shall adopt a resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of members entitled to vote on amendments which may be either an annual or special meeting of members;
- B. Written or printed notice setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to each member entitled to vote on amendments at such meeting within the time and in the manner provided in these Bylaws for the giving of notice of meeting of members. If such meeting be an annual meeting, the proposed amendment, or a summary as aforesaid, may be included in the notice of such annual meeting;
- C. At such meeting, a vote of the members entitled to vote on the proposed amendment shall be taken and the proposed amendment shall be adopted by receiving the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes present and voted either in person or other method permitted by law; provided that voting by proxy is prohibited. If such election is conducted by ballot,

a spoiled or blank ballot shall not be counted as “voted” in determining the total number of votes cast. After the adoption of the proposed amendment or amendments, the Board of Directors shall authorize and direct the proper officers to take such further steps as may be required by law to effect the proposed amendment or amendments to the Articles of Consolidation.

**Section 12.2: Amendments to Bylaws**

The initial Bylaws of the Cooperative shall be adopted by its Board of Directors, subject to repeal or change by action of the members. The Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by the members of the Cooperative at any regular or special meeting thereof. Written or printed notice setting forth the proposed Bylaw amendment or amendments, or an accurate summary of the changes to be effected thereby, shall be set forth in the notice of the meeting at which said amendment is or said amendments are to be voted upon.

**Section 12.3: Number of Amendments**

Any number of amendments to the Articles of Consolidation or the Bylaws, or both, may be submitted to the members and voted upon by them at one meeting.

**ARTICLE XIII  
NON-PROFIT OPERATION**

**Section 13.1: Cooperative Operation**

The Cooperative shall at all times be operated on a cooperative, non-profit basis for the mutual benefit of its patrons. No interest or dividend shall be paid or payable by the Cooperative on any capital furnished by its patrons.

**Section 13.2: Patronage Capital**

In the furnishing of electric energy, the Cooperative’s operations shall be so conducted that all patrons will through their patronage furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Cooperative will operate on a non-profit basis, the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all its patrons for all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of electric energy. All such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses at the moment of receipt by the Cooperative are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the patrons as capital. The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for each patron all such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses.

The books and records of the Cooperative shall be set up and kept in such a manner that at the end of each fiscal year the amount of capital, if any, so furnished by each patron is clearly reflected and credited in an appropriate record to the capital account of each patron, and the Cooperative shall within a reasonable time after the close of the fiscal year notify each patron of the amount of capital so credited to his or her account. All such amounts credited to the capital account of any patron shall have the same status as though they had been paid to the patron in

cash in pursuance of a legal obligation to do so and the patron had then furnished the Cooperative corresponding amounts for capital.

All other amounts received by the Cooperative from its operations in excess of costs and expenses (non-operating margins) shall, insofar as permitted by law, be (a) used to offset any losses incurred during the current or any prior fiscal year and (b) to the extent not needed for that purpose, may be allocated to the patrons on a patronage basis, and any amount so allocated shall be included as a part of the capital credited to the accounts of patrons, as herein provided. The allocation of non-operating margins shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors which shall determine the manner, method and timing of allocating non-operating margins.

In the event of dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, after all outstanding indebtedness of the Cooperative shall have been paid, outstanding capital credits shall be retired without priority on a pro rata basis before any payments are made on account of property rights of members. If, at any time prior to dissolution or liquidation, the Board of Directors shall determine that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to patrons' accounts may be retired in full or in part. Any such retirements of capital shall be made in order of priority according to the year in which the capital was furnished and credited, the capital first received by the Cooperative being first retired, unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors acting under the rules of general application consistent with non-profit operation principles. Provided, however, that the Board of Directors shall have the power to adopt rules providing for the separate retirement of that portion (power supply and other service or supply portion) of capital credited to the accounts of patrons which corresponds to the capital credited to the account of the Cooperative by an organization furnishing power supply or any other service or supply to the Cooperative. Such rules shall (a) establish a method for determining the portion of such capital credited to each patron for each applicable fiscal year, (b) provide for separate identification on the Cooperative's books of such portion of capital credited to the Cooperative's patrons, (c) provide for appropriate notification to patrons with respect to such portions of capital credited to their accounts and (d) preclude a general retirement of such portions of capital credited to patrons for any fiscal year prior to the general retirement of other capital credited to patrons for the same year or for any capital credited to patrons for any prior year.

Capital credited to the account of each patron shall be assignable only on the books of the Cooperative pursuant to written instruction from the assignor and only to successors in interest or successors in occupancy in all or part of such patron's premises served by the Cooperative unless the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general application, shall determine otherwise.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, the Board of Directors, at its discretion, shall have the power at any time upon the death of any patron, if

the legal representatives of his or her estate shall request in writing that the capital credited to such patron be retired prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provisions of these Bylaws, to retire capital credited to any such patron immediately upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general application, and the legal representatives of such patron's estate shall agree upon; provided, however, that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby.

The Cooperative, before retiring any capital credited to any patron's account, shall deduct therefrom any amount owing by such patron to the Cooperative, together with interest due thereon as the legal rate on judgments permissible under Illinois law in effect when such amount became overdue, compounded annually.

The patrons of the Cooperative, by dealing with the Cooperative, acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the Articles of Consolidation and Bylaws shall constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each patron, and both the Cooperative and the patrons are bound by such contract, as fully as though each patron had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions. The provisions of this article of the Bylaws shall be available to each patron of the Cooperative.

### **Revision History**

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### **EIEC Statement of Nondiscrimination**

EIEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The person responsible for coordinating EIEC's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is the President/CEO.

### **USDA Full Statement of Nondiscrimination**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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**Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative**  
**Bylaws**  
**Amended June 10, 2021**