



OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

September 2020 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Make your voice heard

There's an old political saying, "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate that shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all Owen Electric members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on September 22. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

Your vision, your vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board or

an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Owen Electric board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

Staying in sync with the community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. Owen Electric board members provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a



consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues that are on the ballot and get out and vote!

Kentucky's deadline to register to vote is October 5.

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

President and CEO
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month and a great time to evaluate how prepared you and your family are for an emergency situation. Ready.gov offers the following resources to assist you in making a plan and building an emergency kit:

Build a kit

After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below. Most of the items are inexpensive and easy to find and any one of them could save your life. Headed to the store? Download a printable version to take with you. Once you take a look at the basic items consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets or seniors.

Basic disaster supplies kit

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)

- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Download the Recommended Supplies List and find more information at www.ready.gov/kit.

Additional emergency supplies

Since spring 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended people include additional items in their kits to help prevent the spread of coronavirus or other viruses and the flu.

Consider adding the following items based on your individual needs:

- Cloth face coverings (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription medications
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers,



Get the FEMA app with weather alerts, disaster resources and safety tips.

#NatIPrep

Ready

- wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Fire extinguisher
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Maintaining your kit

After assembling your kit, remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.

- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- Replace expired items as needed.
- Re–think your needs every year and update your kit as your family’s needs change.

Kit storage locations

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and cars.

- **Home:** Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.
- **Work:** Be prepared to shelter at work for at least 24 hours. Your work kit should include food, water and other necessities like medicines, as well as comfortable walking shoes, stored in a “grab and go” case.
- **Car:** In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car.

For more information, including apps and other resources for emergency alerts and information, go to www.ready.gov.

• Login to OEC Mobile
• Select the affected account

• Click the upper left icon for a list of options

Easy Outage Reporting.

OEC Mobile is available in the App Store and on Google Play

• Insert your information and click the button below. Skip the busy phone lines!

Report an Outage

While you’re preparing, make sure you have Owen Electric’s phone number programmed into your phone in the event of a power outage. OEC

Mobile, our free app, also offers the ability to report power outages without the hassle of trying to get through busy phone lines.

OWEN Electric
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Happy Labor Day!

Owen Electric Offices Closed: Monday, September 7

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Pendleton County Office

10599 Hwy 27 N.
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www.owenelectric.com

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Co-op Connections

Mini-member, Liddie June, is all smiles (and so are mom and dad) after using the Co-op Connections Healthy Savings discount on braces. Find a provider in your area by logging on to www.connections.coop and selecting “Healthy Savings.” Lost card? Call and request a new one at (800) 372-7612, option 4, or download the Co-op Connections app. The Co-op Connections program is just one of the many ways Owen Electric helps its members save on everyday (and not-so-everyday) expenses.



WHITNEY DUVAL

THIS HARVEST, FOCUS ON SAFETY

The risk of electrocution on farms is common due to heavy equipment coming in close contact with overhead lines.

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That’s why it’s important to know how to be safe this harvest. If you’re inside the machinery when coming in contact with a power line...

- If you can, drive safely away from the downed line and the source of electricity. Travel at least three tractor lengths before stopping.
- If you can’t drive or are injured, stay where you are until help arrives.
- If you must get out of the machinery (for example, if it is on fire), don’t touch the machinery and the ground at the same time.
- Jump out and away from the machinery, taking care to land with your feet together and touching.
- Shuffle away with your feet touching. Don’t stop until you are at least three tractor lengths away from machinery.
- Call 911 and ensure no one goes within 40 feet of machinery.



CHRIS HAYES