

TALQUIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
2025 CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES

Mail-in Voting with Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Annual Meeting

Talquin’s goal is to hold a fair and orderly election with as many Members voting as possible. Talquin’s Board of Trustees has approved the following campaign guidelines, which are intended to ensure that candidates’ campaigns are conducted in a fair and democratic manner. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that they and their supporters comply with these guidelines.

1. Campaign Activities in General:

- a. The principles of good faith and fair play direct that a level of personal decorum, courtesy, and respect be maintained in campaigns.
- b. A candidate’s communications may state the candidate seeks to be elected to Talquin’s Board. Otherwise, campaigns shall not utilize any Talquin asset or resource, including without limitation Talquin’s name, logo, likeness of Talquin’s name or logo, stationery, telephones, computers, vehicles, or property.

2. Campaign Communications:

- a. Each candidate will be given the opportunity to submit (i) a photograph, (ii) a short biographical narrative not to exceed 150 words, and (iii) their contact information (e.g., telephone number or e-mail address) to be included with the ballot package and published by Talquin. The narrative shall be limited to personal background information for the Candidate and shall not include express advocacy (e.g., “Vote for Jones”). Otherwise, Candidates are solely responsible for the content of their biographical submissions (including grammar, spelling, and punctuation). Cooperative staff will not proofread, edit, or otherwise alter any biographical submission, other than to truncate any submission exceeding 150 words or to format in the Cooperative’s election materials in order to provide consistency. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Cooperative reserves the right not to print offensive, derogatory, or patently false statements. To avoid the perception that the Cooperative endorses any particular platform or information contained on a platform, Candidates may not include link(s) to any websites, social media pages, or any other source in their biographical submission. The deadline for Candidates to submit these items is **Tuesday, February 25, 2025.**
- b. Candidates shall exercise due diligence to ensure that campaign brochures, letters, signs, electronic communications (email, social media, etc.), and other communications are factually accurate.
- c. Campaign communications shall not represent or imply that the candidate is endorsed by Talquin or Talquin’s Board.

3. Campaign Locations:

- a. Campaign posters, signs, and other campaign materials shall not be posted or attached to Talquin’s buildings, facilities, power poles, or grounds.

- b. Candidates shall not seek votes or distribute any campaign leaflets, handouts, or other materials at any of Talquin’s buildings, facilities, or grounds.

4. Candidate’s Name on Ballot

- a. Candidates for each District shall be listed on the ballot alphabetically by last name. Each Candidate’s name shall appear on the mail-in ballot in the form preferred by the Candidate subject to the following limitations:
 - i. Ballot shall include the Candidate’s last name.
 - ii. Ballot shall include the Candidate’s formal first name, a shortened form of the Candidate’s first name (e.g., Rob, instead of Robert, or J. instead of James), a nickname, or a combination thereof, as specified by the Candidate.
 - iii. Ballot may include a Candidate’s middle initial or middle name, if requested by the Candidate.
 - iv. If the Candidate requests the inclusion of a nickname, then the nickname shall be enclosed in quotation marks (e.g., Garrett R. “Gator” Cane) on the ballot. Alternatively, if the Candidate does not wish to include his/her formal first name with his/her nickname (e.g., Ted Davis for a candidate named Thomas Eugene Davis or Dottie Smith for a candidate named Doris Smith), then the nickname shall not be in quotation marks on the ballot (e.g., Ted Davis, not “Ted” Davis; or Dottie Smith, not “Dottie” Smith).
 - v. Ballot may include suffixes such as Sr. or Jr. or II or sequential numbers, if requested by the Candidate.
 - vi. Candidates’ names shall be alphabetized based on each Candidate’s final last name. If a Candidate’s last name is hyphenated, then the name that appears after the hyphen is the Candidate’s final last name. For example, if a Candidate’s last name is Smith-Williams, the Candidate’s name will be listed alphabetically on the ballot using “Williams.”
 - vii. Ballot may not include other descriptive information, such as the Candidate’s title (e.g., Dr., M.D., J.D., Ph. D., P.E., C.P.A., or the like).
- b. An “incumbent” designation shall appear next to the name of any Trustee running for re-election.

5. Annual Meeting:

- a. To reduce the cost of the Annual Meeting to the Cooperative and its Members and provide the Cooperative’s Members the ability to watch the Annual Meeting online via live stream, the business portion of Talquin’s 2025 Annual Meeting will be held in a virtual environment.
- b. Voting in Talquin’s 2025 elections will be conducted via mail-in ballots. All ballots will be returned and counted by a third-party vendor prior to the Annual Meeting.

Because voting will be complete prior to the Annual Meeting, campaigning at the 2025 Annual Meeting will be unnecessary and, therefore, not allowed.

- c. Cooperative's Trustees, key staff, qualified candidates whose names appear on the ballot, and other persons assisting with the Annual Meeting are strongly encouraged to attend the business portion of the Annual Meeting in-person. Members may also attend the business portion of the Annual Meeting in-person; however, no bill credits or door prizes will be offered to Members for in-person attendance at the Annual Meeting.