



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Hi-Lites

## Co-op Voters - Are you registered?

### Why vote?

Voting is the one of the most powerful ways to make your voice heard in our democracy, but according to census.gov, only 67% of the voting age population in the United States reported voting in 2020. Modern technology has improved access to information on candidates and made it easier to register to vote in many areas, and it is vital to be aware of how you can participate!

We want to make sure our government knows that rural America matters. Co-ops Vote isn't about divisive, partisan issues. It's about real people in real places facing real challenges. It's about our co-ops living out the principles of our movement: Concern for community and democratic control.

### How can you register to vote in Illinois?

To register to vote in Illinois, visit the IL State Board of Elections website for more information on voter eligibility and the registration process.

You can begin the registration process through Illinois' Online Voter Registration System. The link is listed below for online voter registration. (see page 2).

**IL State Board of Elections**

<http://www.elections.il.gov>

**Online Voter Registration**

<https://ova.elections.il.gov>

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### MISSION STATEMENT

To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service, and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.

3906 Broadway  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618-244-5151  
Toll-Free: 800-244-5151  
Fax: 618-244-1496  
Pay by phone:  
855-385-9902

Mt. Vernon  
Office Hours  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Salem  
Office Hours  
Tuesday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sam Phillips - Salem

Vice-President  
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**OUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON ENGAGED VOTERS.**

**SIGN UP TODAY TO BECOME ONE**

★ WWW.VOTE.COOP TO LEARN MORE ★

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan project of America's Electric Cooperatives designed to inform its members on the key issues facing electric co-ops and encourage them to vote and support their co-ops and the communities they serve when they go to the polls. We do not endorse or recommend any candidates for election.

Co-ops vote does not advise how members should vote. Our only concern is that you are registered and you have the opportunity to let your voice be heard come election time. When we come together at the polls, we can let the voices of rural America be heard. Working together is the cooperative way!



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!**

### **Cooperative Concern for Community**

In celebration of Cooperative Month in October, Tri-County Electric Cooperative employees are partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for children in our community that don't have one. How can you help? We are accepting donations of the items listed below through October. Let's work together to make sure that no child in our community sleeps on the floor! Donations can be made at both TCEC office locations during normal business hours.

- **New Twin Sized Bed-in-a-Bag**
- **New Twin Sheet Sets & Comforters**
- **New Twin-Sized Pillows**
- **Monetary donations to Sleep in Heavenly Peace are also welcome**

## **Voter Registration Locations**

Illinois' residents may register online, in person at the office of the election authority, at Secretary of State driver's license facilities, with deputy registrars who are appointed in each jurisdiction, or via mail using the Illinois Voter Registration Application that can be found online at <http://www.elections.il.gov>. Locations for each county are listed below.

### **Jefferson County**

Jefferson County Clerk  
100 S. 10th St. #105, Mt. Vernon, IL

Secretary of State Facility  
320 E. Main St., Mt. Vernon, IL

### **Marion County**

Marion County Clerk  
100 E Main St. #204, Salem, IL

Secretary of State Facility  
1375 W Whittaker St., Salem, IL

Secretary of State Facility  
418 S. Poplar, Centralia, IL

### **Washington County**

Washington County Clerk  
125 E. Elm St., Nashville, IL

Secretary of State Facility  
480 N. Kaskaskia St., Nashville, IL

*Two forms of identification with at least one showing your current residence address are needed when you register in-person.*

## Crockpot Hamburger Potato Casserole

### Ingredients

- 5 small potatoes
- 2 lbs. ground beef, browned
- 2 cans cream of mushrooms soup
- 1 cup milk
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheese

### Directions

1. Brown your ground beef and set aside.
2. Peel and slice potatoes and set aside.
3. In a mixing bowl, combine cream of mushroom soup, milk, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well and set aside.
4. Spray crockpot with non-stick spray.
5. Layer in the pan, potatoes, beef, soup, and cheese. Repeat the layers until all the beef and potatoes are used up. Top with remaining cheese and place lid on top.
6. Cook on high for 3-4 hours or until the potatoes are soft.
8. Turn off the crock pot and allow it to cool slightly (about 10 minutes). This will allow the casserole to thicken. Cut and serve with your favorite vegetable.

## Maple Roasted Carrots

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lbs. carrots, sliced 1/4 in. thick
- 2 Tbsp. melted butter
- 2 Tbsp. pure maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground pepper
- 2 tsp. snipped fresh chives or parsley (optional)

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°
2. Stir carrots, butter, maple syrup, salt and pepper together in a large bowl. Spread evenly on a large rimmed baking sheet and roast, stirring once, until tender, 20-25 minutes. Sprinkle with chives or parsley, if desired.



## Going Solar? We Have Resources for You!

Are you interested in installing solar? Requesting three bids from qualified contractors before hiring for any project can potentially save you a lot of money and hardship down the road. You may be surprised at how different the prices for each contractor can be! We know that the cheapest option isn't necessarily the best option - "You get what you pay for".

However, we have seen instances where members were taken advantage of. We want you to be informed before making a large investment. It takes a little more homework to get three bids, but it's time well spent.

In addition to getting bids, make sure you review any contracts and service agreements thoroughly.

Solar units are a major purchase, so discretion and careful review is necessary. Once you have done your due diligence, you can rest easy in your choice, knowing that you made an informed decision.

Want to learn more? On our website, you can find Tri-County Electric Cooperative's solar policies and interconnection agreements. You can also find informational resources, including:

- Solar Energy Brochure for TCEC Members
- Steps to Solar Commissioning
- Questions to ask a Solar Contractor
- Links to State and Federal Solar Resources

*For more information, visit:*

*[www.tricountycoop.com/solar-energy](http://www.tricountycoop.com/solar-energy)*

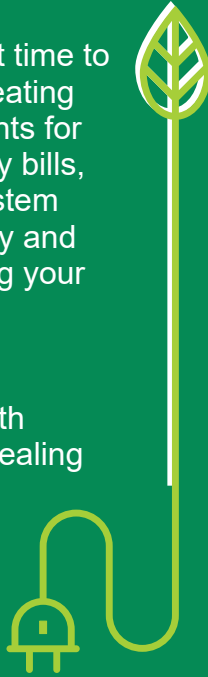


## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Cooperative Calendar

**Monday, Sept. 4, 2023**

Labor Day - Office Closed

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

TCEC Office - Mt. Vernon

3906 Broadway St, Mt. Vernon, IL

[www.redcrossblood.org/give](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give)

## Shining a Light on Rolling Blackouts

If you watch the news enough, you'll know that rolling blackouts exist in California, but how likely is it that you would experience one in Illinois? It's not an imminent threat that your cooperative fears, however, it's a possibility that we do prepare for.

A rolling blackout is a temporary, purposely executed power outage to protect the grid. The outage is arranged so that only certain areas are out of power for a limited amount of time. If not instituted, the whole system could experience a lengthy outage. These blackouts are called "rolling" because the outage moves from one area to the next so that power isn't out for too long in any one location.

In the event of a rolling blackout scenario, we would hope for plenty of notice, but a lot of times that is not realistic. Therefore, your cooperative runs through scenarios to work in a moment's notice to mitigate the effects of outages and communicate outage schedules to you.

We don't wish to raise alarm about blackouts, we simply want you to know that we're always forward-thinking and continuously preparing to serve you under any circumstances.

