

# 2023 ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD ELECTION Q&A

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at The Silos on 77, 1031 County Road 223 in Giddings. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The meeting will start at 2:30 p.m. Look for details about the meeting in the coming weeks with your bill, in Bluebonnet's pages in the April and May issues of Texas Co-op Power magazine, on our social media and on our website, [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop).

## How many Board of Director seats are up for election?

Four of the seats on Bluebonnet's Board of Directors are up for election this year. Three of the candidates — Roderick Emanuel, District 3 for Bastrop County; Russell Jurk, District 4 for Lee, Milam and Williamson counties; and Byron Balke, District 6 for Austin, Colorado and Fayette counties — were unopposed and will be elected by general consent in accordance with Bluebonnet's bylaws. There are two candidates for the District 7 seat, representing Washington County: Robert Mikeska (incumbent) and Richard Lamensky. The term for the District 7 seat will end in 2027 in order to evenly distribute the number of directors' seats up for election each year.

## Bluebonnet's service area is divided into seven districts. Can I vote for candidates in all districts or just the district in which I live?

During contested Board elections, co-op members can vote for directors in all districts. The districts in the co-op's service area were drawn along Bluebonnet's service area boundary and county lines. The seven districts are represented by one to three directors based on, among other things, the number of meters in each district.

## What are my voting options?

Members may vote for Board candidates by submitting their proxy form by May 2, 2023, or by attending the Annual Meeting in person on May 9, 2023. There are currently no additional ballot items to be voted on this year. However, items can be added to the Annual Meeting agenda that would require a vote by members. Those items would have to be added no later than 10 days before the Annual Meeting. Your proxy could be used in that vote, in addition to selecting a candidate for District 7, which is why your proxy selection is important.

## What is proxy voting, and how does it work?

Proxy voting allows members to designate another person to vote in his or her place. On the proxy, members can assign their vote to either Bluebonnet's Proxy Committee or to an individual. Proxies are counted to ensure at least 1% of Bluebonnet's membership are present at the Annual Meeting to constitute a quorum.

## Who serves on Bluebonnet's Proxy Committee?

The Proxy Committee is composed of all Bluebonnet Board members whose terms are not currently up for election. This year's Proxy Committee members are Milton Shaw, Shana Whiteley, Bryan Bracewell, Debbi Goertz and Ben Flencher.

## How do I vote by proxy?

Complete the proxy form and return it by mail or drop it off at any of Bluebonnet's member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart or Manor. If you misplace the proxy form, pick one up at a member service center or call 800-842-7708 and ask a representative to mail one to you. Proxies must either be hand-delivered to a member service center by 5 p.m. May 2, 2023, or mailed to:

## Bluebonnet Elections Processing

c/o Election Services Co.

P.O. Box 9020

Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-9822

Mailed proxies must be postmarked by May 2, 2023.

## Can this proxy be used again at future Annual Meetings?

No, the proxy is valid only for the meeting specified on the proxy form.

## Can I vote at the Annual Meeting if I send in a proxy form?

When you register at the meeting, you may revoke your proxy and then vote in person.

## Who administers the election?

Election Services Co., which is a third-party, independent vendor that specializes in administering corporate elections nationwide. It has the experience to efficiently and accurately tally proxies and votes while protecting members' confidential account information.

## What if I have more questions?

Visit [bluebonnet.coop/annualmeeting](http://bluebonnet.coop/annualmeeting), call a member service representative at 800-842-7708 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email [memberservices@bluebonnet.coop](mailto:memberservices@bluebonnet.coop).



Los formularios de poder en español y la información de elección de la Junta están disponibles. Llame al 800-842-7708 o visite un centro de servicios para miembros de Bluebonnet en Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart o Manor de 8 a. m. a 5 p. m., de lunes a viernes.

# 2023 NOMINEES FOR BLUEBONNET'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Roderick Emanuel**  
District 3 (Incumbent)

Emanuel, vice president/vice chairman of the Bluebonnet Board of Directors, has been on the electric cooperative's Board since 2011. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership and Gold certifications through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He served as secretary/treasurer for five years, is chairman of Bluebonnet's Member & Employee Services Committee and a member of the Legal & Governance Committee. Emanuel's leadership as an officer and committee

chairman has been a key reason for Bluebonnet's success since he joined the Board. He raises cattle on the family farm with his son. Emanuel previously spent 34 years in education as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent for the Bastrop Independent School District. He also worked at Gary Job Corps near San Marcos. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from what is now Texas State University and a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University. Emanuel is a motivational speaker and chairman of the deacon board at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church in Cedar Creek. He previously served on the boards of directors of Hopewell Rosenwald School and the Bastrop Central Appraisal District. Roderick and Charlene have one son, Roderick Jr.



**Russell Jurk**  
District 4 (Incumbent)

Jurk has served four terms on the Bluebonnet Board of Directors, starting in 2011. He has earned both Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He is chairman of Bluebonnet's Audit & Finance Committee and a member of the Energy Services Committee. His leadership has been fundamental in growing Bluebonnet's financial capacity and providing its

members reliable, competitively priced power. He is vice president and general manager at Bobby Lehmann Inc., a Giddings-based trucking company that hauls oil field equipment. He has worked there since 1994. Jurk earned a technical degree from Southwest School of Electronics in Austin. He has served several positions with the Giddings Noon Lions Club, and he and his wife, Laurie, own Ashley's Attic, a boutique, home décor and collectibles shop in Giddings. Jurk is a past chairman of the Texas Trucking Association and has served as the association's foundation treasurer. His hobbies include target shooting, hunting, saltwater fishing and restoring old pickups and Jeeps. He and Laurie have two children, Ashley and Richard.



**Byron Balke**  
District 6 (Incumbent)

Balke, assistant secretary/treasurer of the Bluebonnet Board of Directors, has been on the electric cooperative's Board since 2000. He is a member of Bluebonnet's Audit & Finance and Legal & Governance committees. Balke's experience and involvement on both committees and as a Board officer has been indispensable in developing Bluebonnet's financial strength. He is a cattle rancher and former shopkeeper from Bleiberville, a

community of fewer than 100 people in northwestern Austin County. He helped run his family's historic general store and later operated a fertilizer and seed business. He played baseball at Blinn College in Brenham and had a short pro baseball career with the Houston Colt .45s (now the Houston Astros). He earned a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from what is now Texas State University and served in the Army Reserves. He is a member of the Austin County Livestock Association and the Bleiberville Volunteer Fire Department. His hobbies include collecting antiques, hunting and fishing on the Texas Gulf coast. He and his wife, Annette, have two children, Virgil and Phyllis, and four grandchildren.



**Robert Mikeska**  
District 7 (Incumbent)

Mikeska, secretary/treasurer of the Bluebonnet Board of Directors, has been on the electric cooperative's Board since 2008. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He is chairman of Bluebonnet's Energy Services Committee and a member of the Audit & Finance Committee. His leadership as an officer and on these committees has been instrumental

in providing reliable, competitively priced power and building Bluebonnet's financial strength. Mikeska spent 33 years at Mike Hopkins Distributing Co. in Brenham, and retired as senior vice president/controller in 2022. He earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Texas at Austin. He has also worked for the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations, Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas and Brenham National Bank. Mikeska is a former Brenham City Council member and Washington County commissioner, an active member of Abiding Word Lutheran Church and former board member of Brenham's Senior Activity Center. He and his wife, Marita, have a daughter, Michele, and two grandchildren.



**Richard Lamensky**  
District 7

Richard Lamensky is a native of Needville, Texas. He attended Lamar University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He and his wife, Cindy, whom he met in college during a dance at Riverside Hall in East Bernard, have been married 44 years. Lamensky fell in love with Brenham as a child while visiting relatives and has lived there

his entire married life. He has been a Bluebonnet member for more than 30 years. Lamensky is the director of HVAC and energy management at Blinn College. His education and work experiences have enabled him to be familiar with the transmission and distribution of electricity from generation to the meter, and demand for power at homes and businesses. He is a member of Texas Energy Managers Association and holds the certification of an Accredited Energy Manager. Lamensky and his wife have two children, Cassy and Chelsy, and three grandchildren. In Lamensky's spare time he enjoys hunting and fishing.