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# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* May 2026 NEWS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*  
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COOPERATIVE LEADERS  
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KIDS AND CRITTERS





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# ANNUAL MEETING AND SPRING SAFETY

By Ken Ceaglske, CEO

Annual meeting time is coming up. With that, director elections and bylaw changes will be up for review. The Nominating Committee received three interested candidates for three open positions, so there will not be a need for ballots for those positions, unless a member submits a petition to run for the board between the time that I am writing this and the end of April. Don Everhard, Dave Makovsky and Paul Woods seats were open for election in this rotation and all three expressed their interest in running again. With the change in co-op attorneys in the past couple years, we reviewed the bylaws to modernize the wording and bring the language up to date. Later in the magazine you will see the highlights of those recommended changes. The annual report that comes out in June will also include the final listing of candidates as well as the bylaw notice again.

As we welcome spring, it is also time for projects and getting out and about around our yards, woods, and fields. Please be on the lookout for anything that may have been damaged by this winter's blustery weather and ice. That lookout can include our facilities that may have been damaged by the weather or been hidden by snowbanks and damaged by accident. Be sure to look over your own area as well. Winter can damage trees and buildings, creating hazardous "widow maker" hanging branches and weakened structures.

## 5 Ways to Save Energy This Spring

Spring is here. The weather is getting warmer, and the days are growing longer. It's the perfect time to start those outdoor projects you've been planning and explore new ways to make your home more energy efficient. The following home improvements and lifestyle changes will help lower your energy bills and reduce your environmental impact.

### 1. Tackle spring cleaning

While you're chasing those dust bunnies around, look for ways to save energy. Clean under and behind your refrigerator to keep it operating efficiently. Dust light bulbs to get more light for your money. If you have a sliding glass door, wash the track. Dirt buildup can damage the door seal and create gaps where cool air can escape.

### 2. Check your cooling system

Hire a qualified professional to inspect and clean your air conditioning system. Replace the system's air filter and adjust thermostat settings for warmer weather. If you haven't done so already, install a smart thermostat. It will optimize savings and add convenience by adjusting the temperature to fit your schedule automatically. You'll also have access to other advanced features, such as remote control.

### 3. Use ceiling fans

Ceiling fans circulate air, making rooms feel cooler, which means you can raise the temperature by up to 4°F without compromising comfort. Remember that ceiling fans only make you feel cooler, not the room. Turn them off in empty rooms to avoid wasting energy.

### 4. Seal air leaks

Gaps and cracks in doors and windows send conditioned air, and your energy dollars, outside. Weatherstrip exterior doors and seal windows with caulk. Check for any gaps around outdoor plumbing and wiring access and seal with expanding foam insulation.

### 5. Plant some shade

Plant a shade tree along the south- or west-facing side of your home. Trees help shield your home from the sun in summer, keeping you cool and reducing your energy bill. They are good for the environment, too. Remember to call 811 before you dig and consider the mature height of trees; select a location away from power lines.

By taking these steps, you can save energy and live more sustainably this spring and all year long.



## SUMMER HOURS

*Beginning the week of May 4 through  
the week of August 31*

Monday - Thursday	7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## Memorial Day Observance

Taylor Electric Cooperative's office will be closed  
Monday, May 25.

*We remember and honor those who gave everything for our freedom.*



# TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## 2026 PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The following are proposed bylaw amendments that will be presented to Taylor Electric Cooperative's membership for action at the annual meeting on June 23, 2026.

The Board of Directors and management recommend adoption of the following changes to the bylaws. Proposed deletions are shown in **red strike-through** and additions are shown in **blue underlining**. A copy of the Cooperative's complete bylaws showing the proposed changes in redline formatting is available on the Cooperative's website. Each of the following three proposals will be voted on separately.

### PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NO. 1:

**Summary:** Current bylaw language regarding joint memberships is inconsistent in some respects regarding the treatment of joint memberships and membership interests when a joint member dies. The following amendment is proposed to clarify and confirm that all joint memberships will be treated as joint memberships with right of survivorship and not as joint memberships as tenants in common. This change will ensure that membership interests will remain with the surviving joint member(s) when a joint member dies. Relatedly, this change will facilitate the cooperative's tracking of membership interests and capital credits. Additional related clean-up changes are also included in this proposal such as revisions recognizing that joint memberships may have more than two members.

#### Amendment:

1. Delete the last two sentences of Article I, Section 1 in their entirety.

2. Add the following sentence to the beginning of Article I, Section 3:

Two or more persons may hold a membership as joint tenants with right of survivorship in accordance with the terms of their application, these bylaws, and any policies, rules or regulations adopted by the board of directors applicable thereto.

3. Amend Article I, Section 3(a) as follows:

Any application for membership ~~in the Cooperative received after March 22, 1986,~~ from any person who is married shall be deemed and become an application for membership by husband and wife as joint tenant members with right of survivorship unless the person making such application ~~otherwise~~ designates in writing that such application shall be for a membership solely in the applicant's name.

4. Delete the text of Article I, Section 3(b) in its entirety and replace the same with "Reserved".

5. Amend the enumerated subsections of Article I, Section 3(c) as follows:

- (1) the presence at a meeting of ~~either or both~~ any party to the joint membership shall be regarded as the presence of ~~one~~ the member and shall constitute a joint waiver of notice of meeting;
- (2) the vote of ~~either any party to the joint membership separately or both jointly~~ shall constitute a joint vote;
- (3) a waiver of notice signed by ~~either or both~~ any party to the joint membership shall constitute a joint waiver;
- (4) notice to ~~either any party to the joint membership~~ shall

constitute notice to ~~both~~ the member;

- (5) expulsion of ~~either any party to the joint membership~~ shall terminate the joint membership;
- (6) withdrawal of ~~either any party to the joint membership~~ shall terminate the joint membership;
- (7) ~~either but not both~~ a party to the joint membership may be elected or appointed as an officer or board member, provided that ~~both meet the qualifications for such office~~ such party is the only party to the joint membership elected or appointed to any such position.

6. Amend Article I, Section 3(d) as follows:

The records of the Cooperative shall properly show all joint memberships in the names of joint members. By writing signed by ~~both~~ all joint members and filed with the Cooperative any joint membership may be terminated and changed to a membership vested solely in one of the joint members.

7. Amend Article I, Section 3(e) as follows:

Upon the death of ~~either spouse, or other~~ any person, who is a party to a joint membership, such membership shall be held solely by the survivor(s) and the records of the Cooperative shall be changed to show membership solely in the survivor(s)'s name(s), provided however, that the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative.

8. Amend the first sentence of Article I, Section 4 as follows:

A membership may be converted to a membership as joint tenants with right of survivorship upon the written request by the holder and the agreement by the holder and the persons becoming ~~tenants in common or~~ joint tenants with right of survivorship to comply with the articles of incorporation, these bylaws and policies, rules and regulations adopted by the board of directors applicable thereto.

9. Delete the second sentence of Article III, Section 4 in its entirety.

10. Delete the third sentence of Article III, Section 5 in its entirety.

11. Amend the last sentence of Article VII, Section 9 as follows:

The rights of the cooperative under the security interest hereby granted may be exercised in the event of the default in payment by the patron of the patron's obligations, or in the event of the bankruptcy of the patron, and such indebtedness of the patron shall be subtracted from the capital allocat-

ed and credited to the patron in any retirement thereof made hereunder to said patron or to his estate, heirs, or surviving joint member(s).

**PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NO. 2:**

**Summary:** Current bylaw language suggests that a member is required to vote in director elections and required to vote for as many candidates as there are open seats. Such interpretation is inconsistent with a typical democratic cooperative election practice, past practice at the Cooperative and the likely intent of the bylaws. As such, the following amendment is proposed to confirm that members are not required to vote in director elections and, where members choose to vote, they may limit their vote to any number of candidates up to the number of open seats.

**Amendment:**

- Amend the first sentence of the second paragraph of Article IV, Section 3 as follows:**

Election shall be by a singular ballot for all open seats, with each [participating](#) member casting votes for [up to](#) the same number of candidates as there are seats up for election.

**PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NO. 3:**

**Summary:** Several provisions of the bylaws are obsolete due to changes in law or modern practice. This proposed amendment 1) removes references to membership certificates which have been replaced by modern record-keeping, 2) removes a requirement that the Cooperative produce service area maps which can now be readily determined from a variety of sources, and 3) removes language requiring surety bonds for officers, which is no longer required by the Cooperative’s insurer or otherwise necessary.

**Amendment:**

- Delete the text of Article I, Section 2 in its entirety and replace the same with “[Reserved](#)”.**

- Delete the last sentence of Article I, Section 4.**
- Amend the first sentence of Article I, Section 7(b) as follows:**  
Upon the withdrawal, death, cessation of existence or expulsion of a member, the membership of such member shall thereupon terminate, ~~and the membership certificate of such member shall be cancelled forthwith.~~
- Delete the text of Article II, Section 2 in its entirety and replace the same with “[Reserved](#)”.**
- Amend Article VI, Section 4(b) as follows:**  
~~sign, with the Secretary, certificates of membership, the issue of which shall have been authorized by the board or the members, and may~~ sign any deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, notes, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the board to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the board or by these by-laws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and
- Amend Article VI, Section 6(c) as follows:**  
overseeing the safekeeping of the corporate books and records and the seal of the Cooperative and affixing the seal of the Cooperative ~~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 authorized in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws;
- Delete the text of Article VI, Section 6(e) in its entirety and replace the same with “[reserved](#)”.**
- Delete the text of Article VI, Section 9 in its entirety and replace the same with “[Reserved](#)”.**



**TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

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**Tuesday, June 23**  
**Centennial Community Center**  
**Stetsonville, WI**

- Registration begins at 4:30 p.m
- Dinner served starting at 4:30 p.m.
- Business meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

# MAY ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



## ROOM BY ROOM CHECKLIST

Check these monthly to keep your home and family safe.

### Kitchen

- Clean refrigerator coils and allow space for airflow.
- Store and use appliances away from the sink.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or frays.
- Keep cords off counters; unplug when not in use.

### Bedroom

- Place and test smoke and CO detectors on every level and near sleeping areas.
- Keep cords out from under rugs or furniture.
- Unplug devices and chargers when not in use.
- Make sure lightbulbs are the correct wattage.
- Plug window AC units into a dedicated circuit.

### Basement

- Ensure washer and dryer are stable and ventilated.
- Remove dryer lint after each use.
- Set water heater to 120°F or lower.
- Have furnace inspected and confirm proper ventilation.

### Bathroom

- Keep appliances away from water (sink, toilet, tub, shower).
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.

### Living Room

- Use safety caps on unused outlets, especially if children or pets are present.
- Ensure electronics have space for airflow.
- Replace cracked light switch or outlet covers.
- Avoid overloading outlets, power strips and surge protectors.

### Garage

- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or damage.
- Unplug tools and appliances when not in use.
- Place garage refrigerators/freezers on dedicated appliance circuits.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

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