

Steps to Becoming an OEC Board Trustee

Step 1: Check the June issue of the Co-op News magazine for the official notice of board filing

Any member desiring to run for the office of Trustee from the district of his/her residence must file a written Notice of Candidacy on a form provided by the cooperative during a filing period each June inside OEC's headquarters in Norman, per OEC By-Laws.. Only members filing Notice of Candidacy and Intention to Stand for Election during the published time period shall be eligible for election at his/her District Meeting. No nominations from the floor can be accepted.

Step 2: Attend the June board meeting

Any trustee that has filed for candidacy is asked to attend the June board meeting, typically the fourth Tuesday in June to confirm they meet all the requirements of being a trustee based on the By-Laws. This also provides an opportunity to ask questions to the board to obtain a clear understanding of the board's role.

Step 3: Attend the District Meeting

Typically scheduled for an evening on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday in mid-July, all candidates who have completed steps 1 and 2 must attend the District Meeting to stand for election. A quorum — a minimum of 5 percent of the district's memberships — must be present in order for an election to take place. OEC's quorum requirement of 5 percent is the lowest allowed by state law. An example of a 5 percent quorum with our average number of members per district (4,858) would be 243 members. OEC's legal counsel verifies quorum has or has not been met.

In the event that a quorum is not reached at the district meeting, the decision, per OEC By-Laws (Article IV, Section 4.05), reverts back to the sitting Board of Trustee members to appoint the representative for the district at their next board meeting.

Step 4: Appointed or elected trustee is sworn in at Annual Meeting

The appointed or elected trustee must attend OEC's Annual Meeting, typically held the second Friday in August. At the Annual Meeting, the three newly appointed or elected trustees are sworn in to a three-year term.