



# Meet the Candidates

## 2020 Board Election

The CVEA Board of Director elections are fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by April 2, along with candidate biographies and your official annual meeting notice.

To be counted, return ballot envelopes must have a valid signature and be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

Candidates have been nominated via the petition process. You, as a CVEA member, will soon have the opportunity to exercise your right to vote. Please exercise this right.

Per CVEA Bylaws, a minimum of 10 percent of the district membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election. For this reason, even though there is only one candidate for the single open seat in

Valdez, the co-op still needs you to vote.

All valid ballots returned by the deadline will be entered to win a \$50 CVEA energy credit.

To learn about the candidates, they were asked to respond to three important questions. The questions are listed here and the candidate responses follow.

### **Question 1**

What knowledge, skills, and experience will you bring to CVEA's Board of Directors?

### **Question 2**

What do you feel are the co-op's biggest challenges in the next five years?

### **Question 3**

How will your knowledge/skills and experience contribute to overcoming the co-op's biggest challenges?



**Tod Hand**  
**Copper Basin District**

**Question 1**

I feel that my years of troubleshooting and problem solving will be an asset. I generally work well with others in a team situation and like to engage people.

**Question 2**

Our biggest challenge is to continue to bring down the Co-op's long term debt while keeping member costs as low as possible. People need to see more local workers when the opportunity is there.

**Question 3**

How my knowledge and experience will contribute is unknown until I am up to speed with the Board.

**Question 1**

I was raised and have lived in the Copper Valley and Prince William Sound areas for 45 years. I understand the unique challenges of working and doing business here. I have worked over 20 years in the utility industry as a telephone lineman and in supervisory roles. I am a self-employed business owner.

**Question 2**

Some of the challenges are:

- Continued development of renewable and alternative power sources
- Working with state and federal agencies to bring more reliable and sustainable low-cost energy

- Enhancing hydroelectric production, managing regulations and the economic impact on the power industry, and providing critical infrastructure for growth and higher power demands

**Question 3**

I served as an appointed board director for the past year and underwent board certification training. I have learned Co-op policies and procedures, and how to think outside the box to find creative solutions to the challenges before us. I have listened, allowing me to come to reasonable decisions and weigh the pros and cons of given situations.



**Mark Shorten**  
**Copper Basin District**



**Jeff Saxe**  
**Valdez District**

**Question 1**

As an owner and operator of Eagle's Rest RV Park for the past 29 years, I bring business knowledge to the Board. I've served on the CVEA Board since 2005 and have watched the Co-op grow to new heights with the construction of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project.

**Question 2**

The biggest challenges I see for the future of our Co-op are federal regulatory changes impacting the members' bills and fuel prices.

**Question 3**

I will strive to stay current on new regulations as we are coming up on the relicensing of the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project. Having past knowledge of how this process works, I will be able to help our Co-op, through the Board of Directors, make the decisions necessary and allow no major changes take effect that will negatively impact our members.