

Sawnee EMC

2024 Frequently Asked Questions – District Meetings

Last Revised: 05/06/24

<u>Frequently Asked Questions</u>	<u>Answer</u>
1.) What is the purpose of a Sawnee EMC District Meeting?	Sawnee EMC is a cooperative, and as such, is democratically controlled by the members. The Sawnee members elect representatives to serve on the cooperative's Board. A District Meeting is a meeting of the members of a particular district that is held so those members can elect "who" will represent the members of that district on the SEMC Board.
2.) How often does Sawnee EMC hold a District Meeting?	It is possible to have as many as three (3) District Meetings each year. Three (3) of Sawnee's nine (9) directorate districts are eligible each year, on a rotating basis, as outlined in the Bylaws. The Bylaws do not require Sawnee to hold a District Meeting when there is <u>not</u> a contested director election in an eligible district.
3.) Who can participate in a District Meeting?	Only those individuals or entities who are listed as a "member" in the district where the election is being held, may participate. Also, they must be a "member" as of the election record date in their district. A district is defined by a geographic area outlined in the Sawnee EMC Bylaws (See Section 4.03, "Directorate Districts").
4.) Are <u>only</u> the members who are assigned in a particular district, allowed to vote for a representative in that District Meeting?	Yes. Each member of Sawnee EMC has a designated directorate district and can <u>only</u> cast their vote for a representative in their assigned district. There are requirements that govern "who" is defined as the member, "where" their district is located, and "when" the cut off for participation occurs (e.g., the election record date), so be sure to ask about these requirements if you're not sure.
5.) What are the dates of the District Meetings that could potentially be held in 2024, and what would be the location of each?	For 2024, elections <u>could</u> potentially occur in the following three (3) districts, as provided for by the Bylaws of the Cooperative: <ul data-bbox="1037 1214 1612 1317" style="list-style-type: none">• District #1 (Birmingham) – September 3, 2024• District #4 (Dougherty) – September 4, 2024• District #6 (Matt) – September 5, 2024 Based on the Bylaws of the Corporation, a notice will be provided to the members of record of these districts if an election is to occur. This notice will provide the location of these meetings.



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6.) Is there a situation where we could <u>NOT</u> hold a district meeting in a given year?	Yes. Sawnee’s Bylaws provide that the Corporation is not required to incur the expense of holding a district meeting if there is only one (1) individual seeking the office of director for a directorate district that is up for consideration in a given year.
7.) How do name(s) of candidates get considered by the members of a district?	The Bylaws provide that potential candidates are considered by the following two (2) methods: 1.) The Committee on Nominations and 2.) The Petition process. A Committee on Nominations, comprised of three (3) Sawnee EMC members from that district and who are not seeking the office of director, is appointed to place a name(s) before the membership in a district for consideration.
8.) How will I know if there is going to be a District Meeting in my area this year?	In addition, the Bylaws of Sawnee EMC allow for member petitions to be submitted separate from the Committee on Nominations process. Certain deadlines apply to the petition process, and you should ask for these dates if you are not sure when they are to occur. You will receive an “Official Notice” by U.S. mail announcing the meeting and providing you with important information pertaining to the election process, including background information on each of the candidates who are seeking the position of Director in your district, voting instructions / limitations, early voting information and other instructions applicable to this meeting. A reminder postcard will also be sent to qualified members of records reviewing the key components of the election (e.g. meeting location, registration times, etc.). Remember, the Official Notice is only sent when an “actual” district meeting is to occur.
9.) How can I vote at the District Meeting if there is an election?	In order to vote, the membership must be in your name, must be assigned to the district in which a contested election is to occur, and you must be a member as of the record date. Members of a directorate district where an election is to occur will have the ability to cast their votes in either of the following manners: 1.) attend the district meeting and vote in person, or 2.) visit the designated “early voting” site and cast their



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10.) How can I learn what District I am located in?	<p>ballot in person. The Official Notice will provide additional information about the associated activities.</p> <p>This assignment is readily available by either 1.) calling Sawnee EMC and asking for it, or 2.) you can learn of your assigned SEMC directorate district by utilizing our web-based tools located at our director election web site. For your convenience, you can also obtain this information from the maps (pdf images) located on our director election web site.</p>
11.) How can I vote early should there be an election in my district?	<p>Early voting was approved by the members of Sawnee EMC on October 2, 2010. The Bylaws provide that the District Meeting Credentials and Election Committee will establish the method and manner in which, among other things, early voting is to occur. The Official Notice will provide additional information about this and other associated activities.</p>
12.) Where can I learn more about the District Meeting process and activities?	<p>We have many items on our web site to assist you in having a better understanding of the process and schedules associated with the potential District Meetings. You can click on the “Contact Us” link, call our office, or drop us a written note to our physical address (543 Atlanta Road, Cumming, Ga., 30040). Finally, you can email us at customerservice@sawnee.coop if that is more convenient. We will be glad to answer any questions that you may have or assist you in obtaining additional information that is not readily available online.</p>
13.) What measures have been instituted to ensure the election process is “fair”, “open” and “transparent”?	<p>The director election process is governed by rules contained in SEMCs Bylaws that were adopted by, and may only be amended by, SEMC’s members. The staff and Board are committed to following these rules in a way that meets our member’s expectations and provides clear and concise information, in plain English, about the director nomination and election process, including advance notice of all relevant deadlines. The Board has also adopted policies that prohibit the staff from interfering with, or influencing the outcome of, a director election. Also, individuals such as the members of the Credentials and Election Committee and others who are not seated directors, director candidates, or staff members of SEMC, are involved in the director election process to ensure it meets the requirements of the bylaws and the policies of</p>

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14.) Is there an “independent” body involved in the election process that is not a member of the staff, Board of Directors or a candidate for the office of director?	the Corporation. Finally, the bylaws provide for a challenge or appeal process when a member feels they, or others, were treated unfairly.
15.) What role does the election teller play in the process?	Yes. The Bylaws require that a committee comprised of independent SEMC members serve as the District Meeting Credentials and Election Committee (“Committee”). This Committee establishes election procedures, ensures compliance with the Bylaws and rules on any questions that might arise about a director election. The Committee has the final authority in all matters relative to the district meeting and the director election process.
15.) What role does the election teller play in the process?	Election Tellers (Tellers) are individuals, usually three (3) people per candidate, that are selected by each director candidate to assist the Credentials and Election Committee during the director election. The Tellers witness the election process and assist the Committee in the counting and tabulation of the votes.
16.) Who can I talk to if I have concerns about the election results or the way the election was conducted?	The Bylaws provide in Article 4, Section 4.10, that SEMC members can file a protest or an objection concerning the director election with the Credentials and Election Committee. Such protest must be filed within the time frames stated in the Bylaws (see Article 4, Section 4.10 of Sawnee’s Bylaws) to be considered valid. The Committee must meet to consider the matter, rule on the question, and file a report on their actions.
17.) When could a “run-off” election be needed?	The Bylaws of the Corporation provide for a run-off election when two (2) or more candidates are in a director election race and one (1) of the candidates does <u>not</u> receive a majority (defined as 50% plus 1 vote) of the votes cast. If this occurs, the two (2) candidates receiving the most votes will then go to a run-off election.
18.) Who oversees the run-off election process and sets the dates for the various events?	The Directorate District Credentials and Election Committee is charged with undertaking and supervising the run-off election and associated events. Early Voting is allowed in the run-off election, if approved by the Directorate District Credentials and Election Committee. The Board is to set the various dates for any directorate district run-off meeting(s), and the C & E Committee is to sanction these dates.

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19.) What controls when the run-off election would occur?	The Bylaws provide that this run-off election must occur <u>no sooner than 30 days and no later than sixty (60) days</u> from the Directorate District Meeting in which the run-off is required, and for 2024 it would be as follows:
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<u>District</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>30 days</u>	<u>60 days</u>
Birmingham (#1)	Sept. 3, 2024	Oct. 3, 2024	Nov. 2, 2024
Dougherty (#4)	Sept. 4, 2024	Oct. 4, 2024	Nov. 3, 2024
Matt (#6)	Sept. 5, 2024	Oct. 5, 2024	Nov. 4, 2024

What is the schedule of events for a 2024 run-off election process, if it is needed?	For 2024, the following dates have been approved in support of the events that will be needed for a run-off election, if required:
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1. Record date for notice and voting (Official Notice on October 3, 2024 and Participate in the Election on October 11, 2024)
2. Mail Run-off Official Notice to All Members of Record in District(s) – October 7, 2024 (Monday)
3. Early Voting Begins for All Districts – October 16, 2024 (Wednesday)
4. Early Voting Ends for All Districts – October 18, 2024 (Friday)
5. Runoff District Meeting(s)
 - District #1 (Birmingham) – October 22, 2024 (Tuesday)
 - District #4 (Dougherty) – October 23, 2024 (Wednesday)
 - District #6 (Matt) – October 24, 2024 (Thursday)

