



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

America's Electric Cooperatives Post-Election Priorities

With the midterm elections in the rearview mirror, Twin Valley Electric is looking ahead at the impact and opportunities for rural America and electric cooperatives.

Electric co-ops across the nation played an active role in the midterm election and worked to get to know each candidate running for federal, state and local offices. This was particularly important since more than 60 members of Congress decided to retire or run for other office.

Through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan political engagement effort led by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, more than 100 candidates attended electric cooperative functions or met with co-op staff. Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. reminded cooperative members through social media posts and *Kansas Country Living* magazine articles important dates leading up to

the primaries and general elections including voter registration dates and where to access candidate information.

As we get to know our new elected officials, Twin Valley Electric will continue advocating for policies that protect local business interests and advance the quality of life in southeast Kansas.

There are several opportunities for our elected leaders to find common ground and advance legislation to benefit our community.

Improving our nation's aging infrastructure is a great place to start. Congress and the White House should explore an infrastructure package that benefits all Americans, especially those

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Reed Metzger

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations. **Source: energy.gov**

Post-Election Priorities Continued from page 16B

at risk of being left behind in rural America. And this investment in critical infrastructure needs to go beyond roads and bridges. Congress should leverage an infrastructure package to help maintain and modernize the electric grid and connect rural communities to the modern economy.

The new Congress also presents an opportunity to expand access to high-speed internet service in rural communities that currently lack it. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 23 million rural Americans lack access to broadband internet—most of them are members of an electric co-op. Roughly 100 electric co-ops are working to close the digital divide by bringing broadband to their communities.

Despite that progress, an expanded combination of grants and loans is necessary to continue providing rural communities with the wherewithal for education, telemedicine and a

21st century economy. Everyone—the Trump administration and both Democrats and Republicans in Congress—agrees on the need to bolster rural broadband.

A third area of possible bipartisan agreement lies in the need to produce a new farm bill. The farm bill, which authorizes numerous rural economic development programs, traditionally has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. Although the House and Senate have passed very different versions of a farm bill this year, we're hopeful that lawmakers can come to an agreement on a compromise bill that promotes rural economic development and protects Rural Utilities Service electric loan funding on which electric co-ops depend.

Electric cooperatives like Twin Valley Electric are engines of economic development in the four counties they serve. And we are proud to continue working toward a brighter and more prosperous rural Kansas and rural America.

Working on the LINE



Employees and their families brave the cold and participate in the Parsons and Altamont Parades. Back row: Tylee Trollope, Gage Winters and Brea Robison. Front row: Corbin Myers, Alice Myers and Megan Hanigan.

When Winter Winds Howl, Power Lines Can Gallop

Severe weather with strong winds can cause damage to trees, buildings, and electrical equipment. While power lines can sway in high winds, add freezing rain or icy conditions and the result can be galloping power lines.

Galloping is the bouncing or bucking movement of overhead lines and can cause several problems, from temporary power interruptions to equipment damage, the collapse of power poles and downed lines.

Galloping lines often result from ice buildup on one side of the power line due to strong winds. The buildup of ice creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the line, causing bouncing wires, or galloping power lines.

There isn't much utility workers can do until the wind dies down. That's why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These help reduce galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

If you see galloping power lines:

- ▶ **Keep your distance**—ice can break off or power lines can break loose.
- ▶ **Contact Twin Valley Electric at 866-784-5500** to let us know of the potential damage as soon as possible.

If you see a downed line:

- ▶ **Stay far away and warn others** to stay away too.
- ▶ **Remember, a downed line can remain energized** even if it is not sparking or arcing.
- ▶ **Always report the location** of a downed power line and damaged electrical equipment.

In the event of an outage, be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit should include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first-aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries and toiletries.

