

## Candidates

### District 1



"My name is **Carla Delp** and I represent McCone Electric Cooperative members in the northern part of our service area. My husband Robin, along with our two sons, own and operate a farm/ranch near Vida, MT. I taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade in Glendive, MT before we moved. I have served on the Board of Directors for McCone Electric Cooperative for the past six years and currently serve as President of the Board. In the past six years, I have taken several educational classes and earned my Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate. It is very important to me that I continue learning so that I can make educated decisions concerning the future of McCone Electric Cooperative. I am currently working on my Board Leadership Certificate. With all the challenges facing the energy markets, it is important that we are informed so that we can better provide affordable, reliable service to all."

1. **What makes our mission meaningful to you?** "High-quality power at low costs is very important to me. As ranchers, almost everything we do revolves around electricity in some way or another."
2. **What experience and education would you bring as Director?** "I would bring six years as a Director, Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, Board President, and thirty years of owning farm/ranch business."
3. **What do you see as the Directors' role in the Co-op?** "As a director, I would strive to continue improving quality performance within the cooperative, while maintaining reliable and affordable electric rates."
4. **What would you like to add?** "I have no agenda. If elected, I pledge to help keep McCone Electric Co-op operating efficiently, and continue to serve the changing needs of our members."

### District 1



"My name is **Rex Sikveland**. I am running for McCone Electric Co-op Board. I have spent many dedicated years with McCone Electric and have recently decided to work full-time on our farm and business, 41 Grains. I still have a great passion for our Co-op and would like to be part of making positive decisions for our consumers and employees. I started my career in the Co-op world, where I spent seven great years with Mid-Rivers. Before moving to McCone Electric, I started as a Lineman, then the Line-Forman, and finished my 18 years as the Operations Manager. With my years of experience and extensive knowledge of Co-ops, I believe my expertise in how Co-ops work, having worked in many different positions within a Co-op, would greatly benefit McCone Electric Consumers."

Having spent 25 years working in local Co-ops, as a construction worker at Mid-Rivers to an operations manager at McCone Electric, gives me a unique perspective in making knowledgeable decisions that will benefit our community, which includes consumers and employees. I have a great passion for our Co-op and want to stay proactive and educated to help make positive decisions for the future to help our local community."

*(No answers to the four questions submitted.)*

### District 2



**Todd Tibbitts**

1. **What makes our mission meaningful to you?** "As stated in mission statement change is inevitable, we would need to stay ahead of the curve to provide the best power experience to our members."
2. **What experience and education would you bring as Director?** "Having left Montana, furthered education at MSU and UNL working in industry and agriculture I will be able to represent members with the utmost integrity."
3. **What do you see as the Directors' role in the Co-op?** "I see the directors only having one employee reporting to them, the manager. If there are issues the board must work with the manager to resolve issues."
4. **What would you like to add?** "Thank you for considering me for this position, your support will be appreciated. I have a diverse experience background that I can offer for our success."

*(No Bio submitted.)*

## Candidates

### District 2



"My name is **Ken Ehli** and I would like consideration for a third term on the McCone Electric Co-op, Inc. Board of Directors for District 2. As an active community member, I feel I am an ideal candidate for the position. I have lived in the McCone Electric Co-op, Inc. service area for over fifty years and am committed to ensuring there continues to be a healthy future. I believe I am beneficial in making decisions and would honor the opportunity to continue lending support.

I have lived in Circle most of my life. I graduated from Circle High School in 1973 and married my wife of forty-seven years. We have two daughters, both grown and married. In 2013, I retired from Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative after thirty-five years of dedicated employment, where I was involved in the design and placement of services in the Mid-Rivers District 2 service area. I have extensive knowledge and experience with the marketing, supply, construction, engineering, repair, and maintenance surrounding cable television, telephone, and internet.

Since retirement, I have assisted the Town of Circle City Services with all aspects of Town operation, maintenance, and I was Mayor for the Town of Circle, serving two terms. In 2014 and 2015 I worked with a regional auditing firm doing equipment and implement audits. I have been involved in the processes and decision making of the McCone Electric Board of Directors since 2017.

I feel I have the time to dedicate and the ambition needed to serve. I want to give back to the community and area I have lived in all my life and would like to continue to have an active role on the McCone Electric Co-op, Inc. Board of Directors. Thank you for your time."

1. **What makes our mission meaningful to you?** "McCone Electric promises all members reliable power at fair rates. Stable power is vital to safety, growth, and quality of life, and everyone has a voice."
2. **What experience and education would you bring as Director?** "I have 40+ years' background in marketing, supply, engineering, construction, operation, maintenance, audits, and repair in cooperative organizations."
3. **What do you see as the Directors' role in the Co-op?** "Participating in decision making and the development of policies to ensure a healthy future. Working with management to maintain a constructive environment."
4. **What would you like to add?** "I would like to give back to the local communities I have lived and worked in all my life. I believe in co-op and the benefits they bring to our neighbors."

### District 2



"I am **Craig Lewis** and I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation rancher south of Lindsay. Our ranch was established in 1889 and members of my family were founding members of McCone Electric Cooperative. Along with running my cow-calf operation with my son, I spent 20 years in the aluminum smelting industry and 13 years in the oil refining business in various management positions. I received a degree in Computer Science with minors in Math and Business Administration from Dickinson State University.

I am a big supporter of the cooperative model. Our coop was born from the innovative idea that all people, even rural folks, should have access to reliable and affordable power. That's a mission that I believe our coop has upheld since its founding in 1942.

However, as we face a complex and increasingly costly energy future, we need innovative and forward-thinking solutions to reduce costs and keep energy bills manageable for our rural communities. Our livelihoods depend on it. As a longtime member and supporter of the co-op, I want to contribute towards finding solutions that benefit all members of the co-op and keep rates affordable into the future."

1. **What makes our mission meaningful to you?** "Providing affordable and reliable power to the community and to the next generations as we move into an uncertain future makes this work meaningful to me."
2. **What experience and education would you bring as Director?** "I earned a BS in Computer Science with Math and Business minors. Along with ranching, I have 33 years of management experience in aluminum and oil refining."
3. **What do you see as the Directors' role in the Co-op?** "To represent the interests of the members while also providing the staff with the resources they need to provide affordable and reliable power."
4. **What would you like to add?** "As we face a complex and increasingly costly energy future, we need innovative and forward-thinking solutions to reduce costs and keep energy affordable."