



VOTING OPTIONS ADDED

≡ for 2024 annual meeting ≡

There are many reasons to attend the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative on Sept. 28. You can learn more about the cooperative, and you'll get complimentary lunch and other goodies. You can enjoy a fall visit to Wall and the neighboring Badlands and Black Hills, as well.

In the past you also had to attend the annual meeting to vote in director elections and on any other cooperative business. That's changed this year as now members can vote electronically online or by mail in advance, as well as in-person during the meeting in Wall.

More members can participate

"Golden West looks forward to giving more members the opportunity to participate in co-op business by voting from the comforts of their home or business," says Golden West General Manager and CEO Denny Law.

"The co-op proudly serves members from Edgemont in the southwest to Trent in the east and most places in between. While a trip to Wall in the fall may be nice, it isn't feasible for everyone," Law says.

The Golden West Board of Directors voted to make this change following amendments to the organization's articles and bylaws that members approved in recent years. The cooperative is working with Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS) to manage this year's hybrid voting options. SBS provides dependable and secure voting systems for many types of organizations, including cooperatives.

Election and voting timeline changes

The move to multiple voting options requires a new timeline for director elections. The notice of vacancy will be published in newspapers and mailed to members in

affected districts during the second half of May. The last day to file a nominating petition is June 28.

If there are two or more valid candidates for the same open seat, voting in the required election will begin mid-August. At that time Golden West will mail members instructions for voting electronically online. Those who prefer to vote by mail must request a paper ballot.

Vote online or by mail before meeting

Golden West will include the member's Golden West member number in the letter detailing online voting instructions. For validation, online voters must enter their member number and the last four digits of the social security number, which must match what Golden West has on file. Non-individual entities will enter the last four digits of their tax identification number or TIN.

Ballots must be received by Sept. 24 either electronically or by mail to be counted. SBS will provide Golden West with certified election results from the electronic and mail-in ballots.

In-person voting at the annual meeting

To maintain the integrity of Golden West's one vote per member rule, only members who did not vote in advance will receive an authorization to vote slip at the annual meeting. Non-individual entities must follow the authorization to vote process in advance to vote in person at the meeting. Vote totals from in-person voting at the meeting on Sept. 28 will be combined with the electronic and paper mail-in by request vote totals to determine the final results.

More information about these new voting options will come in future issues of the Horizons newsletter, by mail, and through email, or visit goldenwest.com/voting.

72nd Annual
Meeting of the
Golden West
Telecommunications
Cooperative
Sept. 28, 2024