



# WCEC

WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Powering a brighter future since 1938. Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



87<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

# Meeting of Members

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025**

**EL CAMPO MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**4:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

# 2025

**ANNUAL REPORT**

## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR WCEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DETAILS ON PAGE 4 OF THIS REPORT



**RANDY TURNER**



**TRACY FLOYD  
(INCUMBENT)**

**DISTRICT 1**



**MATT LUTRINGER  
(INCUMBENT)**

**DISTRICT 4**



**RICK GRAFF**



**RYAN RECK**



**JOHN ROACH  
(INCUMBENT)**

**DISTRICT 7**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**John Roach**

Greetings to everyone! Once again, it is time for our Annual Meeting of Members. The drive-through meeting will be at the El Campo Middle School.

This past year has been challenging for the co-op with Hurricane Beryl. Beryl was costly to WCEC and our members.

I want to thank our neighboring co-ops, Texas Electric Cooperatives, and all of the contractors who helped restore power after the storm. Things could have been so much worse. Thank you again to TEC for the truckloads of supplies brought to us daily, for going above and beyond with food for our crews, and for helping to prepare and hand out meals. Thank you to the directors, employees, and the community for also keeping the crews fed.

Wharton County Electric Cooperative has always prioritized providing our members with reliable and economical electricity while maintaining superior service. WCEC focuses on strategic planning with the board and employees to seek new ways to provide better service and plans for the future.

Looking to the future, the grid in Texas is changing. Here in our service territory, you can see an increase in solar and wind energy. New technology and different ways to produce electricity for the future are unfolding.

I am pleased to say that due to the dedicated professionalism and knowledge of your WCEC Home Team, the cooperative is financially sound and doing well. I feel that we have met any challenges with success and have been able to adapt to changing times.

I appreciate the opportunity the members have given me to serve as a director for these past years. We can thank the employees and previous directors for their foresight on the de-regulation issue, which has resulted in our ability to keep the members' cost for electricity at a substantially lower level than customers of other providers. Our challenge is to continue these efforts to provide economical and reliable power. It will be an increasingly tricky path with more government regulations than we have previously. I hope to continue working with them and for our members in meeting these challenges.

Last but not least, I would personally like to thank my fellow board members and the employees of WCEC for a successful year and their dedication to moving the co-op into the future.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting of Members.



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

**Gary Raybon**

*"The Mission of Wharton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to provide economical and reliable electric energy service to our members and to provide products, services, and leadership that will have a positive influence on the economy of the area that we serve."*

The WCEC Mission Statement is the capstone on which we base all other policies at WCEC. The current Mission Statement was adopted over twenty years ago by the Board of Directors as part of a strategic planning session. At each subsequent strategic planning session, the Board reviewed the Mission Statement and felt it was still relevant and accurate. Like WCEC itself, it has stood the test of time.

Every day at WCEC, we juggle providing reliable electric service while keeping rates as economical as possible for our neighbors, friends, and family. While acknowledging that anything made by man can fail, we could build an electric system

with poles and conductors that withstand the harshest of conditions that mother nature could ever throw at it and redundancies to reduce outages to near zero, or we could put our entire system underground. However, the cost to do so would be so prohibitive that no one could afford their monthly power bills.

On the other hand, we could forgo routine maintenance and upgrades and have very low power bills, but our outage times would be astronomical, our system could not grow, and the members would come at us with pitchforks.

WCEC has a dedicated team of directors and long-term employees who answer to you, the members. They work day in and day out to strive to give the members of the Cooperative the best bang for the buck because, as locals, we have to face you in the produce aisle at H-E-B.

As always, thank you for allowing me to be part of the WCEC organization; if you need me, call me.

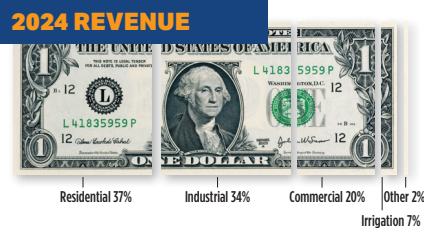
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## BALANCE SHEET

	As of 12/31/24	As of 12/31/23
<b>ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS</b>		
Total Utility Plant in Service	\$66,374,383	\$64,555,005
Construction Work in Progress	1,400,744	1,040,100
<b>Total Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$67,775,127</b>	<b>\$65,595,105</b>
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(11,038,605)	(10,854,849)
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$56,736,521</b>	<b>\$54,740,256</b>
Investment in Assoc. Org. - Patronage Capital	\$25,731,319	\$24,366,797
Cash - General Funds	\$328,295	\$490,245
Accounts Receivable - Sales of Energy (net)	2,540,007	1,662,129
Unbilled Revenue	29,451	98,184
Power Cost Recovery - Unbilled	141,881	72,146
Materials and Supplies	19,351	22,166
Other Current Assets	231,895	199,374
<b>Total Current and Accrued Assets</b>	<b>\$3,290,880</b>	<b>\$2,544,244</b>
Deferred Charges	\$700,770	\$826,405
<b>Total Assets and Equities</b>	<b>\$86,459,490</b>	<b>\$82,477,702</b>
<b>MARGINS AND EQUITIES</b>		
Memberships	\$21,575	\$21,275
Patronage Capital	44,464,839	42,279,255
Other Equities	163,159	164,017
<b>Total Margins and Equities</b>	<b>\$44,649,573</b>	<b>\$42,464,547</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS</b>		
Long-Term Debt	\$37,398,997	\$37,234,295
Accumulated Operating Provisions	38,905	36,405
Note Payable	1,500,000	200,000
Accounts Payable	1,598,474	1,372,882
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,273,542	1,169,573
<b>Total Liabilities and Other Credits</b>	<b>\$86,459,491</b>	<b>\$82,477,702</b>
<b>Equity as a Percent of Assets</b>	<b>51.642%</b>	<b>51.486%</b>
<b>Equity as a Percent of Capitalization</b>	<b>54.418%</b>	<b>53.281%</b>

## SUMMARY OF OPERATING STATEMENT

	As of 12/31/24	As of 12/31/23
Revenue	\$26,816,592	\$26,219,864
Less Cost of Power	17,314,599	17,803,136
Gross Margin	9,501,993	8,416,728
Distribution Expense - Operations	714,269	572,991
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	1,873,515	1,190,847
Consumer Accounting Expense	644,620	219,035
Customer Service & Information Expense	80,119	81,588
Sales Expense	379,273	344,692
Administration and General Expense	1,392,970	1,430,838
<b>Total Operations and Maintenance Expense</b>	<b>\$22,399,366</b>	<b>\$21,643,126</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION, TAX AND INTEREST EXPENSE</b>		
Depreciation and Amortization Expense	\$1,925,799	\$1,867,601
Interest Expense - Long-term Debt	1,844,281	1,783,202
Interest Expense - Other	52,571	8,613
<b>Total Depreciation and Interest Expense</b>	<b>\$3,822,651</b>	<b>\$3,659,416</b>
<b>Cost of Electric Service</b>	<b>\$26,222,017</b>	<b>\$25,302,542</b>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS</b>	<b>\$594,575</b>	<b>\$917,322</b>
Nonoperating Margins - Interest	\$34,362	\$37,227
Nonoperating Margins - Other	36,270	36,585
Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	1,245,589	1,652,759
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	274,786	429,016
<b>Patronage Capital or Margins</b>	<b>\$2,185,583</b>	<b>\$3,072,908</b>



# MINUTES OF 2024 MEETING

Wharton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. held its 86th annual membership meeting Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at the El Campo Middle School (ECMS) in El Campo, Texas. The school was chosen for its capability of allowing numerous vehicles in the registration line without hindering through traffic on the street. On May 1, 2024, each member of the cooperative was mailed, in the 86th Annual Meeting brochure, an Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members to be held May 29, 2024.

In light of the continuing success of drive-through annual meetings over the past four years, the Board of Directors of Wharton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. voted to again hold the annual membership meeting as a "drive-through." No meal was served.

Registration began at 3:30 PM. Upon entering the ECMS driveway, members paused at one of two registration tents where WCEC employees registered members and gave them a ballot that consisted of the Election of Directors and approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting, the 2023 Financial Report, and the President's Message and Manager's Report.

Members then drove to the front of the building for the second stop. Here each voting member received an attendance gift of a digital clock/phone charger. Any children in the vehicle received a coloring book, crayons, and a snack.

As members continued driving forward, the third and last stop was the ballot drop-off area. Here the Ballot Committee collected the ballots, and members then exited the parking lot.

At 7:00pm sharp, no further entries were allowed into the parking lot. Any members still in line were allowed to register and vote.

After all ballots had been collected, they were directed to the WCEC Thomas Edison Room to count the ballots with the assistance of Cynthia Hernandez, Manager of Accounting, and Mary Arredondo, Manager of Consumer Services to assist if needed. The Ballot Committee consisted of Joey Polak, District 1; Madelyn Zbranek, District 2; Keith Koudela, District 3; Debbie Lutringer, District 4; Lloyd Klatt, District 5; Nancy Lilie, District 6; Cheryl Roach, District 7; Mary Lou Ellett, District 8; and Nancy Pfeil, District 9.

The Director Nominees were: District 3 – Gary Charbula; Judy Peter, Incumbent; District 6 – Gus Wessels, Jr., Incumbent; Hector Gutierrez; District 9 – George "Buddy" Dornak, Jr., Incumbent, Gary Lamberth.

After all ballots had been counted, Ballot Committee Chairman Cheryl Roach certified winners of the Director Election. Those elected by simple majority vote were:

- District 3 – Gary Charbula
- District 6 – Gus Wessels, Jr.
- District 9 – George "Buddy" Dornak, Jr.

General Manager/CEO Gary Raybon called all candidates and notified them of the results.

The Approval Ballots were tallied with the following results:

- The Minutes of the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting were approved.
- The 2023 Financial Report was approved.
- The President's Message and Manager's Report were approved.

Each registered member will receive a \$20.00 bill credit that will be applied to the June billing period. A drawing for twenty-seven (27) prizes took place on Thursday, May 30th at the WCEC headquarters office on Facebook Live. All entries were included for the final grand prize drawings. Grand prize winners were: \$100 free electricity – Diamond Cleaning Equipment; \$150 free electricity – Wayne Kubala; \$200 free electricity – Daniel Foytik; \$300 free electricity – Greg Montello.

The final count of voting members was another successful record of 840.



# MEET THE CANDIDATES: DISTRICTS 1, 4, AND 7

## DISTRICT 1 -----



**RANDY TURNER**

"We're in for big changes in obtaining electricity from the atmosphere. Board members will have to navigate these changes as ineffective, costly, inefficient, and self-serving sources are weeded out, while other currently effective sources are melded with new technology."

Turner has been a WCEC member for 25-plus years. He graduated from Garwood High School and the University of Texas, earning a BBA in Finance. He obtained his CPA in 1985.

"I retired early to open a sporting clays range with my wife, Patsy. I lost her in an auto accident, which forced me to close the range. A few years later, a friend and I opened two nail salons (Garwood and Richmond) and a Houston restaurant."

Turner is a Nada Knights of Columbus and Garwood Lions Club member and has previously served on a condo board. He is a lecturer, eucharistic adorer and minister, and CCD teacher at St. Mary's Catholic Church.



**TRACY FLOYD**  
INCUMBENT

"Rural electrification is essential to the economic growth of agriculture operations, industrial plants, fisheries, and even solar and wind farms. As a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association certified director for WCEC, I have learned a great deal about

policies, strategic planning, regulatory issues, and the balance between competitive rates, reliable service, member satisfaction, and sound business practices. It is WCEC's priority to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power."

Floyd has been a WCEC member for 13 years. He and his wife, Lisa, have two teenage children. He graduated from Jacksonville Jr. College, attended Texas A&M University, and has a B.S. in Kinesiology from the University of Texas. Floyd now works in sales for BearCom Communications.

He is a member of the Garwood Lions Club, a committeeman on the HLSR Colorado County Area Go-Texan Committee, and a member of the Knights of Columbus #3371.

"As a committeeman with CCAGT, we work year-round to support the youth of Colorado County through several fund-raisers. This year, we will give high school seniors at Rice, Columbus, and Weimar close to \$100K in scholarships. As vice president, treasurer, and secretary of Garwood Lions Club, we are able to contribute over \$20K to local organizations, high school scholarships, county fair participants, etc. The club works hard to put on our annual Deer Hunt raffle and steak supper that gets huge support from the community and surrounding areas."

Floyd has served on the WCEC Board for three years and is a Credentialed Co-op Director

## DISTRICT 4 -----



**MATT LUTRINGER**  
INCUMBENT

"My name is Matt Lutringer, and I am the owner and operator of Matt's Appliance Service. As I near the end of my first term on the WCEC Board, I reflect on the invaluable experiences I've had. It has been an eye-opening journey, and I've gained a

deep appreciation for all that goes into keeping the lights on in our community.

Together with my fellow board members, we have worked hard to address the challenges of rising operational costs and ongoing litigation, all while striving to keep rates as low and fair as possible. We are fortunate to have dedicated employees and the right equipment in place to ensure smooth and efficient operations.

During Hurricane Beryl, our team faced a significant challenge. However, I am proud to say that our board and employees rose to the occasion. Thanks to their quick and skilled efforts, we were able to restore power in a timely manner. I had the opportunity to see how neighboring areas, like CenterPoint, struggled with outages lasting over a month. In comparison, we were incredibly fortunate that WCEC handled the situation so effectively.

There are so many exciting projects underway at the co-op, and as you may know, I'm always eager to talk about them with my customers, friends, and fellow members. It's important to me that our community stays informed and engaged, and I look forward to continuing that dialogue.

I respectfully ask for your vote as I seek re-election to the WCEC Board. I am committed to ensuring our co-op remains strong, efficient, and responsive to the needs of our members. Thank you for your continued support."

Lutringer has been a WCEC member for 30 years. He has two grown children and three grandchildren. He graduated from El Campo High School and Wharton County Junior College. He is self-employed at Matt's Appliance Service and a member of the KJT, SPJST, MSA, and the Sons of Hermann.

Lutringer has served on the WCEC Board for three years and is a Credentialed Co-op Director.



**RICK GRAFF**

"Electricity and the Internet have become necessities to our way of life. The reliability and economy of our grid are not guaranteed unless we work toward that end. STEC is our key in advocating for the improvement of our statewide grid. New nuclear power and our current coal plants are

necessary for our future prosperity. Reliable and affordable power will be my focus!"

Graff has been a WCEC member for 27 years. He and his wife, Keri, have two grown sons and two grandchildren. Graff graduated from Tidehaven High School and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&M University in Agricultural Economics and Management and Marketing. He is the owner of Triangle Cleaning.

"I am an active member and board member of First Methodist Church in El Campo, and I have been a small business owner for 31 years, serving Wharton, Jackson, Victoria, DeWitt, and Lavaca counties. Keri and I are blessed to live and work in this community. We have raised two sons, prospered in our businesses, and are thankful

**ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE:** WCEC Members are allowed one vote per membership. Even if you have multiple accounts, those accounts may be listed under one membership. In this case, you will only receive one ballot. If you have questions about your accounts, please call our office before the Annual Meeting at (979) 543-6271. **All WCEC members vote for the full slate of Board candidates regardless of which district they reside in.**

for the people of El Campo and Wharton County. And we are looking forward to the future."

He is a former Lion and Rotarian in both El Campo and Edna. Graff has previously served on the WCEC Board of Directors, acting as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, and President. He is a Credentialed Co-op Director and has served on the South Texas Electric Cooperative Board of Directors as a representative of WCEC.

**DISTRICT 7 -----**



**RYAN RECK**

"As a parent, it's very important that we have a stable electric system and Internet at night. Our kids rely on those connections to stay up late studying and completing projects and assignments. I grew up in El Campo and am a third-generation farmer. If asked by anyone, my answer is always 'yes' to help out in my community."

Reck has lived in the WCEC service territory for 10-plus years. He and his wife, Dr. Tess Crider, DVM, have three adopted children. Reck graduated from El Campo High School and Texas A&M University, earning a bachelor's in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Sciences. He is currently a farmer.

He is a St. Philip Catholic Church member, has served on the United Ag Board, and is currently on the El Campo Red Wave Swim Team board. He is also actively involved with El Campo Impact Volleyball Club and coaches volleyball at St. Philip School.



**JOHN ROACH**  
**INCUMBENT**

"I appreciate the opportunity the membership has given me to serve as a director these past years. We can thank the employees and previous directors for their foresight on the deregulation issue, which has resulted in our ability to keep the members' cost for electricity at a substantially lower level than customers of other providers. Our challenge is to continue these efforts to provide economical and reliable power. It will be an increasingly difficult path with more government regulations and skyrocketing costs, but I know the team at WCEC will do its due diligence to make the right choices as they have in the past. I hope to continue working with them and our members to meet these challenges. Thank you."

Roach has been a WCEC member for 37 years. He and his wife, Cheryl, have two grown daughters and five grandchildren. He graduated from El Campo High School and Wharton County Junior College, retired after 25 years at Hlavinka Equipment, and is now self-employed. He is a St. John's Catholic Church member and a volunteer for the Wharton County Youth Fair.

Roach has served on the WCEC Board for nine years and is the current President. He is a Credentialed Co-op Director. Roach also serves on the San Miguel Electric Cooperative Board of Directors as a representative of WCEC.



**2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
The 2024 Wharton County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and staff are (front, l-r) President John Roach, Matt Lutringer, (back) Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Kubala; Secretary/Treasurer Gus Wessels Jr.; George "Buddy" Dornak Jr.; Vice President Jim W. Harton; Tracy Floyd; Samuel Craig Hardin, Gary Charbula, and and General Manager/CEO Gary Raybon.

**Thank You To Our 2024 Board of Directors!**



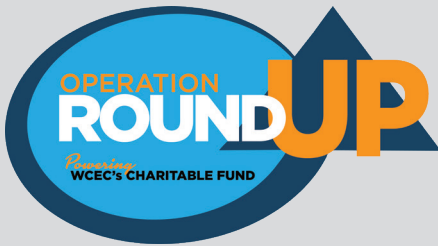
## 2025 GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR DELEGATES



**DUNCAN HARRIS**  
El Campo High School  
Son of  
Clayton & Ginger Harris  
District 9



**ALI ISHEE**  
Rice High School  
Daughter of  
William & Amanda Ishee  
District 1



## OPERATION ROUND UP 2024 CHARITABLE FUND DISTRIBUTION

Blessing Cup Storehouse  
Boys & Girls Club of El Campo  
Danish Heritage Center  
El Campo Art Association  
El Campo Community Events  
El Campo Heritage Center  
El Campo Lady Lions

El Campo Little League  
Garwood Volunteer Fire Dept.  
Gift of Adoption-Texas Chapter  
Gulf Coast CASA  
Helping Hands Ministry  
Manna Meals  
Rainbow Room

Texana Center  
The Crisis Center  
Wharton County Cares  
Wharton County Junior College  
Wharton County Youth Fair

## 2024 COBANK SHARING SUCCESS GRANT RECIPIENTS



**Danevang  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



**Garwood  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



**El Campo  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



**Louise  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



# EMPLOYEE SERVICE MILESTONES



**20 YEARS**

**TIM BOHUSLAR**  
Line Crew Foreman



**20 YEARS**

**MIRIAM PILOTO**  
Consumer Service Rep.



**20 YEARS**

**WILLIE STAVENA**  
Warehouseman



**10 YEARS**

**KEATON HUBBELL**  
Journeyman Lineman

## YOUR WCEC HOME TEAM

Brenda Moreno	47
Janice Kulcak	46
Mary Arredondo	44
Gary L. Raybon	41
Richard Arnett	38
Donald Priesmeyer	36
Vance Jaks	31
Keith Beal	28
Mario Manrriquez	26
Linda Bacak	26
Tim Bohuslar	20
Miriam Piloto	20
Willie Stavena (part-time)	20
Lee Wayne Roddy	19
Chris Cavness	17
Selena Delapena	13
Nathan Danielson	12
Dusty White	11

Keaton Hubbell	10
Ricky Garza Jr.	9
Brayden Payne	9
Daniel Gutierrez	9
Shelly Schulz	8
Gene Puryear	8
Lance Kolafa	8
Carol Diaz	7
Jayson McKeon	6
Ashley Wells	4
Shane Langston	3
Cynthia Hernandez	3
Joshua Reyes	2
Aric Wright	2
Casey Alvarez	1
Cole Falcon	6 months
Juan Nunez	6 months

## SHIRLY STUBBS FEINSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



### **ZOE SCHULZ**

Daughter of  
Shelly Schulz and  
the late Jeff Schulz

The Shirley Stubbs Feinstein Scholarship was initiated in 1987 by Frank N. Stubbs upon his retirement. Mr. Stubbs served as General Manager of Wharton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. from 1967-1987. The scholarship was funded initially through contributions made instead of retirement gifts to Mr. Stubbs and is in memory of his late daughter Shirley Stubbs Feinstein. The scholarship is only available to the children of WCEC employees. Since its formation, 50 children of WCEC employees have received a scholarship to further their education. In 2020, Mr. Stubbs' daughter and son-in-law, Sugar and Mike Barnes, made a generous donation to the scholarship's endowment fund, and the Shirley Stubbs Feinstein Endowment Fund was officially formed. This gift will ensure that Shirley Stubbs Feinstein will be honored for many years to come by WCEC and its employees.



# WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS | WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025

## OFFICIAL BALLOT

### DISTRICT 1: ✓ CHECK BOX NEXT TO ONE CANDIDATE IN THIS DISTRICT.



RANDY TURNER



TRACY FLOYD  
INCUMBENT

☐

WRITE-IN

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

✓ **VOTE FOR ONE CANDIDATE IN EACH DISTRICT REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU LIVE.**

Candidate information is available at [MyWCEC.coop/AnnualMeeting](http://MyWCEC.coop/AnnualMeeting)

### APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORTS

The following items were published in the May 2025 edition of Texas Co-op Power Magazine. They are also available online at [MyWCEC.coop/AnnualMeeting](http://MyWCEC.coop/AnnualMeeting).

✓ **PLEASE CHECK 'YES' OR 'NO' FOR EACH ITEM.**

I approve the Minutes of the 2024 WCEC Annual Meeting.

☐ YES ☐ NO

I approve the 2024 WCEC Financial Report.

☐ YES ☐ NO

I approve the President's Message and Manager's Message.

☐ YES ☐ NO

**DO NOT FOLD BALLOT**

### DISTRICT 4: ✓ CHECK BOX NEXT TO ONE CANDIDATE IN THIS DISTRICT.



MATT LUTRINGER  
INCUMBENT



RICK GRAFF

☐

WRITE-IN

### DISTRICT 7: ✓ CHECK BOX NEXT TO ONE CANDIDATE IN THIS DISTRICT.



RYAN RECK



JOHN ROACH  
INCUMBENT

☐

WRITE-IN

## MEETING PROCEDURE:

**ONE VOTE PER MEMBERSHIP.  
MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE.**

Drive through line will open at 4:00 p.m. Voting will end at 7:00 p.m. SHARP. No access to drive through line allowed after 7:00 p.m.

- Enter El Campo Middle School parking lot through the entrance on North Wharton Street. **See map below.**
- There will be multiple Registration stations in the ECMS parking lot. You will receive an Official Ballot for each membership. To speed up the drive through process, **please look over the sample ballot to determine your choices before the meeting.** Read more about the candidates on Page 4 of this report.
- Pick up your attendance gift and drop off your completed ballot with the Balloting Committee.
- Each voting member will receive a \$20 bill credit on their next month's bill and be entered into the prize drawing to be held at a later date. Winners will be contacted by phone.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**

