

OPALCO 2020 Election: Accepting candidates!



Timeline:

December 6: Nominations Open

January 22: Nominations by Committee Deadline

January 29: Candidates posted online and in OPALCO offices

February 17: Nominations by Petitions Deadline by 12 PST

February 21: Complete List of Candidates posted online and in
OPALCO offices

March 12: Candidate Forums on San Juan

March 13: Election opens; ballots mailed / emailed

April 15: Election closes at 10:00 am Pacific Time

April 18: Annual Meeting
Election results announced

OPALCO Rates for 2020

Increase Held at 3% - Board to Share Vision for Our Energy Future

When OPALCO members open their bills in January, they will be, on average, \$3.92 higher. Although rates were projected to increase 5-6% each year over the next five years, the Board decided to hold the increase to 3% in 2020 in order to give the membership a breather while we prepare for major investments in renewable energy in the coming years to meet the new carbon mandates.

With the high cost of living in the islands, OPALCO remains committed to bill paying assistance for households with low and fixed income. Project PAL has been restructured and will be administered through the three island resource centers. Energy Assist Credit will, once again, be adjusted to offset the service access charge increase.

The Co-op budget is tightly constrained: one-third for power costs; one-third for labor; and most of the final third in fixed costs such as plant, mortgage, depreciation, interest and operations. There are very few discretionary expenses. In order to minimize rate increases in 2020, the following programs have been reduced: County Fair (canceled), Youth Scholarship Program (scaled back),

Education and Outreach (scaled back). Capital projects that could be delayed have been shifted to future years. Programs like Switch it Up, Community Solar, Energy Efficiency Rebates and Fuel Switching Rebates will help position members and the Co-op for sustainability moving forward. The challenge of 2020 is to find ways to demonstrate OPALCO's vision for the future which balances renewable energy, affordability and daunting changes due to climate change.

If paying your power bill is a financial strain, OPALCO offers a monthly credit through the Energy Assist program. Qualified households can get a bill credit of \$31.41 - \$61.41 every month. And, if you show your Energy Assist credit (on your bill) to Rock Island, they will give you the same discount on your broadband services.

Learn more about how rates are determined and what trade-offs are considered at www.opalco.com/rates.

Read the full budget report at www.opalco.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2020-Budget-Report.pdf.

Questions about OPALCO?

Check out our growing library of quick facts:
www.opalco.com/quickfacts