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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meet the Candidates for LPEA's 2025 Board Elections *Co-op Launches Convenient Online Voting*

Durango, Colo. – (March 24, 2025) – La Plata Electric Association's (LPEA) independent election supervisory committee (ESC) has qualified candidates for the cooperative's 2025 Board of Directors election. LPEA has four director districts, established geographically, and LPEA's membership elects four representatives to the LPEA Board of Directors, one from each district.

Qualified candidates for the 2025 director elections are as follows:

- **District 1, Archuleta County:** Dusty Mars and Holly Metzler
- **District 2, South and West La Plata County:** Greg Barber, Brad Blake, and Terry Greiner
- **District 3, City of Durango:** David Peters and Joe Lewandowski
- **District 4, North and East La Plata County:** Lyle McKnight and John Witchel

Expanded Voting Options Now Available

LPEA is excited to announce the introduction of online voting for the 2025 board election. Paper ballots will still be mailed, and members will have the choice of how they'd like to cast their vote. Even if a member has opted out of receiving a paper ballot this year, per state statute, they will still receive the notice of the annual meeting by mail.

How to Vote:

Starting April 21 at 8:00 a.m. MDT, eligible voters will have multiple ways to cast their ballots:

- **Online via SmartHub:** Log in to your secure SmartHub account (where members pay their bills online). A "Vote Now" button will appear for eligible voters, allowing members to access the secure voting portal. Follow the instructions to complete and submit your electronic ballot. Once submitted, the "Vote Now" button will disappear. Members who

are signed up for Smarthub will receive an email when voting opens, containing a direct link to complete their ballot online.

- **Mail-in Ballots:** Paper ballots will be mailed to LPEA members in mid-April. Members can complete and return their ballots by mail or by 24-hour drop box at either LPEA office. **LPEA ballots can no longer be dropped at La Plata County or Archuleta County ballot boxes and must be received only at LPEA drop boxes at 45 Stewart Street in Durango or 603 S. 8th St. in Pagosa Springs.**
- **In-Person Voting:** Members may vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

The new online voting procedure prevents the possibility of duplicate votes and provides safeguards for an accurate vote count.

To be counted, online ballots must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. MDT on May 20, and paper ballots must be received by 4:00 p.m. MDT on May 20, 2025. Election results will be confirmed at LPEA's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 21, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Truck Barn at the LPEA Durango Office. For more information on LPEA's Annual Meeting and to RSVP go to <https://lpea.coop/annual-meeting>.

For more information about the 2025 director election, voting procedures, and candidate statements, visit lpea.coop.

Photos of candidates are available upon request.

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About LPEA

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 36,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.