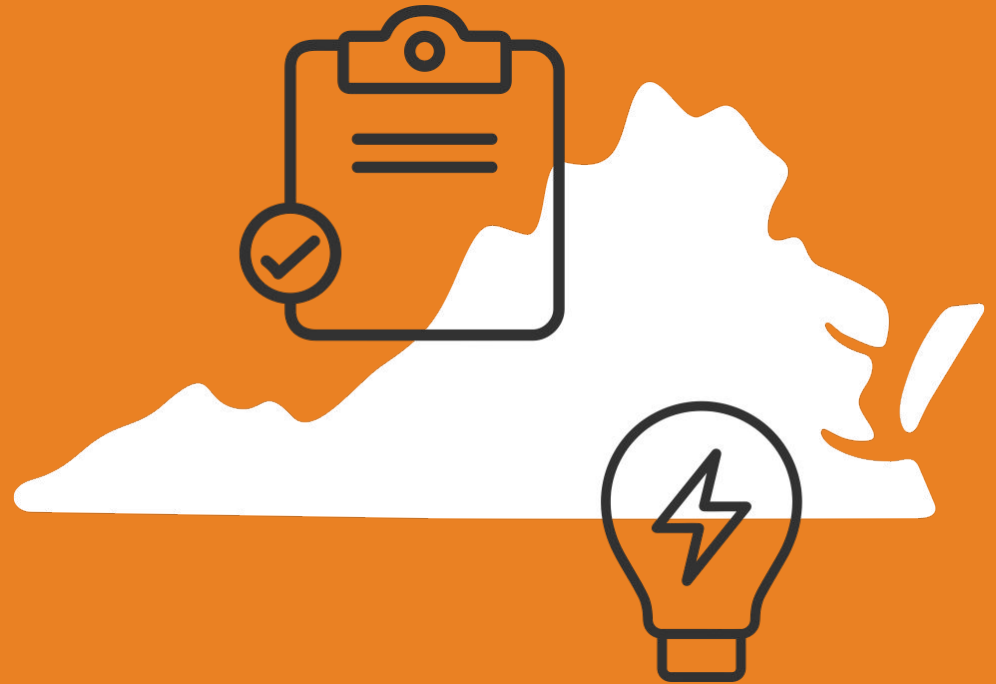


Virginia Electric Cooperative Governance Scorecard

SCORECARD GOAL:

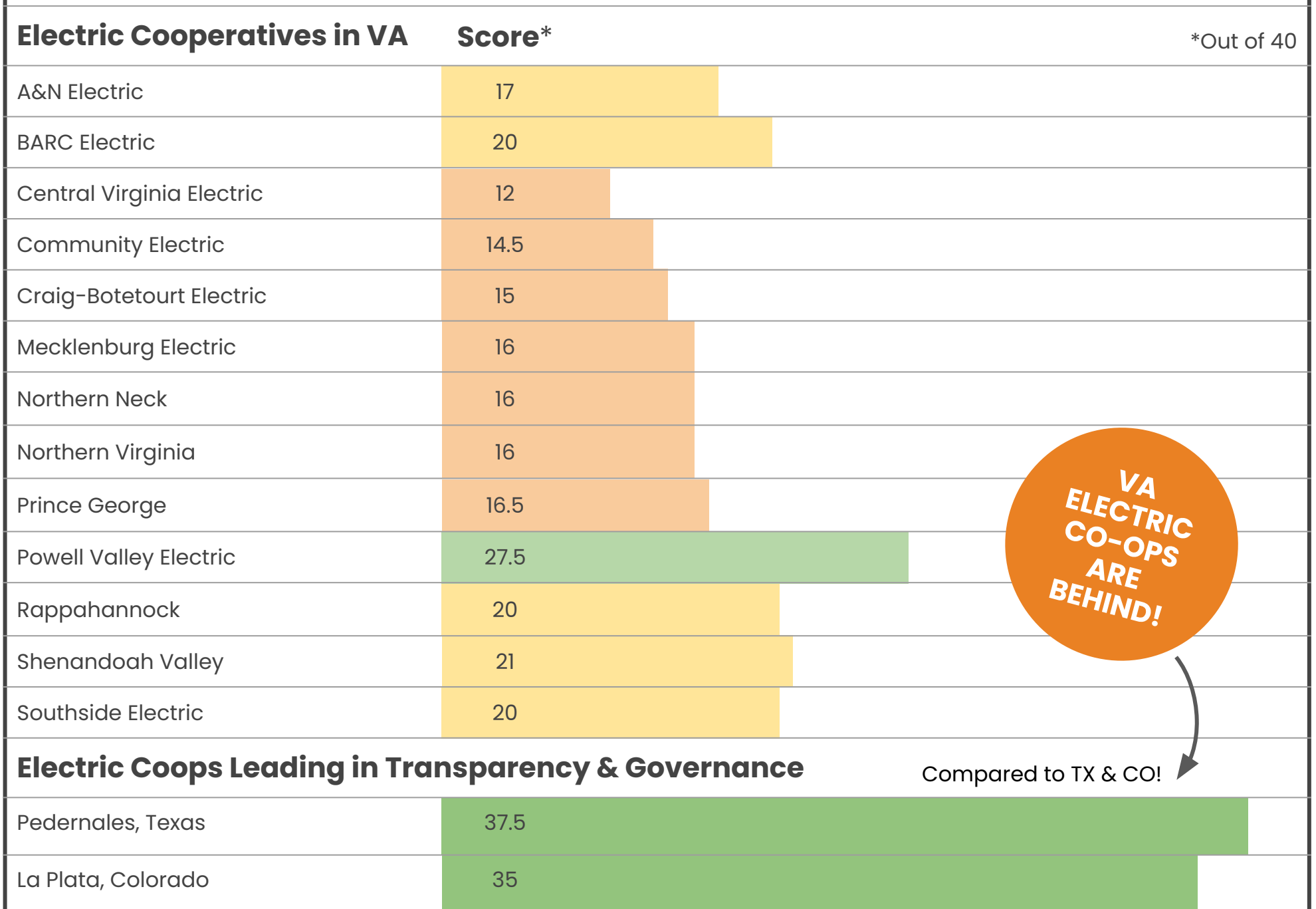
To highlight democratic participation challenges faced by electric cooperative member-owners in Virginia



COLLABORATION BETWEEN:



Virginia Electric Cooperative Governance Scorecard



*Download full report at solarunitedneighbors.org/LINKNAME

How Was This Scorecard Created?

1

Electric Co-ops were scored in these 4 categories:



Board Meetings *(out of 15)*



Bylaws *(out of 10)*



Elections *(out of 10)*



Info Accessibility *(out of 5)*

2

Individual category scores were tallied up to overall scores out of 40 points.

Grading Scale

33-40	Meets good governance standards
25-32	On the right track
17-24	Needs improvement
9-16	Deficient in many areas
0-8	Failing

Detailed Scorecard Breakdown

Electric Cooperatives in VA	Overall (40)	Board Mtgs (15)	Elections (10)	Bylaws (10)	Info Access (5)
A&N Electric	17	1	3	9	4
BARC Electric	20	4	3	10	3
Central Virginia Electric	12	0	1	7	4
Community Electric	14.5	0	1	10	3.5
Craig-Botetourt Electric	15	0	1	10	4
Mecklenburg Electric	16	0	2	10	4
Northern Neck	16	1	2	9	4
Northern Virginia	16	0	3	9	3.5
Prince George	16.5	0	3	10	3.5
Powell Valley Electric	27.5	9	4	10	4.5
Rappahannock	20	3	3	9	5
Shenandoah Valley	21	3	4	10	4
Southside Electric	20	3	3	10	4
Electric Coops Leading in Transparency & Governance					
Pedernales, Texas	37.5	15	10	7	5
La Plata, Colorado	35	13	7	10	5

HB 723– Virginia House Delegate Wendy Gooditis

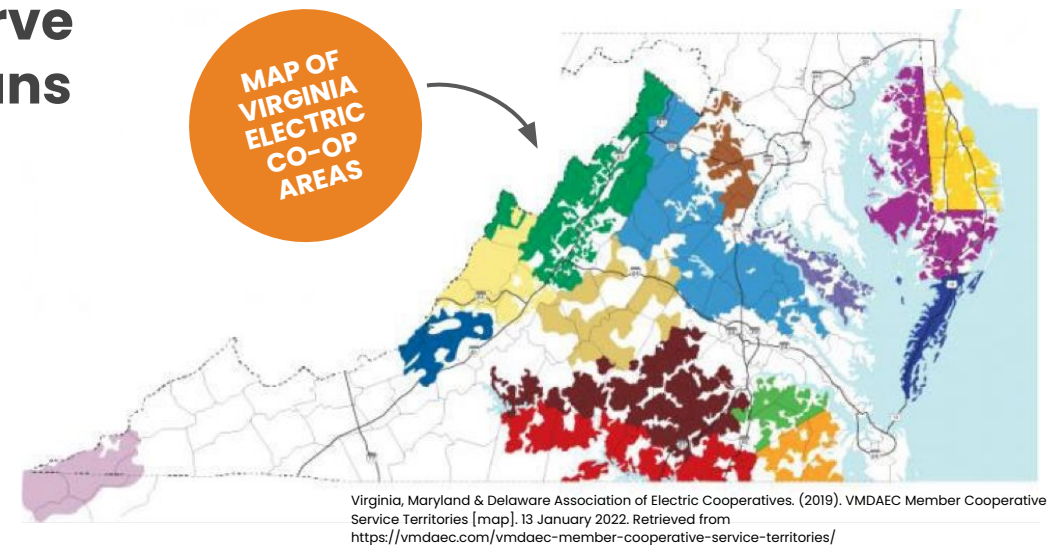
Protecting the rights of Virginia Electric Cooperative members

Electric cooperatives (co-ops) serve hundreds of thousands of Virginians & cover nearly one-third of the Commonwealth's geography.

Coops are essential service providers! They provide electricity & sometimes even broadband or communication services to their members.

What's The Problem?

Co-ops in Virginia operate as monopolies with relatively little independent oversight to protect consumers (co-op members). They claim to be democratic & self-regulated, but lock members out of key decisions affecting utility rates and service options. Only 1 of the 13 co-ops in Virginia allows members to observe board meetings. Many use proxy votes to tip the scales of board elections and render the democratic process void. Co-op members have few protections and accountability from their boards -- even though electricity is an essential service.



This has resulted in:

- ✗ “Surprise” rate hikes that harm low-income members
- ✗ Slow adoption of the money-saving technology and service options that members want
- ✗ Co-ops using member funds to lobby for political positions that aren't transparent or work against member interests

HB 723- Virginia House Delegate Wendy Gooditis

Protecting the rights of Virginia Electric Cooperative members

The solution is to support consumer protection legislation for electric cooperative members. Electric coops should be accountable & accessible to their member-owners.

There is wide, bi-partisan support for common sense reforms protecting electric cooperative members. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has issued recommendations that have been incorporated into HB 723.

House Bill 723 proposes these 3 reforms:



Open Board Meetings to
Member Owners



Eliminate Proxy Voting for
Fair Board of Directors
Elections



Transparency in Use of
Member Funds for Political
Lobbying