

GET TO KNOW YOUR 2024 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

BOARD DISTRICT 6

Pete Burmeister



Pete Burmeister, married to Erin with three daughters, brings a wealth of experience and dedication to ECI REC's director election. Pete obtained a BS in Ag Studies/Farm Business Management from Iowa State University and an MS in Animal Science from Western Kentucky University. Pete's 17-year tenure in the banking/lending sector, along with his current position as Relationship Officer at Farm Credit Services of America, bolsters his financial acumen. Alongside his banking career, Pete actively manages a family farm operation with his family spanning Benton, Black Hawk, and Buchanan counties. He is engaged in community service, contributing to the Benton County Cattleman Association Board and Scholarship Committee, the Independence Community School District Ag Education Council, and the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Independence. He enjoys golfing, boating, and sharing his passion for agriculture by showing steers with his daughters throughout the Midwest.

BOARD DISTRICT 8

Nick Donlea



Nick and his wife, Terri, raised three children – Cameron, Haley & Taylor. Nick graduated from Waldorf College with an AA has been in the building industry his entire career. His wife, Terri is a schoolteacher who loves interior design. Nick was elected to the ECI REC Board of Directors in 2018 and has served on other organizations within his community, including the Jesup Planning & Zoning Commission, Jesup Golf Course, and as a School Board Member with the Jesup Community School District. In his spare time, he coaches high school boys' basketball and builds wood projects for his house and family. He enjoys golfing, kayaking, yard work, and cheering on the Iowa football and basketball teams.

Brent Parks



Brent Parks and his wife Emily have two grown daughters and three grandchildren. Brent holds a BA in Accounting and Business Administration with a minor in Computer Science from Carthage College. With a career spanning over 25 years, he has served as CFO, Controller, and Consultant. Brent is known for his energy and passion in business, often mentoring young professionals and guiding organizations in strategic development. He's a former chair of the Buchanan County Republican Committee, highlighting his commitment to community engagement and leadership. Brent, alongside his wife, operates Parks Haven Farm LLC in Buchanan County, specializing in breeding Katahdin sheep for other farms and meat production.

BOARD DISTRICT 10

Gary Cook



Gary Cook, married to Missy with two sons and a beloved granddaughter, is deeply rooted in Buchanan County, having graduated from East Buchanan Community Schools. For over 30 years, Gary has been a member of ECI REC and has passionately tended to his roles as a grain farmer and certified crop insurance adjuster. Gary's community involvement spans various organizations, including being active with the Church of Christ United and Winthrop Historical Center. He also served on the Buchanan County Pork Producers Board, Winthrop C&C Club, and Buchanan County Wildlife. Gary finds joy in fishing, hunting, reading, and spending time with his family.

Brett Soukup



Brett Soukup, an Independence High School alum, is married to Andrea and together they share the joy of raising two sons. Brett has been a member of ECI REC for around 13 years. He currently serves as the City of Independence Airport Manager, and previously worked for the City of Marion. Brett's dedication extends beyond work; he's served eight years on the St. John Parish board, two as president, and actively volunteers at St. John School. Outside of his professional and community commitments, Brett enjoys spending quality time with his family, exploring the outdoors, and supporting his children's various activities and endeavors.