



## National Voter Registration Day is September 20

Many important policy issues directly impact electric utilities and, ultimately, you, the consumer-members we proudly serve. America's electric cooperatives, including Jones-Onslow EMC, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions us to advocate for our local community.

While Jones-Onslow EMC is a locally-owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program known as "Co-ops Vote," we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is September 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. If you want to get

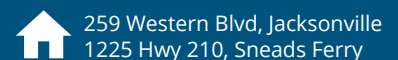
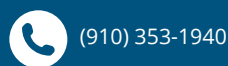
involved or simply make sure you're ready to vote, see the **Five Easy Ways to Exercise Your Civic Duty**.

Voting is a form of personal empowerment that allows you to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you. Make a plan to vote and help others in our community get #VoteReady.

We encourage everyone, regardless of political beliefs, to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact.

## Five Easy Ways to Exercise Your Civic Duty

1. Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date. Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop), then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.
2. Get informed. In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.
3. Get active on social media. Follow @coopsvote on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and let others know you're a #coopvoter and #VoteReady; encourage your friends and family to do the same.
4. Help others prepare to vote. Work a National Voter Registration Day event (visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events)), volunteer to be a poll worker during midterm elections, or offer to drive others to their polling places.
5. Vote! It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty.



## Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out



Severe winds, lightning and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out. We understand power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your fridge is stocked with perishable foods.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures to take to avoid illness.

Here are a few food safety tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

### Before an outage

A good rule is to keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars in your emergency kit.

If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice—just in case the outage spans several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated, perishable items.

### During an outage

If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours, and a full freezer for about 48 hours. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than

four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

### After an outage

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. Any foods with an unusual color, odor or texture should be thrown away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40+ degrees:

- hard cheeses that are properly wrapped
- butter or margarine that is properly wrapped
- taco, barbecue and soy sauces
- peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish

The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule of thumb. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming, and remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [www.ready.gov/food](http://www.ready.gov/food).

**National  
Drive  
Electric  
Week is  
Sept. 23 –  
Oct. 2**

**#DriveElectric**

## Considering Driving Electric?

Electric vehicles have something for everyone. From a better driving experience to exciting tech and reduced emissions, to name a few. Electric vehicles are convenient. So convenient that most people charge their vehicles at home, which eliminates trips to the gas station. But when you are out, charging your EV has never been easier. Jones-Onslow is taking steps to make it more convenient than ever to drive an electric vehicle. Your co-op has partnered with other electric cooperatives across North Carolina to build

an electric vehicle charging network that allows EV drivers to travel throughout our state and visit co-op communities easily. This network includes two Level 2 EV charging stations installed at our headquarters in Jacksonville and the Hampton Inn in Sneads Ferry. And be on the lookout; more charging stations will be coming soon.

If you are interested in learning more about driving electric or would like to find a complete map of EV chargers throughout our state, visit [ncdriveelectric.com](http://ncdriveelectric.com).

# HAVE YOU RECEIVED TEXT ALERTS FROM JOEMC?

If you have a cell phone associated with your electric account, you are automatically enrolled in our Outage Text Alerts program. But did you know that you can also receive other notifications from Jones-Onslow EMC? These notifications ensure that your account is up-to-date and you do not have surprises on your monthly electric bill.

The notifications available include:

- Daily usage alerts.
- Third-party notifications.
- A two-day due date reminder.
- Cutoff notification.
- Payment receipt.

One great feature is third-party notifications; it is the perfect way to help elderly parents stay on track with their monthly bills. If you'd like to receive notifications, log in to your account on JOEMC's online portal, and select "notifications" from the menu on the left to sign up. Once in this tab, you will add your email address and anyone else you would like to receive updates. Sign-up today, <https://billing.joemc.com/joemc/login.jsp>.

## *Touchstone Tailgate is back!*

Local Friday night high school football and JOEMC Touchstone Tailgate are back! Join Jones-Onslow employees this fall at select high school football games in our area for FREE hot dogs, games, and prizes before the kickoff. Follow our social media channels for game locations, dates and times. We hope to see you there!



## ***Cheese Salsa Dip***

*This Mexican dip recipe calls for fresh, chunky salsa—a universal favorite among fans. Fresh salsas are usually found on the refrigerated shelves of produce sections in grocery stores.*

### **INGREDIENTS**

Nonstick cooking spray  
1 TBSP vegetable oil  
1 lb. ground beef  
1 package taco seasoning mix  
8 oz. cream cheese, room temp.  
½ cup sour cream  
1 cup chunky fresh salsa, plus additional for topping  
1 cup grated mozzarella  
½ cup blended Mexican cheese  
Sliced jalapeño (optional)  
Sliced black olives (optional)  
Green onions (optional)  
Tortilla chips

### **DIRECTIONS**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Spray 8-by-8-inch glass pan or large soufflé dish with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.
3. In large sauté pan, heat oil over medium-high heat and add ground beef, breaking up until fully cooked. Sprinkle taco seasoning throughout beef and combine.
4. Place warm beef mixture in large bowl and add cream cheese, sour cream, one cup salsa and mozzarella. Mix well until combined and pour into prepared pan. Top with blended cheese and sliced jalapeño, black olives and green onions, if desired.
5. Bake until fully warmed and cheese is melted, 30–35 minutes.
6. Top with small spoonfuls of salsa. Serve with tortilla chips.



Educators, the grant application deadline to submit your "Bright Ideas" is September 23. To apply, go to [www.joemc.com/your-cooperative/bright-ideas/](http://www.joemc.com/your-cooperative/bright-ideas/).



# A Solid Investment in Your Electric Co-op

As a Jones-Onslow EMC member, you invest in your co-op every time you pay your bill. This collective investment in the co-op benefits you and the community immediately and over time. So what exactly is this monthly investment, and how do you benefit from it?

Combatting cyber security threats and maintaining poles, wires, substations, and co-op equipment takes strategic planning and significant resources. The facility charge you see on your electric bill is a monthly investment that helps your co-op cover the expenses of maintaining the overall electric system. The facility charge essentially ensures that all equipment operates properly and staff is trained and ready, so the lights turn on when you need them.

When rates are developed for all classes of members (residential, commercial, industrial, and general use), consideration is also given to those monthly expenses mentioned above that do not vary based on electric consumption.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe

the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all of our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. Irrespective of how much electricity a



*Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable, and affordable power when you need it.*

particular family uses, the cost of delivering power to that house, apartment, or modular home is the same. That is why every member (in the various rate classifications) pays the facility charge each month to cover



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

basic operational costs. In the case of residential members, everyone is charged the same amount for the cost of operation since all members benefit from the same service. Essentially, this gives each co-op member an equal share in JOEMC's operation.

Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable, and affordable power when you need it. We appreciate and value the investment you make in your co-op each month, and we strive to use that investment wisely to benefit all members of our community.

To learn more about the facility charge, go to our website [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and click on Customer Service, then Billing & Payment Options, and look for Facilities Charges.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills.

To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines.

When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified

Source: Dept. of Energy

