



District #3 Candidate Biographies

Candidates are listed alphabetically

STEVE GARBISCH

What is your background?

I am a lifelong resident of District 3. I have had a successful farming career of almost 50 years, retiring in 2024. I also had a sales career of over 30 years working with Ag and construction equipment sales. I have also served almost 20 years on the Brownsdale Fire Dept. as an officer.

Why do you wish to represent your district on FMEC Board of Directors?

I believe I can bring a common-sense approach to business decisions. I am also proud to follow in my grandfather's footsteps, as he was a leader for Freeborn Mower for many years. My father-in-law was a career employee for Alliant Energy. I have always had a keen interest in the power industry.

What qualities and abilities could you bring to the board?

I have always had the ability to get along and work effectively with others. I value other people's thoughts and opinions. I am usually detail-oriented and strive to come up with the best solutions to a problem. With my past years of service to the co-op board, I believe I have the skills to lead us in the future.



ERIC TUPY

What is your background?

I currently serve as Assistant Vice President of Data & Analytics at a global Fortune 300 company, where I lead strategic initiatives that leverage data to drive business decisions and operational efficiency. With over 24 years of experience in leadership roles, I bring expertise in governance, risk management, and long-term strategic planning. My wife (Penny) and I have raised our 3 children in the Austin area, and being involved in the community is an important family value. I am passionate about supporting organizations that serve their communities, and as a cooperative member in District 3, I understand the importance of reliable, affordable energy for our members. My background combines technical knowledge, business acumen, and a commitment to cooperative values that can help FMEC achieve the overall vision, mission, and goals.

Why do you wish to represent your district on FMEC Board of Directors?

I want to represent my district on the FMEC Board of Directors because I believe in the power of local community members shaping the organizations that provide us with services. Our cooperative is an important organization that not only provides electricity to our members but also signifies community strength and sustainability. As we face opportunities & challenges like surging demand, constrained supply, renewable energy, grid modernization, and cost efficiency, I want to ensure decisions reflect the needs and values of our members. My background in data and analytics gives me a forward-looking perspective, but my commitment is rooted in serving neighbors and supporting growth that benefits everyone. Together, we can keep FMEC strong, innovative, and member-focused for generations to come.

What qualities and abilities could you bring to the board?

I bring a combination of strategic vision, day-to-day execution, analytical expertise, and collaborative leadership to the board. In my professional role, I've led initiatives that improve efficiency, transparency, and decision-making—skills that are critical for guiding a cooperative in a changing energy landscape. I have previous community board expertise including serving as board of directors President at Sacred Heart Care Center and board of directors Vice President at Austin Community Recreation Center. These experiences taught me the importance of listening to diverse perspectives, building consensus, and ensuring that decisions reflect the best interests of residents and members. My ability to interpret complex information and translate it into actionable strategies, while learning more about the intricacies of the electric cooperation industry, will help FMEC remain financially strong, innovative, and responsive to community needs.

