



SOPEC NATURAL GAS & ELECTRIC AGGREGATION

FACT SHEET

FOR NEW CONCORD VOTERS

VOTING INFORMATION

When do I vote?

Election Day is November 7.
Early in-person & absentee voting
begins October 11.

Where do I vote on

Election Day?
Larry Miller Intermediate School
(LMIS)

13125 John Glenn School Rd.

What are voting hours on Election Day?

Polls are open 6:30 AM-7:30 AM

Where can I find more voter information?

www.boe.ohio.gov/muskingum

NEW CONCORD VOTERS NOVEMBER 7 BALLOT INFORMATION

Your elected officials want New Concord voters to have all the information you need to make an informed vote in this election. Below are some questions and answers that we hope are helpful.

Energy Aggregation & Local Community Buying Power

According to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO): "Ohio law allows for local government aggregation of electricity or natural gas."

"An aggregator is a person or organization that brings a group of customers together. A large buying group may be able to get better terms for the group members than you could get on your own. This '**buying power**' may also allow aggregators to negotiate for additional benefits for the group's members such as consolidated billing, energy management services and energy use analysis."

Choice

Residents are voting to give the municipality an opportunity to obtain another **choice** than the Standard Service Offer (SSO) (electric/AEP OH) & Standard Choice Offer (SCO) (natural gas/Columbia Gas of OH).

About SOPEC

SOPEC is a regional council of governments that provides shared administrative, financial, grant writing, and legal services required for high-value public energy programs and projects that support sustainable communities. SOPEC is one of AEP Energy's largest retail electric aggregation customers, leveraging the buying power of over 615,000 Ohioans, in 26 member communities across Ohio, to purchase electricity in bulk.

www.sopec-oh.gov/new-concord-votes-aggregation

What other communities have adopted this?

26 communities in Ohio have adopted SOPEC for governmental aggregation. This includes villages like Somerset, Yellow Springs and Amesville to cities like Cleveland, Dayton, and Logan. Our neighbor, Norwich, is also voting on aggregation in November.

Why did Village Council vote to put this on the ballot?

The village recognizes that energy bills have been on the rise and has been trying to find a way to help the people of the village save money. With the ability to evaluate providers, the village has found that SOPEC will provide stability to high and fluctuating bills as well as affordable choices.

What will my ballot look like?

<p>34. Proposed Ordinance Electric Aggregation Village of New Concord A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.</p> <p>Shall the Village of New Concord have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the Village of New Concord, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>
<p>35. Proposed Ordinance Gas Aggregation Village of New Concord A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.</p> <p>Shall the Village of New Concord have the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located in the Village of New Concord, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of natural gas, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>

How does opt-out work?

"Opt-out" aggregation is a program that results in residents being automatically enrolled in the aggregation unless they individually opt-out of the program. The opt-out method requires voter approval and is the most common form of governmental aggregation in Ohio. You will not incur fees for leaving the program or re-entering.

How will my gas and electricity bills change?

The electricity or natural gas continues to be delivered to the home by the utility, however, the pricing for the energy supplied (generation) is based on the price negotiated by the aggregator.

Since there are two items to vote for on the ballot, what happens if one issue passes but the other doesn't?

Whichever one passes will go into effect regardless if the other one passes or not.

Where can I learn more about SOPEC?

- sopec-oh.gov
- 740-597-7955
- @SOPEC on Facebook
- www.sopec-oh.gov/new-concord-votes-aggregation

Can I get more information about New Concord's proposal?

Yes! Join us for a public Q&A, Tuesday October 10 at 6:30 PM at Village Hall. If you can't come to the meeting you can email us at <https://www.newconcord-oh.gov/email-us> OR bring your written questions to Village Hall between 8 and 4 Mon. to Fri. You must include contact information.

Can I get more information about aggregation?

Yes! The New Concord Branch Library is hosting *Basics of Governmental Aggregation* with a representative of the state's Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, your residential utility consumer advocate. This will be Thursday October 26th at 5:30 PM

Your Elected Officials

Mayor Jennifer Lyle
Village Council
 Steve Wootton, President pro tempore,
 Robert Dickson, Kristi Kearns, Levi Shegog,
 Stan Taylor, Jim Whitehair