

ORDINANCE NO. 18-2023

**ADOPTING A PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE FOR ELECTRIC
GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Fairfax, Ohio (“Council”) seeks to establish a governmental aggregation program with opt-out provisions pursuant to Section 4928.20, Ohio Revised Code (the “Aggregation Program”) for the residents, businesses, and other electric customers in the Village of Fairfax (the “Village”) as permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, Council developed an Electric Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance (“Plan of Operation”) in accordance with the governmental aggregation provisions of Sections 4901 and 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Rules for Formation and Operation of Electric Governmental Aggregations; and

WHEREAS, Council now intends to file for certification as a Governmental Aggregator, which requires that Council first adopt its Plan of Operation and Governance; and

WHEREAS, Council determined that this Ordinance is in the best interest of the Village's residents and promotes the general welfare of said citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Council held two public hearings on the proposed Plan of Operation and Governance as required by law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Fairfax, State of Ohio that:

SECTION I: This Council adopts and approves a Plan of Operation and Governance for Electric Governmental Aggregation in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

SECTION II: This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with applicable law.

SECTION III: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare and shall be effective immediately. The reason for said declaration of emergency is the immediate need to obtain all necessary approvals and certifications for the prompt implementation of the Aggregation Program.

Passed this 18th day of December, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Fiscal Officer

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 18-2023 adopted at a meeting of the Council of the Village of Fairfax, this 18th day of December, 2023.

Fiscal Officer

VILLAGE OF FAIRFAX, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO
PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE
ELECTRIC GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION

For More Information Contact:

Village of Fairfax
5903 Hawthorne Ave
Fairfax, OH 45227

VILLAGE OF FAIRFAX, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE

ELECTRIC GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION

Introduction. On November 7, 2023 a majority of the voters in the Village of Fairfax, Hamilton County, Ohio approved a referendum that authorized the Village of Fairfax (“the Community”) to pursue Automatic Governmental Aggregation. After the Community held two public hearings on the matter, the Community approved this Plan of Operation and Governance as prescribed by Section 4928.20(C) of the Ohio Revised Code. The Community has developed this Plan of Operation and Governance (“Plan of Operation”) in accordance with the governmental aggregation provisions in Sections 4901:1-21-16 Ohio Administrative Code. Once certified as a Governmental Aggregator, the Community will be authorized to combine multiple retail electric customer loads within its geographic boundaries (the “Aggregation”) for the purpose of facilitating the purchase of electric supply in Ohio’s competitive retail electric market.

Governmental Aggregation Services. The Community, as a Governmental Aggregator, will serve as purchasing agent for the Aggregation. As purchasing agent, the Governmental Aggregator shall (i) select a Competitive Retail Electric Service Provider (“Provider”) to supply the Aggregation, (ii) negotiate the terms of supply between the Provider and each Aggregation participant, and (iii) oversee the enrollment procedures administered by the Provider.

The Contract. The supply contract negotiated by the Governmental Aggregator for the Aggregation (the “Contract”) shall be for firm, full requirements supply. Each Aggregation participant will be individually bound to the Provider by the terms of the Contract and will be solely responsible for payment and performance. The electric supply charges for the Aggregation will be included in the Contract that will be negotiated by the Governmental Aggregator. All electric supply charges will be fully and prominently disclosed in consumer enrollment materials (such as the Opt-out Notice), available on the Provider’s website, and available by calling the Provider’s toll-free customer service telephone number. The surcharge authorized under Section 4928.20 of the Revised Code will not be charged.

Eligibility, Opt-out Disclosures, and Pooling Accounts. The Community will work with the Provider to adhere to the requirements of Section 4901:1-21-17 of the Ohio Administrative Code in creation of the opt-out disclosure. The Community, or a party authorized by the Community, will request from the local electric distribution utility (the “Utility”) a list of all customers residing within the Community’s boundaries, including those who have opted off the pre-enrollment list. Per Section 4901:1-21-17(D)(1)(a), the list will include an updated list of names, addresses, account numbers, rate codes, percentage of income plan (PIPP) codes, load data and other related customer information, consistent with information that is available to Providers. The following customers are not eligible: customers already under contract with a certified electric services company; customers that have a special contract with the Utility; customers that are not located within the Governmental Aggregator’s boundaries; customers on PIPP, customers that have opted out of the aggregation, and mercantile customers that have not provided affirmative consent. It is the intention of the Community to offer its Aggregation Program to all eligible residential and non-mercantile customers in all customer classifications and in all

rate categories. The Community realizes that factors such as consumption patterns and peak demand impact rate classes differently. Consequently, some customers may not benefit from a particular rate offer. Therefore, all customers will be afforded the opportunity to opt-out of the Program at least every three (3) years without paying a switching fee. Using this list of eligible accounts, the Provider, with the assistance of the Governmental Aggregator, will review the list to verify that the eligible accounts are located within the geographic boundaries of the Community and that an area within the Community boundaries has not been inadvertently filtered from the list. The Provider will also remove from the eligible list those customers who appear on the “do not aggregate” list as stated under division (c) of Section 4928.21 of the Revised Code. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the list from the utility, the Provider, with assistance from the Governmental Aggregator, will prepare and mail an “Opt-out Notice” to each account that remains on the eligible list after it has been reduced as noted above. The Opt-out Notice will inform the eligible account holder that the Governmental Aggregator has formed an automatic (or “Opt-out”) aggregation, provide the price for the electric supply to the Aggregation and other terms and conditions of service, and explain how the account holder can decline participation in the Aggregation.

As required by 4901:1-21-17 of the Ohio Administrative Code, the Opt-out Notice will indicate that the account holder has twenty-one (21) days to affirmatively respond by telephoning a toll-free number or returning a postcard to the Provider that is included in the Opt-out Notice.

The Provider will receive all Opt-out requests and any Opt-out Notices that were undeliverable by mail and will remove those accounts from the eligible account list. Upon completion of the twenty-one (21) day Opt-out period, the Provider will notify the Utility of the remaining accounts that will form the Aggregation, and through an electronic data interchange transaction, enroll the Aggregation. Upon enrollment, each participant will receive an enrollment notice from the Utility that will indicate that the enrollee may rescind its participation in the Aggregation by contacting the Utility within seven (7) calendar days.

In addition to the initial twenty-one (21) day Opt-out period, each participant will be provided an opportunity to opt-out at least every three years without paying an early termination fee.

Billing. Aggregation participants will receive a single, monthly bill from the Utility, which will include charges from the Provider for its electric supply, as well as the Utility distribution charges. Aggregation participants will be billed according to their Utility billing cycle.

Credit, Collections and Deposits. The Utility’s credit and collection policy and policies regarding deposits will apply to the Aggregation participants and shall be administered by the Utility. Neither the Governmental Aggregator, nor the Provider will implement additional policies with respect to credit, deposits, and collections.

Concerns and Complaints. Aggregation participants will have multiple means of communicating concerns and reporting complaints. As a general rule, concerns regarding service reliability and billing should be directed to the Utility. The Utility will continue to read meters, handle billing, and generally have the most information about the physical service to a location or account. Questions regarding the administration of the Aggregation should be directed to the Provider. The Provider’s customer service

center will, at a minimum, be available by telephone Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 7:00 pm ET. Any unresolved disputes should be directed to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and/or the Ohio Consumers Council. As a convenience, below is a list of helpful toll-free telephone numbers.

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Outages/Emergencies	Duke Energy Ohio	1-800-544-6900
Service turn on/off	Duke Energy Ohio	1-800-544-6900
Billing Disputes	Duke Energy Ohio	1-800-544-6900
Price/Joining/Leaving Program	Provider Customer Service	TBD
Program Regulatory Questions	Provider Customer Service	TBD
Unresolved Disputes	Public Utilities Commission	1-800-686-7826
Unresolved Disputes	Ohio Consumers Council	1-877-742-5622

The Provider will attempt to resolve all customer complaints in a timely and good faith manner. The Provider shall investigate and provide a status report to the customer when the complaint is made directly to them and/or the Community within three (3) business days following the Provider’s receipt of the complaint. Or in the case of a Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“PUCO”) complaint the Provider will investigate and provide a status report to the customer and PUCO staff within three (3) business days following Provider’s receipt of the complaint. If an investigation into a complaint received from the customer or a complaint referred to by the PUCO is not completed within ten (10) business days, then a status report will be given to the customer, and, if applicable, the PUCO. These status reports will be given every three (3) business days until the investigation is complete, unless the action that must be taken takes longer than three (3) business days and the customer has been notified. Final results of a PUCO-referred complaint will be provided to the PUCO either orally (phone) or in writing (e-mail, written correspondence), no later than three (3) business days after the investigation is completed. The final results will be provided in writing to the customer no later than three (3) business days after the investigation is completed. Customers retain the right to contact the PUCO regarding complaints and disputes. All customers have the right to contact the PUCO by writing to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, ATTN: IAD, 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3793; by fax to (614) 752-8351; through their website at www.puc.state.oh.us or by calling toll free (800) 686-7826 (VOICE) or 7-1-1 (TTY-TDD). Records of customer complaints will be retained for two (2) years after the occurrence of the complaint. A copy of the complaint record will be provided to the PUCO within three (3) business days, if requested.

Moving Within the Community. Aggregation participants who move from one location to another within the Community boundaries and retains the same account number, will remain an Aggregation participant and will receive the same price they would have received if their location had not moved.

An Aggregation participant who moves from one location to another within the Community boundaries and is assigned a new account number may enroll their new account in the Aggregation and receive the same price as they would have received if their location had not moved, provided the new account is eligible for Aggregation. An Aggregation participant who moves within the Community and receives a new account number may be dropped from the Aggregation by the Utility, but they will not be charged an early termination fee from the Provider. If a participant is dropped from the Aggregation due

to a move within the Community, the participant must contact the Provider to be re-enrolled within 60 days of being dropped.

Moving Outside of the Community. An Aggregation participant who moves out of the Community boundaries will no longer be eligible to participate in the Aggregation, but they will not be charged an early termination fee from the Provider.

Enrolling After the Opt-out Period. Residential and small business accounts located within the Community's boundaries that were initially eligible to join the Aggregation but chose to opt-out of the Aggregation, or otherwise were not included in the Aggregation, may join the Aggregation after the expiration of the initial Opt-Out Period by contacting the Provider. The rate for those joining the Aggregation after the expiration of the Opt-out Period may be different from the rate negotiated for the Aggregation by the Government Aggregator.

If the Provider is able to offer to newly eligible customers the same price that is provided to the current Aggregation participants, the Provider may refresh the Aggregation by providing those who move into the Community the opportunity to be included automatically, rather than waiting until the next pricing term of the Contract. The process for refreshing the Aggregation with new enrollments would follow the process noted above for determining eligibility, providing Opt-out Notices, and pooling the accounts. (Current Aggregation participants and those who previously declined participation would not receive the Opt-out Notice intended only for newly eligible customers.)