Snapshot of Governmental Aggregation

According to Ohio law, local communities are allowed to bring their citizens together to buy electricity as a group and negotiate the terms, conditions and price of the electric supply on the group's behalf. This type of group buying power is an effective way to obtain a lower electricity rate for all the group members.

Most governmental aggregation programs are structured so that all eligible residents and small business customers in the community are automatically enrolled. Residents who don't want to participate must then actively "opt-out" of the program – which means they choose not to be included. An opt-out program can only be implemented if a majority of the voters approve the ballot issue in a primary or general election. The ballot issue must be submitted to the county Board of Elections at least 75 days before the election.

All About Opting Out

Since eligible consumers do not need to do anything to participate in the program, the opt-out form of governmental aggregation makes it extremely easy for eligible residential and small business customers to save money on the generation portion of their electric bill.

When voters approve the ballot issue, the local government selects a certified supplier to provide the generation service and a letter is sent to consumers specifying the terms and conditions of the offer as well as the rate.

The letter will also contain an opt-out form that can be completed and returned if the consumer does NOT want to participate in the aggregation program. Consumers have 21 days to opt out of the program at no charge – and another opportunity to opt-out every three years. If the aggregation member chooses to leave the program for any reason other than moving, the consumer will most likely be assessed a small cancellation fee that covers the supplier's costs for any power that it has secured in anticipation of serving consumers.