

What You Need to Know About Georgia's Public Service Commission



What is the PSC?

The Public Service Commission, or PSC, is an elected body created to ensure that consumers receive safe, reliable, and reasonably priced telecommunications, electric, and natural gas services from companies that have the financial resources and technical capabilities to do the job. Their primary responsibility is to regulate Georgia Power.

Why does the PSC matter?

The PSC has the power to control the price of energy and the sources of energy (whether or not Georgia is investing in renewable energy like solar). This affects energy independence and reliability, as well as the health of our communities and planet.

What is the history of the PSC?

The PSC dates back to 1879, when the Georgia General Assembly established the Railroad Commission of Georgia to regulate railroad rates and operations. Over the years, its responsibilities expanded, leading to a name change in 1922 to the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC). Today, five elected Commissioners work with a staff of about 85 to oversee essential services like electricity, telecommunications, and natural gas.



How long do PSC commissioners serve?

The five PSC commissioners are elected statewide for staggered six-year terms. Two seats on the Commission will be on the ballot this year. The chairman is elected by Commission members for a two-year term, with the opportunity to be re-elected for an additional two-year term.



When are the next elections for the PSC?

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How does voting for the PSC work?

Partisan PSC elections are held statewide, meaning all Georgia voters can cast ballots in all commission races. Although commissioners must live in the district they represent, they are chosen in statewide elections and not just by the citizens of their district.