

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

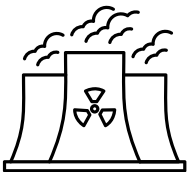
#VOTE ATL

★ CENTER FOR CIVIC INNOVATION

DESCRIPTION

The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates electric, gas, telecommunications, and intrastate transportation companies. Its five elected commissioners set utility rates and decide who pays for infrastructure projects and cleanup costs — customers or utility companies. If an electric utility company wants to build more plants, it must get PSC approval. The PSC does not regulate water, cellular service, or broadband internet.

Their decisions directly impact your monthly bills. For example:



In 2023, the PSC allowed Georgia Power to increase customer utility rates to cover \$7.6 billion, roughly 74%, of the overrun for the long-delayed Plant Vogtle nuclear reactors. This rate increased the average customer's electric bill by almost \$9 per month.



Since December 2022, the PSC has approved three Georgia Power rate increases, raising residential rates by 28% since 2021. Since 2020, the average household is paying about \$43 more per month for electricity.

WHY PSC ELECTION THIS YEAR

For the first time since 2020, voters will get to vote for Public Service Commissioners.

Elections were supposed to happen in 2022, but a federal judge delayed that election after ruling in favor of a lawsuit, filed by Georgia WAND and Georgia Conservation Voters, against Georgia's Secretary of State that claimed the voting power of Black residents was weakened—in violation of the Voting Rights Act—by allowing all Georgia voters to vote for each commissioner rather than just the voters in their district.

A federal appeals court overturned that ruling in November 2023, but because the case was not fully settled, the 2024 election was also canceled. In 2024, State lawmakers passed a bill extending the terms of the incumbent commissioners and calling for elections to resume in 2025. The new State law is still being challenged in court.

ELECTION DATES

PRIMARY ELECTION

Early Voting
May 27 – June 13, 2025

Primary Election
June 17, 2025

Runoff Election*
July 15, 2025

GENERAL ELECTION

Voter Registration Deadline
October 6, 2025

Early Voting
October 14 – October 31, 2025

General Election
November 4, 2025

Runoff Election, if needed*
December 2, 2025

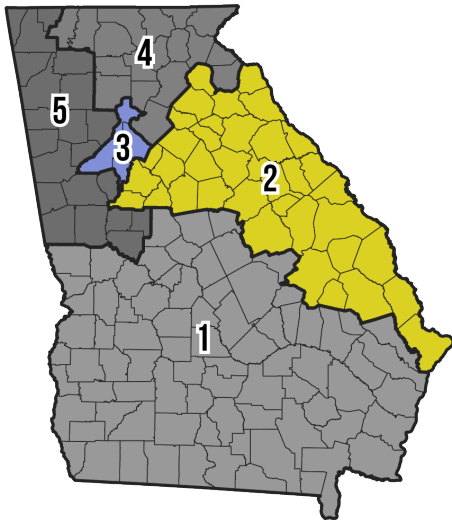
**Runoffs occur if no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote*



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PRIMARY CANDIDATES

In Georgia's primary elections, voters must choose a party ballot and vote for the candidate they want to represent that political party in the general election — Democrat (D) or Republican (R).

Two of the five seats on the Commission — Districts 2 and 3 — are on the ballot this year. All Georgia voters can vote on these seats.

DISTRICT 2

Tim Echols (R, incumbent)

Alicia Johnson (D)

DISTRICT 3

Fitz Johnson (R, incumbent)

Peter Hubbard (D)

QUALIFICATIONS

- be at least 30 years old
- have lived in the district for at least 12 months prior election
- not have interests (stocks, bonds, contracts, etc.) in a utility company

SALARY

Public Service Commissioners earned an annual salary of \$131,157 in 2024.

TERM LIMITS

Public Service Commissioners are elected to 6-year terms, with no term limits.

Qualifying dates for this election were April 1-3, 2025.

DID YOU KNOW?

Georgia Power is currently presenting its **Integrated Resource Plan**, the 20-year plan for Georgia's energy production that is updated every three years. There are public hearings, with public comment, on May 27-30 and June 23-25, 2025.

While Georgia Power is investor-owned and in 1965 signed a 99-year contract to provide exclusive coverage within the City of Atlanta, there are **42 electric membership cooperatives** and **52 publicly-owned utility companies** that provide energy to millions of Georgians.

A 2024 [study](#) by Georgia Tech and the Sierra Club found that **28% of Atlanta households are "energy burdened"** – a term used for households spending over 6% of their income on energy.

