

NAME: John Noel
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Public Service Commission, District 4

1. Why are you seeking your office?

To bring accountability back to the commission. I believe they have gone whole hog into the arms of the utility companies they are supposed to regulate. It's a monopoly system after all. Where are the checks and balances? It's supposed to be the Commission.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Green Power. More of it.
Lower costs, less dumb decisions with our money.
Help the people. The COVID crisis has reveal gapping holes in our Broadband infrastructure. The PSC can and should help.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

Exceptional Energy related experience. I have been in the energy field for 20+ years. I might join the commission as the most qualified (professionally) Commissioner to take the seat in recent memory. I'm not a political hack or appointee. I'm a successful business owner who has set aside time to run for this office (and serve) to help the people of this state.

4. Pick any one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

Under any other circumstance I'd say, green power, more solar energy and creative energy (batteries and microgrid) adoption. But the COVID crisis has exposed a hole in our state. I deficiency of the state's ability (and I must say the Republican leadership in the statehouse and at the Commission) to address the Broadband/Internet connectivity problems of rural (and urban poor) Georgia. Kids can't study at home, let alone the business and small town competitiveness problem that comes with it. This has to get solved and an active Commissioner is well suited to do that.

5. Suggest ways to jump-start the economy after COVID-19.

Solar energy jobs are the fastest growing segment of construction jobs in Georgia. They pay well and they teach new employees lifelong skills. We should be reaching out to the technical schools for manpower and pushing at the Commission for more green power (solar) adoption and retirement of fossil fuel (coal) plants.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

I'm a farm raised environmentalist. I grew up on spring water and know too well (pardon the pun) the woes of people confronting dirty coal ash in their communities. I'll fight for the environment. There doesn't need to be a tradeoff between electricity generation and clean air and water. I'm a 20 years business owner in energy efficiency, I've created jobs, I know how to cut costs – and when. I've served in the Legislature, I know how sausage is made. And I can work across the aisle. I'd be honored to serve.