

2010 candidate questionnaire

NAME: **Tim Echols**

PARTY: Republican

SEEKING: Public Service Commission



1. Why are you seeking your office?

For 18 years, this seat has been held by a strong consumer advocate, Bobby Baker. With Mr. Baker stepping down, we need to replace him with another conservative watchdog. I have been hard at work for the last 18 years training young conservatives, promoting life and family, and working to elect strong candidates.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Growing up in a family of entrepreneurs, I know that government regulation usually means more paperwork, more compliance, and less profit. I will fight hard for small businesses. I will work to protect Georgia consumers. This race matters because it affects every power bill in the state of Georgia. I will with other Commissioners and see Georgia move forward with alternative energy, especially converting municipal and state vehicles to CNG (compressed natural gas). This would be a great first step that Georgia could make to make us away from our dependency on foreign oil.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have pledged to avoid being cozy with those I regulate, and intend not to take even a cup of coffee from them so that I may remain objective and vigilant for the GA consumers and families. My opponents have not made such a pledge. With two Master degrees from UGA, I feel prepared to deal with the mountain of public policy issues before the Commission.

4. What are the key issues in your race?

I think the potential cost overruns for the new nuclear reactors at Vogtle will be the biggest issue during my six year term. If Pres. Obama somehow passes "Cap and Trade," however, Georgia may face unprecedented energy cost increases in order to comply. It will not be good for our state. The PSC regulates several transportation areas including household movers as well, and I would like to see the PSC crack down more on "rogue" movers who make it difficult for legitimate companies to make a profit.

5. Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

An elected Public Service Commission is the consumer's voice. As a statewide elected official, my door will be open, cell phone available, and email published broadly so that people can communicate with me. I agree with the Brunswick News that PSC hearings should be held throughout the state to give those outside Atlanta an opportunity to be a part. I am conducting my own energy town halls around the state to hear from consumers, utility officials and others. I plan to be responsive.

6. Give a 100 word summary of your background.

I have been married to Windy Davis Echols of Roswell 27 years and have seven children ranging from a 21 year old to a 9 year old. I have three degrees from the University of Georgia and founded the youth organization, TeenPact, in 1994 and chair the organization—now in 38 states. My book "Real Citizenship," is a primer on political activism. The book is available on Amazon. I have been active in GOP politics assisting candidates all over the country. I grew up in Clayton County and attended public schools there before attending the University of Georgia.