

NAME: Tim Echols
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Georgia Public Service Commission



Why are you seeking your office?

Our electric rates are 17.3% below the national average. We are fourth in solar in the U.S. Our deregulated natural gas structure is the envy of the nation. I am proud of my accomplishments and want to keep moving Georgia forward.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I plan to continue fighting the EPA and federal overreach in our state. It will do nothing but raise costs and transfer wealth to other states. Expanding rural broadband coverage and quality is something the entire state must address, and I am advocating for better coverage so as to attract more economic development. When kids get an IPAD at school, but yet can't connect at home, something is wrong.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

In 2010 I pledged not to take even a bottle of water from companies I directly regulate, and I have honored that pledge. I plan to continue to be a consumer watchdog, build a modern grid, and keep rates low.

What are the key issues in your race?

Most important is the completion of the new nuclear reactors in the Augusta area. I do believe we must finish them, and the PSC plays the role of judge and jury in terms of added costs and oversight. We also are planning our energy expansion for the next 20 years. We must keep rates low in order to continue to attract new business and jobs.

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

I pledged in 2010 to be responsive, and I don't think anyone would disagree that I am the most accessible statewide elected official in Georgia--on all social media platforms, giving out my cell, and answering every email personally. I plan to continue that level of service. But most importantly to me is keeping rates low and helping consumers figure out how to save money on their utility bills so they can spend it on other important household items.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

I have been married to Windy for 32 years and have 7 children. I have 3 degrees from the University of Georgia, and founded the youth organization, TeenPact. I

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work hard to promote charities in the state because I believe that the government's job is not to be a philanthropic organization. My #1 cause right now is fighting sex trafficking and protecting our children from predators.