

**NAME: Kellie Pollard Austin**  
**PARTY: Republican**  
**SEEKING: Public Service Commission**



**Why are you seeking your office?**

I cannot sit back and allow our economy to be undermined by bad energy decisions. Energy is the essential for Georgia. The cost to produce energy has dropped in recent years, and yet the cost of energy for Georgians has increased 25% in the past 6 years. The incumbent voted for every rate and tax increase since he was elected. Of the 5 commissioners, he's the only one who voted for every rate increase. This is irresponsible. I will bring common sense and financial responsibility to every energy decision.

**What do you expect to accomplish if elected?**

The PSC lacks any real transparency and accountability to the voters; they don't even keep a record of how the commissioners vote on the cost of our energy. I will make every vote recorded and searchable, just as it is in the legislature. Only when there is open accountability, can we have real discussions about energy solutions. It is too easy for the incumbent to say one thing in public, and then do something else when the voters aren't looking.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I am the only fiscal conservative in this race who believes in Limited Government, Lower Taxes and More Personal Freedom. My opponent wants to expand regulation to all emerging technology. We have proven over the last 100 years that increasing regulation, increasing fees and increasing government programs hurts the consumer every time.

I am the only candidate that does not have a specific energy agenda to push on the people of Georgia. I will evaluate every decision based on the merits of the case and the financial viability, not based on who is paying me to support their program.

**What are the key issues in your race?**

The nuclear Plant Vogtle is estimated around \$4 billion in cost overruns. We must determine if these costs were reasonable, and whether Georgia families will pay this bill, or whether the company holds some responsibility. He now supports spending \$125m to study two new nuclear plants before deciding on the financial viability of the one that is currently 3 years behind schedule. I realize that the legal decisions made by the incumbent cannot be easily overturned; however, we must make a change in how decisions are made so that we don't continue to put our families and economy at risk.

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

The PSC must ensure Safe, Reliable and Reasonably priced electricity, natural gas and telecom. Georgia has nearly 50% more energy capacity than we need right now.

Telecom is investing billions of private money to expand. Rather than continuing to approve unneeded, expensive energy capacity, we must secure our current energy grid and determine what changes need to be made to protect us from threats, both from nature and terrorism. The integrated grid we have now is our biggest vulnerability. As we expand and update, we must move to a safer distributed grid system.

**Give a 100 word summary of your background.**

I am an 8th generation Georgian, born in Hall, grew up in Stephens and have lived throughout Georgia. My conservative values were instilled by my dad, a college doctoral professor and a Goldwater Republican, who taught me that you can't cheat economic principles and achieve success.

I live in Gwinnett with my five children, ages 12 through 17 and have a strategic consulting firm focused on business and economic development. I have been successful in multiple aspects of business and build strong, authentic relationships. This experience combined with a sharp intellect is essential for the PSC.