

NAME: John Noel
PARTY: Democratic
**SEEKING: Public Service Commission,
District 3**



Why are you seeking your office?

To change things. The current PSC is broken – big time. The plant Vogtle nuclear boondoggle just illustrates the point. This is a project that has doubled in timeline - and cost - while the PSC requires utility ratepayers to shoulder ALL the burden. What ever happened to shareholder risk? All the while, green energy keeps going down in price. Utility grade solar is now cheaper than coal. A transformation (with lower bills) in our energy infrastructure is coming if we elect people to embrace it. I live this. I know this. I can help.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Bring a business approach and accountability to the PSC. I'd never let Georgia Power off the hook as they have been given on Vogtle. If we need new generation, which we don't as evidenced by a flatlining of electricity consumption in Georgia in the last decade, then make sure it's green power like low cost solar and wind. Our PSC, and particularly the rubber stamping incumbent I'm running against Chuck Eaton, is "eaten" us out of house and home with power bills that are (surprising given Georgia Power PR) the 8th highest in the country. [Source WalletHub 2017 report]

What distinguishes your candidacy?

Experience: I was elected to the General Assembly (House) in 2002. I know how the sausage gets made. And my 20 years in business before and since the legislature has been energy efficiency (Energy + Environment LLC) focusing on saving customers money with LED lighting. Someone said that were I to be elected to the PSC I would have more experience than any Commissioner in 50 years. #2 Passion for clean energy. My home is solar powered, with an innovative Tesla Powerwall, meaning, I'm often off the grid and can decide when I want to be on – or not.

How can we improve school safety?

This is not remotely within the purview of the PSC, but banning military weapons in the civilian world seems like a pretty darn logical place to start.

(more)

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

Not a problem in Gwinnett, but rural broadband ought to be an important issue for Georgia. Unlike my opponents, I announced a year ago and have made a point of traveling the ENTIRE state talking to folks in small towns about the PSC. What I hear when we get out of the Metro – it's Broadband internet access. The PSC can coalesce governments, providers and shepherd some of our landline service fund monies to companies that will provide service for rural communities. It's not right that vast swaths of Georgia are an internet desert. I will advocate for resources to help.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background:

I raised on a farm in Franklin, TN. Well water, an organic garden and a real connection to the people and land were hallmarks of my upbringing. I didn't know until later how that would impact my life. Now I see: Interest in public service, past and future, and a strong personal environmental ethic that has shaped my starting a business that does the same. Pictures (and video) speak louder than words. Want an idea of my environmental and energy bonafides? Check out a hit YouTube video by "Like Tesla", Sticking it to The Man. Thanks for your interest. John.