

NAME: Fred Swann
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Commissioner of Agriculture



Why are you seeking your office?

I believe Georgians deserve a Commissioner at the Public Service Commission who is committed to maintaining the state's ranking as the "Number one state in which to do business." Through my background as a successful small business owner, I understand what every day Georgians face with their utility bills and what their desires are from the Commission. As your Commissioner, I am committed to protecting low rates for consumers, promoting job creation state wide, and diversifying our energy mix to meet future demands for all Georgians. (86 Words)

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

As the incumbent for District 5, I have already seen first-hand what the Commission can accomplish. One of my first priorities as Commissioner when Governor Deal appointed me to serve was to realize the power company's benefits of federal tax reform and return those savings back to the Consumer. Working with the company, Georgia Power customers will see an average \$135 savings on their power bill in the next 6 months. Its cost saving and job creating initiatives like these that I hope to continue when elected to a full-term at the Commission.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

My candidacy is unique in numerous ways, but most importantly I have the experience to effect substantive change and progress at the Commission. My background as a job creator both in small business and at the Governor's Office of Workforce Development has given me the necessary knowledge to make decisions that will protect and create jobs for Georgians across the state. I am proud of the work that we did under Governor Deal's leadership at the Office of Workforce Development, and hope to foster that job creation mentality at the Commission.

How can we improve school safety?

School safety is an issue that parents, teachers and students are seeking to address across the country and here at home – and one that I should be addressed through substantive discussion in our communities, however; my role in the Public Service Commission does not directly impact the issue of school safety.

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

Georgia has an aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure that needs repair immediately in order to protect consumers and maintain the low cost of natural gas that we have enjoyed for the last several years. As a Commissioner, I have prioritized efforts to invest in Georgia's energy infrastructure and I firmly believe we need to address the pipeline system through replacement of more than 2,700 miles of vintage plastic with stronger composite pipe. Through the STRIDE program the state began this replacement and it is incumbent upon the Commission to authorize new programs to complete replacement.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background:

I am a successful small business owner, former technology entrepreneur, and skilled job creator. Governor Deal appointed me to serve as the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Development in 2011 in the middle of the recession, and we were given an enormous task of restoring and fostering new job creation during one of the most economically difficult times in recent history. Following successful completion of our mission, I returned to small business. In February of 2018, I was honored to be appointed to the Public Service Commission by Governor Deal.