

NAME: Ryan Graham

PARTY: Libertarian

SEEKING: Public Service Commission, Post 3



Why are you seeking office?

I am seeking office to right the wrongs I've observed in our government. Our current Public Service Commissioners freely accept campaign contributions from people related to the entities they are meant to regulate. They freely accept lobbyist funds for dinners and conventions in off-election years. Meanwhile, most Georgians are not even aware the Public Service Commission exists. How is the Public Service Commission expected to look out for the interests of everyday Georgians when they are largely not held accountable and are receiving most of their campaign contributions from the people they are meant to regulate?

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I hope to create a change in the Public Service Commission. I want to shine a light on what goes on in Atlanta on "behalf" of ratepayers. Right now, the PSC votes go 0-5 or 5-0 with everyone agreeing on everything. I'm only one vote, but I can put a spotlight on the issues, and cause a little adversity to exist which, hopefully, will make more people pay attention to this important office. In the end, I want to transfer the power of the PSC back to the people of Georgia.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

There is not currently another candidate in the race that understands that there is a diversity of thought in Georgia and is willing to admit that decisions about utilities are better left to consumers. I believe in free markets and empowering Georgians to make decisions for themselves and their loved ones about what is important. Our current commissioner lines the pockets of Georgia Power on the backs of hardworking Georgians. The Democrat wants to line the pockets of her preferred special interests. I want to empower Georgians to power themselves!

How can we improve school safety?

The Public Service Commission does not have a lot of control over policies that affect schools. One place where they do, however, is the funding for Plant Vogtle, the nuclear plant that is under construction just south of Augusta. The PSC has approved a plan that levies a fee to ratepayers to pay for the project, including from public schools. Over a million dollars from Atlanta schools. Over a million from DeKalb County schools. \$1.7 million from Gwinnett County schools. What could those school districts be doing with those dollars other than paying for a nuclear plant?

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

The construction of nuclear reactors 3 & 4 at Plant Vogtle is the most pressing issue of the day. Ratepayers are paying for the project up front while Georgia Power is allowed to profit during construction, before a single watt is produced. The original plan had them finished by 2018 with a \$14 Billion budget. Currently, we are sitting at a 2022 end date with a \$28 Billion price tag. There is no cap. Georgia needs a commissioner that is not in the pockets of special interests and is willing to stand up to Georgia Power. I'm that person.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

I was born in Madison, GA, but grew up in Athens. I moved to the metro Atlanta area in middle school and moved around a bit. I ended up going to Georgia State University to get my bachelor's degree in computer science. I worked as a software developer for a few years before moving into consulting and project management where I've been ever since. My experience as a project manager has given me insight into managing people, requirements, expectations, and budgets. I currently live in Summerhill, a neighborhood in Atlanta, with my partner Laura, and our two-year-old daughter, Elizabeth.