

NAME: Patty Durand
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Public Service Commission, District 2

1. Why are you seeking your office?

Georgia's Public Service Commission is responsible for regulating electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications. In every area the current commissioners have failed Georgians, shoveling massive profits to gas and electric utilities no matter how poor the service, and doing little to engage in the clean energy transition underway across the world or help people with bill affordability.

I am running for this office because I have a 14 year background in energy and environmental advocacy and have a front row seat on what other state commissioners and other utilities are doing across the country to help people and participate in the (100).

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

These are some of my policy positions:

1. Eliminate the arbitrary net-metering cap so that all customers who wish to participate in rooftop solar can do so. Assist and educate the public about the benefits and risk of rooftop solar with workshops and videos.
2. Dust off the "Southern Winds" report from 2009 with its findings that Georgia's offshore wind energy potential is high, and accelerate those recommendations.
3. Raise Georgia's disappointingly low levels of energy efficiency investments to match the national average. Georgia ranks 45th in the nation according to ACEEE.
4. Expand residential demand response so that people can participate...(100).

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

None of the current commissioners have an energy background, and none of them are Georgia Power customers. They vote to raise our bills, not theirs, and they have little to no grasp or understanding of the clean energy transition underway. My candidacy is distinguished by my deep passion and understanding of the energy sector, my 10 years of leadership as CEO & President of the Smart Energy Consumer Collaborate, my year of learning about grid modernization at Georgia Tech, and four years as executive director of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. I will bring lower bills, the ability...(100).

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

Climate change will not affect everyone equally. Those who have contributed least to the problem of environmental degradation will feel the pain first, worst and longest. There is a disproportionality of impacts which we know as Environmental Justice.

When it comes to climate change and climate impacts, the southern U.S. is the most climate vulnerable region in the country. If we do nothing to respond to climate change the whole country

will lose 6% GDP, but that number is much higher if we talk about the south, which will lose 20% GDP. We can't afford to lose 20% of the...(100)

5. What are your ideas on curbing all the many area-wide shooting?

Treat gun violence like a public health issue, which is it. Adopt these policies:

1. Repeal stand your ground laws
2. Require permits to carry concealed guns in public
3. Prohibit ownership of ghost guns, semi-automatic assault weapons and all large capacity ammunition devices
4. Hold parents of children who commit mass shootings criminally responsible if the gun or guns were obtained from home while the child was living there
5. Fully implement the existing federal background-check requirement and prohibit release of firearms until background checks are completed
6. Require background checks for private-party transfers
7. Require state and local...(100)

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

My interest in energy began when I attended an environmental conference and learned about climate change. At the time I worked in Information Technology (IT) for Hewlett Packard. I wanted to work in areas impacting climate change so became executive director of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club working on sustainable energy policies. I then transitioned to Georgia Tech to work in the smart grid field, and from there became president and CEO of the Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative (SECC) for 10 years before stepping down to run for office. There are many problems at the Ga PSC that...(100).