

STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

CANDIDATES FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTICE: The information requested herein is needed to assist the Committee in its investigation of candidates for the Public Service Commission. This questionnaire is the initial step in the investigation of your candidacy. A completed questionnaire should be returned to the Committee as soon as possible, but in any event no later than noon, 12:00 p.m., on Friday, March 28, 2025. *(Use and attach separate sheets, if necessary.)*

PLEASE SPECIFY THE SEAT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING (THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN WHICH YOU RESIDE; YOU MAY ONLY APPLY FOR ONE SEAT): 2nd District

1. Full Name: Mr.
Ms. Florence Plowden Belser

Home Address: [Redacted]

Business Address: Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Circle
Columbia, SC 29210

Email Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number(s): (Office) 803-896-5100 (receptionist)
(Home) [Redacted]
(Cell) [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1961

Place of Birth: Clarendon Memorial Hospital, Manning, South Carolina

3. Social Security Number: [Redacted]

4. SCDL No. or SCHD No.: [Redacted]

Voter Registration No.: [Redacted]

5. Family Status: Are you single, married, widowed, or divorced?

Single; Never married; No children.

If married, state date of marriage and spouse's full name.

If divorced, state the date, name of moving party, grounds, and the court.

Names and ages of children. If children are old enough to work, state occupation of each.

6. List each institution of higher learning you attended, including dates of attendance and degrees awarded. Please provide an official transcript prior to your screening hearing. If you left any institution without receiving a degree, state the reason for leaving.

- (a) University of South Carolina, School of Law; August 1984 to May 1987; Degree: Juris Doctor.
- (b) College of Charleston; August 1979 to May 1983; Degree: B.S. Biology.
- (c) College of Charleston; August 1983 to December 1983; Post-graduation to complete student teaching.
- (d) University of South Carolina; June 1982 to August 1982; No degree; Attended summer school.

7. List any continuing education courses or other professional education or training programs that you have attended in the past five years.

- (a) January – March 2020; Fundamentals of Utility Law (Twelve week, on-line course presented by Scott Hempling, Esquire.)
- (b) July 15-17 and 20-22, 2020; 2020 NARUC Summer Policy Summit (Virtual conference).
- (c) October 9, 2020; Ethics and Administrative Procedures Act (Required by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-30(C) (2015)).
- (d) November 5-6 and 9-11, 2020; 2020 NARUC Annual Meeting and Education Conference (Virtual conference).
- (e) October 27, 2020; New Commissioner Educational Training (continued) (In-house training with commission staff).

- (f) December 30, 2020; Public Utility Regulatory Finance Concepts Seminar (Virtual seminar presented by National Regulatory Research Institute).
- (g) January 29, 2021; New Commissioner Educational Training (continued) (In-house training with commission staff).
- (h) February 4-5 and 8-11, 2021; 2021 NARUC Winter Policy Summit (Virtual conference).
- (i) February 18, 2021; New Commissioner Educational Training (continued) (In-house training with commission staff).
- (j) March 26, 2021; New Commissioner Educational Training (continued) (In-house training with commission staff).
- (k) April 20, 2021; Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Training (virtual seminar presented by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab).
- (l) June 8, 2021; Order Writing Seminar (in-house)(presented by Honorable Ralph K. Anderson, III, Chief Judge, South Carolina Administrative Law Court).
- (m) June 24, 2021; Communication Skills (virtual seminar presented by Serphia Curry, State of South Carolina Department of Administration).
- (n) October 4 and 8, 2021; Ethics and Administrative Procedures Act (Required by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-30(C) (2015)).
- (o) March 1 – 3, 2022; IPU Power Grid Course 1 — Engineering Economics of the Supply Chain for Power (Virtual training sponsored by Michigan State University Institute of Public Utilities).
- (p) March 16 - 18, 2022; IPU Accounting and Ratemaking Course (Virtual course sponsored by Michigan State University Institute of Public Utilities).
- (q) May 3 - 5, 2022; Benefit-Cost Analysis for Distributed Energy Resources (Virtual training sponsored by Regulatory Training Initiative).
- (r) October 3 and 7, 2022; Ethics and Administrative Procedures Act (Required by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-30(C) (2015)).
- (s) November 13 - 16, 2022; 2022 NARUC Annual Meeting and Education Conference held in New Orleans, LA.
- (t) February 11 - 15, 2023; 2023 NARUC Winter Policy Summit held in Washington, DC.
- (u) May 8, 2023; Performance Based Regulation and Grid Resilience conducted by Regulatory Assistance Project.

- (v) May 9, 2023; Resilience Training for South Carolina Public Service Commission conducted by the United States Department of Energy and Berkeley Lab.
- (w) June 4 - 7, 2023; SEARUC Annual Education Conference held in New Orleans, LA.
- (x) October 2 and 6, 2023; Ethics and Administrative Procedures Act (Required by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-30(C) (2015)).
- (y) March 12 – 14, 2024; IPU Accounting and Ratemaking Course 2024 (Sponsored by Michigan State University Institute of Public Utilities).
- (z) June 2 -5, 2024; SEARUC Annual Education Conference held in Ashville, NC.
- (aa) September 30 and October 4, 2024; Ethics and Administrative Procedures Act (Required by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-30(C) (2015)).
- (bb) November 10 – 13, 2024; NARUC 2024 Annual Meeting and Education Conference held in Anaheim, CA.
- (cc) December 11-12, 2024; Integrated Distribution System Planning 2:0: Planning for Electrification and Distributed Energy Resources (Training And Action Planning Workshop for States) (Sponsored by U.S. Department of Energy, NARUC, NASEO, and Berkeley Lab.)
- (dd) February 23 – 25, 2025; NARUC Winter Policy Summit in Washington, DC.

8. Have you been employed or held any position in any of the following areas?

- X (a) energy issues
- X (b) telecommunications issues
- X (c) consumer protection and advocacy issues
- X (d) water and wastewater issues
- X (e) finance, economics, and statistics
- X (f) accounting
- X (g) engineering
- X (h) law

Please provide the duration of your employment or service and details about the nature of the work or the position.

In February 2019, I was elected to the Public Service Commission from District 2 and have served continuously since being elected. As a sitting Commissioner, I have dealt with issues in all of the areas listed above (energy, telecommunications, consumer protection and advocacy, water and wastewater, finance, economics, statistics, accounting, engineering, and law). Having worked in the area of public utility regulation

for the past thirty-two years, first as an attorney and recently as a PSC Commissioner, I have encountered and dealt with issues in the areas listed.

In March 1993, I started as a staff attorney with the Public Service Commission. In 1999, I was named Deputy General Counsel and in 2003 was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Commission. During my tenure with the Public Service Commission, I represented the Commission Staff in cases before the Commission and drafted pleadings, briefs, and proposed orders. I also advised the Commission as a body and Commissioners individually on matters of law and issues arising in proceedings involving jurisdictional utilities.

Following Act 175 of 2004, I left the Public Service Commission in October 2004 and joined the Office of Regulatory Staff as General Counsel. In that capacity, I advised agency management on legal matters related to the agency's jurisdiction and operations; worked on procurement matters and contracts; represented the agency in proceedings before the Public Service Commission and courts; drafted pleadings, briefs, proposed orders, and legal documents; and provided legal advice to the ORS staff members.

During my tenures as an attorney with the Public Service Commission and with the Office of Regulatory Staff, I worked on cases and matters addressing regulated public utilities in South Carolina, including energy (electric and natural gas), water and wastewater, telecommunications, and motor carriers. Cases included, but were not limited to, rate cases, certification and licensing proceedings, and consumer issues. I also handled appellate cases concerning matters in water and wastewater, telecommunications, and electric industries. As an attorney representing first the Commission Staff and later the Office of Regulatory Staff, I also worked with issues and responded to matters involving accounting, finance, economics, and engineering.

9. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates of service, branch of service, highest rank, serial number, present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD-214 prior to your screening hearing.

No.

10. Have you ever held public office? If so, provide details, including the office, whether elected or appointed, the length and dates of your service. Also, state whether or not you timely filed reports with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty. If so, provide details, including dates.

(a) Commissioner, District 2 – Public Service Commission. Elected by the General Assembly. February 2019 to present.

I have timely filed the annual Statement of Economic Interests with the State Ethics Commission and have not been subject to any penalty during my tenure as a Commissioner.

11. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, provide details, including dates.

(a) Yes. In May 2018, I was a candidate for the Public Service Commission, District 6. I went through screening and was found qualified; however, I withdrew from the race before the vote of the General Assembly.

12. Please list in chronological order any employment of you by any governmental agency (whether full time or part time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise). Provide dates of employment, name of employer, name of supervisor, and major job responsibilities.

(a) February 2019 to present – Commissioner, Second District, South Carolina Public Service Commission, Columbia, SC.

As a Commissioner, my primary responsibility is to decide or rule on matters that come before the Commission for decision. To be effective in my decision-making, I must be prepared on the cases and issues to be decided so that I may formulate my position and be able to discuss the pending matters with other Commissioners.

I prepare for a hearing by studying pleadings and prefiled testimony and reviewing applicable law. During a hearing additional facts or explanations come to light, therefore attendance at the hearing is important. After the hearing, additional work, such as reviewing the transcript and proposed orders, is helpful in reaching a decision.

A number of cases and actions of the Commission do not require a hearing, and it is my responsibility to be prepared on those matters also. Reviewing pleadings and filings on those non-hearing matters are necessary to understand the issues to make a reasoned decision. Preparation for hearings and for Commission Business Meetings takes time, but that work and time are necessary to discharge the responsibilities of decision-making.

Another job function is review of orders before issuance. When I served as Vice Chair of the Commission from July 2020 through June 2022 and Chair of the Commission from July 2022 to June 2024, I reviewed most orders before issuance. I continue to review many of the orders before issuance.

(b) October 2004 to February 2019 - General Counsel, SC Office of Regulatory Staff, Columbia, SC (Supervisor: Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esquire).

Job duties included advising the agency and employees on legal issues related to administrative law, state government, ethics, contracts, property, state procurement, and employment law; representing the agency in proceedings before all courts in South Carolina, state agencies, federal courts, and federal agencies; assisting in developing the agency's position in administrative matters before state and federal agencies; drafting pleadings, briefs, and orders; researching and monitoring legislation at the federal and state levels; assisting with planning and implementing agency's required annual Ethics/Administrative Procedures Act training, including setting curriculum/agenda, speakers and teaching.

- (c) January 2003 to October 2004 – Executive Assistant, Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Columbia, SC (Supervisor: Chairman, Randy Mitchell).
Job duties included advising Commissioners on issues related to pending cases; assisting Commissioners in developing positions in cases by reviewing the record and law in the proceeding and in drafting motions concerning those positions; drafting orders memorializing Commission decisions; assisting with setting the agenda for weekly Commission meeting; advising Chairman or presiding officer at hearings on procedures, points of law, or rulings; tracking and analyzing legislation affecting the Commission.
- (d) October 1999 to January 2003 -- Deputy General Counsel and
March 1993 to October 1999 -- Staff Attorney -- Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Columbia, SC (supervisor: F. David Butler, General Counsel).
Job duties included representing Commission Staff in proceedings before the Commission; working with the Commission Staff in case preparation including discovery matters, legal research, preparation of prefiled testimony, and witness preparation; drafting orders, memoranda, pleadings and briefs; representing the Commission at all levels of the judicial system, including appeals; providing legal advice to Commissioners and to staff members.
- (e) July 1991 to March 1993 -- Assistant Solicitor, Third Judicial Circuit, Sumter, SC (Supervisor: Wade S. Kolb, Solicitor).
Job duties included prosecuting criminal cases in General Sessions Court; preparing criminal cases for trial or other disposition; interpreting state statutes and state and federal case law to advise law enforcement.
- (f) March 1988 to June 1990 -- Judicial Law Clerk for Honorable James “Mac” Morris, Manning, SC.
Duties included legal research and writing memoranda and orders; reviewed pleadings and documents; assisted with docket control and monitored cases for compliance with time frames set by Court Administration.

13. Please list in chronological order any occupation, business, or profession in which you have been engaged or employed (other than serving in a public office or being employed by a governmental agency). Please briefly note the nature of your work during each period.

- (a) July 1990 – July 1991 -- Associate with John E. Miles, Esquire, Sumter, SC.
Duties included legal research and writing; drafting pleadings and legal documents; preparing for and assisting with trials; and interviewing clients.

14. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain.

No.

15. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships that you currently have or have had in the past that could pose a conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

I am not aware of any financial arrangement which could pose a conflict of interest. However, if confronted with a potential conflict of interest, I would disclose the issue to the Commission and the parties to the case. If recusal is warranted, I would recuse myself from the matter under consideration.

Prior to my service on the Public Service Commission, I worked at the Office of Regulatory Staff. When elected to the Public Service Commission in 2019, there were several cases pending on which I had worked or had knowledge of issues gained during my employment at the Office of Regulatory Staff. I recused myself from those cases. In several cases that were pending while I was employed the Office of Regulatory Staff, I disclosed my prior employment to the parties and their attorneys and offered to recuse if any party had any concern with me sitting on the case. Disclosure of the issue and receipt of responses were handled by an attorney on the Commission Staff so that anonymity was afforded to all parties to ensure that a party or parties could be comfortable with asking for my recusal without me knowing which party or parties requested recusal. In these cases, no party objected to me sitting on the case

In any case where a conflict or potential conflict may be an issue, I will carefully review the matter or issue and disclose information on the question of recusal to the Commission and to the parties and their attorneys as required by the Code of Judicial Conduct. If recusal is warranted, I will recuse myself from the matter.

16. If you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities, list each stock or other security you currently own. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

Please see the attached pages showing investments in my accounts with the South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program and with Baird Financial. The pages attached are the pages showing investments (positions) only; more detailed statements are included with my Confidential Financial Statement.

17. Have you ever been convicted of a violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance? Are there any charges pending against you for a violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance? If so, provide details. (DO NOT include traffic violations for which a fine of \$200 or less was imposed.)

[Except for public information, PURC will redact this answer prior to releasing to the public.]

18. To your knowledge, have you ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No.

19. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, provide details.

No to all parts of the question.

20. Have you ever been a named party in a lawsuit, either personally or professionally? If so, provide details.

No.

21. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, provide details.

No.

22. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a “lobbyist,” as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a “lobbyist’s principal,” as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(14)? If so, please provide the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No.

23. Since your decision to seek a position on the Public Service Commission, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value, as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(1), from a lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal? If so, please specify the item(s) received, date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal providing the item(s).

No.

24. S.C. Code Section 8-13-700 provides, in part, “No public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated.” Please detail any

knowledge you may have of any formal charges or informal allegations that you or any other candidate violated these provisions. (Include the disposition, if any, of such charges.)

None. I am not aware of any formal charges or informal allegations against me, and I am not aware of any formal charges or informal allegations against any other candidate.

25. S.C. Code Section 8-13-765 provides, in part, "No person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you may have of any formal charges or informal allegations that you or any other candidate violated these provisions. (Include the disposition, if any, of such charges.)

None. I am not aware of any formal charges or informal allegations concerning a violation of S.C. Code Section 8-13-765 against me or any other candidate.

26. Other than expenditures for travel or room and board, please itemize all expenditures (by amount, type, and date) by you, or on your behalf, in seeking the office of Public Service Commissioner.

None at this time.

27. Please list the amount and recipient of all contributions made to members of the General Assembly within six months of filing this questionnaire.

None.

28. Have you directly or indirectly requested a pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened?

No to both parts of this question.

29. Have you or has anyone on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy for the position of Public Service Commissioner? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor (if applicable), donor, and date of solicitation and/or receipt.

No.

30. List all professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you have held in such groups.

- (a) South Carolina Bar Association (1988 – present)
- (b) Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) (2019 – present)
- (c) National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) (2019 – present)
 - 1) Member of the NARUC Energy Resources and the Environment Committee (2019 – March 2025)
 - 2) Member of NARUC Nuclear Energy Subcommittee (2024 – present)
 - 3) Co-Vice Chair of the NARUC Electricity Committee (March 2025 – present)

31. List all civic, charitable, religious, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five (5) years.

- (a) St. Matthias Anglican Church, Summerton, SC (I have maintained membership in this church as I am a lifelong member.).
- (b) American Legion Auxiliary.
- (c) Trustee, Clarendon Hall Land Trust, Summerton, SC.
- (d) Life Member – College of Charleston Alumni Association.

32. State any other information which may reflect positively or negatively on you, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for a position on the Public Service Commission.

The knowledge and experience gained in my thirty-two years of working on cases and issues within the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission provide a strong background to serve as a Commissioner on the Public Service Commission. I am familiar with the ethical rules imposed on the Commissioners and employees of the Public Service Commission and will conform my conduct to those rules. It is my desire to serve the State of South Carolina, and I will do my best to ensure that my decisions are based upon the record of the case and applicable law in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act and the Code of Judicial Conduct.

33. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons, including your banker, from whom references could be required. Also, provide this Committee with original letters of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature. A photocopy, facsimile, or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation will not be accepted.

- (a) Thomas W. Cooper, Jr., [Redacted]
- (b) Molly M. Spearman, [Redacted]
- (c) Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esq., [Redacted]
- (d) Sally T. McKay, [Redacted]
- (e) Latoya Dennison, [Redacted]

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE
CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR
ANY RECORD INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE
AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature:

Date:

SWORN to and subscribed before me

this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____(L.S.)
Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: _____

PLEASE NOTE: S.C. CODE SECTIONS REFERRED TO IN THIS DOCUMENT ARE CONTAINED IN THE PDQ CODE REFERENCES DOCUMENT.

I ACKNOWLEDGE, AS A CANDIDATE, THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE PROVIDED ON THE USB FLASH DRIVE WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION APPLICATION MATERIALS AND ARE ACCESSIBLE ON THE PUBLIC UTILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE'S WEBSITE:

- (1) An Introduction to the Public Service Commission;**
- (2) The press release issued by the Committee announcing the start of its application process;**
- (3) An Advisory Opinion relating to attendance by candidates for the Public Service Commission at legislative receptions;**
- (4) An Advisory Opinion relating to attendance by candidates for the Public Service Commission at legislative caucus meetings;**
- (5) The Judicial Code of Conduct;**
- (6) Statutory definitions and statute concerning pledges; and**
- (7) Information regarding accessing your credit report.**

Signature:

Date:

SWORN to and subscribed before me

this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____(L.S.)
Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: _____