

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, October 24, 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): District 5 _____

1. Full Name: Mr. James C. Reno, Jr.

Home Address: [Redacted]

Business Address: First Citizens Bank
226 East Main Street
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Email Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number(s): (Office) 803.818.3751
(Home) None
(Cell) [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1963

Place of Birth: York General Hospital, Rock Hill, S.C.

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?

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

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

Family Status: Married July 20, 1991 to Melissa Beckham Reno.

Never divorced, three children.

[Redacted]

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

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 1985 to May 1988; Degree: Juris Doctor.

(b) University of Tennessee; September 1982 to June 1985; Degree: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Finance.

(c) Winthrop University; August 1981 to May 1982 (One Class Summer 1984); Left after freshman year to transfer to the University of Tennessee to complete college.

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

(a) In each of the last 5 years I have annually completed regulatory compliance courses required by my employer in accordance with my job responsibilities in banking. These courses are monitored by my employer for completion and most include assessment testing to assure employees understand banking regulations which impact their specific responsibilities with the bank.

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

 (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.

During my 28 years of service as a City Council Member for Rock Hill from January 1997 to the present day I have been involved in setting utility rates in the areas of water, wastewater, electricity, sanitation, and stormwater based on the utility services provided by the City. This experience also includes strategic decisions regarding the expansion of our electric, water and wastewater services for a growing City and community. The City has grown to be a provider of water and wastewater services for other governmental entities in our area. The strategic decisions primarily involved keeping rates reasonable for customers while also maintaining and improving reliability of these services. Additionally, we helped set forth a plan for ongoing expansion of the water plant, wastewater plant and electrical substations which allocated costs fairly to the governmental entities who are our wholesale customers. At various times in this 28 year period we have overseen regulation impacting telecommunication providers.

My career in banking started in 2003 with First Citizens Bank of South Carolina and continued through 2007. In 2007 I briefly worked for Clover Community Bank before taking a position at Provident Community Bank. I was at Provident Community Bank and its successor Park Sterling Bank from 2007 through 2017. In 2017 I took on a specialist role as an SBA Banker for PNC Bank, and then I returned to First Citizens Bank in 2021. In my banking career I have always been in positions designated as Commercial Banker or Business Banker except for the period when I was an SBA Specialist. In these positions I originate loans and help business owners understand other banking services which will assist their business or advance their personal financial goals. This work daily involves accounting and finance in the underwriting of loans. The accounting nature of the work is the understanding and interpretation of financial statements, and the finance skill set involves evaluating financial ratios and principles as well as determining the proper loan structure for a borrower. These accounting and financial skills guide my decisions and recommendations in the underwriting process. Understanding economic principles at a macro and micro level are also important skills in my banking work. My law degree and prior law practice experience are also used each day in my banking career. Additionally, I am trained annually on banking laws and regulations in the area of consumer protection.

I was in private law practice from 1988 through 2003 primarily in the field of real estate law. This career began for the firm of Roddey Carpenter & White (1988 to 1991), and upon the partners of Roddey Carpenter & White deciding to take different paths I was asked to join Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson P.A. and worked for this firm from 1991 through 1996. In 1996 I joined three other attorneys in a law practice which over time became Harper, Peterson Rogers & Reno P.A. In my legal practice I handled residential and commercial purchases, rezonings, variance hearings, and real estate matters in Probate Court. In the field of zoning and land use I was involved in representing telecommunication providers in seeking approval of cell towers. This work involved being asked to join a work group which helped draft new local legislation related to the proper location of cell towers and the maximization of co-locating providers on said towers.

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) City Council Member, City of Rock Hill, Ward 6. Elected position. Initially took office in January 1997, and was successfully re-elected to this position every four years. In the last few months I announced I would not seek re-election and would serve out my term which will end in January 2026.

On February 5, 2025 I received a letter from the State Ethics Commission indicating an Initial Campaign Disclosure due on or before November 21, 2021 was filed late on January 11, 2022. This letter indicated I was being fined \$100.00. Given the notice was three years after the filing period I was uncertain of the facts which related to this filing issue in an uncontested election. Therefore, I paid the fine rather than research the issue to determine the reason a filing was not made in November of 2021.

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

No.

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.

I have no employment by a governmental agency beyond my elected office.

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) May 2021- Present Day – First Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Rock Hill, SC. Vice President and Business Banker. This position involves business loan originations and guidance of customers related to: obtaining appropriate business checking accounts; selecting treasury services related to their accounts and financial activity; types of insurance coverages to consider; the wealth services for the business and/or the business

owner. Beyond loan originations this guidance often involves engaging other banking partners who specialize in one of these areas. The position also includes loan portfolio management of outstanding loans.

- (b) January 2018 – May 2021 – PNC Bank, Charlotte, NC. Vice-President, SBA Business Development Officer. Originated SBA 7(a), Express, and 504 Loans to businesses within a region of North Carolina and South Carolina. This position included a detailed understanding of the SOP Regulations of the SBA. During two rounds of PPP Lending I rotated into various positions which including supervising a small team which was originating PPP Loans.
- (c) August 2007 – December 2017 – Park Sterling Bank/Provident Community Bank, Rock Hill, S.C. Vice-President/Senior Vice-President and Business Banker. Originated loans to businesses. Served on Compliance Sub-Committee. Served as Provident Community Bank’s CRA Officer which included a successful CRA Exam by federal regulators. Loan portfolio management of over \$20 million in outstanding loans.
- (d) December 2006 – August 2007 Clover Community Bank, Rock Hill, SC. Vice-President and Commercial Loan Officer. Originated loans to small businesses.
- (e) April 2003 – December 2006. First Citizens Bank & Trust Company of S.C., Rock Hill, SC. Assistant Vice-President and Commercial Loan Officer. Originated loans to local businesses.
- (f) April 1996 – April 2003. Harper Peterson Rogers & Reno. P.A., Rock Hill, SC. Partner. Attorney with practice emphasis in real estate law, zoning and land use planning, and title insurance.
- (g) September 1991 – April 1996. Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson P.A., Rock Hill, SC. Associate Attorney. Practice emphasis in real estate law, zoning and land use planning, and title insurance.
- (h) August 1988 – September 1991. Roddey, Carpenter & White P.A. Rock Hill, SC. Associate Attorney. Practice emphasis in real estate law, zoning and land use planning and title insurance.

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 arrangements or business relationships which would pose a conflict of interest. If confronted with any potential conflict of interest on a matter came before the Public Service Commission, I would disclose the potential conflict to the Commission and to the parties in the matter. If the situation warranted my recusal, I would take the steps needed to recuse myself from all discussions, participation and vote upon the matter.

If the ownership of stock in any publicly traded company set forth in Question 16 below creates, or appears to create, a conflict of interest I am prepared to sell or transfer said stock in order to eliminate any potential conflict of interest.

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 statements of securities which are in my immediate control rather than being securities within a managed account of a fiduciary. The managed accounts make trading decisions based on my overall financial objectives and I am not involved in direct trade decisions. I believe this distinction between stocks which are within my immediate control from those removed from immediate control in a managed account is important when considering potential conflicts of interest. More detailed statements are contained 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.)

No.

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 this question.

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

Related to my service on City Council I have been named individually in a lawsuit brought by an individual in 2023 against the City of Rock Hill. The individual named all seven Council Members individually. The Plaintiff has made various claims seeking to overturn the City zoning regulations limiting the number of Short Term Rental Homes in the City.

I believe over my time serving on City Council there have been other lawsuits which individually named Council Members, including myself. In each of these cases all members were dismissed from the lawsuit.

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.

[Redacted]

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.)

No knowledge of any formal charges or informal allegations against me or 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.)

No knowledge of any formal charges or informal allegations 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 all 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.

I am currently not a member of any professional organizations. I allowed my Bar Association Membership to lapse after being in banking for around five years.

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) Westminster Presbyterian Church. I serve as an Elder and on the Session Leadership Team currently, and church Membership extends beyond the past 5 years. I have served in various positions in Youth and Children's ministries, and I am one of three teachers in a Life Group.

(b) Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation. Executive Council and Board Member currently serving and service extending beyond the past 5 years.

(c) Rock Hill Fort Mill Area Transportation Committee. One of Four Voting Members for the City of Rock Hill currently serving with service extending past 5 years.

- (d) Winthrop University Small Business Development Council. Advisory Board Member. This service has been over the past two years.
- (e) Early Learning Partnership of York County. Advisory Board Member from 2022 through 2024.

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 obtained in my professional career as an attorney and a banker combined with my direct experience while serving as a City Council Member for Rock Hill provides a good foundation for serving on the Public Service Commission. As a Council Member I have been involved with the oversight and policy decisions pertaining to providing services to consumers and businesses regarding electricity, water, wastewater, stormwater, and sanitation. My primary career experience in law and banking has helped me develop an analytical approach in understanding laws, regulations and policy along with the financial framework for understanding solid financial business structures and specific project financing requests. This experience will enable me to bring a unique skill set to the Public Service Commission.

It has been very rewarding to be involved with the City of Rock Hill as a public servant and witnessing the improvements made to our community over a number of years. I am excited about the possibility of being part of the Public Service Commission where my service combined with the other Commissioners and PSC staff could positively impact all parts of the State of South Carolina. Last, my legal background should also prepare me for the judicial nature of a Commissioner in undertaking public hearings and reaching decisions based on the facts presented and the applicable law.

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.

- 1) Jimmy Bagley, [Redacted]
- 2) Dean Faile, [Redacted]
- 3) Jim Petty, [Redacted]
- 4) Gary Simrill, [Redacted]
- 5) Diana Braunbeck, Banker, [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 STATUTORY REFERENCES DOCUMENT.

I ACKNOWLEDGE, AS A CANDIDATE, THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE ACCESSIBLE ON THE PUBLIC UTILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE'S WEBSITE:

- (1) An Introduction to the Public Service Commission;**

- (2) **The media 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) **An Advisory Opinion relating to attendance by candidates for the Public Service Commission at political gatherings;**
- (6) **The Judicial Code of Conduct;**
- (7) **Statutory definitions and statute concerning pledges; and**
- (8) **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: _____