

**STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**CANDIDATES FOR THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

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**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.)*

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**PLEASE SPECIFY THE SEAT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING (THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN WHICH YOU RESIDE; YOU MAY ONLY APPLY FOR ONE SEAT): 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

1. Full Name: Mr. Swain Edgar Whitfield

Home Address: [Redacted]

Business Address: 124 Palmetto Place Lane, Winnsboro, SC 29180

Email Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number(s): (Office) 803 354-1476  
(Home) [Redacted]  
(Cell) [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1963

Place of Birth: Columbia, SC

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?  
 Married on November 30, 1991 to Amy M. Whitfield.  
 Never divorced, three children: [Redacted]
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) Erskine College—1981-1982—transferred to Kennesaw College in Marietta, GA because of sharp increase in Erskine College tuition.
  - (b) Kennesaw College (now Kennesaw State University)—1982-1983—Transferred to the University of Georgia (which was my original intent when transferring to Kennesaw College as it is part of the University of Georgia system).
  - (c) University of Georgia—1983-1986—graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Art degree in Geography (Major Concentration in Economic and Industrial Geography; this major also included coursework in statistics, conservation energy, and resource management)
7. List any continuing education courses or other professional education or training programs that you have attended in the past five years.
- (a) National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)—Regulatory Training Initiative, *Fundamentals of Utility Law*: a 12 week program that was self-funded and completed in 2023.
  - (b) \*\*\* Note: I completed numerous other professional education and training programs in utility regulation from 2008-2020; however, this is prior to the past five years and some of this training is listed in question 32. I can provide more detail if necessary.
8. Have you been employed or held any position in any of the following areas?
- (a) energy issues
  - (b) telecommunications issues
  - (c) consumer protection and advocacy issues
  - (d) water and wastewater issues
  - (e) finance, economics, and statistics
  - (f) accounting
  - (g) engineering
  - (h) law

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

I served as a South Carolina Public Service Commissioner for twelve years from 2008-2020. During my work as Commissioner, I gained knowledge and experience in all of the above areas. On a daily basis at the commission office, I worked with our expert legal and advisory staff on matters and cases before the Public Service Commission and stayed abreast of other utility issues through NARUC, Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC), and other professional organizations and

publications. Additionally, for twelve years my fellow commissioners and I heard cases, ruled on those cases and issued orders involving all of the areas and disciplines above. There is no substitution for that daily on the job experience. The state of South Carolina invested in my extensive utility regulatory training and education where I was instructed by nationally renowned experts in each of the above fields. I also gained knowledge from the advisory and legal staff at the Public Service Commission through training in all of these areas.

For nearly the past four years, I have worked as an independent utility regulatory consultant and this work has required that I stay knowledgeable and current in all of the above areas as they pertain to utility regulation.

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.  
Yes.  
(a) Winnsboro City Council (1995-1999)  
(b) Fairfield County Substance Abuse Commission (1994-1996)  
(c) John De La Howe School Board of Trustees (2006-2008)  
(d) Public Service Commission (2008-2020)  
All reports were filed in a timely fashion with the State Ethics Commission when I held public office on the above three government entities, and I continued to do so as a Public Service Commissioner.
11. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, provide details, including dates.  
SC House Seat 41 in 1992  
SC House Seat 77 in 2004  
South Carolina Public Service Commission in 2020
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) SC DOT—1981 part time for Eisenhour Construction—Assigned to SC DOT engineering personnel in the construction of I-77; performed engineering, materials and road testing duties.  
(b) SC DOT—1983 part time employed by SC DOT engineering division; Supervisor: Don H. Freeman (later became the Chief State Highway Engineer at SC DOT);

performed surveying, engineering duties, for new construction and existing highways and roads.

(c) Winnsboro City Councilman—elected to a four year term and served from 1995-1999.

(d) John De La Howe Board Member—2006-2008—Member of State Board.

(e) South Carolina Public Service Commissioner—2008-2020. Served as Chairman 2016-2018. Responsible for ensuring that South Carolinians receive electric, natural gas, telephone, water, wastewater, and certain transportation services in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner. As described in the PSC mission statement, I was empowered by law, along with fellow commissioners, to rule as a quasi-judicial body to supervise, regulate, and set the rates and service of all investor-owned utilities in the state, and to fix just and reasonable standards, classifications, regulations, practices, and measurements of services to be furnished, imposed, or observed, and follow every public utility in the state. As an independent, impartial body, the Commission through adjudicative proceedings exercise regulatory authority over utilities through rate based economic regulation, utility facility siting authority, ruling on required statutory designations, and hearing consumer complaints.

Served a 2-year term as Chairman of the Commission from 2016-2018. As Chairman, I served as CEO of the Commission, presiding over all hearings and meetings as Chief Judge responsible for admission of evidence, rulings on motions, and the conduct and control of the entire hearing room. As Chairman and CEO of the Commission, I also supervised all staff and personnel and was responsible for the entire agency.

(f) \*\* In August of 2023 I accepted a position as a weekend nighttime dispatcher in the Florence Operations Center with the SC Forestry Commission. I worked one night and withdrew from employment the second night realizing that I could not work full-time as a consultant and fulfill the obligations of the nighttime dispatcher position simultaneously.

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) Laidlaw Carriers, Inc.—Atlanta, GA, 1986-1987. Worked in management, traffic operations, customer service, and supervised drivers for largest Canadian based trucking company handling time critical truckload shipments for GM, Chrysler, Ford, Michelin Tire, and many other Fortune 500 companies.

(b) Youmans Transportation, Inc.—West Columbia, SC, 1987-1990. Transportation brokerage firm handling shipments in forty-eight states. Promoted to operations manager in less than a year. As operations manager, I was responsible for other brokers working under my supervision.

(c) Senn Trucking Company—Newberry, SC, 1990-1991. Handled operations and customer service for large truckload carrier (450 trucks at the time). Additionally, I handled outside sales and was director of brokerage operations. Senn Trucking was bought out in 1991 by a Utah-based company.

(d) Whitfield Transportation, Inc. – Winnsboro, SC, 1991-2008. Personally founded the company in 1991. Originally started the company as an agency and brokerage operation. In 1996, began to operate trucks over the road and also established satellite agency offices in Georgia and Tennessee. Held two types of Federal Authority (Contract Carrier

Authority and Broker Authority) and licensed in 48 states. Additionally, held a Federal Surety Bond, and was always in compliance with all reporting, federal taxes, and federal regulations. As President of the company, I handled all day to day aspects and duties of managing and operating a small business with annual revenues in the millions. These duties included accounting, payroll, all taxes, credit, claims, insurance, operations, routing, contracts, dispatch, and management of all office staff and drivers, customer service, safety, sales, etc. At Whitfield Transportation, Inc., we served major Fortune 500 companies and smaller industrial customers with truckload services throughout 48 states and Canada. We primarily provided truckload services through van and flatbed shipments, but also handled some intermodal shipments. After nearly 17 years in business, I sold the assets and transportation business of Whitfield Transportation, Inc. to Ard Trucking Co. of Darlington, SC effective July 1, 2008 to devote full time service on the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

(e) Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.—Director of Business Development. November 2020-November 2021. Responsible for sales and marketing of civil engineering services for industrial development and economic development projects.

(f) Swain Whitfield Consulting—Utility Regulatory Consultant. November 2021-Present. Principal and founder of utility regulatory consulting firm. Providing a wide range of consulting services and solutions for clients across multiple sectors before utility regulatory commissions and other regulatory bodies.

14. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain.  
Yes, owner of Whitfield Transportation, Inc.; Owner and Principal of Swain Whitfield Consulting, a utility regulatory consulting firm previously listed above in Item 13; and owner of Heritage Wateree LLC.
  
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.  
As a utility regulatory consultant, I have advised and represented clients before the Public Service Commission (PSC), Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), and other regulatory bodies in South Carolina and other states. I have sought and received legal counsel from an attorney in South Carolina specializing in judicial and ethics matters, and I have been advised on any potential conflicts of interest, necessary disclosures, and other remedies of action. I have an expert legal opinion stating that if elected, I am fit, willing, and able to serve as commissioner, and I will share that legal opinion and specific resolutions in full with the PURC committee at the appropriate time.
  
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.  
I do not own any stock. Any other interests that I own would be through my retirement accounts: a SEP-IRA which would include mutual funds managed by Janey Montgomery Scott, LLC, a regular IRA with Merrill Lynch, a small inherited IRA with Merrill Lynch, a SC PEBA retirement account, and a small amount of funds in the SC Deferred

Compensation program. The total amounts for these funds are listed in my confidential financial statement that is part of this application. I can provide detailed statements if necessary, but none of them involve ownership in individual stocks.

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.

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

I have not been named in a lawsuit personally or professionally as a businessman. As a councilman, the Town of Winnsboro was occasionally named in lawsuits, but not me personally. Also, as a Public Service Commissioner, I have been named in a lawsuit. In December 2011, a Federal Court Action was brought by Time Warner Cable Information Services (South Carolina), LLC against the SC Public Service Commission and against each commissioner in their official capacities at the Commission. It was filed to challenge a PSC ruling in an arbitration the Commission heard under federal law. The Federal District Court Civil Action number for that action is 3:11-CV-3094-MBS. In late June 2018, in the last few moments of my chairmanship, SCE&G brought suit against me in my official capacity as Chairman, and against each Commissioner in their official capacities at the Commission in US District Court. On June 28, 2018, the General Assembly adopted legislation (Act 258) requiring among other things, a temporary reduction in SCE&G retail electric rates of approximately 15%, amending the Base Load Review Act of 2007 (BLRA). Immediately, in anticipation of Commission action, SCE&G brought suit seeking temporary injunctive relief. The Commission implemented the mandated rate reduction required by Act 258, by issuing Commission Order No. 2018-459 and effectively lowered retail electric rates immediately by approximately 15%. The Federal District Court Civil Action number for that action is: 3:18-CV-01795-JMC.

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.)  
I know of none at this time.
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.)  
I know of none at this time.
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.
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.  
Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce  
Association of American Geographers (former member)  
Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) – Past President, 2018  
Gas Technology Institute – public interest advisory board – Past Chairman, 2016-2018  
National Association Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)
  - Member NARUC Committee on Gas
  - Member NARUC Committee on Critical Infrastructure – Vice Chairman, 2015-2020
  - Member NARUC Washington Action Committee
  - Member NARUC Nuclear Waste subcommittee
  - Member NARUC – US Department of Energy Natural Gas infrastructure partnership
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.  
Centennial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Elder  
Centennial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, soup kitchen ministry  
Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce  
Blackstock Young Farmers  
Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity
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.

I appreciate the opportunity to address any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on me. First of all, I would like to address the only perceived negative that

I know of and is certainly “the elephant in the room.” While my previous service on the PSC as commissioner and chairman, during which time the two new nuclear plants were abandoned, might be perceived as a negative, I believe that serving during that time gives me institutional knowledge, historical perspective and experience that no other sitting commissioner or candidate has. While current Commissioner Florence Belser has experience at ORS, and current Commissioner Justin Williams was a sitting commissioner for the Dominion/SCE&G merger, my experience as a commissioner goes all the way back to the original nuclear plant siting case in late 2008. While the ability to predict when a utility witness might mislead you or lie to you is difficult to discern, many changes in the law and in commission regulations and orders have been implemented to protect utility customers in the future. These changes include the General Assembly repealing some laws and enacting new laws. The Commission also promulgated new regulations and issued orders designed to protect utility customers. When I was on the Commission, in our final order in the Dominion/ SCE&G merger case we required Dominion adhere to a code of conduct which continues to protect customers to this day. While this was a terrible time in South Carolina history, I believe that my experience and historical knowledge in this matter can be beneficial to the state of South Carolina by preventing a similar situation from happening again.

I am pleased to highlight several things that would reflect positively on me when considering me for a position on the Public Service Commission. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from the University of Georgia with a concentration in Economic and Industrial Geography, and with this academic background, I specifically studied population and industrial growth, population trends, population employment, and other crucial demographic data. As part of my undergraduate degree, I also completed coursework in conservation, resource management, and statistics. My academic background in these subjects is extremely valuable as almost all cases before the Public Service Commission require consideration of critical demographic data. Accordingly, in utility regulation, population trends, utility capacity requirements, and actual utility usage and consumption must be analyzed along with our limited resources (both natural and man-made) to meet the utility service needs of South Carolina residents, businesses and industries. Add to that our citizens’ needs for income (jobs/employment) and utilities that provide safe, reliable and affordable utility services, and fairness to all customer classes, and that is practically the three legs of the public interest as defined in SC Act 175. Of course, there is more that goes into being an effective regulator. The utility regulatory process and cases also involve testimony, evidence in the record, cross examination, findings of fact, due process, notice and opportunity to be heard just to mention some of the process. I have twelve years of experience on the bench ruling on these matters and issuing orders in cases before the Public Service Commission.

The State of South Carolina has invested in my utility regulatory education and training, for which I am very grateful. This training includes Electric Grid School, Utility Rate School, the National Judicial College, and Michigan State University's Institute of Public Utilities and other credentialed utility regulatory training. In addition, I have served with commissioners in all fifty states, and I have served with commissioners (both in South Carolina and other state commissions) who have gone on to serve as commissioners at the federal level such as the FCC, FERC, US NRC, USDOT (PHMSA), and the US Department of Energy and other federal agencies, and I have maintained those contacts.

Some may believe what happens in another state or at the federal level is irrelevant or has little to no bearing in South Carolina. Knowing commissioners in other states, and their state regulatory structure, gives me insight into failures and successes in other states and federal issues as well. Also, electrons do not know state lines, and our national electric grid is all interconnected. I have familiarity with FERC/NERC regulations and standards governing our electric grid. In addition to our electric utilities, many of our utilities in other sectors have multi-state jurisdictional service territories. I have an understanding of national, regional and state utility service jurisdiction connectivity and the structures and frameworks in which they operate. I believe my knowledge in this area is beneficial to South Carolina and should reflect positively in considering me for a position on the Public Service Commission.

I have also represented South Carolina in official capacity as Commissioner at many national forums, such as NARUC, SEARUC, and other federal and utility regulatory events. I have experience hearing and ruling on at least three major corporate mergers and have handled other merger cases also, as well as major utility facility siting cases. The Public Service Commission continues to regulate and have authority in certain areas of transportation, and I had a twenty-two year career in the transportation sector, including sixteen years as a transportation business owner and founder prior to joining the Commission. I have a long record of working well with staff and fellow commissioners at the Public Service Commission. I have demonstrated twelve years of following the law and all ethics rules, and twelve years of excellent evaluations by the PURC Committee. I have historically scored among the highest on the PSC written exam and at one time held the highest written exam score (I believe one other individual has tied my score of 95).

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, as an Independent Utility Regulatory Consultant, I have remained current in my knowledge of utility regulatory laws and issues. In this role, I have had to learn and become familiar with laws and statutes that were not even on the books when I was a commissioner such as: South Carolina's broadband accessibility act, the new securitization law, new IRP laws, and now SC Act 41. I have been involved in economic development matters and have remained engaged and informed on South Carolina's fast population growth and our state's tremendous economic development successes. This population growth and economic success, coupled with artificial intelligence (AI) and data centers, are placing significantly increasing demands on South Carolina's generation needs, infrastructure needs, and other critical resources.

I respectfully request that the Committee consider that I am familiar with South Carolina's utility regulatory past, am current on utility regulatory issues, and that I am uniquely prepared to adjudicate future matters before the Public Service Commission that could impact South Carolina for years to come.

Attached is a summary of my credentials and experience.

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) Mr. Tony Pope; First Citizens Bank, [Redacted]
  - 2) The Honorable F. Greg Delleney, Jr.; [Redacted]
  - 3) The Honorable Creighton B. Coleman; [Redacted]
  - 4) Commissioner Emeritus Elizabeth (Lib) Fleming; [Redacted]
  - 5) Commissioner Emeritus G. Oneal Hamilton; [Redacted]
- \*\* Alternate: Sheriff Will Montgomery; [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:

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***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:**