

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): Sixth Congressional District

1. Full Name: Mr. Justin Thomas Williams

Home Address: [Redacted]

Business Address: 101 Executive Center Drive Suite 100 Columbia, SC 29210

Email Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number(s): (Office): (803) 896-5100
(Home): N/A
(Cell): [Redacted]
2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1984

Place of Birth: Orangeburg, South Carolina
3. Social Security Number: [Redacted]
4. SCDL No.: [Redacted]

Voter Registration No.: [Redacted]
5. Family Status: Married on August 7, 2010, Stacy Ayers.
Never divorced, one child.
[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) Aiken Technical College, August 2001 – December 2001, Non-Degree Coursework.
 - (b) University of South Carolina, August 2002 – May 2006, B.A. in Public Relations.
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 2007 – May 2010, J.D.
 - (d) Piedmont Technical College, January 2019 – April 2020, Funeral Director's Certificate.
 - (e) The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, February 2015- May 2015 Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course Diploma.
 - (f) Duke University, August 2022 – May 2024, Masters of Environmental Management.
 - (g) U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer's College, June 2023 – May 2024, Command and General Staff Officer's Common Core Diploma.
7. List any continuing education courses or other professional education or training programs that you have attended in the past five years.
- (a) April 2021: Berkeley Labs Integrated Resource Planning Training
 - (b) May 2021: National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Annual Rate School
 - (c) June 2021: Crafting an Order by Judge Tripp Anderson
 - (d) August 2021 – May 2022: Leadership South Carolina
 - (e) October 2021: PSC/ORS Ethics and Administrative Law Class
 - (f) October 2021: Southeastern Association of Regulatory Commissioner Annual Education Conference
 - (g) January 2022 – March 2022: Regulating Public Utility Performance
 - (h) March 2022: Power Grid School
 - (i) March 2022: Michigan State Institute of Public Utilities Accounting & Ratemaking Course
 - (j) March 2022: Harvard Kennedy School Electricity Policy Group Power Sector Innovation
 - (k) May 2022: Southeast Energy and Environment Leadership Forum
 - (l) May 2022: New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities Practical Electrical Industry Regulatory Training
 - (m) August 2022 – May 2024: Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke Environmental Leadership Master of Environmental Management
 - (n) October 2022: PSC/ORS Ethics and Administrative Law Class
 - (o) February 2023: National Association of Utility Regulatory Commissioners Winter Policy Summit
 - (p) June 2023 – June 2024: United States Army Command and General Staff Officer College Intermediate Leader Education Phases 1 – 3.
 - (q) October 2023: PSC/ORS Ethics and Administrative Law Class
 - (r) February 2024: National Association of Utility Regulatory Commissioners Winter Policy Summit
 - (s) October 2024: PSC/ORS Ethics and Administrative Law Class
 - (t) January 2025: South Carolina Bar Association CLE – Chevron We Hardly Knew Ye
 - (u) January 2025: South Carolina Bar Association CLE – Administrative & Regulatory Law in South Carolina

(v) February 2025: National Association of Utility Regulatory Commissioners Winter Policy Summit

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.

Since July 1, 2018, I have served on the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. During my tenure, I have handled cases and made decisions in matters involving energy, telecommunications, consumer protection and advocacy, water and wastewater, finance, economics, and statistics. I have also made decisions in cases involving complex engineering and accounting issues; however, I am not a licensed accountant or engineer, and I have heavily relied on expert testimony.

I have worked in the legal field for over 17 years and practiced law for approximately 14 years. I have extensive litigation experience in Circuit Court, Magistrate Court, the Workers Compensation Commission, and Army Boards of Officers.

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.

Yes.
December 9, 2014 – present.
United States Army Reserve
Major/O4
[Redacted]
United States Army Reserve
Honorable

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, Public Service Commission of South Carolina Elected May 11, 2018

I have filed all statements of economic interest in a timely manner, except the first statement of economic interest. On January 21, 2022, I received notice from the State Ethics Commission that I should have filed a Statement of Economic Interest in May 2018 instead of October 2018. I informed the State Ethics Commission that I did not object to the \$100.00 late penalty, but I wanted to offer some extenuating circumstances for their consideration. Even though my term started on July 1, 2018, I was deployed to Camp Humphreys in South Korea for an overseas U.S. Army training exercise from June 27 to July 30, 2018. As such, I was not sworn in until August 15, 2018.

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

Yes. I was unsuccessful for judicial office in the 2023 and 2024 judicial election cycles. I applied for Seat 1, Fifth Judicial Circuit, during each cycle. I was found qualified and nominated in 2023 but withdrew before the election. I was found qualified and not nominated in the 2024 cycle.

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)Employer: USDA Summer Food Service Program, June 2002 – August 2002

Position: Delivery Driver

Supervisor: Gladys Wright

Major job responsibilities: Pick up box lunches from the USDA distribution center in Orangeburg, SC, and deliver them to Wright's Park in Neeses, South Carolina.

(b) Employer: South Carolina Senate, January 2003- May 2005

Position: Senate Page

Supervisor: Jane Fallaw

Major job responsibilities: Answered constituent questions and addressed their concerns regarding proposed legislation. Compiled and organized contact list of key constituents. Performed weekly mail-out of Senate minutes to over 200 constituents. Worked the Senate floor during regular and special sessions, addressing Senators' needs and concerns.

(c) Employer: University of South Carolina, March 2005 – March 2006

Position: Student Body President

Supervisor: Jerry Brewer

Major job responsibilities: Upheld the Constitution and Constitutional Codes of the Student Government and administered all regulations established in the Senate Statutes. Made recommendations to the Senate regarding legislation. Addressed the Senate at the beginning of each semester and at other times upon invitation of the Senate. Appointed cabinet members and Judicial Council members. Served as the official representative of the Student Government and as an official representative of the University. With the assistance of the Treasurer, prepared and presented the Student Government budget. Presented weekly executive briefings to the Director of Student Affairs and Student Government Senate. Served as the student voice as a non-voting member on the USC Board of Trustees by

attending quarterly meetings and gave input and made recommendations on issues concerning students.

(d) Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office, February 2011 – August 2013

Position: Assistant Solicitor

Supervisor: April Sampson

Major job responsibilities: As an Assistant Solicitor, I practiced criminal law at the trial court level in General Sessions Court. Initially, my caseload included over 600 warrants. As an Assistant Solicitor, my duties included managing a criminal docket, appearing in bond court, appearing at preliminary hearings, appearing at first and second appearances, meeting with law enforcement officers and victims, arguing motions in General Sessions Court, negotiating terms of a plea agreement with defense counsel, presenting guilty pleas in General Sessions Court, and calling cases to trial in General Sessions Court if plea negotiations failed.

(e) Employer: United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate, June 2015 – Present

Position: Judge Advocate

Supervisor: LTC Terry Meinecke

Major job responsibilities: Serving as a Judge Advocate in the United States Army Reserve has significantly broadened my legal practice. From June 2015 to June 2016, I served as a legal assistance attorney. As a legal assistance attorney, I assisted soldiers and retirees with wills, powers of attorney, family care plans, debt issues, letter writing, and landlord-tenant matters. From July 2016 to July 2018, I served as an administrative law attorney. As an administrative law attorney, I served as the legal advisor for Investigating Officers, conducted legal reviews on administrative investigations into Soldier misconduct, and served as the recorder (prosecutor) for separation boards. From August 2018 – May 2024, I served as Brigade Commanders' primary or secondary legal advisor on administrative law, contract and fiscal law, military justice, and national security law matters. From May 2024 to March 2025, I served as a Team Chief for the 12th Legal Operations Detachment. I provided legal support for national security law, administrative law, and legal assistance. Currently, I serve as a Special Trial Counsel for the Office of the Special Trial Counsel. In this role, I prosecute highly sensitive matters that Congress has determined are better handled by the Office of the Special Trial Counsel instead of commanders.

(f) Employer: Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office, June 2015 – December 2016

Position: Assistant Solicitor

Supervisor: April Sampson

Major job responsibilities: I prosecuted mid-level to major felonies. I spent most of my time reviewing discovery, preparing plea offers, negotiating plea agreements, and preparing for trial. I prepared and called three cases to trial during this period. A murder case, a burglary ring, and an armed robbery case where the State pursued Life Without the Possibility of Parole (I recused myself from arguing the last case because my wife was the trial judge's law clerk). I had limited administrative management responsibilities with interns, legal assistants, and paralegals. I had no financial management responsibility.

(g) Employer: Public Service Commission of South Carolina, July 1, 2018 - Present
Position: Commissioner

Supervisor: Chair Delton Powers

Major job responsibilities: As a public service commissioner, I conduct legal research and analysis to support my decisions in the complex legal matters that regularly appear before the commission. Additionally, I am subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct and have served for over six years without any actual or alleged violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Serving as a public service commissioner is a cerebral academic endeavor in that I spend much of my time reading reports and pre-filed testimony in preparation for hearings. While the public service commission has jurisdiction to regulate electric, natural gas, water and wastewater, transportation, and telecommunication utilities, my tenure on the commission has focused heavily on electric utilities and the renewable energy transition. During my service as chair, my responsibilities increased significantly as I served as the commission's chief executive and administrative officer and presided over all hearings using commission regulations, the rules of evidence, and civil procedure to maintain order. While I was not managing simple day-to-day tasks, I frequently met with executive staff to ensure that all employees were performing to standard and that we were managing our financial resources responsibly and effectively. As chair (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022), I was ultimately responsible for administrative and financial management; however, I delegated many tasks to the executive director and managed her performance.

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) Employer: S&J Backhoe and Landscaping Service, July 1994 – July 2002

Position: Laborer

Nature of work: Installed septic tanks, performed land clearing, and planted grass and flowers.

(b) Employer: Piggly Wiggly, January 2002 – May 2002

Position: Bag Boy

Nature of work: Bagged groceries, stocked shelves, and mopped floors.

(c) Employer: Pfizer, Inc., May 2004 – August 2005

Position: Healthcare Representative Intern

Nature of work: Developed and executed a strategic plan to increase sales. Utilized reporting tools to monitor, track, and analyze customer data trends to increase territory sales. Conducted 8-10 sales calls with doctors' offices and pharmacies to deliver product presentations and stakeholder engagement.

(d) Employer: Red Bull January 2006 – May 2006

Position: Mobile Energy Team Member

Nature of work: Promoted Red Bull Energy Drinks

(e) Employer: Pfizer, Inc., May 2006 – August 2007

Position: Healthcare Representative

Nature of work: Developed and executed a strategic plan to increase sales. Utilized reporting tools to monitor, track, and analyze customer data trends to increase territory sales. Conducted 10-12 sales calls with doctors' offices and pharmacies to deliver product presentations and stakeholder engagement.

(f) Employer: Collins and Lacy, May 2007 – December 2009

Position: Law Clerk

Nature of work: Completed extensive legal research and drafted legal memoranda, deposition reports, litigation plans, municipal ordinances, complaints, answers, exposure analysis, and medical history reports.

(g) Employer: Pfizer, Inc., May 2009 – July 2009

Position: Government Relations and Public Affairs Intern

Nature of work: I monitored and tracked the Washington D.C. Council's policies, regulations, and legislation that could impact Pfizer's business interests and drafted summaries of pertinent matters that appeared in Washington D.C. Council meetings, congressional hearings, and grassroots healthcare organization meetings.

(h) Employer: Barbri, May 2010 – July 2010

Position: Bar Exam Preparation Administrator

Nature of work: I administered Barbri's bar exam preparation course for candidates seeking admission to the South Carolina Bar.

(i) Employer: Columbia Urban League, August 2010 – January 2010

Position: Special Projects Coordinator

Nature of work: I managed special projects at the Columbia Urban League and served as special assistant to the President and CEO of the Columbia Urban League.

(j) Employer: Wilson Jones Carter & Baxley, August 2013 – June 2015

Position: Associate

Nature of work: As a workers' compensation defense firm associate, I represented employers and insurance carriers in workers' compensation claims.

(k) Employer: Moore Bradley Myers, January 2017 – June 2018

Position: Associate

Nature of work: I practiced law in a high-operational-tempo law firm with a statewide personal injury, workers' compensation, and criminal defense practice.

(l) Business: Lucy Williams Trucking, LLC, December 2021 – April 2022

Position: Owner

Nature of work: I owned an interstate trucking company.

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

Yes. I currently own and operate a small family farm in Aiken County, South Carolina.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

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

Yes.

(a) Lawsuit: Casey Edwards and Justin Williams v. State of South Carolina, filed May 27, 2009

Petitioners sought a declaratory judgment from the Supreme Court of South Carolina that the South Carolina General Assembly may request, accept, and distribute the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds, which the General Assembly included in the 2009-10 General Appropriations Bill, and that the Governor must execute the Budget as enacted by the General Assembly.

Disposition: On June 4, 2009, the Supreme Court of South Carolina ruled in favor of Petitioners.

(b) Lawsuit: Justin Williams v. Edgar H Peacock, Jr, DDS, PA, filed November 23, 2016

I was in the market for elective surgery to remove my wisdom teeth. I consulted my dental insurance for a list of dental surgeons that accepted my insurance. After shopping around, I selected Dr. Peacock because his office manager told me that I would pay no more than \$400.00 out of pocket for the procedure and that my insurance company would pay the bill's balance. I proceeded with the procedure. Approximately one month after the procedure, I received a bill for over \$800.00. I attempted to work through the issue with Dr. Peacock's office manager, but negotiations failed. As a result of failed negotiations, I filed an Unfair Trade Practices action against Dr. Peacock.

Disposition: Settled out of court in my favor on December 30, 2016.

(c)Lawsuit: Justin Williams v. Jared Timothy King, filed January 5, 2017

As I was riding home from the University of South Carolina Football Game, Mr. King T-boned me on Bluff Road. My truck was totaled, and I sustained several injuries. A dispute arose with Mr. King's insurance company regarding the damages I suffered. As a result of failed negotiations, I filed a personal injury and property damage action against Mr. King.

Disposition: The case settled out of court in my favor on September 21, 2017.

(d) Lawsuit: Justin Williams v. Frank James, filed on February 8, 2017

Due to a motor vehicle accident, my truck was disabled and towed to Frank James Paint and Body Shop for repair. Mr. James determined that the truck was totaled. The at-fault driver's insurance company paid me what they thought the truck was worth and sent Mr. James a check for his initial damage assessment and storage fees. The at-fault driver's insurance company told me they issued a check to Mr. James for his fees on or about the same date they issued me a check for the truck's value. Mr. James denied receiving a check for his fees from the at-fault driver's insurance company and refused to release my truck to my possession. Several months passed, and Mr. James maintained that he had never received a check for his fees. I requested that the at-fault driver's insurance company send me a copy of the check and proof that it was cashed, and they did. I confronted Mr. James with a copy of the check and proof of deposit, and he stated that I still owed him money for storing my truck. As a result of failed negotiations, I filed a claim and delivered action in magistrate court.

Disposition: The magistrate judge ruled in my favor on April 25, 2017, and ordered Mr. James to release the truck to my possession.

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 am not aware of anyone violating S.C. Code Section 8-13-700.

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 am not aware of anyone violating S.C. Code 8-13-765.

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.

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.

- (a) National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
- (b) Richland County Bar Association
- (c) South Carolina Bar Association
- (d) South Carolina Black Lawyers Association

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) Downtown Church
- (b) Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated
- (c) Sigma Pi Phi 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.

Nothing significant to report.

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) Steven D.K. Brown
[Redacted]
- 2) Jerisha Dukes
[Redacted]
- 3) Chris Jackson
[Redacted]
- 4) Matt Nichols
[Redacted]
- 5) James T. McLawhorn
[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:

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: