



STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

CANDIDATES FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EDITED 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 11, 2019. (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): Public Service Commission 7th Congressional District

1. Full Name: Mr. John Q. Atkinson, Jr.
Ms.

Home Address: 201 Oakenwald Drive
Marion, South Carolina 29571

Business Address: 106 NE Court Street
Marion, South Carolina 29571

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.

The Citadel 1972 – 1976 BS in Business Administration

LSU 1995 – 1997 Banking Business School of the South

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

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
- X (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.

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| Farm Chemical & Fertilizer Sales | 1976-1980 |
| Production Credit Association (Farm Credit) | 1980-1985 |
| South Carolina National Bank | 1985-1991 |
| Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank | 1994-Present |

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.
Marion County Council – Elected - 1989 to Present
All reports were timely filed with the State Ethics Commission.
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.
Marion County Council – 1989 to Present
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.
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|---|-----------------------|
| 1) Farm Chemical and Fertilizer Sales | 1976 – 1980 |
| 2) Production Credit Association (Farm Credit) | 1980 – 1985 |
| 3) South Carolina National Bank | 1985 – 1991 |
| 4) Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank | 1991 – Present |
14. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain.
Johnny Atkinson Rental Properties, Owner
Swamp Fox Farms, Owner
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.

PV Ground Lease and Easement Agreement – I currently have an active Lease Agreement with Cypress Creek Renewals that is currently up for renewal in December of 2019. Renewal Lease could be negotiated.

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

Original Response:

- 1) I was named as a party defendant in a lawsuit in 2004. Tim Norwood was running against Kent Williams for the District 30 Senate Seat. He brought a defamation lawsuit against me and several other supporters of Senator Williams as a result of an article that was published containing information about Mr. Norwood's financial history. This lawsuit was dismissed upon a Summary Judgment Motion on the basis that the published information was true.
- 2) I was named as a party Plaintiff in a lawsuit in 2013. The purpose of this lawsuit was for a Claim and Delivery for a Horse Trailer/Camper that was used by a previous helper and which was not returned. This lawsuit was dismissed and settled outside of court.

Amended Response (01/03/20):

- 1) I was named as a party defendant in a lawsuit in 2004. Tim Norwood was running against Kent Williams for the District 30 Senate Seat. He brought a defamation lawsuit against me and several other supporters of Senator Williams as a result of an article that was published containing information about Mr. Norwood's financial history. This lawsuit was dismissed upon a Summary Judgment Motion on the basis that the published information was true.
 - 2) I was named as a party Plaintiff in a lawsuit in 2013. The purpose of this lawsuit was for a Claim and Delivery for a Horse Trailer/Camper that was used by a previous helper and which was not returned. This lawsuit was dismissed and settled outside of court.
 - 3) All litigation matters concerning Defendants, Latesha Godbolt and Michael Godbolt, were matters where I was the Plaintiff filing evictions against them.
 - 4) The Julia Grant litigation matter was a matter where I was the Plaintiff filing an eviction against her.
 - 5) The Defendant, John Atkinson, in the Brunson V. Canal Insurance matter and the Shaw V. Atkinson matter is not me.
 - 6) All other litigation matters referenced that shown me as a Defendant were matters where I was serving in my official capacity as Marion County Council Member with statutory immunity from such official actions, even though some of the complaints reference me individually as well.
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**
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.
- 1) **SC Association of Counties**
 - a) **Board of Director** **1991–1996; 2012–Present**
 - b) **First Vice President** **2014**
 - c) **President** **2015**
 - 2) **Northeastern Strategic Alliance**
 - a) **Board of Director** **2008 – Present**
 - 3) **Pee Dee Regional Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee 2007 – 2013**
 - 4) **Pee Dee Regional Development Board** **1994 – Present**
 - 5) **Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments**
 - a) **Board of Directors** **1994 – Present**
 - b) **Secretary and Treasurer** **2012 – 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.
- 1) **Marion – Mullins Rotary Club**
 - a) **President 1997 - 1998**
 - b) **Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow 2012**
 - 2) **Marion First United Methodist Church 1978 - Present**
 - a) **Uncle Charlie's Hut Sunday School Class**
 - b) **FUMC Finance Committee**
 - c) **FUMC Foundation Board**
 - 3) **Citadel Alumni Association**
 - 4) **National Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America – Board of Directors 2007 – Present**

5) Region III Shooting Dog 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.

I have thirty (30) years of serving the public and my county and in those thirty years, I have not had one opposition during my candidacy. I strongly feel that this reflects the trust and confidence that the citizens have in my service and representation.

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) **James Battle**
- 2) **J. Wayne George**
- 3) **James E. Brogdon, Jr.**
- 4) **Banker Letter**
- 5) **Bishop Michael Blue**

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: _____
John Q. Atkinson, Jr.

Date: October, 2019

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: _____
John Q. Atkinson, Jr.

Date: October, 2019