

NAME: Daniel Blackman
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Public Service Commission



Why are you seeking your office?

Georgia continues to be among the states with the largest percentage of the working-poor. Since 2008, while our families, friends, and neighbors, fought to find some degree of economic stability, the Consumers' Utility Counsel, which was charged with advocating on behalf of residential ratepayers in utility cases, was de-funded as part of state budget cuts ordered by then Governor Perdue. Ratepayers have lacked adequate representation in utility cases involving billions of dollars; and with so much ratepayer money on the line, it is critical that the interests of consumers and small businesses are represented before the Public Service Commission.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Creating, promoting, and enforcing strong consumer protections will be my focus. My objective will be to promote the financial stability of utilities by improving accountability and transparency in the rate-making process by creating safeguards and risk-sharing mechanisms, to address the "too big to fail" approach of many utility companies regulated by the Public Service Commission; and to protect the Georgia taxpayer by ending 100% burden and risks of cost overruns.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I challenge any argument that "clean" can be measured by a single emission rate, while ignoring land and water impacts, including any technology's full lifecycle. The public requires a straightforward account of the true costs of electric generation technologies in as accurate a form as possible. Regardless of the resource, my decisions will carefully consider how we meet the public requirements of affordability, reliability, adequate water availability, enhanced public health, improved environmental protection, and prudent investments. I believe we are able to meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

What are the key issues in your race?

Advocating for small businesses and consumers by standing up for ratepayer rights by restoring the Consumers' Utility Counsel, which once acted as the state's primary consumer advocate on behalf of ratepayers. (2) Working with utility providers to ensure that Georgia's citizen's are receiving reliable and reasonably priced telecommunications, electric and natural gas services, while keeping utility rates low and affordable. (3) Support Clean Energy Clean power is not about "jobs vs. the environment", we have a unique

opportunity to work together to create good jobs and healthy communities as we continue to protect workers and Georgia's communities impacted by our (100)

Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

I fully support the economic and environmental benefits of solar technology use in Georgia. Georgia ranks 7th in solar potential, and has the power to increase job growth, strengthen our economy, and provide our ratepayers with relief on their electric bills. The first step is establishing a partnership with Georgia Power, the ratepayers and the PSC. Let's research market demand by including a check box request for solar in the consumer electric bill. This will inquire whether the consumer is interested in solar without raising rates. Consumer interest in solar should not be a penalty with higher rates.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

Daniel has 10 years of public and intergovernmental affairs experience and has helped to advise agencies and organizations including the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Green Building Council, the Georgia Conservancy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Energy, City of Atlanta's Office of Sustainability, and was appointed by retired Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears to the Georgia Supreme Court Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law.

Mr. Blackman was appointed by the Chairman of the National Wildlife Federation to serve on an Environmental Policy Commission co-sponsored by members of the United States Congress to address renewable energy and public health.