

District of Columbia Ward 3 Democratic Committee

Resolution to Suggest Requirements for PSC Commissioners

Passed on 10/21/2021

Whereas the District of Columbia has a Public Service Commission charged with regulation and oversight of the city's public utilities;

Whereas the DC Public Service Commission has approved mergers of the District's electric and gas public utility companies with energy conglomerates and has approved substantial increases in utility rates without sufficient regard for the interests of District residents;

Whereas members of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee Task Force on Transportation and Environment have raised a number of issues to the People's Counsel and to Councilmember Cheh regarding the qualifications of certain candidates for Commissioner to fulfill their roles and responsibilities;

Whereas Councilmember Cheh has asked for the Ward 3 Democrats to provide her with a summary of key qualifications for PSC Commissioners;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved by the Ward 3 Democratic Committee of the District of Columbia that the Council of the District of Columbia should consider the following requirements for PSC Commissioners, to be provided to Councilmember Cheh:

- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with current regulatory and legal issues related to or affecting public utilities and public utility regulation, especially at the local level.
 - Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with how public utility companies set rates, particularly electric and gas utility businesses;
 - Understanding of how public utilities demonstrate their costs in accordance with standards applied in utility rate setting to ensure appropriate cost recovery for the utility while protecting residents from unfair or unsubstantiated rate increases.
 - Experience in the academic study, development or oversight of legislation and regulation, or public interest advocacy in the field of public utility policies, operations, rates and services would offer examples of knowledge and experience under the criteria above.
- Demonstrated passion for consumer interests, particularly as related to public utilities, and a clear commitment to protecting utility customers from unjust and unreasonable rates and services.

- Experience in developing or implementing programs that reduce utility bills for low-income families and other consumers with demonstrated needs for assistance with utility costs.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with energy and environmental interests and specifically knowledge of climate change and the consequences of use of fossil fuels in the public utility sector.
- Experience in establishing policies, goals and programs to benefit consumers through improving Energy Efficiency and using Renewable Energy.
 - Experience in establishing policies, goals and programs to benefit consumers through improving energy efficiency, and demonstrated commitment to reducing waste of energy and resources.
 - Experience in establishing policies, goals and programs to achieve clean and renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions, and commitment to achieving the aggressive clean energy and sustainability goals adopted by the Council in a timely and equitable way.
- Commissioners should be entirely independent of the regulated utilities and should not have any financial investment in, derive financial gain from, nor have worked in any decision-making capacity at, any of the regulated utilities, including parent, sister or subsidiary companies, related industry groups, and associations, including not-for-profits if representing regulated utilities
- Dedication to serving the public interest in considering the provisions encompassed in the enabling statutes and regulatory requirements, as well those based on case law and also equity standards.

Therefore, it is hereby further resolved by the Ward 3 Democratic Committee that this resolution be communicated to the Mayor and to all members of the DC Council, to the Chair of the Democratic State Committee, and the Chairs of all DC Democratic Ward committees.

Therefore, it is hereby further resolved that the Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee or the Chair's designee(s) are authorized to transmit, testify to, publicize, and carry out this resolution in any manner the Chair deems appropriate.

Passed by:
THE WARD THREE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE