

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

#WTF is the Public Service Commission?

The Public Service Commission can sound confusing - public service? Commission? What the heck do they do there? Long story short, the PSC ensures that our taxpayers have access to vital utilities like water and electricity, among others. They also deal with railroad and pipeline jurisdiction, influencing both usage and workplace safety of said pipelines and railroads. They are the moderators between the public, and private utility companies like Northwestern Energy and decide what is in the best public interest as well as Montana's interest. Sometimes these values conflict. There are 5 commissioners on the PSC and each represents their own district within the state.

Why does it matter?

Since the PSC covers a wide-range of issues, it can be easy to lose sight of its importance. However, competent commissioners are vital to ensure affordable utilities for all Montanans. They also need to enforce enough safety regulations for our pipeline and railroad workers. Most importantly - the PSC is a huge decision maker in combating the current climate crisis by being the elected office in charge of prioritizing renewable energy and sustainable solutions over private oil and gas interests.

Why vote in this race?

If you are concerned about the influence of utility monopolies in Montana, these are the people in charge of keeping those corporations in check. We need to elect commissioners that will stand up for consumers, stand up for our environment and keep our utility payments affordable for all of us.