

Louisiana District 1

Public Service Commission 2026

STEPHANIE
HILFERTY

REPUBLICAN



CHRIS
JUSTIN

INDEPENDENT



CONNIE
NORRIS

DEMOCRAT



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Why your November 3 vote matters

The [election](#) on November 3 will decide the District 1 seat on the Louisiana Public Service Commission. Republican Stephanie Hilferty, independent Chris Justin, and Democrat Connie Norris are running for a six-year term. The Commission [currently has](#) a partisan makeup of 3 Republicans and 2 Democrats. There is also an election this year for District 5.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission regulates state utilities

The Commission [consists](#) of five members who serve staggered six-year terms, each representing one district in the state. The Public Service Commission [is tasked](#) with regulating all public utilities and common carriers, except for utilities owned and operated by cities and towns. This means that the Commission [regulates and sets](#) rates for electricity, water, natural gas, and other services including telecommunication. State law has also granted the Commission additional regulatory powers, including [executing](#) the “Telephonic Solicitation Relief Act,” known as the Do Not Call program. The Louisiana Public Service Commission [is established](#) by Article IV, Section 21 of the Louisiana Constitution.

The Commission [conducts](#) administrative hearings and [monthly meetings](#) to gather the needed information to make their final determinations. In recent years, the Commission has [ended](#) net metering, reducing the incentive for households to install solar panels. It also [approved](#) a new rate plan for Magnolia Water, along with an audit into the company’s business practices, [approved](#) a large grid resiliency plan to be executed by Cleco Power, and [fast tracked](#) the construction of seven new natural gas power plants to power a new Meta data center.

To help you decide

Here’s background on the candidates’ public statements, actions, backgrounds, and publicized endorsements. Follow our links to get further information.

STEPHANIE HILFERTY

stephanieforpsc.com

- **On accountability,** [supports](#) updating the outdated reliability standards that are used to grade utility companies. Doing so would make the utilities accountable for their current service. [Supports](#) requiring faster response times to power outages. [Seeks](#) “full financial transparency.”
- **On data centers,** [supports](#) Governor Landry’s executive order requiring data center companies to pay for utility costs. “If the data center needs that additional power, they are the ones paying for that power.”

CHRIS JUSTIN

votechrisjustin.com

- **On accountability,** [started](#) a website for people to report damaged electrical equipment, especially leaning utility poles, around Louisiana.
- **On data centers,** [says](#) that data centers should pay 100 percent of their costs, including power, transmission lines, and water.

CONNIE NORRIS

tiktok.com/@connienorris4

- **On accountability,** “Louisiana families [deserve](#) to know when, where, and how utility companies are spending their money. It’s time for sunshine, full accountability and transparency.” Elected commissioners “[need](#) to disclose their private meetings.”
- **On data centers,** no position found.
- **On infrastructure,** no position found.

STEPHANIE HILFERTY

- On infrastructure, [supports](#) investing in storm-resilient infrastructure and smart grid technology.
- On utility rates, [voted](#) as a state representative to require utilities to [reimburse](#) ratepayers for utility overcharges.
- On water oversight, [introduced](#) legislation to give the New Orleans City Council more control over the city's Sewerage and Water Board, including more authority to set rates and fees. [Says](#) that Magnolia Water needs to be audited and should not be authorized to make any new acquisitions "for the time being."

Stephanie Hilferty is [currently](#) a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, where she has served since 2016. She earned a bachelor's degree from Loyola University New Orleans. In addition to serving as a legislator, [she is](#) a senior advisor for SRSA Commercial Real Estate.

Hilferty's [endorsements](#) include:

Lieutenant Governor [Billy Nungesser](#), state house speaker [Phillip Devillier](#), [Greater](#) New Orleans Republicans PAC, among others.

CHRIS JUSTIN

- On infrastructure, [says](#) that the utility companies should be forced to improve electric, gas, and water systems before the Commission approves any rate increases. [Says](#) that private non-utility energy companies should be given a chance to improve the power grid. "If private industry will fund cheaper power, we take it."
- On utility rates, [worked](#) to reduce the amount that Louisiana ratepayers pay for "ghost charges" that do not go toward improved services. [Says](#) that the utility company guaranteed profit rate should be lowered from the current rate of 9.7%.
- On water oversight, [testified](#) in front of the Commission and said that Magnolia Water should not have its new rate approved without a complete company audit as part of a "full open-book rate case."

Chris Justin is [currently](#) an energy policy consultant with Emergent Grid Solutions, a role in which he has testified in front of the Louisiana Public Service Commission on reducing electricity costs. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Penn State University. He previously worked as a process engineer at Shell Norco Refinery.

Justin's endorsements include: Republican primary candidate for PSC District 1, [Wayne Cooper](#), among others.

CONNIE NORRIS

- On utility rates, [said](#), "we're fast approaching electric bills being as high as our house loans and water bills becoming our new car notes." [Intervened](#) in a Magnolia rate case before the Commission to push for lower bills for ratepayers. In the case a judge ordered an audit of Magnolia's finances before the company can apply for another rate increase.
- On water oversight, [advocated](#) for stopping all Magnolia Water acquisitions in Louisiana.

Connie Norris [has spent](#) the last two years as a community advocate in front of the Louisiana Public Service Commission challenging rate increases. She is otherwise retired and lives in Slidell. She [formerly](#) worked as a healthcare professional.

Norris's endorsements include: the [Louisiana](#) Democratic Party, among others.

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