

Louisiana District 5

Public Service Commission 2026

THE ISSUES

JOHN
ATKINS

REPUBLICAN



JAMES
GREEN

DEMOCRAT

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Why your November 3 vote matters

The [election](#) on November 3 will decide the District 5 seat on the Louisiana Public Service Commission. Republican John Atkins and Democrat James Green 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 1.

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.

JOHN ATKINS atkinsforpsc.com

- **On company accountability,** [says](#) that ratepayers deserve transparency and accountability from utility companies.
- **On data centers,** [says](#) that a majority of Louisianans support the economic potential of data centers provided they do not affect other ratepayers or the environment. The PSC should [hold](#) data centers to long-term contracts to ensure that they cover their build costs.
- **On infrastructure,** [supports](#) “upgrading or replacing aging and non-compliant water systems.” [Says](#) that utility companies must be accountable for building and maintaining a reliable power grid.
- **On new power sources,** [supports](#) nuclear power over solar and wind. Says solar and wind power are not good fits for Louisiana’s environmental conditions.

JAMES GREEN jamesgreenpsc.com

- **On company accountability,** [says](#), “will fight for...accountability for rate increases.” Would “[hold](#) companies accountable, strengthen PSC oversight, and require clear reporting on outages and spending.” [Supports](#) a moratorium on cutting off electricity when there are high temperatures.
- **On data centers,** [says](#) that data centers should pay their own costs. [Says](#) that environmental and community groups should be involved in the application process before data center projects are approved. [Says](#) that the public needs accurate information about water use and where each project will be located.
- **On infrastructure,** [wants](#) a more resilient power grid, through “modernized infrastructure, improved storm response, and local reinvestment.”

JOHN ATKINS

- **On utility rates**, “will [make](#) sound decisions on utility rates based on engineering and economics, not politics.” [Sees](#) excessive rate increases as “a challenge that utilities really need to...work to address.” Utilities must “[manage](#) their costs in the best way possible.” [Would](#) “minimize...over-regulation of our residents and businesses.” “The more we can [reduce](#) the number of regulatory hurdles” that the utilities “have to cross over,” that may allow them to reduce their costs.

John Atkins is [currently](#) serving his third term on the Caddo Parish Commission. He earned a bachelor’s degree in geology from Washington & Lee University, a master’s degree in geological sciences from The University of Texas at Austin, and an MBA from Northwestern University. He started his career working as a geophysicist at Conoco, Inc. and then as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company focusing on energy companies. He currently works as a principal at Atco Investment Company LLC in Shreveport, focusing on oil and gas and timberland, among other assets. He also works as a co-founder and partner at Louisiana Timber Partners LLC.

Atkins’s endorsements include: U.S. Senator [John Kennedy](#), the [Republican Party](#) of Bossier Parish, and the [Republican Party](#) of Caddo Parish, among others.

JAMES GREEN

- **On new power sources**, [supports](#) the Commission promoting renewable energy initiatives. [Says](#) that solar power “basically would cut your utilities [in] half...cut the price [in] half.”
- **On utility rates**, [says](#) that district residents “deserve a Commissioner who...will fight to keep energy affordable.” Would “[fight](#) unjustified rate increases.”

James Green is [currently](#) a member of the Shreveport City Council representing District F, where he has served since 2014, and is a former Chairman of the City Council. He has also [worked](#) as a church pastor and a business owner. He began preaching at age 19 and was ordained in 1971. He has led Union Mission Baptist Church #1 in Shreveport for over four decades.

Green’s endorsements include: the [Louisiana](#) Democratic Party among others.

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