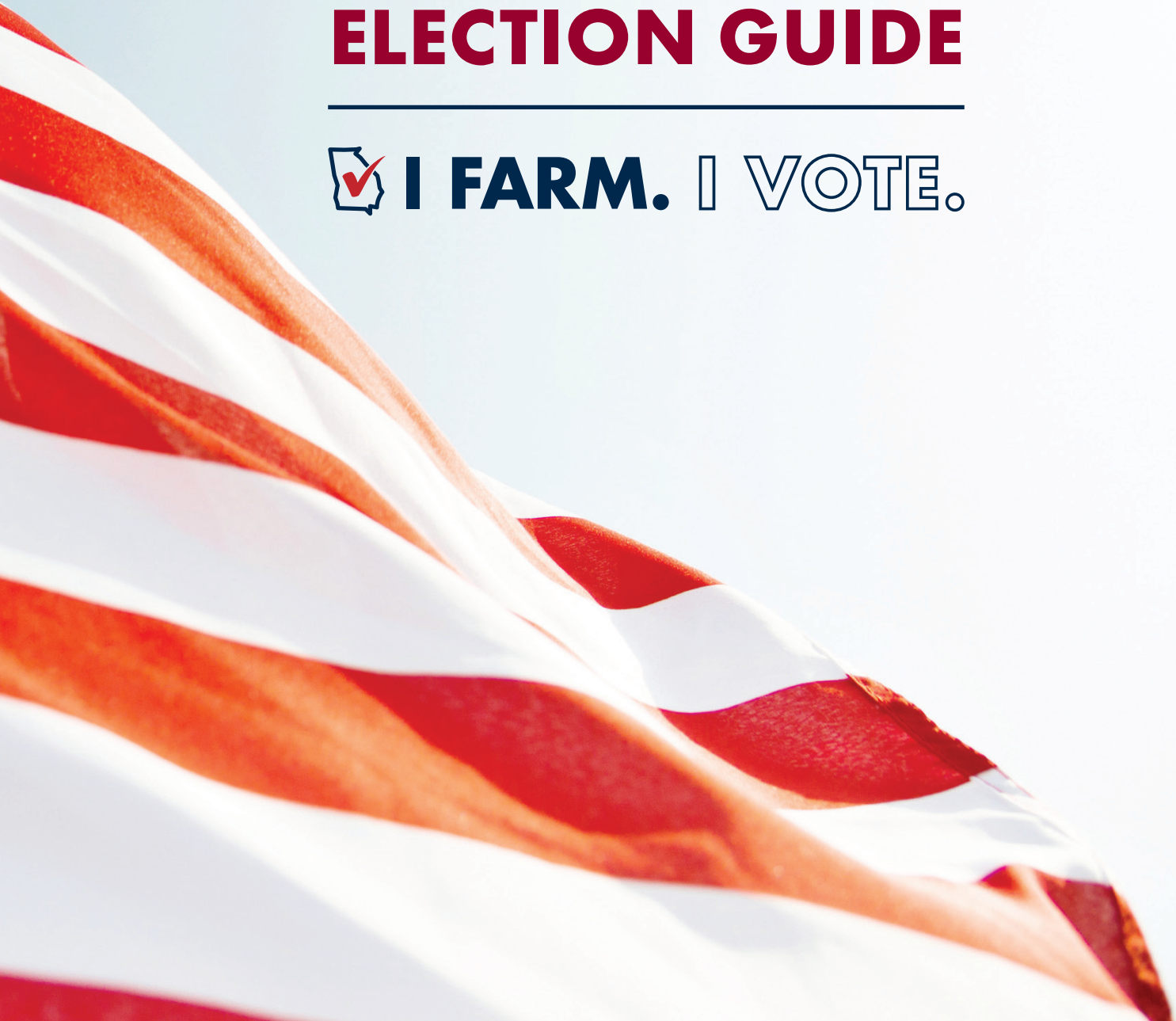




2025

ELECTION GUIDE

 **I FARM. I VOTE.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This November, Georgians will head to the polls to decide who serves on the Public Service Commission (PSC), a powerful body that impacts every household and business in our state. Voter turnout in off-season elections is just as important as other years- these smaller elections could even make your voice more powerful. From setting electric rates to shaping broadband expansion, PSC decisions affect the daily lives of all Georgians, urban and rural alike. That's why I encourage you all to make a plan to vote and ensure the voices of agriculture are heard. When rural Georgia shows up at the ballot box, we help secure fair representation and remind our leaders of the importance of agriculture and strong rural economies.

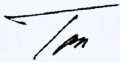
Georgia Farm Bureau continues to use the "I Farm. I Vote." campaign to encourage farmers, rural communities, and everyone who enjoys the benefits of agriculture to get to the polls and elect folks who will fight to uphold our values at all levels of government. Because of the grassroots network of Farm Bureau, we have the ability to make an impact in elections across the state and decide who we want representing us. To do this, it is important for members to engage on a county level with your community and elected officials to show them the strength of agriculture in Georgia.

This election guide is a tool for you to make informed decisions come November and to help you inform others about what is at stake. Georgia Farm Bureau is a nonpartisan organization, and we do not endorse candidates with the "I Farm. I Vote." campaign. Rather, we utilize this as a tool to educate voters and elected officials on the issues important to agriculture.

Our goal for the "I Farm. I Vote." campaign is to show our state and federal leaders the impact that Georgia agriculture has and the importance of their support protecting our livelihood. We cannot do this without you. I encourage you to actively engage during this election cycle, protecting our industry for generations to come by electing agriculture friendly candidates. We hope you will take the time to get to know your candidates and encourage others to be active members in your communities. Elected officials cannot represent you well unless they know you and the issues you face every day. We appreciate your help, influence, and input as the voice of Georgia agriculture.

 **I FARM. I VOTE.** I hope you will too!

Your friend,
Tom McCall

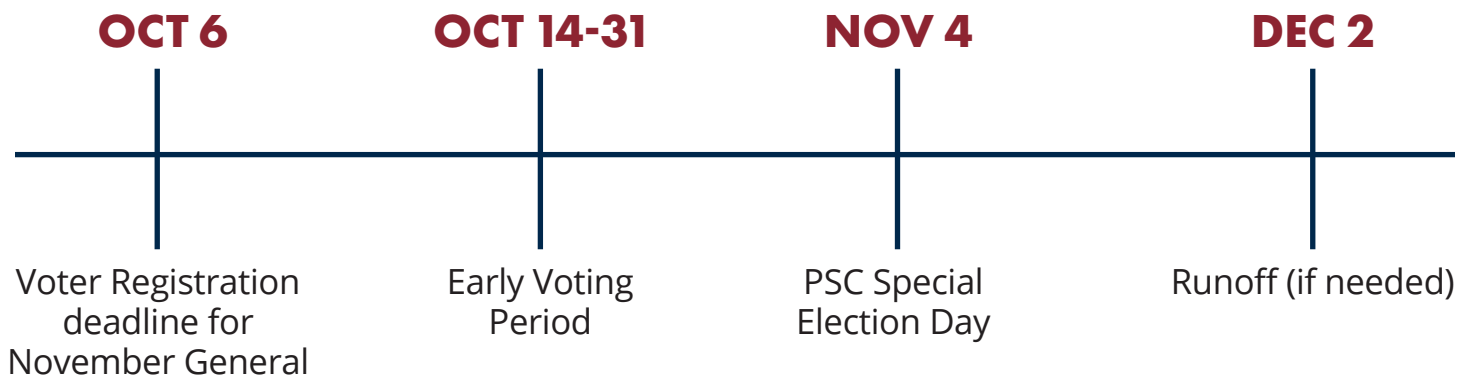


WHAT IS THE PSC?

The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) is a five-member elected body that regulates essential utility services for all Georgians. This includes oversight of electric, natural gas, and telecommunications utilities. Commissioners make decisions that directly affect the reliability of energy delivery, the affordability of utility rates, and the long-term planning for Georgia's energy future. Commissioners must live in their district, but all seats are elected statewide. This means every Georgian votes on each PSC race, regardless of where they live.

This year, Georgia is holding a special election for 2 of the 5 seats in Districts 2 and 3. The PSC makes decisions that affect the cost of your utility bills, the reliability of Georgia's energy grid, and how the state prepares for the future of energy. Their work impacts every household, farm, and business in Georgia, making these statewide elections important for all voters.

2025 PSC ELECTION TIMELINE



VOTER RESOURCES

Check to make sure you're registered to vote, find your voting location, and find other election resources on the Secretary of State's My Voter Page: mvp.sos.ga.gov.

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

Tim Echols (R-I)



Tim Echols grew up in Clayton County, and his family maintained a farm in neighboring Henry County. The Echols had dairy and beef cows, horses, a few pigs and lots of hunting. Trees and sand were harvested. Tim went to the University of Georgia and graduated in 1982. He met his wife Windy at the Baptist Center where he served as President. Tim and Windy went on to start a youth ministry called TeenPact that is now in all 50 states. They have seven children with a number of them in law enforcement. Tim has served on the Public Service Commission since 2011 and loves his job. He travels the state doing educational events including an award-winning podcast, Energy Matters with Commissioner Echols. Tim is running for re-election and hopes to oversee another nuclear reactor in the future. He is a triple-dawg.

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

Fitz Johnson (R-I)



Fitz Johnson is a husband, grandfather, 21-year veteran of the US Army, and a successful businessman. He serves as Vice Chair of the Public Service Commission and has been named Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning. Commissioner Johnson serves on several boards, including the Life University Board of Trustees and the Cumberland Counseling Center. He is the Chair of the CAPTIV Board of the Wellstar Health System and an active member of his local Chamber of Commerce. A passionate sports fan and former owner of the Atlanta Beat (WPS), Johnson has served for over a decade as a community football, soccer, and wrestling coach. Johnson is a graduate of The Citadel and holds a master's in education from Troy University and a J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He is a member of Cumberland Community Church.

Alicia Johnson (D)



Dr. Alicia M. Johnson is a visionary leader with nearly three decades of experience driving transformative change in the public and private sectors. Specializing in community development, human services, managed care, nonprofit leadership, and organizational transformation, she has consistently delivered high-impact results, engaging stakeholders and leading teams to success. A Savannah, Georgia native, Alicia holds degrees in English and communications, a master's in management and organizational leadership, and a doctorate in business administration with a specialization in organizational leadership. She is also a certified grant writer, civil mediator, and lifetime facilitator for Bridges Out of Poverty. As the first Savannah-born executive director of Step Up Savannah, she led groundbreaking economic inclusion initiatives—helping over 1,200 individuals secure self-sufficient employment, providing financial literacy and public benefits access to more than 10,000 households regionally, and launching a civic leadership training program training over 125 Southeast emerging leaders.

Peter Hubbard (D)



Peter Hubbard is a clean energy advocate with 15 years of experience in the energy industry. Currently, he works for a solar and battery storage company to build renewable energy projects. Before that he was a consultant preparing long-range power plans for electric utilities. In 2019, Peter formed a nonprofit to advocate for clean energy before the PSC, testifying to how Georgia can lower power costs with more clean energy, not fossil fuels. Peter is an energy expert who is prepared to work to lower our power bills in Georgia. Peter grew up in Tennessee, studied physics and math at the University of Memphis and economics at Johns Hopkins University, and is married with two children ages 4 and 9.

KEY

**R- REPUBLICAN
D- DEMOCRAT
I- INCUMBENT**

UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE & RELIABILITY

1

As commissioner, you'll be responsible for making sure Georgia's utility infrastructure is prepared for everything from natural disasters to increasing consumer demand. How do you plan to ensure that Georgia is prepared and has a reliable grid to navigate future circumstances?

Tim Echols (R-I)

Reliability is THE most important thing to me—more than cost and more than clean. That means keeping our reserve margin of 26%. That means building new generation into the future in a time when many states are anti-fossil fuel and anti-nuclear. Our role is to make sure the grid has the energy it needs and incorporate technology into every aspect of it—including smarter transformers and substations. These all require ongoing investments. Georgia Power has done a good job with storm recovery, and it appears hurricanes are becoming a regular part of our life. Finally, we just must make sure data centers don't impact residential and business customers in an adverse manner. That means maintaining terms and conditions for these businesses and making them pay the incremental cost of getting them power.

Alicia Johnson (D)

Strengthening Georgia's grid and infrastructure is vitally important, not only because of the rapid population and corporate consumer growth that we're seeing in the state, but also because (as Hurricane Helene most recently showed) our grid is currently vulnerable to significant natural disaster events. We must ensure that our energy suppliers continue to invest in building up the resilience of our current infrastructure, while widening and diversifying the generation of their power supply. We must also ensure that we keep an eye on rapid growth and expansion of large corporate power users, like data centers, that consume large amounts of energy and further strain existing infrastructure. I will work closely with our providers to ensure that regulations fit the needs of making our grid ready for these events and expansions, while being mindful of project requests and how they can impact the natural resources of the state and the environment.

Fitz Johnson (R-I)

Reliability and grid resiliency are top priorities. The best ways to prioritize this reliability is through an all-of-the-above energy mix, sufficient grid maintenance and upgrades, and the use of "smart" technology that gives us more insight into the grid.

The Public Service Commission just approved the construction of 1,000 miles of new transmission lines in the 2025 IRP, directly targeted at improving the resiliency of Georgia's grid infrastructure. These upgrades will not only harden the grid against storms and emergencies but also ensure we can deliver affordable, reliable power to meet the demands of a growing state.

The 2025 IRP also expands nuclear, solar, natural gas, and battery storage resources—ensuring that Georgia continues to benefit from a balanced and diversified energy portfolio. I will continue to prioritize long-term planning that benefits Georgians, and the future of our state.

Peter Hubbard (D)

The PSC must ensure that electricity in Georgia is reliable, affordable, and sustainable. To ensure all three requires careful planning that comes with the triennial Integrated Resource Plan. I am professionally familiar with the models that are used by Georgia Power and the PSC in the IRP process, and indeed I have used a model to prepare a plan for Georgia to reliability navigate a future with load growth from data centers and population growth as well as future with more clean energy and less fossil fuel energy. Please see my nonprofit www.Georgia-CES.org for more information on the alternative IRP I developed for the Georgia Power 2025 IRP docket.

STRENGTHENING THE PSC'S WORK

2

The Public Service Commission is vital for providing effective telecommunication, electric, and natural gas services to all citizens of Georgia. How will you promote and build upon the work being done at the PSC?

Tim Echols (R-I)

Our Rural Cooperatives play a critical role across Georgia—not only for energy, but for leadership and community development. I have prioritized protecting EMCs making sure that they get the proper pole-attachment fee from cable companies and others who want to attach to those poles. Rural broadband has also been a major issue across Georgia and the \$1 deal that created allowed cable companies to receive discounts for pole attachments if they went into underserved areas. This was done with the EMC's blessings. We must continue to look for creative ways to connect rural areas. The same is true for natural gas services, particularly on poultry operations, both for the producer and processor. Expanding gas service is a top priority for me.

Alicia Johnson (D)

To ensure that we're effectively meeting the telecommunication, energy, and natural gas needs of our state and its customers, we must be in constant dialogue with the people of Georgia. Through greater access to PSC meetings and minutes, through smaller town hall style meetings, through regular online communications, we must create a pipeline of information. It's not just about relaying information, but also receiving feedback, both positive and negative, and taking that back to our telecom, power, and natural gas providers. It's about doing my best as a Commissioner to see that the providers are truly hearing the citizens of the state and responding as best as possible to their needs. It's about making sure that all sides of the table, stakeholders at all levels, have a clear line of understanding to what's happening at the PSC, what's possible, and how they can engage with the PSC.

Fitz Johnson (R-I)

Farmers need excellent, affordable electricity, gas, and telecoms like any other industry. Whether it's making sure your electricity is affordable and dependable for irrigation, cooling, and lighting, or helping shield you from indirect costs related to the fertilizer and pesticide industries that require natural gas for production, the Public Service Commission is involved.

As Georgia continues to grow, the Public Service Commission will continue smart, forward-looking planning to keep up with load growth and increasing demand from large power users, without compromising affordability. We recently passed rules to protect ratepayers from bearing the costs of large load users (defined as 100 MW or more). I will monitor the success of existing rules in place, scrutinize rate cases to protect Georgia families and businesses, while also supporting long-term planning that prepares effectively for the growth of our state. I also support infrastructure upgrades for telecommunications and access to broadband services for our rural communities.

Peter Hubbard (D)

The work of the PSC is to provide these services to all Georgians as reliably and affordably as possible. For electric service, as a commissioner I will promote the benefits of clean energy (low-cost, reliable, sustainable) and work to ensure affordable and easy access for all. For example, the PSC proposed a pilot project of 5,000 households with rooftop solar who would receive monthly net metering, meaning they can sell back to the grid at full value the extra energy they produce. That pilot was never evaluated or expanded. Today, anyone who puts solar on their rooftop and sells back to the grid only earns a fraction of the value. This is an area where I can build on PSC work, and create even more opportunities for community solar, warehouse rooftop solar, and more. I am cautious about utility-scale solar because I don't want to take away from productive farmland. At the same time, solar leases can add \$1,400/acre in annual lease payments for 30+ years in a sector that is diversified from farming. Beyond electric, there is much work to be done at the PSC to expand access to high-speed internet. I look forward to partnering with the other commissioners to develop innovative ways to expand telecommunications services across the state, especially for rural Georgians.

BALANCING PRIORITIES

3 | **As a commissioner, you will have to balance many factors. How do you balance and prioritize reliability, affordability, and renewable energy goals?**

Tim Echols (R-I)

Nothing is free out there. Inflation has raised costs for just about every consumer item. When it comes to setting rates for utilities, this is done very scientifically. We look at all costs that go into running their company and then divide that figure by the number of ratepayers. That is after we scrutinize their budgets and plans. We all know that equipment, labor, and inflation has impacted every aspect of running the grid—which is the largest machine in the state of Georgia. That said, we just froze Georgia Power’s rates for 3 years, till the end of 2028. As to renewable energy goals, we want the cheapest power available if possible. I especially want to be able to use logging and mill residuals to make power as it helps our forest industry.

Alicia Johnson (D)

Throughout my career, I’ve worked on projects that have required me to balance the needs of the people with the resources, opportunities, and challenges encountered in meeting those needs. Nothing about the business of generating power and gas for the citizens of this state comes for free. However, I believe more can be done to mitigate the effects of cost increases and overruns on the Georgians who have to pay those bills at a time when all other costs around them are rising as well. More can be done to ensure that investments in power generation are coming from cleaner, renewable energy projects. No one is asking providers to operate at a loss, but future requests must keep in mind the burden Georgians have carried for years now, as well as the environmental toll that has been paid and must be considered to ensure the health of our wonderful state.

Fitz Johnson (R-I)

I will continue to build on our progress on the PSC. We have held utilities accountable by approving a 3-year Georgia Power rate freeze at a time when electricity costs have been skyrocketing across the country. I’ve also worked to ensure that large energy users, such as data centers, pay their fair share so that the cost of their power is not unfairly shifted onto families and small businesses.

At the same time, I’ve supported an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy—expanding nuclear, natural gas, solar, and battery storage, and cutting emissions by 20 million metric tons or 33% over the last decade—so that Georgia maintains a balanced, reliable, and affordable energy mix. We’ve done all of this while not compromising reliability or allowing rural farmland to be consumed by sprawling green energy projects that disrupt local communities. The Georgia Public Service Commission leads the way in balancing reliability, sustainability, and affordability with a common sense approach, and if reelected, I will continue to do this.

Peter Hubbard (D)

This question is at the heart of the Integrated Resource Plan process. The IRP is the 20 year projection, updated every three years, that helps to determine what power plants we should build and retire in Georgia to achieve the objective function of reliably serving load at the lowest possible cost. This plan must be balanced against the reality of energy and financial markets, federal regulation, state law, economic development, public health, and the environment. To find that balance requires an honest and transparent assessment of the benefits and the costs of each pathway we can choose for our energy future in Georgia. Thankfully, embracing clean energy also happens to strengthen the reliability of the grid, lower electricity costs, decrease harmful emissions, and attract new business to the state of Georgia.

4

Is there anything else you would like to mention about your campaign?

Tim Echols (R-I)

For 15 years, I have aspired to be the most accessible elected official in Georgia as I travel the state and listen to people. This led me to start a radio show and podcast that has helped me learn even more. I am always available at tim@timechols.com or by text at 706- 340-0773.

Alicia Johnson (D)

I am a lifelong community advocate, serving on numerous boards and task forces focused on racial equity, public accountability, and economic opportunity. As a wife, mother, and grandmother, I bring a deep commitment to family, faith, and service—values that guide my campaign for the Georgia Public Service Commission.

Fitz Johnson (R-I)

We have done the math. If my opponent's policies are adopted in Georgia, the average residential ratepayer will pay \$840 more each year. Our grid will be overly reliant on a few, concentrated energy sources and arbitrary climate goals will dominate state and local decisions. This isn't a path Georgians want or can afford, and if you share in that belief, I encourage you to make every effort to vote by November 4, 2025.

Peter Hubbard (D)

This is an excellent opportunity to inject new and innovative thinking into the Georgia Public Service Commission. We need to question building expensive natural gas-fired power plants for data centers without having adequate protections for customers who may be left paying for the infrastructure upgrades even as data centers move to other states. We truly can have energy innovation in Georgia, but we need an energy expert on the PSC who can look out for customers' interests first and foremost.

5

What is your favorite destination in Georgia?

Tim Echols (R-I)

With all the work that's been done on Jekyll Island over the last decade, it has become our family's favorite place to go. We just stay in one of the Marriott properties but really enjoy the desolate beaches and fun bike trails. I even wrote a book about the founding of the Jekyll Island club that you can buy at the mosaic or the market called Jean Marc of Jekyll.

Alicia Johnson (D)

I was born and raised here in Coastal Georgia, and I still to this day love spending time in and around all of our coastal cities, inlets, and islands. They truly are crowning jewels for this beautiful state.

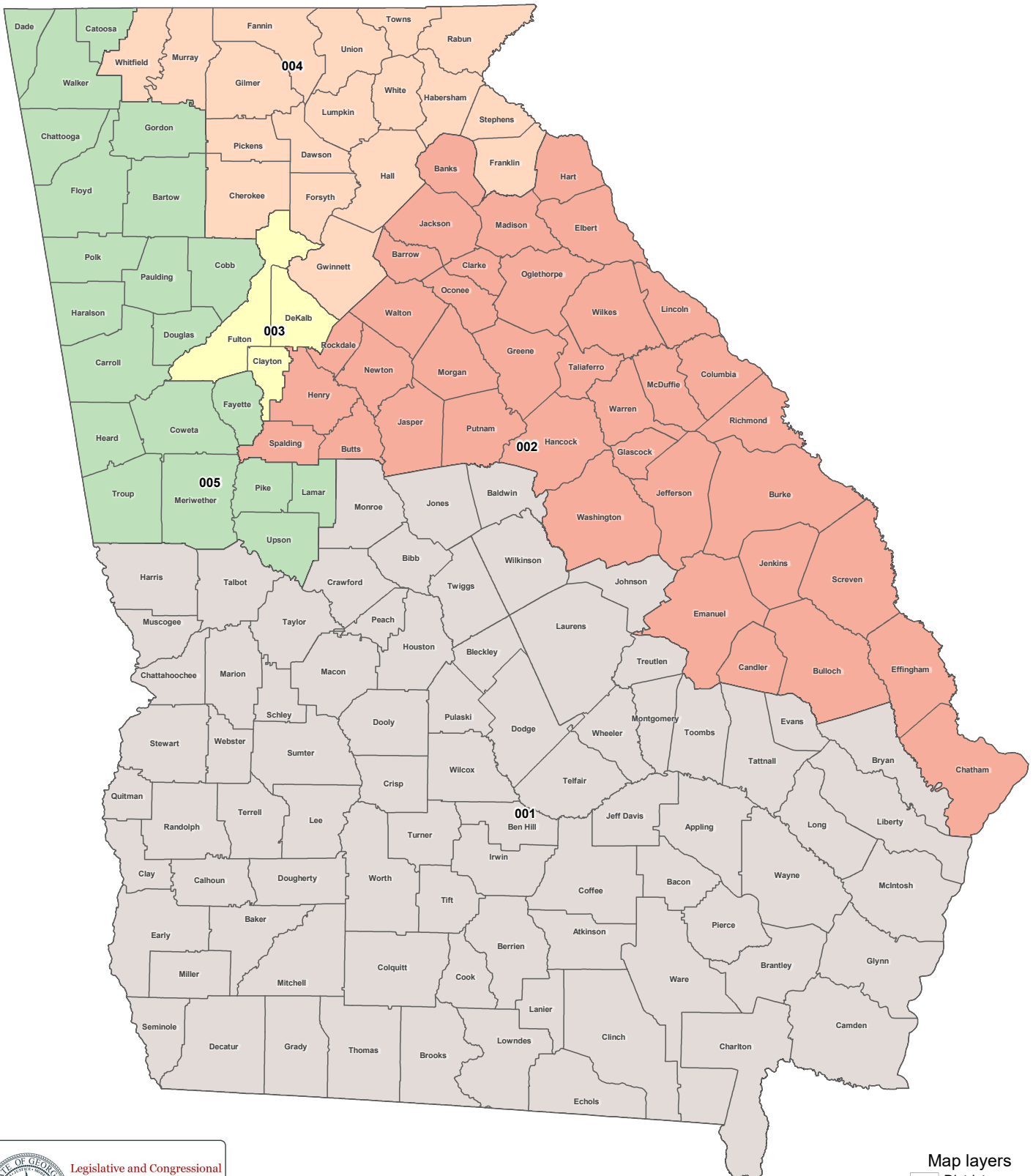
Fitz Johnson (R-I)

My family and I have always enjoyed touring small towns in Georgia, whether that's seeing Dahlonega come alive with lights during the holiday season, walking the square in Madison's historic district, or driving through the breathtaking beauty in Blue Ridge. Each community in Georgia has its own unique charm and history, showcasing the heart of our state and the great people who work to make it a better place.

Peter Hubbard (D)

There are too many to choose from! Maybe my favorite place is Cumberland Island with the wild horses and untamed beaches. I very much enjoy visiting the state parks like hiking in Cloudland Canyon and kayaking down the Tallulah Gorge. Next on my list is platform camping in Okefenokee Swamp and a visit to Seminole to round out the fourth corner in the southwest of the state.

Public Service Commission Districts of Georgia



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