Power Coalition for Equity and Justice's Public Service Commission Platform

Louisiana families face some of the highest energy burdens in the country while living in one of its most economically vulnerable states. The Public Service Commission (PSC) exists to safeguard the public interest, not corporate utility profits. We are calling on all candidates for Public Service Commissioner to pledge their commitment to the following four pillars of utility accountability:

PILLAR 1: Transparency & Accessibility

- **Establish an Independent Consumer Advocate**
  Establish an independent advocate, either within the Attorney General's office or as a standalone agency, to represent residential ratepayers in all PSC proceedings.
- **Improve Constituency Involvement and Community Relations**
  Modernize PSC proceedings by creating more opportunity for the public to engage.
- **Commit to Agenda Transparency**
  Mandate that any agenda modifications be publicly reported at least 48 hours prior to meetings.
- **Require Public Data Reporting**
  Mandate that the commission collect and publicly report data on these instances to give the Louisianans a clearer view of the practices of their utilities.

PILLAR 2: Affordability

- **End Predatory Fees**
  Eliminate or significantly reduce late fees and disconnection charges so that working families can afford their necessities.
- **Implement Fair Rate Structures**
  Push utilities to transition to equitable rate designs, including income-percentage-based payment plans, pay-as-you-go options, and targeted low-income rate structures to better serve Louisianans.
- **Fund Weatherization & Residential Energy Efficiency**
  Allocate dedicated state funds for low-income weatherization and ensure the equitable implementation of the Senate Resolution 148 task force to streamline LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) delivery.
- **Liberate Costs of Incarcerated People's Communications Services (IPCS)**
  Push for action from the FCC under the Martha Wright Reed Act and work to secure funding to make all calls free in Louisiana.

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PILLAR 3:
Public Safety

- **Protect Vulnerable Residents During Extreme Weather**
  Pass strict regulations barring utility disconnections during extreme heat, severe cold, and natural disaster recovery periods.
- **Hold Utilities Accountable for Outages**
  Establish financial and regulatory penalties for unexplained or recurring service outages.
- **Modernize and Strengthen the Grid**
  Advance a state funded energy efficiency frameworks to help residents lower energy consumption and reduce monthly bills.

PILLAR 4:
Energy Efficiency & Community Empowerment

- **Diversify the Energy Portfolio**
  Reduce Louisiana's heavy reliance on natural gas to stabilize volatile fuel costs and advance environmental justice in fence-line communities.
- **Prioritize Impacted Communities**
  Ensure data centers and large energy consumers pay their fair share of infrastructure demands, preventing those costs from shifting to residential ratepayers—particularly in low-income and minority communities.
- **Enact Pending Energy Efficiency Programs**
  Immediately enact long-delayed statewide energy efficiency frameworks to help residents lower energy consumption and reduce monthly bills.
- **Expand Ratepayer Education**
  Invest in public education around off-peak energy usage, Time-of-Use (TOU) rates, and voluntary demand-response programs so consumers can control their energy costs.

Power Coalition for Electoral Justice · Step Up Louisiana · Step Up for Action · Louisiana LA Alliance · VOTE · Invest in Louisiana · Concerned Citizens of St. John · Vessel Project · DeepSouth Center for Environmental Justice · Voters Organized to Educate · Boots on the Ground · AAA ASAP Action Agenda · For a Better Bayou For a Better Bayou · Organizing for a New Economy · Women with a Vision · Alsen St Irma Lee Community Village · Alliance for Affordable Energy · The Water Collaborative · Save Our State Alliance · Power Coalition for Equity & Justice · Liberty & Dignity Coalition · Housing Louisiana · GNOHA Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance

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