

# Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules  
DATE: January 30, 2024  
BY: Leslie Porter, Analyst  
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



## PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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The Governor has appointed the following individual to the Public Utility Commission subject to Senate confirmation.<sup>1</sup>

### New Appointee

Leslie Perkins

### Term

February 16, 2024 – February 15, 2028

### Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 756.014 \(2023\)](#)

### Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>

Required.

### Statutory Requirements<sup>3</sup>

The commission consists of three members, no more than two of whom may be of the same political party (DECKER (D), **PERKINS (N/A)**, TAWNEY (D)).<sup>4</sup>

Commissioners serve four-year terms and hold office until a successor has been appointed. The Governor may remove a commissioner for any cause after an opportunity for a hearing. Each commissioner must take an oath to support the United States Constitution and the Oregon Constitution. The Governor designates the chair. A majority constitutes a quorum.<sup>5</sup>

No commissioner may:<sup>6</sup>

- hold any other office of profit;
- hold any office or position under any political committee or party;
- hold any pecuniary interest in any business entity conducting operations that would be subject to the commission's regulatory jurisdiction; or

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<sup>1</sup> [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2023\)](#), [ORS 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> [ORS 182.100 \(2023\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2023\)](#) for diversity criteria.

<sup>4</sup> [ORS 756.014 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> [ORS 756.014 \(2023\)](#) to [ORS 756.022 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>6</sup> [ORS 756.026 \(2023\)](#).

- hold any pecuniary interest in, have any contract of employment with, or have any substantial voluntary transactions with any business or activity subject to the commission's regulatory jurisdiction.

## **Duties<sup>7</sup>**

The commission regulates rates of investor-owned electric, natural gas, and telephone utilities, and of select water companies. It also enforces electric and natural gas safety standards and handles utility-related dispute resolutions.

The commission must:

- dismiss any commission employee who fails to file pecuniary interest statements or fails to divest interests when ordered by the commission;
- represent public or telecommunications utility customers in controversies respecting rates, valuations, and service;
- make use of the jurisdiction and powers of the office to protect customers from unjust and unreasonable exactions and practices;
- establish fair and reasonable rates while balancing the interests of the utility investor and the consumer;
- keep office at the capital;
- inquire into violation of the laws and report all violations to the Attorney General;
- keep a record of all moneys deposited in the Public Utility Commission Account;
- establish, assess, and collect annual fees to be paid by regulated utilities; and
- receive, initiate, investigate, and adjudicate complaints.

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<sup>7</sup> [ORS 756.028 \(2023\)](#) to [ORS 756.990 \(2023\)](#).



## Public Utility Commission

Agency: **Energy, Oregon Department Of**

Authorization: **ORS 756.014 & .022**

Min Members: **3**    Max Members: **3**

Term Length: **4**    Term Limit: **None**

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Policy Area: **Energy**

Board Admin: **Michael Grant**

Address:

**201 High Street SE, Suite 100**

**Salem, OR 97301**

**503-580-4765**

**Michael.grant@puc.state.gov**

## Current Appointments

**Ms Decker, Megan W**

Democrat

Position Number: **1**

Term(s):

**4/1/2021 - 3/31/2025**

**4/1/2017 - 3/31/2021**

**Perkins, Leslie "Les"**

Unaffiliated

Position Number: **2**

Term(s):

**2/16/2024 - 2/15/2028**

**Ms Tawney, Letha A**

Democrat

Position Number: **3**

Term(s):

**6/1/2020 - 5/31/2024**

**6/18/2018 - 5/31/2020**

## Vacant Positions