

Clement Magras
Office of the Governor
Office of Legal Counsel

RE: Public Services Commission

Question 25:

Yes, the Office of the Tax Assessor continues to bill me for 1/26 parcel of land which was attached to my ownership of 12A-8 St. Joseph and Rosendahl. The parcel in question was transferred as part of the sale of that property as it was jointly owned by all who owned property in that subdivision. Despite several explanations the Tax assessor continues to carry that liability forward under my name.

Question 26:

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual becomes unreliable because of a clash between personal (or self-serving) interests and professional duties or responsibilities. Such a conflict occurs when a person has a vested interest—such as money, status, knowledge, relationships, or reputation—which puts into question whether their actions, judgment, or decision-making can be unbiased.

QUESTION 29:

As a former commissioner of Licensing and Consumer Affairs I am concerned about the consumers first. The Public Services Commission's (PSC) mission statement is to "ensure a fair and reasonable rate of return while providing the ratepayers with the highest quality of service in a safe, consistent and efficient manner." This puts the utilities first and the rate payer last. While I understand the need for a fair Rate of Return (ROI) by the providers I do not believe that enough has been done to "provide the rate payers with the highest quality of service ...in an efficient manner." The PSC must do more to ensure that ratepayers are getting what they pay for.

I have personally experienced WAPA's condescending attitude towards ratepayers who have legitimate consumer complaints and they are promised resolution but it doesn't happen. Some have waited months for WAPA to act on their complaint and finally gives up just calling it a loss. This is not right. I will move to have deadlines set by which WAPA and the PSC must resolve disputes or go to court with the PSC representing the consumer.

If confirmed I will take the opportunity to review past reports of the PSC consultants to determine if recommendations were made and if they were ever implemented. We have a tendency to get these voluminous reports that no one reads. I am an avid reader - including of technical reports.

I will be fair to all parties during deliberations but will monitor compliance after passage of any concessions to providers.

QUESTION 31:

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) refers to the concept of treating all equally in terms of employment. There is no discrimination based on race, gender, religion, ethnicity, color, age, disability, or other factors.

In the legal sense of the EEO definition, “same chances” or “equal opportunity” means that employers cannot use certain characteristics as reasons to hire or reject candidates or make other employment decisions; in other words, they cannot discriminate against those characteristics.

Sexual harassment is a type of harassment involving the use of explicit or implicit sexual overtones, including the unwelcome and inappropriate promises of rewards in exchange for sexual favors. Sexual harassment includes a range of actions from verbal transgressions to sexual abuse or assault. Harassment can occur in many different social settings such as the workplace, the home, school, or religious institutions. Most laws surrounding sexual harassment generally do not prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or minor isolated incidents—that is due to the fact that they do not impose a “general civility code”. In the workplace, harassment may be considered illegal when it is frequent or severe thereby creating a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim's demotion, firing or quitting). The legal and social understanding of sexual harassment, however, varies by culture.