

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full name. David Ellerton Wanzenried
2. Birthdate. [REDACTED]
3. Current home address. [REDACTED]
4. Email address. [REDACTED]
5. Preferred phone number. [REDACTED]
6. Public Service Commission District 2 is comprised of House Districts 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, and 62. Please identify the House District in which you reside. House District 53
7. Date you became a U.S. citizen, if different than birthdate. N/A
8. Date you become a Montana resident. [REDACTED]

B. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

9. List the names and location (city, state) of schools attended beginning with high school, and the date and type of degree you received.

Twin Falls (Idaho) High School. May 1967. Diploma.
University of Montana. May 1971. Bachelor's Degree.
University of Montana. May 1974. Master's Degree.
10. List any significant academic and extracurricular activities, scholarships, awards, or other recognition you received from each college and school you attended.

University of Montana. Missoula, Montana. 1972 – 1974. Graduate fellowship.
University of Montana. Missoula, Montana. 1970. Watkins Scholarship.
University of Montana. Missoula, Montana. 1969-1970. Phi Sigma Alpha. National political science honorary.
Montana University System – Board of Regents. Scholastic achievement - Waiver of out-of-state tuition for academic excellence. 1969 – 1971.

C. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

11. In chronological order (beginning with most recent), state each position you have held since your graduation from school. Include the dates, organization names, city and your position. Include the dates of any periods of self-employment and the name and address of your office.

David E. Wanzenried. October 2012 – Present. Self-employed.

Major clients:

Mountain Pacific Quality Health. Helena, Montana.

Montana State University Billings. Billings, Montana.

Rocky Vista University, College of Veterinary Medicine. Billings, Montana.

Friends of the Canyon Creek, Battlefield. Billings, Montana.

Friends of the Coulson (Boothill) Cemetery. Billings, Montana.

Montana State University Billings. August 2014 – December 2020. Billings, Montana.
Adjunct faculty.

Watkins and Shepard Trucking. September 1994 – September 2012. Missoula, Montana.
Operations, marketing, and sales.

The University of Montana. 2006. 2008. Missoula, Montana. Part-time faculty.

High Point Transportation. May 1991 – August 1994. Kalispell, Montana. Owner.

Glacier Carriers. September 1988 – April 1991. Columbia Falls, Montana. Operations, marketing and sales.

Willimac Trucking. Great Falls, Montana. January 1986 – August 1988. Great Falls, Montana.
Over-the-road truck driver.

Montana Department of Labor and Industry. October 1983 – December 1985. Helena, Montana.
Commissioner of Labor.

State of Montana - Office of the Governor. Ted Schwinden, Governor. April 1981 – September 1983. Helena, Montana. Chief of Staff.

State of Montana - Department of Community Affairs. January 1981 – March 1981. Helena, Montana. Director.

Transition Team for Governor-elect Ted Schwinden. November - December 1980. Helena, Montana. Member.

State of Montana - Department of Community Affairs. July 1978 – November 1980. Helena, Montana. Local Government advisor.

Montana Local Government Institute. August 1977 – June 1978. Helena, Montana. Director.

Montana University System - Montana State University. June – August 1977. Bozeman, Montana. Adjunct faculty.

Carroll College. September - December 1975. Helena, Montana. Adjunct faculty.

Montana Commission on Local Government. August 1974 - June 1977. Helena, Montana. Deputy Director.

12. In chronological order (beginning with most recent), list your admissions to any organizations or administrative bodies having special admission requirements and the date of admission. If any of your admissions have terminated, indicate the date and reason for termination.

Yellowstone County Museum Board of Trustees. Appointed by the Yellowstone County Commission. January 2026. Serving.

Montana State University Billings Foundation Board of Trustees. Board appointment. 2021-2024. Term expired.

City of Billings Public Works Board. Appointed by the Mayor of Billings. 2016 - 2024. Term expired

RiverStone Health Board of Directors. Appointed by the Mayor of Billings. 2016 – 2018. Term expired.

Montana Senate. Missoula. Elected. 2007 – 2015. Term limits.

Montana House of Representatives. Elected. Missoula. 2001 – 2007. Term limits.

Montana House of Representatives. Elected. Kalispell. 1991 – 1993. Did not seek re-election.

Helena Regional Airport Authority. Appointed by the Lewis and Clark County Commission. 1982 – 1988.

13. Describe how your experience qualifies you for this position.

My varied and extensive experiences in both the private and public sectors (which is summarized in Section #11) provide me with a unique perspective about the intersection of the interests and responsibilities of business and government.

Businesses exist to make a profit and return a fair rate of return for their investors. Montana lawmakers rely on basic laws of the United States and Montana Constitutions to enact policies and

laws to safeguard the public interest. In cases before the Montana Public Service Commission, the needs and requirements each of these universes often do not align.

I have worked and served extensively in the private and public sectors in a number of different capacities and have a keen aptitude regarding how to listen to, address and seek to find balance between conflicting priorities and competing values.

14. If you have appeared before the Public Service Commission or attended their meetings within the past ten years, please describe the context.

N/A

15. Describe three of the most important, challenging, or complex issues you have dealt with or proceedings in which you have participated during your career.

1. In 1983, the United State Department of Labor notified the State of Montana that the federal employer tax credit was at risk of being rescinded because the state's Unemployment Trust Fund (UITF) was teetering on the edge of insolvency. Losing the tax credit would have been catastrophic for Montana businesses and the state's economy. As Commissioner of Labor, I was responsible for finding the balance between reducing benefits and temporarily raising both employee and employer contributions to the UITF, an exceedingly complex and sensitive undertaking. We immediately formed an advisory group composed of all stakeholders and for six months examined the issues, potential avenues to fix the underlying issues causing the imbalance, identified common interests and forged recommendations for the Governor's review and approval. The package of recommendations was so carefully constructed that Governor Schwinden forwarded it intact to the 1985 Legislature, which approved it with minor changes. The UITF remains solvent to this day.
2. After winning the gubernatorial election in November 1980, Governor-elect Ted Schwinden needed individuals to assume the responsibility of drafting a plan, supporting appropriations and legislation to create a Montana Department of Commerce. The goal was to merge three existing departments: Department of Community Affairs; Professional and Occupational Licensing; and Business Regulation. The charge was complex and had to be completed by the time the appropriations process began during the first week of January 1981, approximately 45 days away. The primary goal was to determine which functions of each department logically belonged in the new department, whose focus was to direct resources to assist in stimulating and diversifying Montana's economy and promote investments in Montana. Functions not focused on those activities were to be assigned to other departments. Working with a sense of urgency through the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, a small team of us sifted through and arrayed hundreds of programs and drafted a package of the recommendations to the governor elect. Governor-elect Schwinden signed off on the proposals necessary for the legislature to revise the necessary laws, move appropriations between agencies and create the intended results. Legislation creating Department of Commerce and reassigning other functions met the target deadline and was approved and signed into law in April 1981.

3. In May 1991, I started my own business, acting as an agent for trucking and railroad companies across the country. In a time before the internet and smart electronic devices and starting with a handful of accounts, I slowly built a prospering one-person business one account at a time. In the first 18 months, I managed to land several large corporations with exacting expectations and time-sensitive requirements for loading, transit and deliveries. I managed to keep up with the onslaught of business, with orders relayed via fax machines and printed on short, rolled-up printouts, for approximately two years. The unrelenting demands, however, required 24x7 attention and exhaustive follow-up, all by telephone. I soon realized that I had created a four-time-zone behemoth that was beyond the capability of one person to manage. The challenge was how to create the time necessary to bring on and train employees. Sleep, nutrition and health were all secondary to the success of my undertaking. At about this time, a company made an exceptional offer to purchase my company's chart of accounts. I never second-guess my decision to sell but occasionally wonder what might have been had the technology we now take for granted had been available in 1994.

16. If you have authored and published any books or articles, please provide the name of the article or book, and a citation or publication information.

N/A

17. If you have taught on energy or regulatory issues at postsecondary educational institutions during the past ten years, provide the title of the presentation, date, and group to which you spoke.

N/A

18. Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, and type of discharge received.

United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point New York. June 1967 – March 1968. United States Naval Reserve. United States Congressional appointment. Midshipman. Honorable separation.

19. If you have had prior administrative regulatory experience, describe the position, dates, and approximate number and nature of cases you have handled.

During my 27-month tenure as Montana Labor Commissioner (1983-1985), I issued letters of notice to companies that were either in violation of the Montana's statutes governing unemployment insurance and workers' compensation or out of compliance with wage and hours standards.

20. Describe any additional business, agricultural, occupational, or professional experience that could assist you in serving as a Public Service Commissioner.

Please refer to the responses in Sections #11, 13 and 15.

D. COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

21. List any civic, charitable, or professional organizations of which you have been a member, officer, or director during the last ten years. State the title and date of any office that you have held in each organization and briefly describe your activities in the organization and include any honors, awards or recognition you have received.

Please refer to the responses in Section #22.

22. List chronologically (beginning with the most recent) any public offices you have held, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. Also state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

Yellowstone County Museum Board of Trustees. Appointed by the Yellowstone County Commission. January 2026. Serving.

Montana State University Billings Foundation Board of Trustees. Board appointment. 2021-2025. Term expired.

Yellowstone County Commission. July 2016. Nominated as one of three candidates to fill a vacancy on the Yellowstone County Commission. Was not appointed by the county commission.

City of Billings Public Works Board. Appointed by the Mayor of Billings. 2016 - 2024. Term expired

RiverStone Health Board of Directors. Appointed by the Mayor of Billings. 2016 – 2018. Term expired.

Falcon Park Villas Homeowners Association. Property ownership required to be a member. Secretary-Treasurer. 2016 – 2023. Did not seek re-appointment.

Montana Senate. Missoula. Elected. 2007 – 2015. Term limits.

Served on numerous standing and interim committees.
Montana Environmental Quality Council, Chair
Water Policy Committee, Vice-Chair
Select Committee on Government Efficiency

Montana House of Representatives. Elected. Missoula. 2001 – 2007. Term limits.

Served on numerous interim committees.

Montana House of Representatives. Applied for a nomination to fill a vacant legislative seat in Missoula County. August 1997. Was not nominated.

Montana House of Representatives. Elected. Kalispell. 1991 – 1995. Term limits.

Served on numerous standing and interim committees.

Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. *(Note: During the 1993 Legislature secured approval of a negotiated water compact governing national parks in Montana.)*

Montana Department of Labor and Industry. Appointed by Governor Ted Schwinden to serve as Montana Labor Commissioner. Confirmed by the Montana Senate in March 1985. 1984 – 1986. Resigned to assume a position in the private sector.

Helena Regional Airport Authority. Appointed by the Lewis and Clark County Commission. 1982 – 1988. Term expired.

Montana Department of Community Affairs. Appointed by Governor Ted Schwinder to serve as Director. Confirmed by the Montana Senate in March 1981. Department merged. Appointed Chief of Staff to Governor Schwinden.

E. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS

23. Have you ever been publicly disciplined for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, licensing board, or other professional group? If so, provide the details.

No.

24. Do you have any potential conflicts of interest as it pertains to public utilities (e.g. ownership in regulated utilities, prior employment by or representation of utilities or other entities regulated by the Public Service Commission)? If so, please disclose them.

No.

25. Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a violation of any federal law, state law, or county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, provide the details. Do not include traffic violations unless they also included a jail sentence.

No.

26. Have you ever been found liable in any civil proceedings for damages or other legal or equitable relief, other than marriage dissolution proceedings? If so, provide the citation of a reported case or court and case number for any unreported case and the year the proceeding was initiated (if not included in the case number).

No.

27. Is there any circumstance or event in your personal or professional life that, if brought to the attention of the Governor, would affect adversely your qualifications to serve on the Public Service Commission? If so, provide the details.

No.

F. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

28. Are you currently an owner, officer, director, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business? If so, please provide the name and locations of the business and the nature of your affiliation, and state whether you intend to continue the affiliation if you are appointed as a Public Service Commissioner.

I am self-employed. (Please refer to Section 11 for details.) If appointed to the position on the Public Service Commission, I will discontinue business operations until 1 August 2027.

29. Have you timely filed appropriate tax returns and paid taxes reported thereon as required by federal, state, local and other government authorities? If not, please explain.

Yes.

30. Have you, your spouse, or any corporation or business entity of which you owned more than 25% ever filed under title 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code? If so, give details.

No.

G. PHILOSOPHY

31. State the reasons why you are seeking office as a Public Service Commissioner.

In recent years, the Public Service Commission (Commission) has been plagued by personality clashes and behavior that threaten and marginalize its credibility and authority. Throughout my professional career, I have prided myself on focusing on the mission of the organization and the immediate task(s) before me without fanfare.

I possess a wealth of varied life experiences, all pertinent to the work of the Commission. I have been an over-the road truck driver, served as a chief of staff to a Montana governor, owned my own business, represented constituents in Flathead and Missoula counties for 18 years in the in the Montana Legislature, headed a cabinet-level department for the State of Montana, marketed

transportation services nationwide, taught courses in the Montana University System and led initiatives to restore historic sites in Yellowstone County (Canyon Creek Battlefield and Boothill Cemetery). Each required quick learning of the requirements, responsibilities and routines and developing the discipline to succeed. I would like to apply the insights acquired through and lessons learned from these experiences to the work of the Commission.

If appointed, my approach to serving and fulfilling the duties of the office will be workmanlike:

- a. Seek to quickly understand the breadth and depth of the responsibilities of a Commission member.
- b. Become acquainted and develop effective working relationships with the other commissioners and Commission staff.
- c. Educate myself on regulatory best practices and benchmarks.
- d. Commit to fulfilling the duties of the office by making the best decisions with the information available.
- e. When there are differences of opinion, disagree in a civil and professional manner.

While working in the private sector, my goal was to maximize profits for my business and employer. In the positions I held in public sector, the goal was to complete programmatic assignments and apply the appropriate laws to promote and safeguard the public interest. The Commission must balance these oftentimes contradictory demands within the defined regulatory environment. My seasoned, firsthand experience in both sectors provides me with the perspectives and skills to hit the ground running.

I have a reputation for taking initiative and getting things done. Whenever tasks for which I have been responsible were completed, the organization and conditions were always functioned more efficiently and effectively than when they were assigned to me.

I would welcome the challenges associated with the appointment to learn the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner and the procedures the Commission employs and contribute to the work of the Commission.

Finally, I regard holding public office as an honor and, if appointed, as I have throughout my career, I will commit myself to the highest ethical standards of public service.

32. What three qualities do you believe to be most important in a good Public Service Commissioner?

The ability to:

- a. thoroughly navigate, analyze and understand complex technical and financial issues.
- b. listen to all points of view, identify key variables and facts, weigh them and form an opinion.
- c. discuss and resolve differing positions professionally.

33. Please describe your policy perspectives on utility regulation, including how you would balance affordability for ratepayers, reliability of service, and the state's energy, environmental, and distributive equity goals in your decision-making as a commissioner.

Ratepayers, be they households or businesses, expect the utility that serves them to function reliably and completely each time they require service. A utility strives to ensure reliability and functionality, while covering fixed costs, recovering the costs of depreciation and inflation, investing in upgrades, diversification and modernization to meet projected demands for service and paying their investors a fair return.

Ratepayers and utilities alike are struggling under the pressures of inflation, stagnant income and revenues and the potential of new large-load entrants on the demand side of the equation.

The goals must include:

- a. ensuring an open forum and opportunity for all stakeholders in a rate case and other Commission business to be heard and present information to advance their position(s).
- b. asking questions that are relevant to the proceedings.
- c. promoting a process that maximizes the input of relevant information and address and resolve ambiguities.
- d. developing professional, effective working relationships with other Commission members and Commission staff.
- e. relying on staff to assist in sorting out complex technical and financial issues.
- f. exercising sound judgment in applying applicable statutes and policies to cases and other matters without prejudice.
- g. monitoring relevant policy work of interim legislative committees and energy-related task forces.
- h. taking ownership of decisions made and being accountable to all parties, especially the public, regardless of whether decisions I make affect them directly.

Additionally, my 25 years of experience in the trucking industry, a highly regulated business, provides me with insights into the values and disadvantages of regulations.

Finally, my proven record as a representative of Montana citizens is valuable and relevant to the role of a Commissioner.

34. What is your philosophy regarding the interpretation and application of statutes, regulations, and the Constitution in proceedings before the Public Service Commission?

The Public Service Commission derives its authority from statutes enacted by the Legislature. As a former lawmaker, I fully understand the distinction between the letter and intent of laws. A careful reading of a statutes and its legislative history and judicial history (if any) usually clarifies most ambiguities.

When statutes are clear, they must be applied in rate cases and decisions. In the gray areas, the statutes and administrative regulation adopted by the Commission must be applied in a measured manner to address the issue at hand. Employing this approach reduces the likelihood of controversies regarding the proper interpretation.

Yes, this process involves the use of large degree of judgment. Again, years of seasoning in both the private and public sectors provide me the skills and demeanor to ask challenging questions and make sound, evidence-based decisions.

H. MISCELLANEOUS

35. Please provide the names and contact information for three references who are in a position to comment upon your professional abilities.

The following agreed to serve as references and comment on my professional abilities.

United States Congressman Ryan Zinke



Former Montana Senate President Jeff Essmann



Former Mayor of Billings Bill Cole



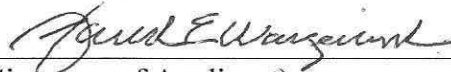
CERTIFICATE OF APPLICANT

I hereby state that to the best of my knowledge the answers to all questions contained in my application are true. By submitting this application I am consenting to investigation and verification of any information listed in my application and I authorize any professional disciplinary office or committee, educational institutions I have attended, any references furnished by me, employers, business and professional associates, law enforcement agencies, all governmental agencies and instrumentalities and all other public or private agencies or persons maintaining records pertaining to my citizenship, residency, age, credit, taxes, education, employment, civil litigation, criminal litigation, law enforcement investigation, admission to the practice of law, service in the U. S. Armed Forces, or disciplinary history to release to the Office of the Governor of Montana or its agent(s) any information, files, records, or reports requested in connection with any consideration of me as a possible nominee for appointment to the Public Service Commission.

I further understand that the submission of this application expresses my willingness to accept appointment as Public Service Commissioner if tendered by the Governor, and my willingness to abide by all applicable Montana laws (including the financial disclosure requirements of MCA § 2-2-106).

4 AUGUST 2026

(Date)



(Signature of Applicant)

An electronic copy of your application must be submitted by
5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Send the electronic copy to: caitlin.wagoner@mt.gov