

APPLICATION FOR
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full name. John E. Prinkki
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.
I am in House District 55
7. Date you became a U.S. citizen, if different than birthdate.
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.

I attended Red Lodge High School. After high school I attended the National Institute of Electronics in Denver, Colorado and received an associate degree in Electronics Engineering Technology.
10. List any significant academic and extracurricular activities, scholarships, awards, or other recognition you received from each college and school you attended.

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.

I am presently retired and operating a small horse ranch raising and selling horse quality hay. I had a part time job working as an Associate Rural Carrier for the Bridge Post Office from June 2024 through October 2025.

I served as a Carbon County Commissioner from January 1989 through April 2017.

From 1973 to 1989 I worked on the family dairy farm as a comanager.

From 1972 through 1973 I worked on various road construction projects for Kiewit Sons and Studer Construction.

After high school I worked at Mile High Equipment building Ice-o-Matic ice machines while attending the National Institute of Electronics

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.

I am not sure if serving as an officer of the Montana Association of Counties counts, but I was elected to serve on the Board of Directors and as an officer from January 1996 through April 2017 at which time I retired as a Carbon County Commissioner.

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

I have broad and successful experience serving on public boards and working directly with local, state, and national partners. My service includes the Roberts Rural Fire District and the Board of Carbon County Memorial Hospital. As a County Commissioner, I served on the Area II Agency on Aging and the Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties, advocating responsible production and stable revenue for local governments.

During my tenure as Commissioner, I served on all insurance-related boards of the Montana Association of Counties and held officer positions within the Montana Association of Counties from January 1996 until my retirement in April 2017. I represented MACo on the National Association of Counties' Environment, Energy and Land Use (EELU) Committee and on the NACo Board of Directors. While serving on EELU, I presented resolutions each year beginning with support for the Railroad Competition Act sponsored by Senator Conrad Burns, which NACo adopted. I also authored a resolution opposing the EPA's proposal to regulate particulates down to PM2.5 — a rule that would have placed most rural roads in non-compliance simply due to dust — and that position was incorporated into NACo policy.

I served on the Board of Directors of Beartooth Electric Cooperative for 25 years, including nearly 20 years as Board President. Along with four other rural electric cooperatives we formed Southern Montana Generation and Transmission in 2003 for the purpose of providing lower-cost wholesale power to our members. Unfortunately, the project was ultimately halted when the Sierra Club successfully urged President Obama's administration to direct the DOE Rural Utility Service to stop funding coal-fired generation, SME was within 30 to 60 days of receiving financing after roughly 5 years of due diligence and the environmental permitting process. SME lost over \$500,000 in sunk costs after following the RUS process for loan approval as did several other generation and transmission cooperatives. I learned from this experience.

Across these roles, I have learned how to work through complex issues, navigate regulatory and policy challenges, and engage in civil, productive discussion with diverse stakeholders. I believe these experiences have prepared me well to faithfully and effectively serve on the Montana Public Service Commission.

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

The first most important decision was to file for Carbon County Commissioner in 1988. I always liked discussing issues with friends and neighbors, but it was a leap of faith to step into the public arena.

I had introduced the resolution that NACo opposes any attempts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to impose regulation of Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5} or dust) at levels more stringent than current standards. It was approved by voice vote only after the resolution was segregated from the other EELU resolutions. The motion on the floor was to send it back to the committee for further review which would have taken another year allowing for EPA approval of the PM_{2.5} regulations. I felt compelled to address the assembly of 3000 county commissioners and supervisors from across the country and explain that the resolution had been duly submitted in a timely manner and been available for comment well ahead of the convention and was approved by the committee. After I addressed the assembly, a floor voice vote from each state was called for, and fortunately the resolution passed and is now in NACo policy. This was very challenging for an introverted Montana dairyman.

The most complex issue I was challenged with was navigating the Federal Lands Access Program for making improvements to the Red Lodge Mountain ski area. The process took nearly 10 years. First, we were blessed by getting a \$500,000 federal appropriation through Senator Burns office for preliminary engineering. Then we went through several rounds of FLAP allocations and were assigned an engineer from the FWHA for final design and construction.

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.
No published writings
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.
18. Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, and type of discharge received.
19. If you have had prior administrative regulatory experience, describe the position, dates, and approximate number and nature of cases you have handled.

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

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

I have not in the last ten years.

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.

I was first elected as a County Commissioner in 1988 and was re-elected in 1994, 2000, 2006, and 2012.

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.
I was divorced from my wife of 37 years in 2015.

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.
NO
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.
I have always paid my taxes and fees or my accountant filed extensions. The IRS usually owes me
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.
I have always been interested in the energy sector and public utilities and understand the need for balance between businesses need to generate a profit while treating the public fairly. I am sure that I will find it more complicated than I imagine, I would enjoy the challenge
32. What three qualities do you believe to be most important in a good Public Service Commissioner?
Remember that I have two ears and one mouth and to use them accordingly.
The ability to read and comprehend the issues presented to the PSC.
The ability and desire to respect the opinions of the other four PSC Commissioners and PSC staff.
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.
I believe strongly in the need to find that balance between profit and affordability. When considering large scale infrastructure investments, is it in the best interest of the public and can it be a profitable investment.

34. What is your philosophy regarding the interpretation and application of statutes, regulations, and the Constitution in proceedings before the Public Service Commission?
The Constitution is the principal document that quires our Nation and State followed by State Law and then regulations.

H. MISCELLANEOUS

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

Lesley Robionson

[REDACTED]

Harold Blattie

[REDACTED]

Greg Chilcott

[REDACTED]

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).

July 25, 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