

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full name. *Kirk A. Bushman*
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. *48*
7. Date you became a U.S. citizen, if different than birthdate. *Citizen at Birth*
8. Date you become a Montana resident. *Resident at Birth*

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.
Billings Central Catholic High School 1984
Montana State University – B.S. Mechanical Engineering Technology 1988
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.
Kestrel Engineering Instrument Engineering
Sibanye Stillwater Electrical Specialist
Kestrel Engineering Instrument Engineering

*Montana PSC Commissioner
Worley Parsons Engineering /Unifield Engineering Plant Design
Log Builders (6/1997-2/1998)
MRL Equipment Company
Marquip Inc.*

Please see attached resume for more information.

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.
13. Describe how your experience qualifies you for this position.
Previously serving as a PSC Commissioner (2013-16), I have direct experience of the duties associated with being a commissioner. I have chaired hearings, researched MCA Title 69 and worked closely with the professional staff at the PSC. In addition, I have worked for over thirty years in the industrial engineering sector.
14. If you have appeared before the Public Service Commission or attended their meetings within the past ten years, please describe the context.
2013-2016 Served as Public Service Commissioner District 2
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. *Northwestern Energy's purchase of PPL Hydro Assets (One of the largest dockets in the PSC's history.*
 2. *MDU Rate Case Hearing (I Chaired the hearing)*
 3. *Represented Montana on the OMS Board for Regional Transmission Organization MISO*
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.
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. *N/A*
19. If you have had prior administrative regulatory experience, describe the position, dates, and approximate number and nature of cases you have handled.
*2013-2016 Served as Public Service Commissioner District 2
Reference question 15.
While on the PSC, I was involved with dockets that involved MDU & NWE Gas & Electrical Rate Cases, Garbage Haulers, Consumer Complaints, Taxi Service, Missoula Water Eminent Domain, Railroad Safety, Pipe Line Easements*

20. Describe any additional business, agricultural, occupational, or professional experience that could assist you in serving as a Public Service Commissioner.
My occupational career in the engineering sector served me well as a commissioner. My technical background and experience with budgets and schedules were beneficial with the dockets that were handled by the PSC. I often had to manage the interest of different groups of people associated with projects. Managing construction with contractors and then transitioning to training of plant personnel and finally meeting performance standards.
Please see attached resume.

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.
American Motorcyclist Association – Lifetime Member
Billings Motorcycle Club – Lifetime Member
I am Currently a member of the Executive Board of the Billings Motorcycle Club
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.
Montana Public Service Commission 2024 Lost in Primary
Montana Public Service Commission 2020 Lost in Primary
Elected to Montana Public Service Commission in 2012 served 2013-2016
Elected to Yellowstone County Central Committee Chair 2008 Served 2009-2010
US Senate 2008 Lost in the Primary

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. *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. *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.
My work experience compliments the job at the PSC as there are many complicated issues. I also thoroughly enjoyed the position and feel I understand the viewpoints of the citizens of Montana and can represent them for District 2.
32. What three qualities do you believe to be most important in a good Public Service Commissioner? *Honesty, Experience, Professionalism*
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.
The PSC is tasked with ensuring reliable utilities at a reasonable cost. My perspective is to follow the MT law and PSC Rules regarding the regulations. The commission must also be vigilant regarding companies using federal Law (FERC, PURPA) to force their plant on to Montana's Utilities. Environmental and tax rules can be perverted to force acceptance by regulators and end up costing MT ratepayers.

Regarding the affordability, a balance needs to be reached regarding the cost of future plant and the period of depreciation assigned to the future plant. It is not fair for current customers to get the benefits of a new plant at low cost, while future customers must pay for a plant that is worn out and dysfunctional. The opposite can occur as well.

The Commission should resist approving additional costs regarding social or environmental reasons, unless it is clearly defined in law.

There may be times where Industry or Montana resources can be used as a benefit for the rate payers, but this would have to be examined on a case by case basis.

There is always give and take regarding these issues, thus it is important for each docket to be seriously examined in the public eye.

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

I believe it is the responsibility of the PSC to properly apply the laws and regulations within MCA Title 69 as well as uphold the state and National constitutions. It is also the duty of the PSC to report and to communicate with the Legislature when changes are needed.

H. MISCELLANEOUS

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

<i>Doug Kari</i>	<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Kerri Crowe</i>	<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Don Jones</i>	<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Alan Olson</i>	<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Ken Lutton</i>	<i>Phone:</i>	
<i>Tom Bevan</i>	<i>Phone:</i>	

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).

7/28/2026

(Date)

Kirk Bushman

(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