



## Ohio Sunset Review Committee

### *Agency Questionnaire*

Agency Name Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) - Nominating Council

Point of Contact Jeff Jones, Legal Director, PUCO

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:

The Nominating Council is a twelve-member body. Per R.C. 4901.021(D)(1), the purpose of the council is to:

“Review and evaluate possible appointees for the office of commissioner of the public utilities commission.”

When a vacancy in the office of Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) occurs, the Governor appoints a replacement from an applicant pool that has been narrowed by the PUCO Nominating Council. This process begins by PUCO staff publishing an advertisement outlining the position and the process for appointment. Applicants submit resumes and cover letters to the council, which then invites applicants for interviews. The council conducts interviews of these candidates and selects the four applicants who are “the most qualified to accede to the office of commissioner.” R.C. 4901.021(D)(2).

These four names are submitted to the Governor, who makes the appointment from the list. If the Governor is not satisfied with the names provided, the Governor may ask that the council send four new names. The Governor's selection must then be made from one of the two lists. The Governor's appointment is subject to confirmation by the Ohio Senate.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff:

Commissioners of the PUCO are appointed to five-year terms, which are staggered so that only one term expires at a time. Therefore, the council typically meets once a year. Meetings are also called to fill unplanned vacancies due to death, termination, or resignation of a commissioner.

PUCO staff utilized by the council in fulfillment of its duties consists of the Legal Director, who serves as the council's coordinator, and a program manager, who assist the Nominating Council through handling the administrative aspects of the vacancy advertisement publication, council communications, and hosting the annual meeting. The workload is in addition to the standard work of the designated PUCO staff.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:

The Nominating Council typically meets once per year. Members' service on the Council may be paid a per diem rate set by statute plus reasonable travel expenses, although this is rarely requested.

Staff time dedicated to the function and operation of the Nominating Council is minimal. This usually requires one to two employees that provide logistical support for things such as meeting preparations, publishing newspaper articles, drafting correspondence, and receiving resumes.

The PUCO arranges for newspaper advertisements announcing member vacancies. The advertising costs typically run less than \$20,000 per vacancy and are funded by the PUCO general operating fund.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any:

The PUCO Nominating Council is comprised of twelve members. R.C. 4901.021(A) outlines the council's membership:

- (1) The chairperson of the consumers' counsel governing board;
- (2) The president of the accountancy board of Ohio;
- (3) The chairperson of the state board of registration for professional engineers and surveyors;
- (4) The president of the Ohio state bar association;

- (5) The president of the Ohio municipal league;
- (6) The director of development or the director's department-employed designee;
- (7) A member of the public appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, to serve at the pleasure of the speaker;
- (8) A member of the public appointed by the president of the senate, to serve at the pleasure of the president;
- (9) A representative of the regulated public utilities of the state appointed by the governor, to serve at the pleasure of the governor;
- (10) A representative of the business community appointed by the governor, to serve at the pleasure of the governor;
- (11) A representative of organized labor appointed by the governor, to serve at the pleasure of the governor;
- (12) A senior citizen sixty-five years of age or older appointed by the director of aging, to serve at the pleasure of the director."

Additional notes: