

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

Election of Commission Chairman
for a two-year term beginning
January 1, 2026.

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PROCEEDINGS: ITEM NO. 1

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN MIKE LA ROSA
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER GARY CLARK
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH

DATE: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Good morning, everybody.

3 Let's go ahead and get near our seats, and then if
4 you would like to join Commissioner Gary Clark and
5 us for the invocation and the Pledge, please do so.

6 (Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.)

7 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Thank you.

8 Good morning. Today is November 4th, 2025,
9 and I would like to call this Agenda Conference to
10 order. We have got at that few items that are up
11 before us today. Item No. 1, which is the election
12 of the new Chairman here at the Florida Public
13 Service Commission, and then Items No. 2, Nos. 4
14 through 7 will be on move staff, and then Item No.
15 3 is moved for towards the end of the meeting for
16 further discussion.

17 So let's start off with Item No. 1. Is there
18 a staff recommendation for Item No. 1? A little
19 summary. Okay, let's start with Item No. 1.

20 COMMISSIONER FAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Mr. Chairman, I am going to put forward a
22 nomination this morning for Chair of the
23 Commission, but if you would indulge me, I have a
24 few comments before --

25 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Please.

1 COMMISSIONER FAY: -- I do so. Thank you.

2 I thought maybe it would be appropriate this
3 morning to go through a few things we know about
4 Commissioner Passidomo Smith, but maybe also some
5 things that we don't know, and so maybe we will
6 have a little fun this morning.

7 I think most probably know she's a diehard
8 Gator and a graduate of the University of Florida,
9 and has her law degree from Washington and Lee, but
10 many don't know that she's also a graduate, along
11 with me, of Florida State University, where she
12 achieved her Master's in Business Administration
13 while working full time at the Commission. This is
14 something I like to remind her of often, maybe you
15 even have an FSU mug somewhere in your office.

16 A lot of us know you worked your way up
17 through the Commission by serving in our General
18 Counsel's Office, but also as a law clerk at the
19 Solicitor General's office while I was with the
20 Attorney General's office, and also has worked with
21 within the U.S. Department of Energy, so, you know,
22 within the work side, you have all of this
23 experience, which I think will be valuable to the
24 Commission.

25 But on a national level, we know you have been

1 involved with NARUC, but it's clear in the past, I
2 guess even few months, that your responsibilities
3 are going to continue to expand on a national level
4 as you now serve on the Board of Governors, and was
5 selected as one of only two Commissioners to
6 represent the southeast NERC and FERC federal and
7 state current issues collaborative. This is all in
8 addition to being nominated the Chair of SEARUC
9 upcoming to recommend the southeastern utility
10 regulators.

11 You have some additional roles outside the
12 state of Florida in DC as a member of the Financial
13 Research Institute, and then a member of New
14 Mexico's University Center for Public Utilities.

15 I know we talked early on about saying no when
16 you were a Commissioner. I don't know if you are
17 doing a great job of that, Commissioner Passidomo
18 Smith, but leadership comes with its
19 responsibilities, obviously.

20 I think many of us know, anybody who spent
21 time with Commissioner Passidomo Smith, that she's
22 a very family oriented person. Her family is
23 extremely important to her, and that, you know,
24 includes her sisters, being one of three daughters,
25 and her family. And her sisters have charted their

1 own paths, all different paths, but I know
2 Francesca and Catarina are very proud of this role
3 that you will be taking on as -- of Chairman.

4 I know your husband Wilson is somewhere here
5 today. I saw him. Is he -- he is hiding in the
6 back there. I have got to see you two interact,
7 two of the most amazing people that I know. It's
8 been an honor to see you guys connect and, you
9 know, I am hoping one day Wilson will take me hunt
10 withing him by association of being a friend of
11 yours, but I don't know if that's wise or not. So
12 maybe he will rethink that at some point.

13 She is truly an amazing daughter. We -- many
14 of us know and love your mom in the Senate, but you
15 have been by her side during that whole time as
16 Senate President, and also continue to serve in the
17 Senate. And I know how important that was for her
18 to have you there during that time.

19 I also know that there is no doubt that your
20 dad would be extremely proud of the person you have
21 become. I think we know all of these things,
22 right, amazing sister, wife, daughter, don't forget
23 mother to two lovely dogs, Chico and Butter. Chico
24 has made a visit to the Commission, I think is very
25 popular here at times. We know that about you.

1 But I also know that you are going to be an amazing
2 mother to baby girl in 2026, and so I am very
3 excited that you will be taking on the additional
4 role. It's not an easy one for sure, but you -- I
5 think you are up for it.

6 So with all of this on your plate, I started
7 to think, well, I don't know, I am kind of worried
8 about Commissioner Passidomo Smith. Will she be
9 able to juggle all of these things? And I think
10 the person who probably summed it up best was your
11 mom, when I asked her about some of these worries
12 that I had. And her response was, she is a
13 Passidomo. This is what we do. And so I have no
14 doubt that you will take this role on with a high
15 level of success.

16 It's an honor to be your friend and your
17 colleague. I know that you will continue to serve
18 in a way that our state will thrive, this
19 commission will life thrive, the people in this
20 building will be able to do their jobs knowing that
21 someone in that chair is truly committed to public
22 service and their role.

23 And so with that, Mr. Chairman, I would like
24 to nominate Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo Smith
25 to of is as Chair of the Florida Public Service

1 Commission.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

3 So hearing a motion, I will ask, is a second,
4 but I will clarify, that motion is not contingent
5 on that hunting trip, right?

6 COMMISSIONER FAY: No, it isn't.

7 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Okay. All right. Just
8 verifying. Excellent.

9 Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, given the
11 opportunity to roast Commissioner Smith before she
12 becomes Chair --

13 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: A great way of looking at
14 it.

15 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: And by the way, I did
16 wear my Gator tie for you today, even though you
17 guys dropped the ball on me in Jacksonville. I
18 do -- personally, I just want to say is ditto to
19 everything that Andrew said, because he pretty much
20 said it all.

21 I have always been impressed with you since
22 you first got here. I have become an expert when
23 it comes to judging what chairman you are going to
24 look like, and I think you are going to be a
25 phenomenal chairwoman.

1 The first time I have seen you push back
2 against four men standing here next to you saying
3 that, no, you guys are wrong, and this is why you
4 are wrong, I think that's a true leader there, and
5 it's not an easy thing to do.

6 And I -- also, with Katherine in your corner,
7 there is no reason at all that you are going to
8 stumble at all, because I have seen her in that
9 second row before. She does a fantastic job of it.
10 I think the two of you guys are going to be a great
11 team. And with all of those things that Andrew
12 said, I would love to be here next year just to
13 watch you in April, to see how you keep all of
14 those balls up in the air.

15 But with that all being said, I second the
16 nomination.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

18 Before we take a vote, are there any other
19 Commissioners that would like to say a few words?

20 Commissioner Clark.

21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 I appreciate the words of my colleagues, and I
23 would echo the sentiments as well. And I was kind
24 of evaluating in my mind some of the
25 characteristics of what a good chairman and a

1 leader is all about, and I could just say this
2 about Commissioner Passidomo Smith, that any
3 person, the characteristics of being concise, being
4 decisive, being persuasive are going to be critical
5 elements in your term as Chairman. And I just
6 reflected back in any person that could convince me
7 to go eat Indian food is certainly deserving of --
8 is certainly -- exhibits the characteristics of the
9 kind of leader that we are looking for. That's
10 definitely persuasive.

11 But I do echo the sentiments of my colleagues,
12 and look forward to two years of your leadership
13 and direction. You have proven yourself beyond
14 measure, in my humble opinion, in terms of your
15 abilities, and I have been so impression, and I
16 look forward to continuing to learn from you and
17 leaning on you when it comes to your interpretation
18 of the law and to your abilities as a regulator, so
19 I look forward to it.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you, Commissioner
22 Clark.

23 And, Commissioner Passidomo Smith, it's been
24 an honor to get to know you over the past few
25 years. You and I kind of came in, more or less, at

1 the same time with me just being, you know, a few
2 months before you. And then when you were
3 appointed to the Commission, I was like, all right,
4 well, maybe I am not the junior member any more.
5 And then after you spoke after a couple of
6 meetings, I realized, well, I am the junior member.
7 She knows a lot more about this process than I do.
8 So you have certainly earned my respect from the
9 onset.

10 You know, obviously, what my fellow
11 Commissioners have said are so true, and, of
12 course, I support and ditto.

13 You know, some of the things that we do are
14 outside of this room, and sometimes outside of this
15 state. And I certainly want to highlight some of
16 the things that you do at a national level.

17 Stepping up and being SEARUC President in the
18 coming year is extremely important, right.
19 Anything that we can do in the state of Florida to
20 highlight what we do, how we do it, and how we
21 truly set the gold standard, and hopefully
22 influence, not just the southeast, but the rest of
23 the country.

24 I was -- I wasn't shocked, but I was very
25 happy and excited that you took on that role. And

1 then recently being appointed to the NARUC Board,
2 the Executive Committee, that shows so much that,
3 hey, there is a lot to highlight here in Florida.
4 And you being able to take that on and represent
5 the state in what we do now, not just from a
6 southeastern perspective, but on a national level,
7 is extremely important. And I look forward to
8 continuing working with you both in that capacity
9 and in this capacity. And it's going to be an
10 honor to call you Madam Chair in January when you
11 take the chairmanship, and look forward to
12 supporting this vote, so thank you.

13 All right. So there is a motion, and there is
14 a second on the floor to elect the next
15 commissioner -- Commission Chairman for the Florida
16 Public Service Commission starting a two-year term
17 in January 1st of 2026.

18 All those in favor signify by saying yay.

19 (Chorus of yays.)

20 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yay.

21 Opposed no?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Show that the motion
24 passes, and Commissioner Passidomo Smith will be
25 Madam Chair Commissioner Passidomo Smith in the

1 coming year.

2 Commissioner Smith.

3 (Applause.)

4 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: You guys, thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Now, I purposely didn't
7 recognize you before we took that vote because I
8 wanted to make sure that you didn't have a chance
9 to deny it, but you are recognized.

10 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Wow. Thank you
11 all so much. I am truly humbled by all of your
12 kind words. I am almost speechless right now.
13 Almost. I still can kind some -- you know me, I
14 can find some words.

15 I just want to really thank all of you for
16 this -- for your confidence and the opportunity for
17 me to serve as Chair. It's truly an honor to have
18 all of your support. Each of you has brought such
19 experience, insight and dedication to the work we
20 do hear at the Commission.

21 As it was mentioned, I started here as a staff
22 attorney, and so I have gotten to see all of you
23 be -- serve as chair, and the -- just the insight
24 and the leadership that was demonstrated in each of
25 your unique ways, I am going to take with me as I

1 serve. It really couldn't have been a better --
2 each of you couldn't have been better role models
3 to serve, and I am just so grateful that I had that
4 opportunity to experience all of this, and to be
5 able to be here for the time to see how each of you
6 have your different styles, and how effective they
7 all were in their different ways, and I hope that I
8 can mold my own style as I start in January, and
9 over the course of the two years.

10 I also -- I want to take an opportunity to
11 thank Chairman La Rosa for his steady leadership
12 this past two years, and the progress that was made
13 under your tenure. You build upon a strong
14 foundation of transparency, collaboration and
15 thoughtful decision-making that I intend to carry
16 forward.

17 And as we move ahead, I look forward to
18 continuing our shared commitment to ensuring
19 reliable, safe service for Floridians, fostering
20 innovation in our state's energy and utility
21 sectors, and maintaining the integrity and
22 professionalism that truly define this commission.

23 So thank you again so much for all of your
24 trust and your kind words. I've -- just, again,
25 just so humbled and so appreciative, and I look

1 forward to these next two years serving as your
2 Chair.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Awesome. Well, thank you.
6 And those are the easy votes we get to take here on
7 the Commission.

8 (Agenda item concluded.)

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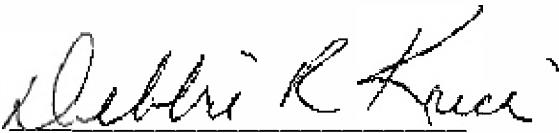
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COUNTY OF LEON)

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DATED this 18th day of November, 2025.


DEBRA R. KRICK
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