

# MDJ

MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL

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**EDITOR'S PICK**

## Stan Wise won't seek re-election to Georgia's Public Service Commission in 2018

Staff reports Oct 4, 2017



Tom Milesenko

Stan Wise, chair of Georgia's Public Service Commission and east Cobb resident, announced today he won't seek re-election next year.

Though elected statewide, members of the commission represent one of five districts in Georgia. Wise, 65, represented the district made up of Cobb, Paulding and Douglas and 20 other counties in central and western Georgia.

In a statement, Wise touted his accomplishments over his 23 years on the commission, which regulates telecommunication, electric and natural gas utilities.

“There’s an old saying that happiness doesn’t come from doing easy work,” Wise said. “I was sent here to make tough decisions, and I did my best to advance our state and its citizens. We have reliable utility services and abundant energy supplies and capacity. We haven’t deferred infrastructure investment, which will keep rates more affordable over time. Businesses are more likely to choose Georgia because of the climate we have created, which means more jobs and prosperity. It brings me immense satisfaction to know I played a hand in that.”

Wise said he doesn’t plan on retiring after leaving the PSC, but wants to use his relationships with those in the utility industries and knowledge to continue to help people. The form that next step takes is still to be determined, he said.

Serving on the PSC is a full-time position. Wise makes a salary of about \$118,781, according to Bill Edge, spokesperson for the PSC.

Wise, elected as a Republican four times since first joining the commission in 1995, said he does not plan to qualify for re-election when qualifying begins in March. He does plan on serving the remainder of his term, which expires Dec. 31, 2018.

Wise served as a member of the Cobb Board of Commissioners from 1990 to 1992 prior to joining the PSC. In a statement announcing his decision not to seek another term, Wise is described as an “unabashed supporter of nuclear power.”

He has been a proponent of the construction of new reactors at Plant Vogtle south of Augusta, a troubled project that is billions over budget and has been mired in delays.

“I believe that it’s important that in Georgia, we have the next generation of nuclear power,” Wise said, adding that if the expansion of the plant is completed, the state will be well-positioned in the energy field for decades to come.

Wise, 65, lives in east Cobb with his wife, Denise. They have two grown children and one grandchild.

