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Division of Personnel Announces Candidate Nominations for the Government Employees' Service Commission (GESC) Election

U.S. Virgin Islands – The Division of Personnel is now accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on the Government Employees' Service Commission (GESC). The GESC plays a vital role in representing the interests of government employees and retirees. The members are provided with the opportunity to contribute to decision-making processes that directly impact the well-being of the Government of the Virgin Islands workforce and retirees.

Candidate Eligibility

To qualify, applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- Current Employee or Retiree of the Government of the Virgin Islands, including employees of the Legislature, the Judiciary, or the University of the Virgin Islands, OR
- Employee or Retiree of any independent or semi-autonomous agency or instrumentality of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Applicants should also be prepared to:

- Commit the time necessary to participate in regular Board meetings, hearings, and committee work.
- Act in the best interests of employees and retirees by reviewing policies, budgets, and program updates.
- Maintain the highest standards of integrity and confidentiality in all Board matters.

Nomination Process

Applicants must download and complete the [GESC Board Candidate Nomination Form](http://www.dopusvi.org/gesc-election/), available at www.dopusvi.org/gesc-election/. Completed forms must be submitted to the Division of Personnel no later than **5:00 p.m. on September 26, 2025**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications early to allow time for verification and processing.

Roles and Responsibilities of the GESC Board

The Government Employees Service Commission (GESC) is a nine-member body established within the Office of the Governor to represent government employees and retirees on matters of personnel administration and benefits, including the Group Health Insurance Program.

Who serves on the GESG?

- 5 Appointed Members – Appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature:
 - 2 residents of St. Thomas
 - 1 resident of St. John
 - 2 residents of St. Croix
- 2 Employee Members – Elected by government employees:
 - 1 from St. Thomas/St. John District
 - 1 from St. Croix District
- 2 Retiree Members – Elected by retired government employees:
 - 1 from St. Thomas/St. John District
 - 1 from St. Croix District

How long is the term?

- Members serve two-year terms.
- Vacancies with more than 6 months left require a special election. Vacancies with less than 6 months left are filled by gubernatorial appointment (with Legislature approval).
- Members remain in office until their successors are appointed or elected.

How is leadership chosen?

- The Commission elects a Chairperson annually from among its members.

Do members receive compensation?

- Yes. Members receive \$75 per meeting day plus necessary travel expenses.

Can members be removed?

- Yes. Members may be removed by the Governor for cause.

What are the Commission's duties?

The GESG:

1. Represents the public interest in improving government personnel administration.
2. Advises the Governor and Director of Personnel on personnel issues.
3. Supports employees and professional organizations in strengthening personnel standards.
4. Provides reports and recommendations to improve government personnel administration.
5. May hire private legal counsel if the Attorney General has a conflict of interest.
6. May issue rules and regulations necessary for carrying out its responsibilities.

For more information about candidate eligibility, nomination requirements, or voting procedures, please contact Janice Freeman at (340) 774-8588, Janice.Freeman@dop.vo.gov or visit www.dopusvi.org/election.