



2025 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SERVICE COMMISSION (GESC) BOARD ELECTION

Candidate Statements

2025 GESC Board Election – Candidate Statements

St. Thomas/St. John District - Active Employees

- Gilbert Comissiong (2023-2025 Co-Chair)
- Shorn T. Joseph
- Patricia Potter
- Cristal Spikes

St. Thomas/St. John District – Retiree

- Lori Anderson (2023-2025 Secretary)

St. Croix District Active Employees

- Edna Hamilton-Cirillo
- Beverly Joseph (2023-2025 Chair)
- Eliji J. Mondesir
- Avalon Smith

St. Croix District – Retiree

- Debra Christopher

St. Thomas/St. John District - Active Employees



Gilbert Comissiong (2023-2025 Co-Chair)

I am seeking interest in being of service on the Government Employee Service Commission Health Insurance Board because I value the opportunity to contribute to the health and well-being of Virgin Islands Government employees. With my experience as a practicing physician, it has been very beneficial to members when faced with some plan challenges, helping them navigate the through healthcare system. As a board member I will continue reviewing proposals, evaluating plan options, and collaborating with stakeholders (other board members, consultants, and insurance companies) to ensure that employees and their families have access to quality, afford healthcare coverage.



Shorn T. Joseph

Attorney Shorn T. Joseph is the proud product of the public school system and began his career with the Government of the Virgin Islands. In 2002, he graduated with honors from Jacksonville State University in Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Criminal Justice and a minor in Forensic Sciences. In 2007, Attorney Joseph earned his Juris-Doctor degree from Michigan State University with a concentration in Corporate Law. Attorney Joseph also has extensive business

experience, having started and managed several businesses in the Virgin Islands. Currently, Attorney Joseph works as an Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice.

Attorney Joseph will bring to the Commission more than 18-years of legal experience, which includes 12-years as a military lawyer with the Virgin Islands National Guard. As a Commission member, Attorney Joseph intends to focus his term on the continued solvency of the System through responsible, transparent and secured investments, and the continuation and expansion of the membership loan program.



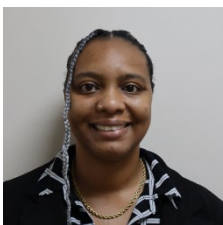
Patricia Potter

I respectfully submit my candidacy for the Government Employees Service Commission. With over 15 years of dedicated service to the Government of the Virgin Islands, I bring a wealth of experience across public safety and emergency management, having served as a Police Crime Analyst with the Virgin Islands Police Department, a 911 Operator, and currently as an Intelligence Analyst with VITEMA.

I hold a degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Policy Analysis, and possess strong research and analytical capabilities essential for sound policy review and decision-making. My federal security clearance reflects a proven ability to exercise discretion, impartiality, and sound judgment—qualities I consider vital to the Commission’s mission.

I am committed to representing the interests of government employees and retirees with integrity, fairness, and transparency. If selected, I will approach this role with professionalism and a deep sense of responsibility, ensuring that all decisions are guided by data, equity, and the long-term well-being of our public workforce.

It would be an honor to serve.



Cristal R. Spikes

As a veteran and government employee, I have built my career on service, discipline, and accountability. At the Department of Public Works, I manage compliance and oversee programs that require integrity, detail, and fairness. As Vice President of the Powered by the Works Committee, I’ve led initiatives that uplift morale, foster collaboration, and build meaningful connections.

My goal in serving on the Government Employees’ Service Commission is to fairly represent both employees and retirees, ensuring their voices are reflected in policies and budgets. I believe the Commission can strengthen trust, accountability, and open communication, while building stronger networks that address concerns and maximize support.

My interest in this role comes from a genuine commitment to people and community, and I hope to extend that commitment by contributing my skills, leadership, and heart to strengthening the systems that support those who serve.

St. Thomas/St. John District – Retiree



Lori Anderson (2023-2025 Secretary)

As the post-65 retiree elected representative on the GESC Board, I have been committed to ensuring that retirees, and members of the senior population and beyond, are represented with care, respect, and advocacy. Over the course of my service, I have continuously engaged in activities and contributed ideas that foster stronger connections within our retiree community. I have made it a priority to stay informed about the challenges we face, while also pursuing ongoing training and education to better serve the population.

A key part of my focus has been helping to keep costs down and ensuring that any increases remain minimal, especially for seniors who are living on a fixed income. Financial stability is a major concern for many retirees, and I am proud of the work the board has done to balance fiscal responsibility with maintaining high-quality coverage. Equally important, I have worked with fellow board members to promote awareness of preventative care and the importance of establishing a relationship with a primary care physician. By encouraging seniors to take an active role in their health, we are helping to build a healthier, stronger retire community. It would be an honor to continue serving in this capacity, building upon the progress we have made, and advancing the mission of supporting retirees with compassion, diligence, and unwavering commitment.

St. Croix District Active Employees



Edna Hamilton-Cirillo

I believe strongly in the value of fairness, accountability, and integrity in government. In my work with the Department of Justice's Criminal Division, I assist in coordinating processes that ensure justice is carried out efficiently and transparently.

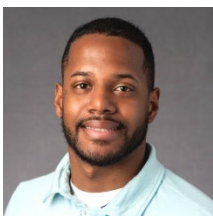
This role has shown me how policies directly affect both employees and the public, and it has strengthened my commitment to supporting systems that build trust and equity. I also had the privilege of serving on the Governance Committee of the American Orchid Society, where I contributed to policy review, oversight, and collaborative decision-making at a national level. That experience reinforced the importance of thoughtful governance and its power to strengthen institutions and support the people they serve. My goal in seeking membership on the Government Employees Service Commission is to apply this experience to the broader public sector. I want to ensure government employees work within a system that values merit, encourages professional growth, and promotes fairness. I am especially interested in initiatives that improve employee relations and morale, while also strengthening public confidence in our institutions. For me, service means contributing experience, perspective, and dedication to make a positive difference for employees and the community we serve.



Beverly Joseph (2023-2025 Chair)

I, Beverly Joseph, would like to express my interest in serving on the Government Health Insurance Board. With over 20 years of experience in healthcare, I am passionate about advocating for our members and ensuring they receive the quality care they deserve. My goal is to continue being a strong voice for the members on the plan, working diligently to improve access to care and rebuild our healthcare infrastructure withing the territory.

Additionally, I am committed to expanding access off-island for services that are not readily available locally, ensuring our members receive comprehensive healthcare options. I believe my experience, dedication, and vision align with mission of the GESC to enhance healthcare services and support for all members and Beneficiaries. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and contribute to the continuous improvement of our healthcare system.



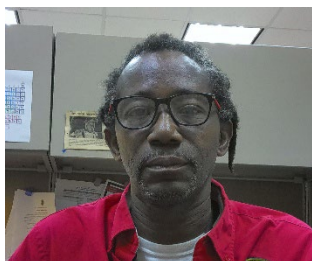
Eliji J. Mondesir

I attended West Point where discipline, integrity, duty, and selfless service are some of the many core principles instilled in us. Upon graduation, I cross-commissioned into the Air Force where I served five years as a Developmental Engineer working on numerous projects varying in budget size, timelines, and agencies/contract companies.

My experiences from West Point and the Air Force provided me with the skills/ability to handle complex projects, varying personas, and short deadlines. No problem was the same, but all problems taught me how to identify the root problem/question and get to the solution. The vast majority of these Air Force projects were classified, adding an additional layer of complication; however, it taught me the responsibility of confidentiality as part of the day-to-day operations.

I am interested in serving on the GESC because I want to uplift my community and fellow Virgin Islanders. I'm the Chief Engineer at the VIEO. I took this position because I saw this office as an opportunity to help my community with one of the Virgin Islands' major problems, energy security.

My military service and current position reflect my intrinsic motivation to help, selflessly serve, and improve those around me. The GESC is another great opportunity for me to help effect change in the VI. My goal serving on the GESC would be to identify and address the root of the problems.



Avalon Smith

I am interested in learning about the inner workings of the GERS and how the governing board functions. My experience includes work at the Dept. of Labor in workforce development as well as consultation as an OSHA representative. Undergrad law classes at CU-Boulder and a study in Econometrics.

St. Croix District – Retiree



Debra Christopher

I am Debra “Debbie” Christopher, the elected post-retiree representative on the GECS board for the district of St. Croix. I am hereby indicating my desire to serve as a candidate for the 2025-2026 elections.

It is my desire to share my experience and knowledge with other trustees, physicians, legislators and health care partners. I bring over 40 years of one-on-one interactivity with the geriatric population. This includes, but is not limited to, navigating medical, pharmaceutical and lifestyle issues that are germane to the retiree population in the district of St. Croix.

I would like to continue to advocate for my contemporaries in this changing landscape. I am certified as a health educator and presently am the president of St. Croix Government Retirees, INC. Through this platform, I interact with retirees and have access to issues affecting them. The medical maze can appear to be insurmountable as “aging” brings with it very special needs.

My “WHY” has been and will remain the implementation of the “HOW” for this population. Retirement and healthcare planning is a major concern. The federal legislative landscape continues to impact healthcare and insurance issues nationwide and definitely in our territory.