

Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 117th Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type “None” or “Not Applicable” if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., “A”, “B”, etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): C. William “Bill” Nelson
2. Position to which nominated: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator
3. Date of Nomination: March 24, 2021
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

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5. Date and Place of Birth: September 29, 1942; Miami, Florida
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Grace Nelson (spouse)
Charles William “Bill Jr.” Nelson, son, 45
Nan Ellen Nelson, daughter, 44

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

Bachelor of Arts, Yale University, 1965
Juris Doctorate, University of Virginia Law School, 1968

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

U.S. Army, 1965-1971 (Reserves and Active Duty)
Florida Governor Reubin Askew, Legislative Assistant, 1971

Nelson, Normile & Dettmer, Attorneys at Law, 1970-1979
Florida House of Representatives, Representative, 1972-1978
U.S. House of Representatives, Representative, 1979-1991
Maquire, Voorhis & Wells., P.A., 1991-1994
Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal of Florida, 1995-2000
U.S. Senate, Senator, 2001-2018

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

Full employment history above.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

Member of the NASA Advisory Council, 2019 -- present. I am inactive in this position due to this nomination and will resign upon confirmation.

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

Bill Nelson, LLC (sole proprietor)
Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Strategic Advisory Group member
Relativity Space, Advisor

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Lake Nona Country Club, 2013 - Present
Association of Space Explorers, 1990 – present
The Florida Bar, 1968 – present
Yale Alumni Association 1966 – present

None of these organizations discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

Yes, candidate and elected official for state legislature, state office, and U.S. Congress. No outstanding campaign debt remains for any of these races.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

Member/supporter, Florida Democratic Party; uncompensated
Member/support, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; uncompensated
Joe Biden for President, surrogate, uncompensated
Nelson for Senate, candidate

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years.

Biden for President, surrogate for candidate Biden in South Carolina, Iowa, Virginia, Florida and other virtual events in 2020. All expenses paid out of pocket.

No personal contributions, but I did maintain a leadership PAC that made political contributions. I also made transfers from a Senate campaign account.

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

Honorary Degrees:
Doctor of Laws, Nova Southeastern University
Doctor of Laws, Rollins College
Doctor of Laws, Bethune-Cookman University

Doctor of Science, Florida Institute of Technology
Doctor of Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Harvard University, Institute of Politics, JFK School of Gov., Fellow Fall 1992

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

Book

Mission: An American Congressman's Voyage to Space (book, 1988)

Articles

- 8/2/2020: [Wear a mask. It's the least you can do.](#) (Orlando Sentinel)
- 10/12/2011: [Life-and-death power of AIDS funding](#) (Politico)
- 1/28/2011: [Sacrifices remind us that we must press on](#) (Orlando Sentinel)
- 6/10/2010: [Gulf Oil Spill Shows Danger of Offshore](#) Drilling (US News & World Report)
- 8/27/2003: We can't explore space on the cheap (Tribune News Service)
- Jr, Frank Sietzen. "Conversations with Bill Nelson." *Aerospace America* 40, no. 8 (2002): 12.
- Handberg, Roger; Johnson-Freese, Joan; Nelson, Bill. "The Space Station, NASA, and Congress - Micromanaging space policy" *Space Techno*
- Scientific American, Essay, February 1991. The risks in cutting funds for space programs. February 1, 1991 — Bill Nelson.
- NELSON, BILL and RICCARDO GIACCONI. "Rational Space Policy." *Issues in Science and Technology* 4, no. 3 (1988): 10-11.
- Nelson, Bill. "Essay: The Risks in Cutting Funds for Space Programs." *Scientific American* 264, no. 2 (1991): 144.
- Jr, Frank Sietzen. "Conversations with Bill Nelson." *Aerospace America* 40, no. 8 (2002): 12.
- Handberg, Roger; Johnson-Freese, Joan; Nelson, Bill. "The Space Station, NASA, and Congress - Micromanaging space policy" *Space Technology - Industrial and Commercial Applications* 14, no. 1 (1994).

Speeches

Please see attached list of relevant Senate and House floor statements and committee statements.

18. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an “alias” or “handle” you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

Twitter: @senbillnelson (active); @nelsonforsenate (dormant)

Facebook: Senator Bill Nelson (deleted); Nelson for U.S. Senate (deleted)

Instagram: Senator Bill Nelson (dormant)

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

Not applicable.

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

It is my honor to be nominated to serve as Administrator of NASA, and if confirmed by the Senate, to help lead NASA into an exciting future. NASA’s workforce radiates optimism, ingenuity, and a can-do spirit. The NASA team continues to achieve the seemingly impossible as we venture into the cosmos.

I worked closely with NASA throughout my years in Congress. In the U.S. House of Representatives, I chaired the Space Subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology committee for six years. During that time, I cosponsored the NASA authorization bills of 1984, 1985, and 1986. This suite of NASA policy bills established the legislative context for the development of a space station for “peaceful purposes,” the operation of the Space Shuttle, and a number of science missions that revolutionized our understanding of the cosmos such as the Hubble Space Telescope and the Galileo mission to Jupiter.

While in the House, I also cosponsored the Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984 and sponsored the follow-on Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act

of 1988. These laws established the original policy and regulatory framework for commercial space launch in the United States and laid the foundation for the emergence of the modern commercial space sector.

In 1986, I flew on the 24th flight of the Space Shuttle. During that six-day flight on *Columbia*, I conducted 12 medical experiments, including the first American stress test in space and a cancer research experiment sponsored by university researchers. The opportunity to fly on shuttle gave me insight into the rigors of human spaceflight and the commitment above all to safety.

In the Senate, I served as both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Space and Science Subcommittee and Ranking Member of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. During my time in the Senate, I helped write NASA Authorizations in 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2017.

In particular, I would like to highlight the landmark NASA Authorization Act of 2010. This was a particularly uncertain time for NASA's human spaceflight program, with the space shuttle set to retire. There was not consensus on NASA's path forward for human space exploration. In order to give NASA the direction it needed, I worked with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison from Texas to author a grand compromise for the agency that united a number of factions that were fighting to redirect the agency following the proposed cancellation of the successor to the Space Shuttle program known as Constellation. That law set NASA on its present dual course of both government and commercial human spaceflight missions, in addition to authorizing a balanced portfolio of science, exploration, and technology initiatives for the agency. The programs authorized in this legislation – commercial crew transportation, the Space Launch System, and Orion – are just now coming to fruition, and much work remains to ensure their success. NASA has successfully launched astronauts to the International Space Station using one provider, with another provider set to come online later this year. The Space Launch System is completing testing and set for its maiden flight later this year. Given my work in initially authorizing these programs, I am committed to ensuring their success and continuing NASA's legacy of excellence in human spaceflight.

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

As Administrator, I would be accountable for management and conduct of the entire agency. I am responsible for the leadership, achievement, and safety of aeronautics and space program. My background as Senator and Congressman with oversight of NASA has prepared me for this. In addition, for six years I had executive experience Florida's state treasurer, insurance commissioner, and fire marshal, overseeing those activities in what was the fourth largest state by population at the time.

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

- Giving NASA the means and leadership to enable the highly-skilled workforce to achieve ambitious exploration and research goals
- Trying to develop a culture of integrity, honesty, safety, and transparency.
- Managing program costs and schedule

All of these are needed for NASA to accomplish its missions, remain the premier space agency, and continue to enjoy wide-spread support across the country and world.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

My arrangements, agreements, and other dealings are described in my Public Financial Disclosure report which the Office of Government Ethics has provided to the Committee.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with NASA ethics officials and the Office of Government Ethics to identify any potential conflict of interest. Any potential conflict of interest will be resolved according to the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into with NASA's Designated Agency Ethics Official, and I understand the agreement will be provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any potential conflict of interest other than those identified in my ethics agreement. In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with NASA's ethics officials and take the actions necessary to resolve the conflict.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

Any potential conflicts of interest have been identified in my ethics agreement, which will be provided to the Committee, and will be resolved in accordance with the terms of that ethics agreement.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest that may arise other than those identified in my ethics agreement. However, should a conflict arise during my appointment, I will consult with NASA's ethics officials and take the actions necessary to resolve the conflict.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

Not applicable.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any

court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:

No.

- a. Provide the name of agency, association, committee, or group;
- b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
- c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
- d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

No.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

No.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes.

F. AFFIDAVIT

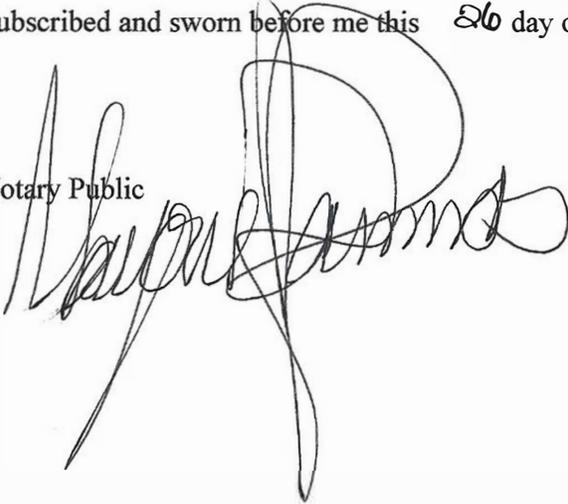
C. WILLIAM NELSON

being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

C. William Nelson
Signature of Nominee
Bill Nelson

Subscribed and sworn before me this 26 day of March, 2021 .

Notary Public



1

