

# IPU RESEARCH NOTE

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ■ MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## COMMISSIONER DEMOGRAPHICS 2009

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As of early February 2009, 226 individuals served as commissioners in 59 federal and state public utility regulatory agencies. This research note summarizes key demographics for the commissioners based on data reported in the February 2009 membership directory published by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC), supplemented by commission websites as needed. At the time of publication, only ten vacancies were reported for the total of 236 commissioner seats. The data represent the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the commissions serving in the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands and multiple agencies for Texas (3) and Massachusetts (2) (see Exhibit 4).

Here are some highlights for 2009:

- Number of commissions: 59
- Number of commissioners: 226
- Number of commissioner vacancies: 10
- Number of new commissioners (since Feb. 2008): 39
- Number of commissioners leaving office (since Feb. 2008): 40
- Average tenure of current commissioners: 4.5 years
- Median tenure of current commissioners: 3.4 years
- Number of commissioners serving more than 15 years: 8
- Number of appointed commissions: 45 (76%)
- Number elected commissions: 14 (24%)
- Number of appointed commissionerships: 179 (76%)
- Number of elected commissionerships: 57 (24%)
- Number of Republicans (as specified): 71 (31%)
- Number of Democrats (as specified): 91 (40%)
- Number of Independents (as specified): 6 (3%)
- Former state elected officials: 40 (18%)
- Former local elected officials: 25 (11%)
- Number of attorneys: 99 (44%)
- Number of male commissioners: 167 (74%)
- Number of female commissioners: 59 (26%)
- Number of three-member commissions: 31 (53%)
- Number of five-member commissions: 22 (38%)
- Approximate number of commission staff members (state): 9,000+/-

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Five exhibits follow:

- Exhibit 1: Detailed commissioner demographics for 2009
- Exhibit 2: Select commissioner demographics for 2009
- Exhibit 3: Commissioner tenure as of February 2009
- Exhibit 4: Twenty-five longest serving commissioners as of 2009
- Exhibit 5: Map of aggregate commissioner experience as of 2009
- Exhibit 6: Commission profiles for 2009

Exhibit 1. Detailed commissioner demographics for 2009

	N	%
Number of commissions	59	
Number of commissioner positions	236	
Number of current commissioners	226	
Number of current vacancies (all state)	10	
Average number of commissioners	4.0	
Median number of commissioners	3.0	
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New commissioners since Feb. 2008 (% of 226 in 2009)	39	17.3%
Commissioners leaving office since Feb. 2008 (% of 223 in 2008)	40	17.9%
Average term specified for commissioners	5.3	
Median term specified for commissioners (also mode)	6.0	
Average tenure of current commissioners as of Feb. 2009	4.5	
Median tenure of current commissioners as of Feb. 2009	3.4	
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Appointed commissions	45	76.3%
Elected commissions (Includes SC and VA)	14	23.7%
Appointed commissioners (includes 7 vacancies)	179	75.8%
Elected commissioners (includes 0 vacancies)	57	24.2%
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Republicans (if specified, excludes vacancies)	71	31.4%
Democrats (if specified, excludes vacancies)	91	40.3%
Independents (If specified, excludes vacancies)	6	2.7%
Unknown (excludes vacancies)	58	25.7%
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Former state elected officials (as reported)	40	17.7%
Former local elected officials (as reported)	25	11.1%
Total former elected officials (as reported)	65	28.8%
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Attorneys (JD, JD/LLM)	99	43.8%
Ph.D. or E.D. degree	8	3.5%
Masters degree (MA, MS, MBA, or MPA)	43	19.0%
Bachelors degree (BA or BS)	44	19.5%
Associate, some college, or not specified	32	14.2%
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Male commissioners	167	73.9%
Female commissioners	59	26.1%
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One-member commissions (MA DTC)	1	1.7%
Three-member commissions	31	52.5%
Four-member commissions (TN RA)	1	1.7%
Five-member commissions	22	37.3%
Seven-member commissions (NC, SC, GU, and VI)	4	6.8%
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Estimated number of staff members (state)*	>9,000	
Average size of commission staff (state)	166	
Median size of commission staff (state)	107	

\* See Exhibit 6. The staffing summary excludes the federal agencies and missing data.

Exhibit 2: About the Commissioners 2009  
 (Data for 226 commissioners serving 59 commissions; 50 states, MA-2, TX-3, DC, GU, PR, VI, FCC, FERC)

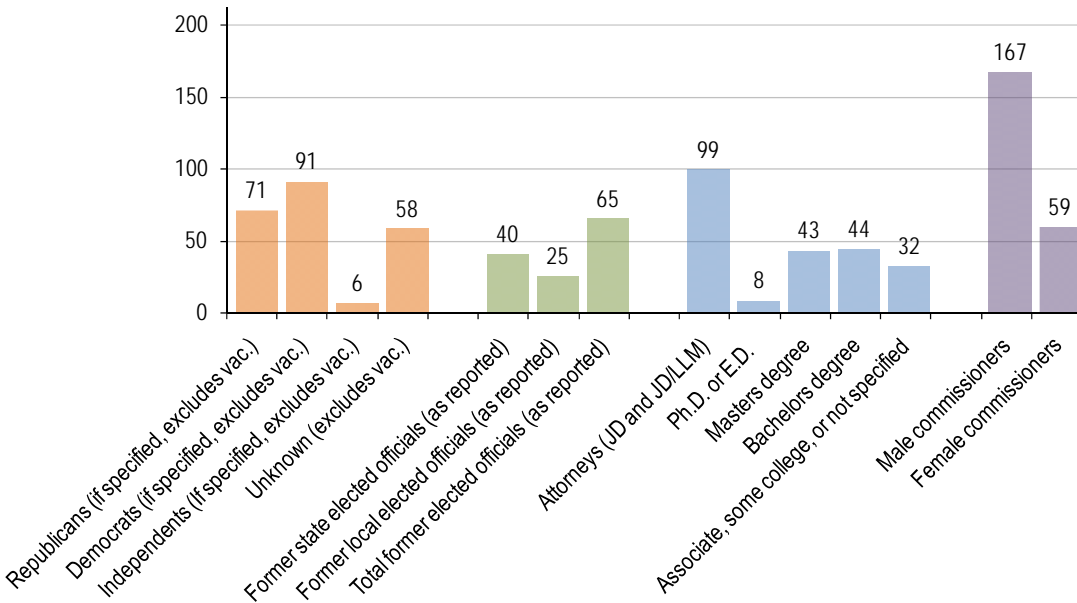


Exhibit 2: Select commissioner demographics for 2009.

Exhibit 3: Commissioner Tenure as of February 2009  
 (Data for 226 commissioners serving 59 commissions; 50 states, MA\*2, TX\*3, DC, GU, PR, VI, FCC, FERC)

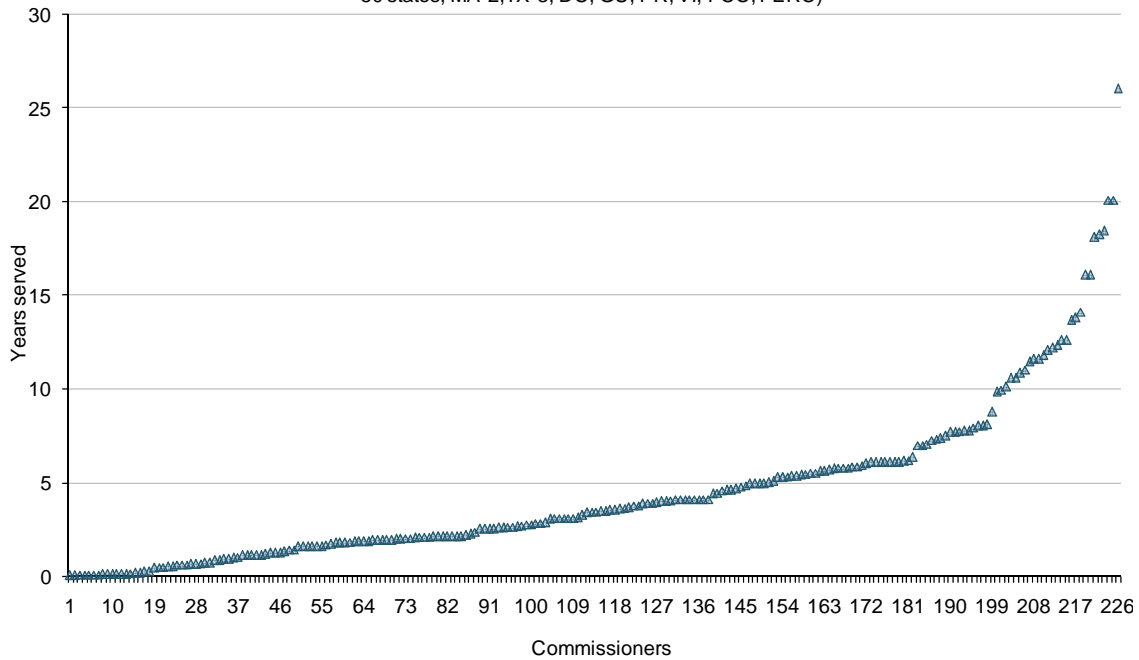


Exhibit 3. Commissioner tenure as of February 2009.

**Exhibit 4: Twenty-Five longest serving Commissioners as of 2009**

Filomena	Cantoria	Guam Public Utilities Commission	26.0 years
Frank	Landis, Jr.	Nebraska Public Service Commission	20.1 years
Bob	Anthony	Oklahoma Corporation Commission	20.1 years
David	Ziegner	Indiana Utility Regulatory commission	18.5 years
Jan	Cook	Alabama Public Service Commission	18.3 years
Marsha	Smith	Idaho Public Utilities Commission	18.1 years
Robert	Baker, Jr.	Georgia Public Service Commission	16.1 years
Rod	Johnson	Nebraska Public Service Commission	16.1 years
Stan	Wise	Georgia Public Service Commission	14.1 years
Ronda Hartman	Fergus	Ohio Public Utilities Commission	13.8 years
David	Coen	Vermont Public Service Board	13.7 years
Arnetta	McRae	Delaware Public Service Commission	12.6 years
Sara	Kyle	Tennessee Regulatory Authority	12.6 years
Vicente	Aguirre Iturrino	Puerto Rico Telecommunications Regulatory Board	12.4 years
James	Field	Louisiana Public Service Commission	12.2 years
Anne	Boyle	Nebraska Public Service Commission	12.1 years
Connie	Murray	Missouri Public Service Commission	11.8 years
John	Betkoski, III	Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control	11.6 years
Donald	Downes	Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control	11.6 years
Robert	Owens, Jr.	North Carolina Utilities Commission	11.4 years
W. Robert	Keating	Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities	11.0 years
Randy	Mitchell	South Carolina Public Service Commission	10.6 years
Mignon	Clyburn	South Carolina Public Service Commission	10.6 years
Michael	Williams	Texas Railroad Commission	10.1 years
Frederick	Butler	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities	9.9 years

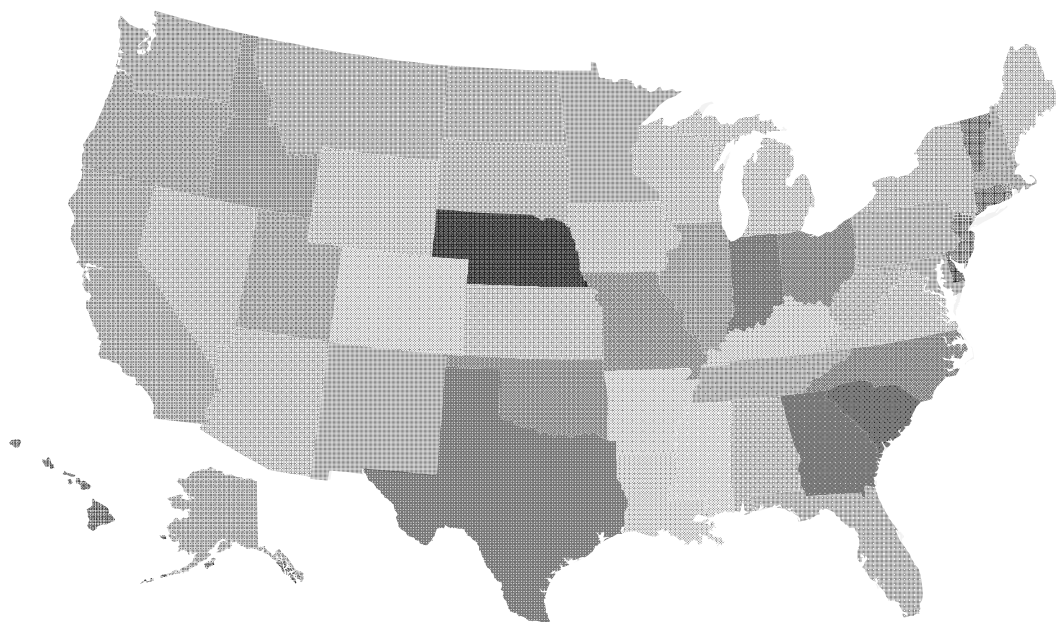


Exhibit 5. Aggregate commissioner tenure by state. Darker shading indicates more aggregate years of service; not adjusted for commission size.

Exhibit 6: Commission profiles for 2009

Commission	Comm est.	Comm select	N com	Com term	Staff 2009	Staff 2005	Chg. in staff	Pct. Change
Federal Communications Commission	1934	A	5	5	1899			
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	1930	A	5	5	1,270	1,174	96	8%
Alabama Public Service Commission	1881	E	3	4	126	126	0	0%
Alaska Regulatory Commission	1959	A	5	6	49	61	-12	-20%
Arizona Corporation Commission	1912	E	5	6	312	297	15	5%
Arkansas Public Service Commission	1935	A	3	6	114	114	0	0%
California Public Utilities Commission	1911	A	5	6	940	940	0	0%
Colorado Public Utilities Commission	1885	A	3	4	94	91	3	3%
Connecticut Dept. of Public Utility Control	1911	A	5	4	141	156	-15	-10%
Delaware Public Service Commission	1949	A	5	5	29	29	0	0%
DC Public Service Commission	1913	A	3	4	68	59	9	15%
Florida Public Service Commission	1887	A	5	4	341	380	-39	-10%
Georgia Public Service Commission	1879	E	5	6	96	94	2	2%
Guam Public Utilities Commission		A	7	6				
Hawaii Public Utilities Commission	1913	A	3	6	48	41	7	17%
Idaho Public Utilities Commission	1913	A	3	6	49	49	0	0%
Illinois Commerce Commission	1871	A	5	5	275	275	0	0%
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission	1913	A	5	4	76	70	6	9%
Iowa Utilities Board	1878	A	3	6	72	79	-7	-9%
Kansas Corporation Commission	1883	A	3	4	220	209	11	5%
Kentucky Public Service Commission	1934	A	3	4	110	121	-11	-9%
Louisiana Public Service Commission	1899	E	5	6	116	116	0	0%
Maine Public Utilities Commission	1915	A	3	6	66	66	0	0%
Maryland Public Service Commission	1910	A	5	5	135	134	1	1%
Massachusetts Dept. of Public Utilities	1861	A	3	3	180	180	0	0%
Massachusetts Dept. of Telecom. & Cable	2007	A	1	3	35	0	35	
Michigan Public Service Commission	1873	A	3	6	150	140	10	7%
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission	1871	A	5	6	42	42	0	0%
Mississippi Public Utilities Commission	1884	E	3	4	103	145	-42	-29%
Missouri Public Service Commission	1913	A	5	6	207	218	-11	-5%
Montana Public Service Commission	1907	E	5	4	39	39	0	0%
Nebraska Public Service Commission	1907	E	5	6	46	46	0	0%
Nevada Public Utilities Commission	1911	A	3	4	90	88	2	2%
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission	1911	A	3	6	73	73	0	0%
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities	1907	A	5	6	272	302	-30	-10%
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission	1999	E	5	4	282	266	16	6%
New York Public Service Commission	1855	A	5	6	555	530	25	5%
North Carolina Utilities Commission	1891	A	7	8	63	63	0	0%
North Dakota Public Service Commission	1889	E	3	6	41	41	0	0%
Ohio Public Utilities Commission	1867	A	5	5	360	360	0	0%
Oklahoma Corporation Commission	1907	E	3	6	473	458	15	3%
Oregon Public Utility Commission	1887	A	3	4	119	119	0	0%
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	1937	A	5	5	523	533	-10	-2%
Puerto Rico Telecommunications Regulatory	1996	A	3	6	89	55	34	62%
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission	1839	A	3	6	10	10	0	0%
South Carolina Public Service Commission	1879	E	7	4	36	36	0	0%
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission	1886	E	3	6	27	24	3	13%
Tennessee Regulatory Authority	1897	A	4	6	81	90	-9	-10%
Texas Public Utility Commission	1975	A	3	6	184	184	0	0%
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	1985	A	3	6				
Texas Railroad Commission	1891	E	3	6				
Utah Public Service Commission	1935	A	3	6	15	15	0	0%
Vermont Public Service Board	1886	A	3	6	27	25	2	8%
Virgin Islands Public Services Commission	1940	A	7	3	126			
Virginia State Corporation Commission	1903	E	3	6	600	600	0	0%
Washington Utilities & Transportation Comm.	1905	A	3	6	165	165	0	0%
Public Service Commission of West Virginia	1913	A	3	6	265	310	-45	-15%
Wisconsin Public Service Commission	1874	A	3	6	153	185	-32	-17%
Wyoming Public Service Commission	1915	A	3	6	34	34	0	0%
Average*			4.0	5.3	166			
Median*			3.0	6.0	107			
Total*					8,942			

\* Blank indicates not available or not applicable. The staffing summary excludes the federal agencies and missing data.