



CUBFacts

The Illinois Commerce Commission

What is the ICC?

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a state agency that regulates investor-owned electric, natural gas, telephone, and water utilities. The ICC, with a budget of about \$118 million and a staff of nearly 300, determines rates and regulatory policy in the state. The five ICC commissioners are appointed by the governor and approved by the state Senate for five-year terms. The governor also appoints one commissioner to be ICC chairman.

What does the ICC do?

The ICC conducts hearings on utility rates and service, audits utility-company operations, and investigates consumer complaints against public utilities. In cases before the ICC, an “administrative law judge” will spend months listening to expert testimony and legal arguments—filed by parties in the case such as CUB, other consumer advocates, the utilities, and the ICC’s own staff—before making a recommendation concerning utility rates or service. The five commissioners will then consider the judge’s recommendation and make a final ruling.

CUB can initiate proceedings by filing a complaint against a utility; or it can “intervene” in a proceeding to argue for lower rates and pro-consumer policies. The utility companies also may intervene in cases, or they can initiate one by, for example, formally proposing a rate increase.

How is the ICC funded?

A tax of about .1 percent on utility bills helps fund the commission. Commissioners’ salaries are about \$117,000 a year, while the chairman makes about \$134,000 a year.

How do I contact the ICC?

You can file a complaint against a utility company by calling the ICC at 1-800-524-0795, or go to www.icc.illinois.gov. However, before calling the ICC, bring your utility complaint to CUB, by calling 1-800-669-5556, to find how to get the best results.

Who are the ICC Commissioners?

Chairman Brien Sheahan:

Gov. Bruce Rauner chose Chairman Brien Sheahan in 2015. He assisted the Governor’s Transition Committee Counsel and served as the Deputy Suburban Director & Statewide Local Government Coalitions for Citizen’s for Rauner, Inc. Sheahan is also the former Director of Government Relations at Navistar.

Commissioner John R. Rosales:

Gov. Rauner appointed Commissioner Rosales in 2015 to replace Commissioner John T. Colgan. Prior to being on the ICC, Rosales served as the Vice President of Community and Governmental Affairs for the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Chicago. He also worked as a Director for the City Colleges of Chicago, where he managed the satellite campus of Olive Harvey College. His term expires in 2019.

Acting Commissioner Sadzi Martha Olivia:

Gov. Rauner appointed Commissioner Olivia to a five-year term in January 2017. She formerly served for the Illinois Department of Financial Regulation as an ethics officer, administrative law judge, and chief of medical prosecutions. She also worked as an Assistant Illinois Attorney General prosecuting financial crimes. Her term expires in 2022.

Commissioner Miguel del Valle:

Gov. Quinn appointed Commissioner Miguel del Valle in February 2013. Del Valle formerly served as City Clerk of Chicago, and was the first Hispanic elected to the Illinois State Senate, where he served 20 years. His term expires in 2018.

Commissioner Sherina E. Maye Edwards:

Commissioner Sherina E. Maye was appointed by Gov. Quinn for a five-year term in February 2013. Previously, she practiced consumer finance litigation with law firm Locke Lord LLP after earning a law degree at Howard University.