



BOMMARITO
CONSULTING

Public explainer · October 7, 2026

A GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

Michigan Public Service Commission

Its history, commissioners, legal authority, and the public process behind utility decisions

OCTOBER 2026

PREPARED BY

Bommarito Consulting LLC

SCOPE

History · Appointments · Authority · Rates · Public process

EVIDENCE CUTOFF

October 7, 2026

Contents

Begin with the overview. Use the later chapters to find the law, record, and deadline for your project.

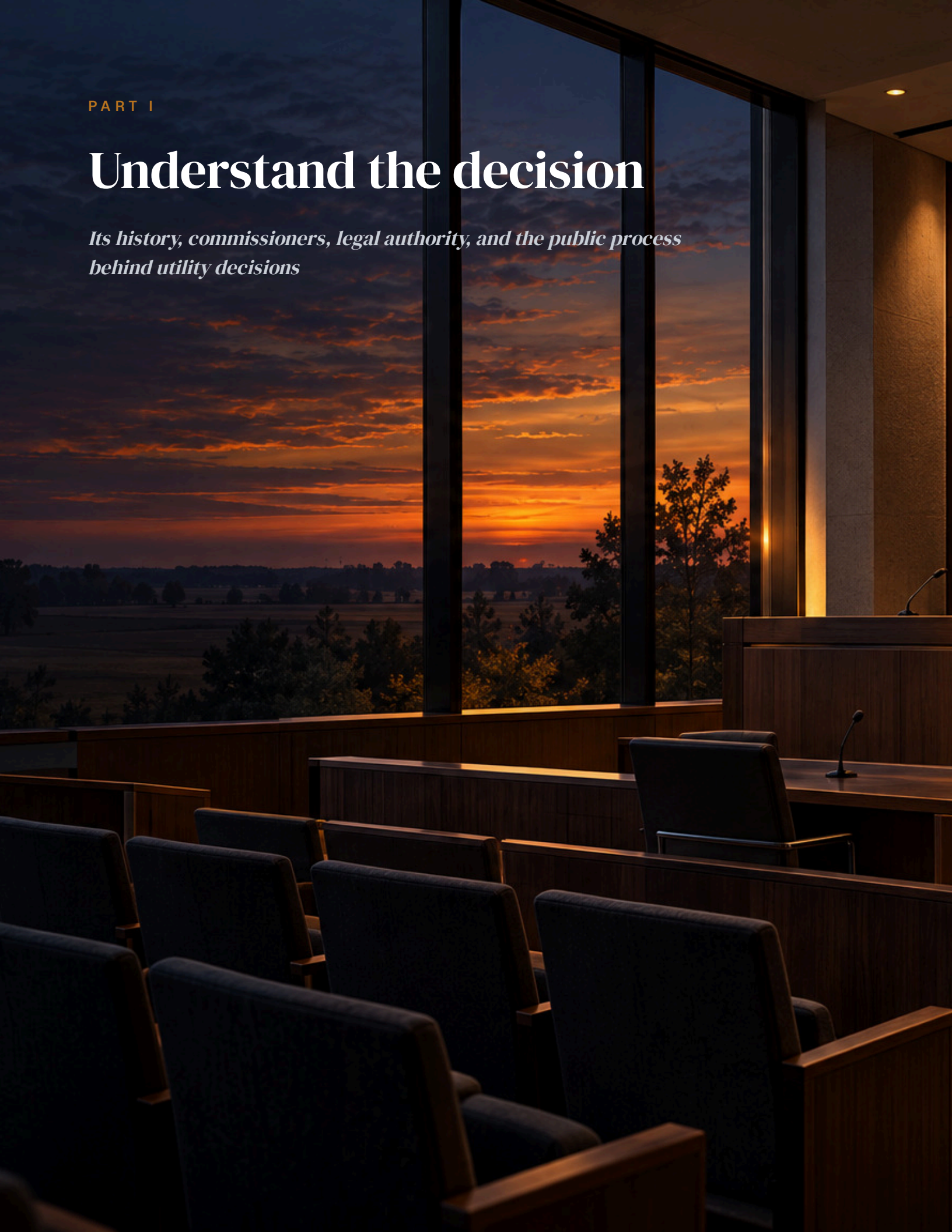
1	What the Commission does	4
2	How the institution changed	5
3	The current commissioners and appointments	6
4	From application to written order	10
5	Policy, appointments, and public accountability	11
6	Choose a complaint, comment, or party role	12

Statutes and public records reviewed through October 7, 2026. Read the later procedural record before acting on a deadline or project status.

PART I

Understand the decision

*Its history, commissioners, legal authority, and the public process
behind utility decisions*



What the Commission does

The Michigan Public Service Commission, or MPSC, is a state agency with powers delegated by the Legislature. It oversees specified utility services and decisions, including rates, service, planning, safety, and facility siting. Three commissioners act through written orders. Staff analysis, a company proposal, and a Commission decision are different documents. [1,3,10]

Start with the decision that affects you

A higher electric bill raises a rate and tariff question. A new transmission route raises a certificate question. A gas pipeline can raise construction and safety questions. A data center can raise a special-contract question and later supply or cost-recovery questions. One project can appear in several proceedings. [1,10,11]

The Commission does not govern every utility-like service or every project permission. Municipal utilities and member-regulated electric cooperatives have important rate exceptions. Michigan no longer regulates retail telecommunications rates. Cellular, broadband, and internet services are generally excluded from its stated authority. Environmental permissions, local land use, and federal energy decisions can involve other bodies. [10,11,12]

An order is the agency's decision

The commissioners exercise their authority collectively. Professional staff examine filings and offer recommendations. Administrative law judges manage contested proceedings and prepare recommendations where applicable. The utility supplies proposals and evidence. None of these roles makes a press release or a staff recommendation equivalent to the final written order. [1,3,14]

Begin with the statute establishing authority, then read the application and procedural schedule, then the issued order. A familiar project name is not enough to identify what has actually been decided. [1,14]

How the institution changed

Railroad roots, then new services

Michigan created a railroad commission in 1873 with one commissioner. The commission expanded to three members in 1909. Electricity and telephone responsibilities arrived in the following years. These changes reflected legislative choices about which services required state oversight. Today's agency is the product of that history, rather than an organization whose authority has always been the same. [4]

The Michigan Public Utilities Commission succeeded the earlier institution in 1919 with five members. In 1939, the Legislature created the Michigan Public Service Commission. The current foundational law is Act 3 of 1939, as amended. The 1939 institution initially had five commissioners. [1,4]

The modern three-member structure

In 1947, the structure became three commissioners with staggered six-year terms. In 1951, the law limited membership to no more than two commissioners from the same political party. These structural rules still shape appointments and continuity. They do not require equal numbers from each party or a particular vote in an individual case. [1,4]

Later statutes and amendments changed regulation of gas, electricity, telecommunications, renewable resources, and other matters. The Commission's historical overview is a guide to those institutional changes. A present legal question still requires the current governing statute, rather than a general account of the agency's mission. [1,4,10,11,12]

HISTORY EXPLAINS THE INSTITUTION; LAW SUPPLIES THE POWER

The agency's long history does not make its jurisdiction unlimited. Ask which statute authorizes the particular rate, certificate, rule, or enforcement decision.

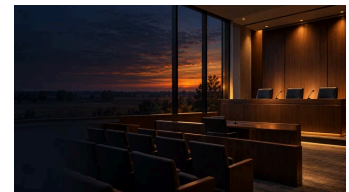
The current commissioners and appointments

Three people hold the decision-making offices

At the October 7, 2026 cutoff, the official Commission roster lists Dan Scripps, Katherine Peretick, and Shaquila Myers. All three were appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The roster lists Scripps and Myers as Democrats and Peretick as an Independent, consistent with the two-from-one-party limit. [5,6,7,8]

Dan Scripps was appointed February 21, 2019, and designated chair in July 2020. His reappointment term expires July 2, 2029. His official biography describes legal, legislative, and energy-policy experience. Katherine Peretick was appointed January 4, 2021; her current term expires July 2, 2027. Her biography describes engineering and energy-storage experience. Shaquila Myers was appointed July 21, 2025, with a term expiring July 2, 2031. Her biography describes executive and legislative policy experience. [5,6,7,8]

Illustration: identify the facility, authority, and decision before choosing a participation path.



These biographies establish publicly stated backgrounds. They are not evidence that a commissioner will vote a particular way. Assess a case through its record and votes rather than inferring an outcome from a résumé or party designation. [5,6,7,8]

Michigan's Senate process uses a disapproval period

The Governor appoints commissioners with Senate advice and consent. Michigan Constitution Article V, section 6 defines that process as appointment subject to disapproval by a majority of the Senate's elected and serving members within 60 session days. An appointment not disapproved within that period stands confirmed. Session days are not calendar days. This is not a requirement for prior federal-style confirmation. [1,2]

How Michigan appoints its commissioners

Three members, staggered six-year terms, and no more than two from one party.

01

Governor appoints

The Governor selects a commissioner; statutory qualifications apply

The Governor also designates the chair.

02

Senate review

Advice and consent follows Michigan Constitution Article V, section 6

The Senate may disapprove by a majority of members elected and serving.

03

60 session days

Absent disapproval within the constitutional period, appointment stands confirmed

Session days are not calendar days; this differs from prior federal confirmation.

04

Commission acts

Commissioners decide within powers delegated by statute

Staff analysis and hearing records support decisions; written orders state the outcome.

Sources: Act 3 of 1939, sections 1–3; Michigan Constitution, Article V, section 6. October 7, 2026.

BOMMARITO CONSULTING

Figure 1: Michigan's commissioner appointment and Senate review process.

The Governor designates the chair. Terms are staggered to provide continuity across appointments. Elections can affect the appointing Governor and Legislature, but residents do not elect commissioners directly. [1,2]

Statutory safeguards constrain the office

Act 3 includes citizenship and residency qualifications, limits on pecuniary interests in specified regulated utilities, political-party office restrictions, and restrictions on other state office or employment. It also restricts specified utility retention during service and for six months afterward. Read the actual provision for its scope; the rule is not accurately summarized as a ban on every investment or all employment forever. [1]

The three current commissioners

Governor-appointed offices · Official roster and biographies · October 7, 2026



Dan Scripps

Chair

Democrat

Term ends July 2, 2029



Katherine Peretick

Commissioner

Independent

Term ends July 2, 2027



Shaquila Myers

Commissioner

Democrat

Term ends July 2, 2031

No more than two members from one party. Backgrounds do not determine a case vote.

Figure 2: Commissioners: official source snapshot.

PART II

Read the evidence and act

Statutes, original records, and current procedural status explain what happens next.



From application to written order

A case number points to a record

Many proceedings have a number beginning with U-. The record can include an application, exhibits, testimony, notices, procedural rulings, public comments, proposed decisions, briefs, and Commission orders. A list of cases is an index into this evidence, not a substitute for reading it. [14]

Contested cases allow parties to present and challenge evidence under the applicable procedures. Administrative law judges handle hearing functions; staff may participate in reviewing the proposal. The commissioners decide the matter through an order within their statutory authority. Different proceedings have different clocks and participation rules. [1,14]

Rates need more than a requested percentage

A utility rate case examines its revenue requirement and how costs are allocated. Revenue requirement is the total amount the utility seeks to recover through approved rates. A customer's bill depends on the applicable tariff and usage. A requested annual revenue increase is not the percentage change in every household's bill. [11]

Transmission certificates, renewable-facility certificates, integrated resource plans, gas supply cost proceedings, and special contracts answer different questions. Approval of one does not necessarily approve every expense or permission associated with the project. [1,10,11]

READ THE DECISION'S OPERATIVE TERMS

Identify what was granted or denied, the conditions, effective dates, reporting duties, and later approval requirements. A headline can omit the restrictions that matter to your project.

Decisions can change on review

Rehearing, later Commission proceedings, and judicial review can change the legal position. A historical order may remain available online after its effect changes. Read later orders and appellate dispositions before treating an older approval as current authorization. This overview is not a complete citator for every Commission decision. [1,14]

Policy, appointments, and public accountability

The Legislature supplies the framework

Statutes set the agency's powers, goals, standards, and procedures. Amendments can change which projects qualify for a certificate, the required findings, or the timing of a review. An agency guideline, proposed rule, adopted rule, and enacted statute have different legal roles. [1,10]

The Governor's appointments shape the composition of the Commission. The Senate exercises its constitutional review role. These political processes coexist with case-specific records and legal constraints. Party membership does not itself establish whether a particular application satisfies the governing statute. [1,2,5]

Public meetings and public records make decisions inspectable

Commission orders, case records, public meetings, and annual reports help residents understand what the agency did. The 2025 annual report describes the agency's work across its responsibilities. It is useful for institutional context; the controlling source for a particular approval remains its own order and governing law. [9,14]

Transparency also requires knowing which question an agency cannot decide. A local zoning concern, environmental permit, easement dispute, or federal pipeline certificate may require another forum. Sending every concern to one agency can miss the body with authority to grant the requested relief. [10,11,12]

Public accountability works through both broad policy choices and specific evidence. Residents can engage elected officials about statutes while participating in the relevant case about a utility proposal. Those are related but separate actions. [1,2,13,14]

Choose a complaint, comment, or party role

A service complaint starts with the utility

For a billing or service problem, begin with the utility's customer process and keep account records, bills, dates, and correspondence. The Commission's complaint channel addresses matters within its jurisdiction. Identify the service and provider before assuming every communications or utility dispute belongs there. [\[10,12,15\]](#)

Comments identify concerns

A public comment can describe an impact, identify a missing record, or request an explanation. Use the case number and the stated filing instructions. A useful comment links the concern to the decision under review and supplies concrete facts. It does not automatically confer the procedural rights of a party. [\[13,14\]](#)

Intervention is formal participation

Intervenors become parties under the applicable law and procedural rules. Eligibility, filing deadlines, representation, testimony, and other responsibilities depend on the proceeding. Some siting statutes provide rights for specified affected owners or local units. Do not transfer a right or clock from one statute to another. [\[1,13,14\]](#)

A practical starting file contains the statute, application, route or site maps, procedural order, issued decisions, and later review history. Then write the specific question: what should the decision maker approve, deny, condition, or require evidence about? [\[13,14\]](#)

FOUR ACTIONS THAT MAKE PARTICIPATION MORE USEFUL

Find the correct agency. Identify the decision and case number. Read the schedule and your participation options. Support the requested action with relevant evidence.

Open MPSC is an independent archive and access layer created by Bommarito Consulting; it is not the Commission or the State of Michigan. Use its search and API to find records, then check the official document and current procedural state. An archive's status label cannot establish construction completion or the outcome of an appeal.

Sources and primary authorities

1. Act 3 of 1939: Michigan Public Service Commission · www.legislature.mi.gov
2. Michigan Constitution Article V section 6 · www.legislature.mi.gov
3. About the MPSC · www.michigan.gov
4. Commission history · www.michigan.gov
5. Commission membership and party affiliations · www.michigan.gov
6. Chair Dan Scripps official biography · www.michigan.gov
7. Commissioner Katherine Peretick official biography · www.michigan.gov
8. Commissioner Shaquila Myers official biography · www.michigan.gov
9. 2025 MPSC Annual Report · www.michigan.gov
10. MPSC regulatory responsibilities · www.michigan.gov
11. MCL 460.6a: rate decisions · www.legislature.mi.gov
12. MPSC telecommunications responsibilities · www.michigan.gov
13. MPSC Get Involved · www.michigan.gov
14. MPSC case and hearing information · www.michigan.gov
15. MPSC consumer complaints · www.michigan.gov

Scope and methods

Prepared by Bommarito Consulting from public statutes, original Commission records, official judicial opinions, agency guidance, and retained case metadata. Sources are checked through October 7, 2026. Statutes and issued decisions are distinguished from requests, guidance, and analytical illustrations.

Open MPSC is an independent access layer. Official Commission and court records govern. An archive status or order title does not establish current legal effect after judicial review. The selected cases are not a complete citator or compliance review.

Diagrams explain a decision or calculation. Illustrations do not depict surveyed sites or final engineering designs. Later project action, rule adoption, appointments, and court decisions require a fresh check.

Companion website and videos: bommaritollc.com/insights/michigan-mpsc-overview.