The Federal Trade Commission is composed of five Commissioners, and their terms extend for seven years. The Commissioners are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. At any given time, not more than three Commissioners may be members of the same political party. The President designates one Commissioner as Chairman, and the Chairman is given the responsibility for the administration of the Commission.

When the first five Commissioners were named, their terms were to expire on a staggered basis, on September 25, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1921, respectively. Their successors’ terms have been set to expire on September 25, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928; on September 25, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, and 1935; and following the same pattern thereafter. Thus, when a Commissioner resigns in mid-term, his or her successor does not receive a seven-year appointment but is instead appointed only until the end of the former Commissioner’s term. A Commissioner may serve beyond the expiration of his or her term until a new Commissioner is qualified.