

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of State	2026
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy	1322

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	04/21/2025	04/21/2027	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No	P.L. 111-70 (2009)	

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
22 U.S.C. 1469	01/27/1948	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

**Current Next
FY FY**

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Advisory Commission assesses U.S. government activities intended to understand, inform, and influence foreign publics. It proposes recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Members of Congress concerning public diplomacy, and appraises the effectiveness of public diplomacy policies and programs carried out by the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for Global Media in both Washington and

abroad. Commission members and staff interact regularly with Department and Congressional officials and hold open meetings about four times a year. The Commission also works with partner institutions and individual researchers to bring outside expertise and best practices to inform public diplomacy and international broadcasting strategies

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The seven-member Commission is by law bipartisan, with no more than four members from any one political party. Members are appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate; the President designates the chairman. As of September 2025, there was one Republican and one Democrat member each on the Commission (and five vacant seats), with a Democrat and Republican serving as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. Commissioners serve without compensation and are chosen from a broad cross section of professions, including law, business, public relations, academia, and diplomacy. Members are appointed for three-year terms, but they may continue to serve once their term has expired until their replacement has been nominated by the White House and confirmed by the Senate. Commission staff include an executive director, a Foreign Service Senior Advisor, and a part-time administrative assistant. The biographies of the Commission members and staff can be found at

<https://www.state.gov/leadership-u-s-advisory-commission-on-public-diplomacy/>.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Commission met 4 times this fiscal year (with

one meeting just before the beginning of the fiscal year and one slated shortly after the end of FY2025) in a public forum. Additionally, the ad hoc expo subcommittee met about 5 times with the Expo Unit director. The full commission meetings are instrumental in providing a platform for public diplomacy practitioners and other interested stakeholders to engage the Commissioners in person. The meetings are on topics that are relevant to current issues in public diplomacy, including findings of recent Commission reports. Transcripts of minutes of those meetings can be found at <https://www.state.gov/meetings-u-s-advisory-commission-on-public-diplomacy-2/>. Recommendations are in the meeting minutes. Members of the public who attend the meetings include members of the media, embassy officials, academicians, and think tank and congressional staff. Commission recommendations are sometimes cited in the media. In addition to meetings, the Commissioners also conduct domestic and overseas fact-finding trips that inform the Comprehensive Annual Report, mandated in the Commission's reauthorization language. The Commission also maintains a LinkedIn account to increase both the reach of the Commission and the ability to hear from and communicate with the public, Members and staff of Congress, and members of the Executive Branch. The ad-hoc subcommittee's meetings were conducted with R/PPR's Expo Unit. The subcommittee members provided their experience and insight with running past expos and Japanese society to the Expo Unit, and the Expo Unit called on their expertise with specific questions and guidance requests.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Since 1948, Congress has required this Commission and its predecessors “to represent the public interest” in looking broadly at U.S. government activities concerning public diplomacy. No other source in government or the private sector provides a comparable, independent citizens perspective. The Commissioners are the only individuals from the private sector who have been appointed to advise the President and Secretary of State on Public Diplomacy initiatives. They bring unique perspectives from business, politics, and government. The Annual Comprehensive Report is the only product of its kind that contains a comprehensive look at all USG PD activities along with spending tables and provides critical insight and recommendations for improved outcomes. The public meetings provide one of the few fora for practitioners to inform the public about their work and gain outside perspectives.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Official meetings of the Commission are open to the public unless a determination has been made in accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting or a portion of a meeting should be closed to the public. Subcommittee meetings were closed given the ongoing and development of the USA Pavillion at Expo 2025 and the technical nature of the discussions.

21. Remarks

Note on Commissioners: According to the Charter, although terms are for three years, the legislation also notes that Commissioners may serve past their terms if no replacements have been named. Sim Farar and Bill Hybil continue to

enthusiastically execute their duties as Commissioners. We are not aware of the White House's timeline for nominating new commissioners. H.R.4350 — 117th Congress (2021-2022). Title LVI. Public Diplomacy. Sec 1604. PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE U.S. ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) is amended— (1) in the section heading, by striking “SUNSET” and inserting “CONTINUATION”; and (2) by striking “until October 1, 2021”. The ACPD's Charter can be found at

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-advisory-commission-on-public-diplomacy/charter-u-s-advisory-commi>

Members normally meet in an open, public forum four times each fiscal year. The Commission meets approximately 4 times a year. Transcripts of minutes of these meetings can be found at

<https://www.state.gov/meetings-u-s-advisory-commission-on-public-diplomacy-2/>

The ACPD releases an annual "Comprehensive Report on Public Diplomacy and International Broadcasting" as well as ad hoc reports on specialized subjects. Copies of the Commission's reports can be found at

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-advisory-commission-on-public-diplomacy/reports-u-s-advisory-commi>

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Designated Federal Officer

Sarah E Arkin Executive Director

Committee Members

Start

End

Occupation

Member
Designation

Farar, Sim	05/11/2011	04/21/2027	entrepreneur, philanthropist	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hybil, Bill	03/13/2008	04/21/2027	philanthropist, entrepreneur	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Brown, Katherine [Ad hoc advisory subcommittee on the U.S. pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka]	09/01/2024	10/01/2025	CEO, Global Ties USA	Peer Review Consultant Member
Clark, Bob [Ad hoc advisory subcommittee on the U.S. pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka]	09/01/2024	10/01/2025	Smith company	Peer Review Consultant Member
Cottingham-Streeter, Paige [Ad hoc advisory subcommittee on the U.S. pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka]	09/01/2024	10/01/2025	Japan United States Friendship Commission	Peer Review Consultant Member
Rakolta, John [Ad hoc advisory subcommittee on the U.S. pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka]	09/01/2024	10/01/2025	Smith company	Peer Review Consultant Member
Walker, Joshua [Ad hoc advisory subcommittee on the U.S. pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka]	09/01/2024	10/01/2025	CEO, Japan Society	Peer Review Consultant Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The Commission is a citizen’s panel that advises the President, Secretary of State, and Congress on Public Diplomacy matters. This includes efforts by the U.S. government and the private sector that seek to engage, understand, inform, and influence foreign publics so that they, in turn, encourage their government to support U.S. foreign policy priorities. In this role, the Commissioners utilize their wide range of experience within the areas of management, communications, public affairs, government, and international relations to assess U.S. government Public Diplomacy programs and activities. The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, a bipartisan presidentially appointed panel created by Congress, has continually served since its inception in 1948.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

In FY 2025, the ACPD issued the 2024 Comprehensive Annual Report on Public Diplomacy and International Broadcasting, which included 32 recommendations to the White House, Congress, the Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for Global Media. The report can be found at the following site:

<https://www.state.gov/2023-comprehensive-annual-report-on-public-diplomacy-and-international>

Also issued in FY2025: A Congressionally-mandated report on research and evaluation of public diplomacy programs, found here:

<https://www.state.gov/acpd-subcommittee-research-and-evaluation-annual-report-2025>.

Additionally, the staff of the Commission authored a blogpost for the Stimson Center's State Department Modernization project. The Commission continues to monitor and advise on the implementation of recommendations from previous annual and special reports. The State Department has taken many of these recommendations on board, including through the 2025 Department reorganization.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

The Commission is able to complete its reports for roughly \$75,000, which is about 40 percent of its total operating budget of \$193,104. Comparable studies would likely been contracted to an institution for millions of dollars (in particular, the Comprehensive Annual Report on Public Diplomacy and International Broadcasting, which includes data collected from over 20 offices and exceeds 250 pages and 115,000 words.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

250

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Commission was established in 1948 and has issued hundreds of annual and special reports since then. Annual Reports have historically had varying numbers of recommendations, some smaller bureaucratic fixes along with transformational ideas. A number of these have been implemented to varying degrees of completeness over the many years the Commission has existed. The Commission has a good track record over the long term of encouraging debate around public diplomacy infrastructure ultimately leading to reforms that make public diplomacy enterprises more efficient and effective. For FY2025, the Annual Comprehensive Report included more than 30 recommendations. Additionally, in FY2025, the Commission issued a special report to Congress with six recommendations, and some of these were folded into the FY2025 Annual Report as well, slightly different as the Department had begun to implement some of the recommendations outlined in the May 2025 Report to Congress. The 2024 Annual Comprehensive Report included 25 recommendations. The 2022 Annual Comprehensive Report included 28 recommendations. Some years, the Commission keeps the same recommendations or slightly tweaks them if they have not been implemented or fully implemented. We try to account for this in the total number of recommendations noted, noted as complete, and noted as partially complete.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

40%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Since the Commission's reinstatement in July 2013, almost half of its recommendations in its reports have been fully implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

30%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Since the Commission's reinstatement in July 2013, roughly 30 percent of its recommendations in its reports have been partially implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Commission actively seeks feedback from the organizations it appraises and issues advise to, including the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for Global Media, the White House / National Security Staff, and Congress. Thus far, the recommendations from its core reports have been welcomed by the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

The Commission will continue to actively distribute and make available information products it develops for the Congress, the executive branch, and the public. The Commission provides, whenever possible, raw information for the public to review as well as documents with analysis and recommendations. All meeting announcements, minutes, transcripts -- in addition to the Commission's reports and white papers -- are available at <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-public-diplomacy-and-public-affairs/un>