



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Indiana Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Issues Statement of Concern on Voting Rights in Indiana**

On July 22, 2020, the Indiana Advisory Committee issued a [statement](#) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to raise concern about voting rights in Indiana during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee highlighted the need for the State of Indiana and Indiana's elections officials to ensure all registered voters can cast their ballots safely during the general election this November, and encouraged the Commission to continue to pay special attention to increased risks to some Indiana citizens based on age, race, ethnicity, or disability. The Committee referred to its [2018 Advisory Memorandum on Voting Rights in Indiana](#) for further recommendations around ensuring voting rights of Indiana's citizens.

In its statement, the Committee recommends to the Commission that the no-excuse absentee ballot policy be extended to November's general election to allow all registered voters to vote by mail if they choose. The Committee urges the adoption of a voting plan, and recommended mailing absentee ballot applications to all registered voters in the state in a timely manner. The Committee also raised concern about adequate provision of voting centers in locations serving predominately Black and Hispanic voters.

Committee Chair, Diane Clements-Boyd said, "We hope that Indiana pays special attention to the civil rights concerns of all of its citizens leading up to November's general election, and we hope that our work will encourage state policymakers and election officials to take appropriate steps to secure voter access and participation for citizens in Indiana during the current pandemic."

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7<sup>th</sup> decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For more information about the Commission and our Committees, please visit [\\*www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*