



NEWS RELEASE
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U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Appoints Montana State Advisory Committee Members

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights congratulates the following individuals on their appointments as members of our Montana Advisory Committee. Our Committees play an important role in civil rights advocacy at state and local levels.

The Commission appointed:

Gwendolyn M. Kircher, Billings, Chair; Kiah M. Abbey, Bozeman; John A. Baden, Gallatin Gateway; Doug L. Betters, Whitefish; Norma Bixby, Lame Deer; Joan Hoff, Big Sky; David A. Lopez, Billings; David Stanley Morales, Billings; Dale S. Rambur, Missoula; Denise L. Rogers, Bozeman; Maylinn E. Smith, Missoula; Dennis M. Taylor, Helena.

Committee Chair Gwendolyn Kircher said:

"The protection and preservation of civil rights for all people of our state continues to be the main focus of the members of the Montana State Advisory Committee. We are honored to participate in the process of promoting these principles. In the past, the Montana Advisory Committee activity addressed discrimination in employment, law enforcement, education, housing and health care against Native Americans in border town communities. We found that more investigation needs to be done in these areas and plan to have follow-up meetings with the public to gather additional information concerning discrimination. The committee will continue this process in the fall of 2017 with fact finding meetings in Billings and Hardin to take testimony from anyone who has a complaint in these areas."

Advisory Committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning local civil rights issues, including justice, voting, discrimination, housing, education, and other important themes. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Appointees serve four-year terms and are unremunerated.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).