



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW • Suite 1150 • Washington, DC 20425 www.usccr.gov

Dear Friends of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights:

Please join us on **Friday, August 18**, in Washington, DC, for a presentation from two acclaimed historians:

A Historical Perspective on 52 Years of the Voting Rights Act (VRA)

Alexander Keyssar, Ph.D.

Matthew W. Stirling, Jr. Professor of History and Social Policy
Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Mary Ellen Curtin, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of History
American University

The Constitution's 15th Amendment proclaims that the "right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged ... on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." To bring life to that guarantee, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law on August 6, 1965 – in part due to the work of this Commission, created just eight years earlier to inform Congress and the President on the need for this landmark legislation. In the 60 years since its formation, the Commission has played a pivotal role in protecting Americans' access to the ballot box, publishing 20 total reports on voting rights from its first report in 1959, to its most recent in 2016. Please join us for a historical perspective on the movements that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its 1975 reauthorization.

The presentation will occur immediately following our monthly Commissioners' business meeting, and beginning at 11:00 am EST.

The Commission is located in the National Place Building, 1331 Pennsylvania Av. NW, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20425. The building entrance is on F St. NW. If attending in person, we ask that you RSVP by email to publicaffairs@usccr.gov.

The session will be live-streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/USCCR/videos>. There will also be a call-in line for individuals who desire to listen to the presentations: (888) 329-8893; Conference ID 8426586

Persons with disabilities who need accommodation should contact Pamela Dunston at (202) 376-8105 or at signlanguage@usccr.gov no later than August 14.

We look forward to your joining us on August 18.