



NEWS RELEASE
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**Arizona Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting: Arizona Voting Rights**

Phoenix, AZ – On Friday, March 9, the Arizona Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing on voting rights and access. The Committee will hear testimony from academics, policy makers, civil society organizations, community groups, and other interested individuals regarding potential barriers to voting, such as access to the polls, language access, early voting, and voter registration, that may have a discriminatory impact based on race, color, disability status, national origin, and/or the administration of justice.

The briefing will take place on **Friday, March 9, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MT, at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, Fifth Floor Conference Center, 111 East Taylor Street, Phoenix.** This meeting is free and open to the public and will [live-stream](#).

Members of the public will be invited to speak during the open public comment session, from 4:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to afortes@usccr.gov by April 9, 2018. Following the meeting, the Committee will issue its findings recommendations in an advisory memorandum to the Commission, in order to supplement the Commission’s 2018 statutory enforcement report on voting rights.

Committee Chair Lorena Van Assche stated: “The right to vote is one of America’s most cherished rights and fundamental to our democracy. Our Advisory Committee has made it its priority to investigate whether any barriers to voting exist in Arizona. Our examination will conclude with a report to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to aid in its national review of voting rights. We look forward to the outcome of this briefing and invite all to attend.”

**Voting Rights in Arizona
March 9, 2018 - Phoenix
Agenda**

- I. Opening Remarks and Introductions: 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**
- II. Government and Election Officials: 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**
 - **Eric Spencer**, Election Director, State of Arizona
 - **Patty Hansen**, Recorder, Coconino County Recorder’s Office
 - **Adrian Fontes**, Recorder, Maricopa County Recorder’s Office
 - **Lisa Marra**, Elections Director, Cochise County

III. Advocacy Organizations: 10:40 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

- **Walt Opaska**, Co-Founder and Member, Arizona Republican Lawyers Association
- **Renaldo Fowler**, Senior Staff Advocate, Arizona Center for Disability Law
- **Joel Edman**, Executive Director, Arizona Advocacy Network
- **Darrell Hill**, Attorney, ACLU of Arizona

IV. Break: 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

V. Election and Voting Experts: 1:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

- **Mary O’Grady**, Staff Attorney, Osborn Maledon
- **Timothy La Sota**, Attorney, Timothy La Sota PLC
- **Travis Lane**, Assistant Director and State Director of Native Vote, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- **Sarah Gonski**, Political Law Associate, Perkins Coie
- **Joseph Garcia**, Director, Latino Public Policy Center, Morrison Institute, Arizona State University

VI. Voter Perspectives: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- **Eric Sainz**, Arizona State Director, Mi Familia Vota
- **Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer**, Co-President, League of Women Voters
- **Juliana Huereña** (co-presenter), Operations Manager, Southwestern Institute for Families and Children
- **John Britton** (co-presenter), Member, Southwestern Institute for Families and Children
- **Gina Roberts**, Voter Education Director, Arizona Clean Elections Commission

VII. Open Comment Period: 4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

VIII. Closing Remarks: 4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The event will [live-stream](#)

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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 7th

decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).