



U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Celebrates 55th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Releases Expert Testimony for Upcoming Project

August 6, 2020

As the Voting Rights Act (VRA) turns 55 today, the Commission is continuing its enduring commitment to voting rights by issuing a new report this fall, *Navigating Voting During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Considerations in Access for Minority Voters*. Experts provided testimony, found [here](#), on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted minority voters' access to mail and in person voting.

Experts:

- **Leah Aden**, Deputy Director of Litigation, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
- **Matt A. Barreto, Ph.D.**, Principal, Latino Decisions/UCLA Voting Rights Project
- **Michelle Bishop**, Disability Advocacy Specialist, National Disability Rights Network
- **Leigh Chapman**, Director, Voting Rights Program, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- **Kristen Clarke**, President and Executive Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- **Honorable Marcia Fudge**, OH-11, Chair, Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections
- **Honorable Deb Haaland**, NM-1, Co-Chair, Native American Caucus
- **Richard Hasen**, Professor, University of California, Irvine, School of Law
- **Dale Ho**, Director, Voting Rights Project, American Civil Liberties Union

- **Morgan Kousser**, Professor, California Institute of Technology
- **Justin Levitt**, Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Law, Gerald T. McLaughlin Fellow, Loyola Law School
- **Daniel Morenoff**, Executive Director, Equal Voting Rights Institute
- **Clark Rachfal**, Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs, American Council for the Blind
- **Ilya Shapiro**, Director, Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies, Cato Institute
- **Hans A. von Spakovsky**, Manager, Election Law Reform Initiative and Senior Legal Fellow, Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies. Heritage Foundation
- **Jerry Vattamala**, Director, Democracy Program, Asian American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

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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](#).