



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Missouri Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil  
Rights Releases Summary of Testimony: *Voting Rights in Missouri-  
the Impact of COVID-19***

St. Louis, MO – The Missouri Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has released a summary of testimony gathered during teleconferences held during the spring and summer of 2020. The study was precipitated following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting restrictions on public gatherings and face-to-face meetings.

Among the topics included in the testimony are notarization requirements for absentee and vote by mail ballots, fair access to the ballot box, and voter disenfranchisement. The candor of witnesses at the hearing revealed that even as members of panels disagreed about the status or the reality of voting in Missouri, they were committed to open and frank discussion about access to the ballot. The summary of testimony is a product of those discussions.

The committee submitted the summary of testimony to the United States Commission on Civil Rights to inform the Commission of the potential civil rights implications of the steps taken, and not taken, during the pandemic to ensure all citizens with the legal right to vote were given access to a ballot and/or the polls.

The committee will host one additional hearing in December 2020 to conduct a post-election analysis which will be followed by a report containing findings and recommendations that will be submitted to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

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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](#).