



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Montana Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Meetings on Voting Access for Native Americans**

The Montana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a series of public meetings – via webinar – to understand voting access for Native Americans. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment session.

### **EVENTS: Montana Advisory Committee Public Meetings**

#### **WHEN: Web Hearing 1**

March 2, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. MT, via webinar  
Registration: <http://bit.ly/MTSAC3221>  
Webex Meeting Number: 199 695 6272  
Audio: (800) 360-9505

#### **Web Hearing 2**

April 15, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. MT, via webinar  
Registration: <http://bit.ly/MTSAC41521>  
Webex Meeting Number: 199 941 4784  
Audio: (800) 360-9505

Meeting materials and presentations will be available before and after the event at <http://bit.ly/MTSAC2021>. Please contact Ana Victoria Fortes (information above) for more details and regarding requests for accessibility.

The Committee will also accept written comments from members of the public. Please send written statements to Ana Fortes by April 30, 2021.

Chair Gwendolyn Kircher said: "In 1924, Native Americans were given the right to vote. Montana has twelve tribal nations and seven reservations comprising 6.7% of our total population of one million. There have been many obstacles for them since given the right to vote including lack of voting locations, tribal IDs not being accepted as legal forms of identification, as well as issues with registering to vote because of address requirements. Currently, only 66% of Montana's Native American population are registered to vote and the Committee feels the disparities in voting rights need to be explored and hopefully rectified."

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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. For more information, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*