



PRESS RELEASE
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**Tennessee Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Web Briefings on Voting Rights**

The Tennessee Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is hosting a series of online public briefings from April through June to hear testimony regarding the civil rights implications of Senate Bill 8005 on voting rights and voting restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic and their impacts, including, but not limited to regulations on absentee ballots. The Committee intends to provide the Commission with their findings and recommendations on these topics. The first two panels in this series will take place:

Panel I: Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CT

Online registration (video and audio): <https://tinyurl.com/rhcvnr2>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access Code: 2764 248 5508

Panel II: Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CT

Online registration: <https://tinyurl.com/4t4rxyh>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505, Access Code: 2762 495 9020

Committee Chair Shaka Mitchell said, “Our Committee is interested in studying voting rights from the intersectional lens of the unique social circumstances of 2020 – from the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic to the uprisings for racial justice across the county – we want to better understand how changes to legislation and voting regulations impacted Tennessee voters.”

Committee Vice-Chair Yesha Yadav said, “The Tennessee Advisory Committee strongly believes in the timeliness of this study and welcomes public input so that we may all be well-informed as we enter another election cycle. We invite community members, especially Tennesseans whose access to voting has been directly impacted by Senate Bill 8005 and the pandemic to provide public comment or written testimony.”

Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period during the second hour of each panel. Members of the public are encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives of voting in the state.

Spanish language interpretation will be available at (866) 269-4260, confirmation code: 2687875. Individuals requiring additional accommodations should contact vmoreno@usccr.gov at least 5 business days prior to the meeting to make the request. The Committee will also accept written comments related to this study. Please send written statements on this topic to Victoria Moreno, at vmoreno@usccr.gov until May 27, 2022. Meeting materials will be available at the [Tennessee Advisory Committee Public Folder](#).

Registration for public comment is encouraged, though not required, and will be accepted until 24 hours before each meeting. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WKV222C> to register for public comment.

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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](#).