



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

The Tennessee Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is hosting an ongoing 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 next two panels in this series will take place:

Panel III: Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CT

“On the Ground Perspectives Regarding Senate Bill 8005”

Online registration (video and audio): <https://tinyurl.com/3eh9ev8k>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access Code: 2764 191 0901#

Panel IV: Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CT

“Background and Context on Voting Restrictions in Tennessee”

Online registration: <https://tinyurl.com/yyrpppz5>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505, Access Code: 2763 146 6616#

Committee Chair Shaka Mitchell said, “The testimony we have heard thus far has provided important context on the links between Senate Bill 8005 and the voting rights of Tennesseans. At our next web briefing, we will hear firsthand perspectives from individuals involved in the protest and, later in May, we will begin to hear testimony on the voting rights restrictions that were implemented during the pandemic. We look forward to learning more about any disparities in access to voting as a result of these events.”

Committee Vice-Chair Yesha Yadav said, “As we study voting rights, it is vital that community voices are heard, especially those of Tennesseans whose access to voting has been directly impacted by Senate Bill 8005 and the pandemic to provide public comment or written testimony. We invite members of the public to join us and share their experiences during the public comment section of the briefings or through 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 June 24, 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/LH2WRZ> 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. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).