



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

The Tennessee Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has been hosting an ongoing series of online public briefings since April 2022 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 upcoming panels in this series will take place:

**Panel V: Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CT  
“Government Perspectives Regarding Access to Voting During the Pandemic”**

Online registration (video and audio): <https://tinyurl.com/yetd76jr>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access Code: 2761 943 7611#

**Panel VI and VII: Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm CT**

**Panel VI: “Community Perspectives Regarding Access to Voting During the Pandemic”**

**Panel VII: “Legislative Perspectives on Senate Bill 8005:**

Online registration (video and audio): <https://tinyurl.com/2k8wmk24>

Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505, Access Code: 2760 841 3852#

Committee Chair Shaka Mitchell said, “So far, our Committee has heard from a variety of experts and community stakeholders on voting rights in Tennessee, both on the impacts of Senate Bill 8005 and the access to voting during the pandemic. We look forward to hearing additional government and community perspectives on these matters to help inform us on the civil rights concerns faced by Tennesseans and the recommendations we can make to improve these situations.”

Committee Vice-Chair Yesha Yadav said, “As a Committee, we recognize the importance of hearing directly from those involved in and/or impacted by issues surrounding voting rights and those with bipartisan viewpoints to join our briefings and provide public comment or written testimony. We look forward to hearing your experiences and incorporating your insight into our project.”

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](mailto: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](mailto:vmoreno@usccr.gov) until thirty (30) days after each panel. Meeting materials will be available at the [Tennessee Advisory Committee Public Folder](#).

Registration for public comment is encouraged, though not required. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BM2ZBQQ> 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 56 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](#).