

PRESS RELEASE August 12, 2022 Contact: Liliana Schiller lschiller@usccr.gov

Florida Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Web Briefing on Voting Rights

The Florida Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is continuing a series of online public meetings to hear testimony regarding the civil rights implications of recent legislative changes to Florida's election laws, access to early voting, and vote-by-mail procedures. The Committee intends to provide the Commission with their findings and recommendations on these topics. The third meeting in this series will take place:

Panel III: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm ET Link to Join (video and audio): <u>https://tinyurl.com/2ffjzsf4</u> Telephone Access (audio only): (800) 360-9505; Access Code: 2764 153 2150

Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period towards the last 20 minutes of the meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives of voting in the state.

Closed captions and American Sign Language will be provided. Individuals requiring additional accommodations should contact <u>lschiller@usccr.gov</u> at least seven (7) 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 Liliana Schiller, at <u>lschiller@usccr.gov</u> by October 21, 2022. Meeting materials will be available at <u>Florida Advisory Committee Public Folder</u>.

Committee Chair Nadine Smith said, "Our Committee studied voting rights and voter disenfranchisement and issued several specific recommendations in our <u>October 2020 report</u> to the Commission. We turn back to this topic now given recent changes to Florida's election laws and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to learn what has been done since we issued our report, and what still needs to occur to ensure every Floridian is able to cast their vote."

The Committee's focus for their first report to the Commission in this series will concern recent legislative changes to Florida's election laws, as well as the extent of the state's implementation of the Committee's previous recommendations concerning vote-by-mail and early voting from their <u>October 2020 report</u>.

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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 <u>http://www.usccr.gov</u> and follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.