



## ***U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Appoints Members for Tennessee and Wisconsin State Advisory Committees***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Friday, July 18, 2025, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held a business meeting where the Commissioners voted on and approved new appointments to the Tennessee and Wisconsin State Advisory Committees.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights maintains 56 Advisory Committees—one in each state, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories. These committees are congressionally mandated and bipartisan, tasked with conducting civil rights studies specific to their state or territory.

Advisory Committees play a critical role in identifying local and regional civil rights issues and providing recommendations that often contribute to reforms at all levels of government. Over the past year, Advisory Committees have released reports on a wide range of topics, including housing discrimination, disparities in pediatric healthcare, artificial intelligence in K-12 education, access to legal counsel, barriers to services for students with disabilities, teacher shortages, fair housing practices, the child welfare system's impact on Black families, mental health care in juvenile justice systems, and accessibility challenges for individuals with disabilities.

More information about the work of the Commission's Advisory Committees can be found [here](#).

The following are the newly appointed members:

### Tennessee Advisory Committee:

- Brandon Smith, Chair
- Nicholas Barry
- Gale Jones Carson
- Larry Crain
- Luke Cymbal
- Chicoya Smith Gallman
- Kathleen Harms
- William Terry Ladd, III
- William Morgan
- Denise Smith-Martinez
- Kyontha Nelson
- Muriel Malone Nolen
- Kymberly Whitaker
- Stelle Marie Yarbrough

### Wisconsin Advisory Committee:

- Pooja Bambha-Arora, Chair
- Matthew Fernholz
- Jennifer Herzog
- Elisabeth Lambert
- Alexander Lemke
- M. Scott Niederjohn
- Rachel Sattler
- Kathrine (Casey) Steinau
- John (JD) Tripoli
- Nicholas Truog
- Judith Wade
- Ryan Walsh

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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 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 [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov).