



NEWS RELEASE
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**Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces
Series of Public Meetings: Civil Rights and Barriers to Voting**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – On November 15, the Louisiana Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene the first of a series of public meetings to examine barriers to voting that may have a discriminatory impact based on race, color, disability status, national origin, and/or the administration of justice.

The November 15 public session will be held at the School of Nursing Auditorium, Grambling State University, One Cole Street, Grambling, LA. The Committee will hear testimony from academics, policy makers, community groups, and other interested individuals. Members of the public will be invited to speak during the open forum session, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Midwest Regional Office prior to the meeting. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to dbarreras@usccr.gov by December 31, 2017.

Committee Chair Robert Lancaster stated: “Citizens’ free exercise of the right to vote is fundamental to a functioning democracy. The Louisiana State Advisory Committee unanimously identified the importance of this right in selecting to investigate any barriers to voting in Louisiana that impede on any eligible voter’s ability to cast his or her vote. Through the collection of testimony, the Committee hopes to understand what barriers to voting, if any, exist in Louisiana; produce a report helpful to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for its national review of voting rights; and to inform Louisiana citizens and policy makers working to ensure no one in Louisiana experiences any unreasonable impediments in exercising the right to vote.”

Agenda

9:00–9:15 am: Opening Remarks

Robert Lancaster, Louisiana Advisory Committee
Richard Gallot, Jr., President, Grambling State University

9:15–10:30 am: Panel 1 - Academia

Dr. Lemmy Akoma, Grambling State University
Dr. Devissi Muhammad, Grambling State University

Dr. Cheryl Mango–Ambrose, Grambling State University
Dr. Joshua Stockley, University of Louisiana – Monroe

10:45 am–12:00 pm: Panel 2 - Policy Makers/Community Organizations/Non-Profits

Rep. Patrick Jefferson, Louisiana House of Representatives
Richard Gallot, Jr., President, Grambling State University
Rev. Theron Jackson, Northern Louisiana Non-profit and Interfaith Organizations
Jennifer Hill, Women’s Democratic Club of Northwest Louisiana

12:10-1:00 pm: Open Public Forum

1:00 pm: Closing Remarks

Parking is available on the Grambling State University Campus

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Established in 1957, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and the Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information on the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).