



PRESS RELEASE
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**Illinois Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Releases Report on Voting Rights**

Chicago, IL – The Illinois Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has released a [report](#) on voting rights, detailing a number of civil rights concerns relating to voter access. To inform its report, the Committee held a series of panel discussions, receiving testimony from community members, advocates, academics, legal professionals, and government officials.

The report examines the civil rights impact of state voting procedures and regulations and their current implementation. It addresses challenges to voting facing the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated population, voters with Limited English Proficiency, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness. Primary concerns included inconsistent training of election judges; projected impact of pending legislation such as automatic voter and Election Day registration; prison gerrymandering; voter access for incarcerated individuals awaiting trial; and the need to educate youth on the importance of voting. The Committee offers numerous recommendations for addressing these critical civil rights issues.

Committee Chair Juan Carlos Linares said, “Voting rights are among the most essential of our civil rights. Given this issue’s importance in our contemporary discourse and engagement, the Illinois Advisory Committee convened local and national experts to explore the challenges posed to exercising our voting rights. Accordingly, our Committee is proud to present its findings and recommendations to both the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights as well as to the public at large.”

This Illinois study will support the Commission’s 2018 Statutory Enforcement Report on voting rights in the U.S.

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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 <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).