



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW • Suite 1150 • Washington, DC 20425 www.usccr.gov

June 1, 2018

President John J. Cullerton
327 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Speaker Michael J. Madigan
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Senator William E. Brady
309 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Rep. Jim Durkin
316 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear President Cullerton, Speaker Madigan, Sen. Brady, and Rep. Durkin:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is pleased to transmit to your offices our Illinois Advisory Committee's [report](#), *Civil Rights and Voting in Illinois*.

The Commission maintains 51 Advisory Committees - one for each state and the District of Columbia. The role of the Committees is to study civil rights issues in their communities and report findings and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission appreciates the Illinois' Committee's focused attention on voter rights and access to voting in the state.

The Commission requests that your office review the recommendations in the report, which can be viewed at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/IL-Voting-Rights.pdf>. The recommendations – found on pp. 57-58 of the report - are also attached to this letter. In response to these recommendations, we advise that you take the steps necessary to protect civil rights in your jurisdiction.

We have similarly asked Governor Rauner, the Congress, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to review the recommendations.

The Commission appreciates your consideration, in the hope of ensuring civil rights protections. We look forward to hearing from you on actions you will take in response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Lhamon".

Catherine E. Lhamon
Chair



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June 1, 2018

Governor Bruce Rauner
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is pleased to transmit to your office our Illinois Advisory Committee's [report](#), *Civil Rights and Voting in Illinois*.

The Commission maintains 51 Advisory Committees - one for each state and the District of Columbia. The role of the Committees is to study civil rights issues in their communities and report findings and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission appreciates the Illinois' Committee's focused attention on voter rights and access to voting in the state.

The Commission requests that your office review the recommendations in the report, which can be viewed at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/IL-Voting-Rights.pdf>. The recommendations – found on pp. 57-58 of the report - are also attached to this letter. In response to these recommendations, we advise that you take the steps necessary to protect civil rights in your jurisdiction.

We have similarly asked the General Assembly, the Congress, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to review the recommendations.

The Commission appreciates your consideration, in the hope of ensuring civil rights protections. We look forward to hearing from you on actions you will take in response.

Sincerely,

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Catherine E. Lhamon
Chair



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June 1, 2018

The Honorable Thomas Hicks
Chair
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chair Hicks:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is pleased to transmit to your office our Illinois Advisory Committee's [report](#), *Civil Rights and Voting in Illinois*.

The Commission maintains 51 Advisory Committees - one for each state and the District of Columbia. The role of the Committees is to study civil rights issues in their communities and report findings and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission appreciates the Illinois' Committee's focused attention on voter rights and access to voting in the state.

The Commission requests that your office review the recommendations in the report, which can be viewed at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/IL-Voting-Rights.pdf>. The recommendations – found on pp. 57-58 of the report - are also attached to this letter. In response to these recommendations, we advise that you take the steps necessary to protect civil rights in your jurisdiction.

We have similarly asked the Congress, the Department of Justice, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, and the Illinois General Assembly to review the recommendations.

The Commission appreciates your consideration, in the hope of ensuring civil rights protections. We look forward to hearing from you on actions you will take in response.

Sincerely,

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Catherine E. Lhamon
Chair



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June 1, 2018

Mr. T. Christian Herren, Jr.
Chief, Voting Rights Section
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Room 7254 - NWB
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Herren:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is pleased to transmit to your office our Alaska Advisory Committee's advisory [memorandum](#) on Alaska Native voting rights and our Illinois Advisory Committee's [report](#), *Civil Rights and Voting in Illinois*. As you are aware, the Commission is finalizing our national headquarters report on voting rights, separate from these Alaska- and Illinois-specific items that the Commission's independent Advisory Committees published.

The Commission maintains 51 Advisory Committees - one for each state and the District of Columbia. The role of the Committees is to study civil rights issues in their communities and report findings and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission appreciates the Alaska and Illinois Committees' focused attention on voting rights and access to voting in the two states.

The Commission requests that your office review the recommendations in the memorandum and the report, which can be viewed at:

<http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/05-25-AK-Voting-Rights.pdf> (pp. 10-12);

<http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/IL-Voting-Rights.pdf> (pp. 57-58).

We have also attached separate Alaska and Illinois Recommendations documents to this letter. In response to these recommendations, we encourage you to take the steps necessary to protect any federal voting rights at issue that fall under your jurisdiction.

For the Alaska memorandum, we have similarly asked Governor Walker, the Division of Elections, the Legislature, the state's Congressional delegation, and the U.S. Postal Service to review the recommendations. For the Illinois report, the recommendations are also directed to Governor Rauner, the General Assembly, the Congress, and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

The Commission appreciates your consideration, in the hope of ensuring civil rights protections. We look forward to hearing from you on actions you will take in response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CEL', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Catherine E. Lhamon
Chair

Encl. Alaska Advisory Committee Advisory Memorandum
Alaska Memorandum Recommendations
Illinois Advisory Committee Report
Illinois Report Recommendations



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June 1, 2018

Senator Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Nancy Pelosi
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Chuck Grassley
Chair, Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Diane Feinstein
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Bob Goodlatte
Chair, Judiciary Committee
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Senator Schumer, Representative Pelosi, Senator Grassley, Representative Goodlatte, Senator Feinstein, and Representative Nadler:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is pleased to transmit to your offices our Illinois Advisory Committee's [report](#), *Civil Rights and Voting in Illinois*.

The Commission maintains 51 Advisory Committees - one for each state and the District of Columbia. The role of the Committees is to study civil rights issues in their communities and report findings and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission appreciates the Illinois' Committee's focused attention on voter rights and access to voting in the state.

The Commission requests that your office review the recommendations in the report, which can be viewed at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/IL-Voting-Rights.pdf>. The recommendations – found on pp. 57-58 of the report - are also attached to this letter. In

response to these recommendations, we advise that you take the steps necessary to protect civil rights in your jurisdiction.

We have similarly asked the U.S Department of Justice, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Illinois Governor Rauner, and the Illinois General Assembly to review the recommendations.

The Commission appreciates your consideration, in the hope of ensuring civil rights protections. We look forward to hearing from you on actions you will take in response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Lhamon', is positioned above the typed name.

Catherine E. Lhamon
Chair

Encl. Illinois Advisory Committee Report
(See: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/IL-Voting-Rights.pdf>)
Report Recommendations

**Report of the Illinois Advisory Committee to the
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights:
Civil Rights and Voting in Illinois
Recommendations**

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' national study on voting rights in the United States should include:

- An analysis of changes in state voting laws and related changes in voter participation following the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court *Shelby County v. Holder* decision;
- An analysis of changes in voter participation following the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* decision;
- An analysis of changes in voter participation following the passage of Automatic Voter Registration and/or Election Day registration legislation;
- An analysis of current allegations of voter fraud and its related evidence; such a review should include a cost/benefit analysis comparing evidence of voter fraud with evidence of voter suppression, including concerns regarding potential fees associated with required identity documents, poll worker training, and public education efforts.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue the following formal recommendations to the U.S. Congress:

- The U.S. Congress should establish a working committee to study the impact of the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Shelby County v. Holder* including a review of any changes in state voting laws and related changes in voter participation since the ruling;
- According to the results of this study, the Congress should develop updated formulae to identify which states require continued review under the Voting Rights Act and/or require Section 203 language access, then introduce appropriate legislation to implement the new formulae.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue the following, formal recommendations to the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section:

- The Division should conduct a thorough review of the requirements imposed under Illinois voting laws to assess their compliance with applicable federal law including but not limited to: the Voting Rights Act, the Help America Vote Act, and the National Voter Registration Act; and
- If such a review reveals areas of noncompliance or conflict with federal law, then the Division should take appropriate enforcement action to correct them.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue a letter to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, to the Illinois Governor, and the Illinois Legislature urging them to:

- Review the findings and recommendations contained within this report; and
- Further investigate identified areas of concern within their jurisdiction and take appropriate action to address them.