



PRESS RELEASE
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Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases a Briefing Paper: *Barriers to Voting in Louisiana*

Baton Rouge, LA – The Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has released a briefing paper addressing barriers to voting and access to the polls in the state. The paper, informed by a series of public panel discussions in November and December of 2017, offers an examination of voting concerns brought before the Committee. The paper also offers recommendations for inclusion in the Commission's forthcoming national report on the state of voting across the United States.

Among the topics included in the paper are voter identification requirements, voter roll purging policies, fair access to the ballot box, precinct redistricting, polling place closures, and felon disenfranchisement. The candor of witnesses at the hearing revealed that even as members of panels disagreed about the reality of voting in Louisiana, they were committed to open and frank discussion about access to the ballot. The paper is a product of those discussions.

Committee Chair Robert Lancaster said, "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. The Committee hopes it produced a report helpful to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for its national review of voting rights."

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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](#).