



PRESS RELEASE
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**Michigan Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Study on Voting Rights, Calls for Public Comment**

The Michigan Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will conduct a study of voting rights in the state.

The right to vote is one of the most fundamental components of democracy. Through this study, the Committee will examine the extent to which voters in Michigan have free, equal access to exercise their right to vote without regard to race, color, disability status, national origin, age, religion, and/or sex. The Committee will examine the State's voting policies and practices, including voter registration provisions and requirements, in person and absentee voting requirements, and polling location accessibility.

As part of this study, the Committee invites Michigan voters share their experiences registering to vote and voting in the state. Written statements may be submitted to the Regional Programs Unit of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 230 S. Dearborn, Suite 2120, Chicago, IL 60616; via email at mwojnaroski@usccr.gov; or fax at 312-353-8324. Please submit statements by January 1, 2019.

Committee Chair, Agustin Arbulu said, "Improving access to voting rights for all residents in Michigan is critical. There are proposals on the ballot to allow straight voting and improvement to absentee voting and efforts underway to improve accessibility to individuals with special needs. Our Committee looks forward to examining Michigan's voting rights."

In addition to written statements, the Committee will host a series of community forums and web-based meetings to hear additional testimony. Dates, times, and locations are to be announced. Please visit www.usccr.gov or consult the federal register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/civil-rights-commission> for more information.

The Michigan Advisory Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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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](#).