



PRESS RELEASE
April 22, 2019

Contact: Ana Victoria Fortes
(213) 894-343
afortes@usccr.gov

**Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Public Briefing: *Civil Rights and Voting Rights in Michigan***

On April 30, 2019, in Detroit, the Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will host a public briefing to gather testimony on voting rights and voter participation in the state. The Committee will examine the extent to which state voters have equal access to exercise their right to vote regardless of race, color, disability status, national origin, age, religion, and/or sex. Committee members will hear testimony from government officials, academics, and community members and advocates. Additional information can be found [here](#).

WHEN:

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 / 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

WHERE:

Wayne State University Law School, Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium, 471 West Palmer, Detroit, MI 48202

The Committee invites members of the public to share their comments and opinions during two open comment sessions, at 11:30 a.m. and 4:10 p.m. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to afortes@usccr.gov by May 30, 2019. Following the meeting, the Committee will issue its findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission.

Agustin Arbulu, Chair of the Committee, stated: "Democracy is a fragile creation. It requires nurturing and this meeting will provide a snapshot of what opportunities, challenges and obstacles voters face in the state of Michigan. We welcome members of the public to join us on April 30th to share your voting experiences."

###

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 www.usccr.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
*Civil Rights and Voting Rights in Michigan***

April 30, 2019

Wayne State University Law School, Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium
471 West Palmer, Detroit, MI 48202

AGENDA

Opening Remarks and Introductions: 9:00 a.m. EDT

Voting Across Protected Groups: 9:10 – 10:05 a.m.

- Rima Meroueh, Manager of Advocacy and Community Engagement, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
- Tameka Spruce, Member, People with Disabilities Voting Rights Coalition
- Reverend Kevin Harris, Project Coordinator, Nation Outside
- Angela Reyes, Executive Director, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation

Voter Registration and Poll Administration: 10:15 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

- Sharon Dolente, Voting Rights Strategist, ACLU of Michigan
- Matt Bernhard, Computer Science and Engineering Ph.D. Student, University of Michigan
- Edie Goldenberg, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Michigan

Morning Open Comment: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Break

Voting Accessibility: 1:20 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

- Nancy Wang, President, Voters Not Politicians
- Khalilah Spencer, Legal Redress, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Marc Meredith, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Government Perspectives: 2:50 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State, State of Michigan
- Lisa Brown, Clerk, Oakland County
- Chris Swope, City Clerk, City of Lansing

Afternoon Open Comment: 4:10 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Closing Remarks: 4:50 p.m.