



PRESS RELEASE
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**Florida Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces public meeting: Voting Rights in Florida**

Orlando, FL—The Florida Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will host a public meeting as part of their current study on voting rights in the state.

The meeting will take place Thursday, February 27, 2020, from 9 am – 4 pm Eastern time, at the Embassy Suites Orlando, Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746. This meeting is open to the public. To request individual accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend, please contact the Regional Programs Unit at 312-353-8311 at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

Among other general voting rights concerns, the Committee will review the implementation of the State’s 2018 constitutional measure to end the automatic disenfranchisement of most felons in the state and its civil rights implications. Committee Chair Nadine Smith said, “The right to vote is fundamental to democracy and every Floridian must have confidence that their access to the ballot is safeguarded. This has been a multi-year study for the Committee, and we are eager to share our findings and recommendations with the Commission in this 2020 election year.”

Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period scheduled to begin at 2:45 pm. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by Monday, March 30, 2020.

This is the second in a series of public meetings on this topic. The Committee heard initial testimony in Broward County in July of 2019. For more information please contact the Regional Programs Unit of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The Florida 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](#).