



NEWS RELEASE
February 15, 2018

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**Alabama Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting: *Access to Voting in Alabama* – February 22, 2018**

Montgomery, Alabama – **On February 22, in Montgomery**, the Alabama state Advisory Committee (SAC) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene the first of a series of public panel discussions on access to voting in Alabama. The Committee seeks to examine barriers to voting which may have a discriminatory impact on voters based on race, color, disability status, national origin, and/or the administration of justice. The Committee will hear testimony from academics, policy makers, community groups, and civil society actors.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday, February 22, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST, at the Connecting Life Center (Old Bellingrath Center), 70 West Edgemont Avenue, Montgomery, AL.** This meeting is free, open to the public, and parking is available on site.

Members of the public will be invited to speak during the open forum session, tentatively scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to dbarreras@usccr.gov by March 31, 2018.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact our Midwest Regional office at (312) 353-8311, prior to the meeting, to make appropriate arrangements.

Advisory Committee Chair Jenny Carroll stated: “The right to vote is fundamental to our democratic process. Laws that impede that right therefor hurt us all regardless of their intent at their creation. Our Committee will gather information on the impact that voting regulation in our state has on our citizens. We invite members of the community to attend the hearing and to participate in person or in writing. The information we gather will help paint a fuller picture of the state of voting rights in Alabama. We look forward to hearing from experts and members of the public alike.”

**Access to Voting in Alabama
February 22, 2018 - Montgomery
Agenda**

I. Introduction: Jenny Carroll, Chair, Alabama SAC: 9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. CST

II. Speaker: 9:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

- **John Merrill**, Secretary of State, Alabama

III. Speaker: 9:35 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

- **The Honorable Terri Sewell**, U.S. Representative

IV. Break: 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

V. Panel One: 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **George Hawley**, Professor of Political Science, University of Alabama
- **John J. Park Jr.**, Counsel, Strickland, Brockington, Lewis LLP
- **Brock Boone**, Alabama Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- **Additional panelists to be confirmed**

VI. Lunch Break 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

VII. Panel Two: 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

- **Scott Douglas**, Greater Birmingham Ministries
- **Jonathan Barry-Blocker**, Southern Poverty Law Center
- **TBD**, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
- **TBD**, Equal Justice Initiative

VIII. Panel Three: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- **Benard Simelton**, President, Alabama NAACP
- **Kenneth Glasglow**, The Ordinary People's Society
- **Callie Greer**, Impact Statement
- **Additional panelists to be confirmed**

IX. Open Public Comment Period: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

X. Closing Remarks: 5:00 p.m.

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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](#).