NEWS RELEASE
March 16, 2018

Maine Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Meeting on Voting Rights

Washington, DC – The Maine Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing to hear testimony on voting rights in Maine. The Committee will hear testimony from representatives from the state of Maine, the ACLU of Maine, the League of Women Voters for Maine, the Maine NAACP, and Disability Rights Maine in support of the Commission’s 2018 Statutory Enforcement Report on Voting Rights in the United States.

The briefing will take place on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, beginning at 12:45 p.m. EST, at the City Hall Auditorium, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. It is free and open to the public and will also be live-streamed. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment session. The Committee will accept written testimony submitted to ero@usccr.gov by April 21, 2018.

The Maine Committee will submit findings in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received. In 2017, the Committee released a report on human trafficking, published advisory memorandum on racial discrimination in criminal prosecution and sentencing, and held a public briefing on criminalization of individuals with mental illnesses.

“Voting is the foundation of our government and our way of life,” said chair Diane Khiel. “We do not have a say in the decisions that affect our lives without the right to vote. At our briefing, we will look at any impediments to Mainers exercising this fundamental right.”

Voting Rights in Maine
March 21, 2018 - Lewiston
Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions: 12:45 p.m. EST

II. Briefing: 1:00 p.m.

Panel One: Secretary of State

Matthew Dunlap, Secretary of State, Maine
Panel Two: Advocates

Ann Luther, Past President, League of Women Voters of Maine
Zachary Heiden, Legal Director, ACLU of Maine
Terry Brown, Director of Communications, Maine Heritage Policy Center

Panel Three: Advocates

Richard Langley, Deputy Director, Disability Rights of Maine
Kristen Aiello, Managing Attorney, Disability Rights Maine
Rachel Talbot Ross, Past President, Portland Branch, Maine NAACP

Panel Four: U.S. Senators (Tentative)

Representative of Senator Susan Collins
Representative of Senator Angus King

III. Public Comment Session: 4:00 p.m. (approximate)

IV. Adjournment: Time TBD

The event will live-stream (link subject to change). Stay abreast of updates, including panelist information and session times, at www.usccr.gov and on Twitter and Facebook.

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. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its Advisory Committees, please visit http://www.usccr.gov and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.