



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**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](mailto: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](http://www.usccr.gov) and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*

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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. 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](#).