



PRESS RELEASE
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**Arizona Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Releases Advisory Memorandum on Voting Rights in Arizona**

The Arizona Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has issued an [Advisory Memorandum](#) examining potential barriers to voting in the state that may have a discriminatory impact on voters based on race, color, sex, disability status, and national origin. The memorandum, informed by a series of public panel discussions held by the Committee in March of this year, offers an in-depth examination of language access, bifurcated voter registration system, voter ID law, and restriction on mail in-ballots. The findings and recommendations included in the memorandum will provide state-level input to the Commission's planned 2018 Statutory Enforcement Report on voting rights in the United States.

The Committee identified concerns, including: inadequate poll worker training on how to address needs of voters with disabilities; transportation as a barrier to poll access for voters with disabilities and Native American voters; Native American voters requiring language access, especially in areas once covered under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act; confusion surrounding the bifurcated voter registration system that may have prevented voters from participating in state and local elections due to proof of citizenship requirement; mandatory fines and fees as a barrier to restoring voting rights for the formerly incarcerated; and Arizona's frequent failure in complying with the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) to register voters through public assistance agencies and the Motor Vehicle Division. In an effort to help remedy these concerns, the Committee developed recommendations directed to: the U.S. Department of Justice; Arizona Secretary of State and its Election Division; state Legislature; County Recorders; and state Supreme and Superior Courts.

Committee Chair Lorena Van Assche said, "The right to vote is one of America's most cherished rights; fundamental to our democracy. We hope that our findings and recommendations aid the Commission in protecting the voting rights of the citizens of the State of Arizona."

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For information about the Commission and our Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).