



PRESS RELEASE
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**Colorado Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Releases Report: *Citizenship Delayed: Civil Rights and Voting Rights
Implications in the Backlog in Citizenship and Naturalization Applications***

The Colorado Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released its [report](#), *Citizenship Delayed: Civil Rights and Voting Rights Implications of the Backlog in Citizenship and Naturalization Applications*. The Committee examined the civil rights implications of the backlog in citizenship and naturalization applications in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Committee Chair Alvina Earnhart said: “During our study, it became evident that the processing time for citizenship applications has surged considerably. Despite past efforts to resolve the backlog, more needs to be done. This report provides insights for potential solutions, and we hope that it will spur Congress to act to eliminate the backlog. Special thanks to Committee member Ming H. Chen for her leadership and dedication to the project.”

Key recommendations from the Committee include:

- USCIS officers should review the operational efficiency of naturalization adjudications and ensure that adjudication processing times are consistent with the statutory and regulatory guidelines of six months.
- Congress should hold hearings and increase USCIS accountability to statutory mission and timelines.
- Congress should appropriate funding to USCIS to eliminate the backlog.
- States, local governments, and non-profits should participate in supporting naturalization.

Citizenship Delayed, based on expert input and extensive research and analysis, offers actionable recommendations to Congress; federal, state, and local agencies; and advocacy groups. The Committee held a public [briefing](#) on the subject in February 2019, hearing from government officials, academics, legal experts, and members of the public. We invite you to view [video](#) and the [transcript](#) of the briefing.

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