



PRESS RELEASE
April 27, 2020

Contact: Ana Victoria Fortes
(202) 681-0857
afortes@usccr.gov

Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report on Voting Rights and Access

The Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a [report](#) following a series of panel discussions on voting rights, including potential discrimination in access to voting on the basis of race, color, age, religion, or disability. The report examines access to voter registration, the impact of redistricting, election security, poll worker training, language access, access to polling locations, and election administration.

In this report, the Committee heard testimony and received written statements from the Michigan Secretary of State, local election officials, academics, advocacy organizations, and community members. Through this testimony, the Committee identified a number of concerns affecting voter groups, particularly those who are incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, voters with limited-English proficiency, voters with disabilities, and voters who are transgender and gender-nonconforming. These concerns include: (1) a lack of accessibility for voters with disabilities; (2) meaningful implementation of Proposal 3, the state's newly expanded voting rights law; (3) the potential for continued gerrymandering; (4) the lack of language access for limited-English proficient communities; (5) and the ongoing need to engage young voters. The report also includes recommendations directed to the Commission asking for corrective actions from the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Census Bureau, Michigan Legislature, Secretary of State's Office and various state and local agencies with a goal of helping remedy the above concerns.

The Michigan Committee joins more than a dozen USCCR state Committees who have been addressing the broad range of voting rights challenges across the nation in the last three years. A compendium of their voting rights work can be viewed [here](#).

Committee Vice Chairs Emily Dievendorf and Roland Hwang jointly stated: "We are grateful to the Advisory Committee and all those who contributed testimony toward this important report. This investigation was a true collaboration between public officials, community advocates, and members of the public to ensure an exhaustive effort was made to document challenges to voting for Michigan's most marginalized communities. The Michigan Advisory Committee takes seriously the democratic voice of the people and considers this document just one important step toward the significant policy reform that has yet to take place on this crucial civil rights issue in Michigan and nationwide."

###

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 Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).