



PRESS RELEASE
August 12, 2022

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**South Dakota Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Web Briefings on Voting Rights and Voter Access**

The South Dakota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is hosting a series of online public panel briefings to hear testimony regarding the potential civil rights concerns related to voting rights and voter access in South Dakota. The Committee intends to provide the Commission with their findings and recommendations on these topics. The second, third, and fourth panels in this series will take place:

Panel II: Monday, September 12, 2022, 3:00 — 5:30 p.m. CT

Zoom Audio/Video: <https://tinyurl.com/465wf8w4>; password, if needed: USCCR-SD
Audio Only: (English) 1-551-285-1373; Meeting ID: 160 940 6713#

Panel III: Monday, September 26, 2022, 3:00 — 5:30 p.m. CT

Zoom Audio/Video: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz88vp4>; password, if needed: USCCR-SD
Audio Only: (English) 1-551-285-1373; Meeting ID: 160 741 8213#

Panel IV: Monday, October 17, 2022, 3:00 — 5:30 p.m. CT

Zoom Audio/Video: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhh67cm>; password, if needed: USCCR-SD
Audio Only: (English) 1-551-285-1373; Meeting ID: 160 086 5334#

Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period towards the last 20 minutes of each panel. Members of the public are encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives of voting in the state. Closed captions will be provided. Individuals requiring additional accommodations should contact ebohor@usccr.gov at least 5 business days prior to the meeting to make the request. The Committee will also accept written comments related to this study. Please send written statements on this topic to Kayla Fajota, at kfajota@usccr.gov by November 16, 2022.

Committee Chair Travis L. Letellier said, “Our Committee is very interested in listening to the experiences of people across South Dakota who may have faced barriers when participating in the voting process. One of the primary purposes of the State Advisory Committee is to ensure that people have access to voting and that barriers to voting are identified and mitigated. We will hold a series of public hearings during the summer and fall of 2022, and we will hopefully hear from our Tribal communities, New Americans, and people with a variety of physical abilities and disabilities who are willing to share their stories with us. Ultimately, the State Advisory Committee hopes to offer a series of practical recommendations to Tribal, Federal, and State authorities detailing where barriers to voting are occurring in South Dakota and how, possibly, to eliminate them.”

Details on upcoming meetings will be made available at <https://www.federalregister.gov>. Meeting records will also be posted on the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) database at <https://tinyurl.com/y5hkbkhp>.

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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 56 Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).