



NEWS RELEASE
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**Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting: Civil Rights and Barriers to Voting in Louisiana**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – On Wednesday, December 6, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene the second of a series of public meetings to examine barriers to voting that may have a discriminatory impact based on race, color, disability status, national origin, and/or the administration of justice.

The public session will be held at the Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 1, 900 N. 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA. The Committee will hear testimony from academics, policy makers, community groups, and other interested individuals. The public will be invited to speak during the open forum session, 3:30 – 4:00 pm. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodation should contact the Midwest Regional Office prior to the meeting. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to dbarreras@usccr.gov by December 31, 2017.

Committee Chair Robert Lancaster stated: “Citizens’ free exercise of the right to vote is fundamental to a functioning democracy. The Louisiana State Advisory Committee unanimously identified the importance of this right in selecting to investigate any barriers to voting that impede on any eligible voter’s ability to cast their vote. Through the collection of testimony, the Committee hopes to understand what barriers to voting, if any, exist in Louisiana; produce a report helpful to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for its national report on voting rights; and to inform Louisiana citizens and policy makers working to ensure no one in the state experiences any unreasonable impediments in exercising their right to vote.”

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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 studying and advising the President and the Congress on civil rights matters and reporting annually on federal civil rights. For information on the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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