



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**The Puerto Rico Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Publishes its Third Memorandum on the Right to Vote at the Federal Level in Relation to the Effects of the Insular Cases and the Non-Incorporation Doctrine on the Civil Rights of Residents of Puerto Rico**

The Puerto Rico Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (the Commission) announces the publication of its [third memorandum](#) as part of its study on the effects of the Insular Cases and the Non-Incorporation Doctrine on the civil rights of the residents of Puerto Rico.

With a focus on voting rights, the Committee shares a historical overview and highlights several findings and recommendations identified in the testimony it has received from experts on the subject. Among the findings identified in the testimony by the Committee, it analyzes how the island's territorial status is a limitation when it comes to voting rights as well as strategies that can be taken at the federal level to prioritize Puerto Rico. The Committee also highlights testimony on its jurisdiction over local elections, the debate on various visions of American citizenship and cultural identity, and opinions on Puerto Rico having a political right to self-determination. Preliminary recommendations for this stage of the project are also addressed by the Committee.

The Committee Chair, Andrés Córdova Phelps, said: "We thank the panelists for their contributions and the opportunity to study this complex topic. Their testimony enabled us to better understand Puerto Rico's role in the history of voting rights in the United States as well as suggestions on how to move forward. We are looking forward to sharing this insight with the broader community."

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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 the state and local level. For information about the Commission, please visit us at [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.