Recommendations:

Among their duties, advisory committees of the Commission are authorized to advise the Agency (1) concerning matters related to discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution and the effect of the laws and policies of the Federal Government with respect to equal protection of the laws; and (2) upon matters of mutual concern in the preparation of reports of the Commission to the President and the Congress. In keeping with these responsibilities, and in consideration of the testimony heard on this topic, the Indiana Advisory Committee submits the following recommendations to the Commission. The Committee recommends that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights consider these findings and recommendations in their 2018 Statutory Enforcement Report to Congress and the President.

1. As a part of their 2018 statutory enforcement report on voting rights, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should:

   a. Conduct an analysis of the accuracy of the interstate “Crosscheck” Program currently used by the Indiana Secretary of State to identify voters who may be registered in more than one state. The analysis should also seek to understand whether minority voters are disproportionately falsely identified as being double-registered in the system.
   b. Review all findings and recommendations contained within this report.
   c. Further investigate areas of concern within their jurisdiction and take appropriate action to address them.

2. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue the following formal recommendation to Indiana’s Secretary of State:

   a. Suspend use of the Crosscheck Program until a more accurate method for identifying voters registered in multiple locations is identified.
   b. Collaborate with the Indiana Department of Corrections to develop a process by which eligible inmates can register to vote and cast a ballot while incarcerated.
   c. Encourage County Election Boards throughout the state to increase minority language access at the polls where significant numbers of bilingual or non-English speaking voters reside, even if the population does not yet meet the minimum threshold to require language access under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

3. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue a formal recommendation to the Indiana Department of Corrections that the Department collaborate with the Indiana Secretary of State to develop a process by which eligible inmates can register to vote and cast a ballot while incarcerated.

4. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue the following formal recommendation to the Indiana Department of Education:

85 45 C.F.R. § 703.2.(a)
a. The department should identify and implement civic education standards regarding voting and the electoral process uniformly in public education systems throughout the state.

5. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue the following formal recommendation to the Indiana Legislature:

   a. The legislature should establish a bi-partisan committee to draw redistricting lines to ensure a more fair and democratic voting process.
   b. In the redistricting process, the legislature should count incarcerated individuals at their last known address, rather than in the jurisdiction where they are temporarily, involuntarily confined.
   c. The legislature should expand voter identification options to include non-government issued IDs. Examples of acceptable identification may include student ID, work ID, or ID from a different state.
   d. The legislature should expand absentee voting to allow all registered voters to vote by mail if they choose.
   e. The legislature should extend voting hours until 7 PM to allow more flexibility for eligible voters with more stringent schedules.

6. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue a formal recommendation to the U.S. Census Bureau to remove all questions regarding citizenship status on the decennial Census until rigorous testing is conducted to determine the impact of such a change.

7. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should issue a letter to the Indiana Governor, the Indiana Legislature, and the Indiana Secretary of State’s Office urging them to:

   a. Review the findings and recommendations contained within this report.
   b. Further investigate areas of concern within their jurisdiction and take appropriate action to address them.