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**FEDERAL HEARING ON VOTING RIGHTS JUSTICE IN CALIFORNIA HELD IN LOS ANGELES AUGUST 28, 2015:
STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS TESTIFY**

California is ranked 48th out of 50 states in election effectiveness according to the Pew Trust Election Performance Index (EPI) for 2012. The California Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights probes into the reasons why California's elections are considered ineffective with respect to the rest of the United States

LOS ANGELES, CA August 28, 2015 – The California Advisory Committee (CA SAC, or the Committee) to the United States Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR, or Commission), a United States Federal agency*, today held public hearing into the just Administration of Voting Rights in California. The hearing was held at the Los Angeles Central Library.

The key issues before the Committee were:

(1) California's lack of compliance with the *Help America Vote Act* (HAVA). It is 13 years since HAVA was passed in 2002 and California has yet to comply with the law in the development of a functioning state-wide, citizen-searchable voter registration database. All other states have complied with this basic requirement;

(2) The Pew Trust *Election Performance Index of 2012* in which California is ranked 48th out of the 50 American states in election effectiveness; and

(3) The report by a citizens' election oversight organization, the *Election Integrity Project* (EIP) in which thousands of election and voting irregularities in California's 58 counties are documented. The emphasis at the hearing was on the county with the largest number of irregularities, Los Angeles County, and its administration of elections.

Testimonies from the general public brought concerns about election justice in other

counties: (a) those with citizen complaints of irregularities (Ventura, Kern, and Trinity, to list a few) and (b) those with improved standards of election management, in particular San Diego County.

Committee members appearing at the hearing were: Percy Duran (Chair), Nancy Eisenhart (Voting Rights sub-committee), Javier Gonzales, Susan Jester, Velma Montoya (Vice-Chair), Robin Toma, and Betty Wilson (Voting Rights sub-committee). Peter Minarik, USCCR Regional Director, Angelica Trevino, Civil Rights Analyst, and Mauro Morales, Staff Director of the USCCR were also present.

The following individuals and representatives gave testimony:

Elected Officials:

- California State Auditor Elaine M/ Howle;
- Secretary of State (SOS) representatives Steve Reyes, General Counsel; and Ann Whitney, HAVA Administrator;
- Registrars of Voters:
 - Los Angeles County ROV Dean C. Logan;
 - San Diego County ROV Michael Vu;
- Lillibeth Navarro, *California Independent Living Center*;

- Lori Steele, CEO and Founder, *Everyone Counts*, a private industry election and voting technology company;
- Ana Cubas, *Hermandad Mexicana Nacional*
- Linda Paine, President and Co-Founder *Election Integrity Project* (EIP);
- Ruth Weiss, EIP field representative for San Diego County; and
- Mark Sonnenklar, Los Angeles, a private citizen attorney

Many other citizens from around the state

provided emotional testimony regarding voting rights (civil rights) laws gone wrong in their respective counties.

The Committee now begins preparing its report with recommendations to the Commission based on testimony delivered at the hearing and/or in electronic or paper form received by the Regional Director up to September 30th.

Public testimony is open until September 30th, 2015. (See separate attachment for details)

Signed:

Nancy Eisenhart**

Member, California Advisory Committee to the USCCR

***_The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission)** is an independent, bipartisan agency established by Congress and directed to study and collect information relating to discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, or in the administration of justice. The Commission has established advisory committees in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. These state advisory committees advise the Commission of civil rights issues in their states that are within the Commission's jurisdiction.

** **Nancy Eisenhart** is a native Los Angeleno. She is a Woodland Hills resident of 35 years, a Van Nuys High School 'Wolf' and a UCLA 'Bruin'. She has served in representative and officer capacities on the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council and is active in the West Valley-Warner Center Chamber of Commerce, Government Affairs Committee. Her current project is a resolution in support of law enforcement by way of modifying the Motor Vehicle Code with respect to license plate requirements for new car purchases.

Further:

- Membership and Outreach Vice President, Woodland Hills Republican Women, Federated (WHRWF);
- Advisor, Los Angeles County Federation of Republican Women (LACFRW);
- Immediate Past President, the California Federation of Republican Women (CFRW), Southern Division;
- Co-Founder, Guard My Vote, the California citizen initiative for voter identification, (the Common Sense Voting Act of 2014).

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