



Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sonja Diaz
FROM: Nick Gonzalez
RE: Post-George Floyd Policy Agendas For Communities of Color
DATE: February 22, 2021

PURPOSE: To provide a list of policy agendas and legislation that have been proposed in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. Since the incident of Floyd's death, legislatures in 19 states and the District of Columbia have introduced over 160 bills to address racial inequities across law enforcement and other issues [1]. This memorandum highlights policy agendas and legislation that have been proposed by federal- and state-level legislative bodies as well as by non-profit organizations to address disparities for the African American community and other communities of color within law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and our broader society.

METHODOLOGY: I reviewed publicly available information provided by eleven different publications from by the Hill, the Chronicle of Philanthropy, the California Legislative Black Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Colorado General Assembly, the Ohio House of Representatives, the Movement For Black Lives, the Atlantic Fellows and other local news sources covering legislative reforms in Georgia, Delaware, and Indiana.

1. Association of Black Foundation Executives. *"We Must be in it for the Long Haul:" Black Foundation Executives Request Action by Philanthropy on Anti-Black Racism*. 10 Jun 2020. Available at:
<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6940781-Joint-Statement-on-COVID-and-Police-Shootings.html#document/p1>
 - Build Agency: increase investment in Black-led organizations that connect families to resources and build community power for substantive change.
 - Use Endowments: Utilize philanthropic resources to increase asset payout and employ investment strategies to infuse capital into Black communities.
 - Engage Black Businesses: Engage Black businesses in investment managing, banking, and other services to address COVID-19's negative impact on Black income.
 - Lift up Gender: Response efforts must account for disparities across gender and sexual orientation in the Black community to ensure all people are connected to economic opportunity and healthcare.

- Address Disparities in Prisons: Support the safety of those currently incarcerated, promote early releases, and invest in developing long-term alternatives to incarceration.
2. California Legislative Black Caucus. *California Legislative Black Caucus introduces Criminal Justice Reform Bills to their 2020 Legislative Package on Juneteenth*. 19 Jun 2020. Available at:
<https://blackcaucus.legislature.ca.gov/news/2020-06-19-california-legislative-black-caucus-introduces-criminal-justice-reform-bills-their>
 - Peace Officer Decertification: Prevents peace officers released for misconduct from moving from one law enforcement agency to another.
 - AB 1196: Ends the use of the carotid chokehold in California.
 - AB 1506: Creates an independent Oversight Division to investigate officer-involved shootings and use-of-force incidents.
 - AB 2342: Allows formerly incarcerated to reduce parole term by attending college or engaging in community volunteer activities.
 - Duty to Intervene and Report: When in a position to do so, officers shall report and intervene when they know or have reason to know that another officer is using or about to use unnecessary force.
 3. Congressional Black Caucus. *Congressional Black Caucus Leads House Democrats and Senators to Introduce the Justice in Policing Act*. 8 Jun 2020. Available at:
<https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2195>
 - Limits the transfer of military-grade equipment to state and local law enforcement.
 - Mandates the use of body cameras and dashboard cameras for federal officers while requiring state and local law enforcement to fund provisions of these cameras for their officers.
 - Establishes a National Police Misconduct Registry to prevent officers fired or left on agency from moving to other jurisdictions.
 - Establishes public safety grants for local communities to innovate and develop just and equitable public safety approaches.
 - Establishes a Department of Justice Task Force to coordinate the investigation, prosecution, and enforcement efforts of state and local governments in cases related to law enforcement misconduct.
 4. Colorado General Assembly. *Colorado SB20-217: Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity*. 4 Jun 2020. Available at:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb20-217?fbclid=IwAR2IG7MVwCQOR3q-Jii-Cmb6MVGVBtJeDyujdwVadDC6RMvyVzGFzJJJePX0>

- Requires all local law enforcement agencies to issue body-worn cameras to their officers.
- Requires peace officers to wear and activate body-worn cameras when responding to a call for service or during any interaction with the public.
- Requires the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety to create an annual report of information reported to the division.
- If any peace officer is convicted of or pleads guilty to a crime involving the unlawful use of force, the P.O.S.T. Board shall permanently revoke the peace officer's certification.
- Requires a peace officer to have a legal basis for making contact.

5. Movement For Black Lives. *Vision for Black Lives: 2020 Policy Platform*. 2020.

Available at: <https://m4bl.org/policy-platforms/>

- Reallocate funds at all levels of government from policing to long-term community-based safety strategies.
- Direct resources from police in schools toward violence prevention and transformative responses to create nurturing school environments opportunities for youth to succeed.
- Ensure access to safe, equitable, and accessible housing, employment, healthcare, education, and social services for trans, queer, and gender non-conforming people by including them in civil rights protections.
- Moratorium on all prisons, jail, immigrant, and youth detention center construction.
- Eliminate money bail, pretrial detention, risk assessments, criminal punishment fees and fines, mandatory fees, fines, court surcharges, and defendant funded court proceedings.
- End capital punishment.
- Remove police from schools. End zero-tolerance policies and arrests of students. Reallocate funds to restorative services.
- End the use of criminal record to determine eligibility for social services.
- Repeal the 1996 crime bill, end all deportations, immigrant detention, and Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) raids, and mandate legal representation in immigration courts.
- End use of facial recognition and other mass surveillance technologies.
- Demilitarize law enforcement, including in schools and college campuses.
- Reparations for education opportunities through free access and public admissions to public community colleges and universities, technical

education, retroactive forgiveness of student loans, and support for lifelong learning programs.

- Implement a guaranteed minimum livable income for Black people.
- Immediate release and record expungement of all drug-related offenses and prostitution accompanied by reinvestment into restorative services.
- Proximity to health centers for underserved Black communities with culturally competent services and specific services for queer, gender nonconforming and trans people.
- Constitutional right at state and federal level to a fully-funded education.
- Financial support towards Black alternative institutions including: cooperatives, land trusts, and culturally responsive health infrastructure.
- A progressive restructuring of tax codes to ensure radical and sustainable redistributions of wealth.
- Federal and state jobs programs that target the most economically marginalized Black communities, provide a living wage, and encourage support for local workers' centers, unions, and Black-owned businesses.
- Right for workers to organize in private and public sectors.
- Pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights and extend worker protections to incarcerated people.
- Democratic community control over all law enforcement agencies.
- Implement publicly financed elections, end super PACs, and unchecked corporate donations.
- Guarantee net neutrality and universal access to the internet.
- Protection and increased funding for Black institutions: Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Black media, and other formations.

6. Georgia Senate Democratic Caucus. *Georgia Justice Act*. 2020. Available at: <http://gasenatedems.com/georgia-justice-act/>

- Limit no-knock warrants to specific circumstances.
- Reduce marijuana penalties so that people do not come into contact with police over a miniscule crime.
- Allow people who have completed their sentences to vote.
- Ban rubber bullet use for law enforcement.
- Remove qualified immunity.

7. Delaware Legislative Black Caucus. *Delaware Legislative Black Caucus Propose "Justice For All Agenda."* First State Update. 11 Jun 2020. Available at: <http://firststateupdate.com/2020/06/delaware-legislative-black-caucus-propose-justice-for-all-agenda/>

- Establish an African American task force to explore racial disparities and propose remedies for restorative investments.
 - Establish a Law Enforcement Accountability Task Force to consider issues and proposals for the use of force, transparency, and community policing.
 - Prohibit Delaware law enforcement agencies from releasing mug shots of juvenile defendants.
 - Require Delaware law enforcement agencies record videos of all interrogations of juvenile suspects.
 - Require body cameras be worn by all Delaware law enforcement agencies.
8. Indiana Legislative Black Caucus. *Indiana Black Caucus Outlines Specific Justice Reform Steps*. WVPE. 5 Jun 2020. Available at: <https://www.wvpe.org/post/indiana-black-caucus-outlines-specific-justice-reform-steps>
- Mandate the use of a statewide special prosecutor for police misconduct and use of fatal excessive force.
 - Statewide public database for citizens' complaints against law enforcement officers.
 - Ensuring Fraternal Order of Police (police union) contracts are public record and require a public hearing for renewal.
 - Pass inclusive hate crime legislation.
 - Require mental health reviews for officers.
9. Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. *Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Declares Racism A Public Health Crisis*. Cleveland. 29 May 2020. Available at: <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/stephanie-d-howse/press/ohio-legislative-black-caucus-declares-racism-a-public-health-crisis>
- Review all state laws with a “racial equity lens” to look at laws’ effects on minority communities.
 - Commitment in state government to conduct all human resources, vendor selection, and grant management activities with a racial equity lens.
 - Incorporate educational efforts to address and dismantle racism.
 - Promote racially equitable economic and workforce development practices.
 - Promote and encourage policies that prioritize the health of people of color.
 - Collaborate with local organizations with a record of confronting racism.

10. University of California, Los Angeles. *Rising to the Challenge*. Office of the Chancellor. 30 Jun 2020. Available at:

<https://chancellor.ucla.edu/messages/rising-to-the-challenge/>

- Appoint a special faculty advisor to advise on issues of concern to Black faculty, staff, and students.
- Create a Black Student Resource Center on the UCLA campus.
- Provide 10 summer graduate fellowship awards, create a postdoctoral community focused on the Black experience, and recruit 10 additional faculty with work focused on the Black experience.
- Commit \$250,000 for seed research grants on racial inequities and justice.
- Expand the role of the Public Safety Advisory Council.
- Employ mental health professionals who can respond to mental health emergencies in place of police officers.

11. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. *Pandemic Relief Priorities for Black Communities*. 4 Aug 2020. Available at:

<https://jointcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Stimulus-Priorities-in-Black-Communities-8-4-20-355pm.pdf>

- Provide financial support for Black workers by supporting the \$600 per week federal supplement for state unemployment insurance, support the Earned Income Tax Credit, and provide rental assistance.
- Sustain Black businesses by extending the period of forgiveness for PPP loans, mandating data collection on loan forgiveness, fund Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions, and strengthen the Minority Business Development Agency.
- Expand internet access among Black households by providing a \$50 per month broadband subsidy for households in need, allocating \$4 billion for laptops, tablets, wifi hotspots, and routers that can be used at home by students and school staff.
- Protect our democracy by allocating to states at least \$3.6 billion for administering elections and requiring states provide online and same day voter registration opportunities, provide accessible vote-by-mail with due process protections, provide at least 15 days of early in-person voting, and develop plans to ensure sufficient staffing and equipment to protect the health of poll workers and in-person voters.

12. Atlantic Fellows. *Eight Policy Actions for Building Better Black Futures*. 16 Feb 2021. Available at:

<https://racialequity.atlanticfellows.org/news/eight-policy-actions-for-building-better-black-futures>

- Pass the BREATHE Act in the U.S. which seeks to divest from current models of policing, invest in alternative approaches to community safety, and institute accountability in officer-involved shootings.
- End gender-based violence in South Africa via policy reform and centering the voices of survivors and advocates.
- Upgrade informal settlements in South Africa where the generational impacts of apartheid have left Black South Africans without access to basic infrastructure needs, including sewage systems, water supply, and electricity.
- Improve COVID-19 vaccine access, especially in countries that have not yet been able to obtain a stable supply.
- Provide economic relief from the COVID-19 pandemic to disproportionately impacted communities through partnerships between government, civil society organizations, and philanthropy.
- Pay reparations through equitable land distribution, economic opportunity expansion, and criminal justice reform, especially the expungement of records for marijuana-related arrests.
- Open access to technology and regulate the tech industry to ensure all people have access to the internet at lower costs and end surveillance practices in tech that target Black communities and other communities of color.
- Combat climate change through cash grants, food, and housing for people who face climate-induced losses and justice-oriented policies to assist those facing negative impacts due to climate change.

Last updated: February 22, 2021

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