

BLACK IN NEW JERSEY

2021-2022 ACTION AGENDA

>3:1 RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE INFANT MORTALITY
HIGHEST DISPARITY IN U.S.

>2:1 BLACK TO WHITE LIKELIHOOD OF
COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATION

62% PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE DENIED
THE VOTE WHO ARE BLACK (VS 15% POPULATION)

12:1 RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE ADULTS INCARCERATED
HIGHEST DISPARITY IN U.S.

21:1 RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE KIDS LOCKED UP
HIGHEST DISPARITY IN U.S.

3:1 BLACK TO WHITE LIKELIHOOD
OF FACING POLICE FORCE

SIXTH MOST SEGREGATED STATE
IN THE NATION FOR BLACK STUDENTS

\$106,210 VS **\$179**
MEDIAN NET WEALTH OF WHITE RESIDENTS
BLACK AND LATINA/LATINO

\$352,000 VS **\$6,100** FOR BLACK FAMILIES
\$7,300 FOR LATINA/LATINO FAMILIES
WHITE FAMILY MEDIAN NET WEALTH
HIGHEST IN AMERICA



BLACK IN NEW JERSEY

2021/2022 AGENDA

TO MAKE

BLACK LIVES REALLY MATTER

IN NEW JERSEY

The undeniable truth that Black Lives Matter is being tested everywhere in America.

From the ravaging of the coronavirus pandemic, to persistent violence by police against Black people, to disparities in wealth, health and criminal justice, we are seeing deeply embedded **cracks** of structural racism in our **foundation** erupt into **earthquakes** in Black communities.

This is true right here in New Jersey, where Black people face some of the worst racial disparities in the nation. With all seats in the New Jersey Legislature and the Governor's seat up for election this year, we must seize this urgent moment to repair these cracks of structural racism and build a new foundation.

Stand with us in holding all 2021 elected official candidates accountable to make Black lives really matter in the Garden State by supporting the following action agenda:

Close the racial wealth gap

- Baby Bonds
- Guaranteed Income
- Cancellation of Student Loan Debt
- Expanded Homeownership

Transform the youth justice system

- Youth Prison Closure & Investment in Kids
- Community-Based System of Care for Youth

Keep communities safe

- Culture of Accountable Policing
- Investments in Community-Based Public Safety Options

Ensure democracy for all

- Voting for People in Prison
- Same-Day Voter Registration
- Early Voting
- Racial Justice in Redistricting
- Limited Police Presence at Voting Locations

Repair harm of racism

- COVID-19 Racial Data
- Reparations Taskforce

CLOSE THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

To close the racial wealth gap in New Jersey, we should achieve the following in 2021-2022:

- **Baby Bonds.** Create and fully fund a New Jersey baby bonds program (A4638/S3130)
- **Guaranteed Income.** Develop and resource targeted guaranteed income pilot programs in northern, central and southern New Jersey urban communities
- **Student Loan Debt Cancellation.** Cancel student loan debt and avoid future student debt with tuition-free college
- **Expanded Homeownership.** Evaluate and strengthen New Jersey's existing homeownership programs and create new dedicated funding aimed at increasing homeownership opportunities in formerly-redlined communities

TRANSFORM YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

To transform the youth justice system in New Jersey, we should achieve the following in 2021-2022:

- **Youth Prison Closure & Investment in Kids.** Pass and sign the New Jersey Youth Justice Transformation Act (A710/S315), which will close New Jersey's three youth prisons and invest \$100 million into creating a lockbox fund for front-end youth services and programs
- **Community-Based System of Care for Youth.** Pass and sign the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities Pilot Program bill (A4663/S2924) to develop restorative justice hubs and enhanced reentry services for the young people being released from New Jersey's youth prisons in response to the COVID-19 crisis

KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

To keep communities in New Jersey safe, we should achieve the following in 2021-2022:

- **Culture of Accountable Policing.** Ensure that law enforcement is guided by policies and systems designed to build a culture of accountability that are created and implemented through engagement with community members:
 - First Amendment policies to protect civilians' rights during police interactions
 - Limiting military-grade equipment available to local law enforcement agencies through the federal 1033 program
 - Banning and criminalizing police use of chokeholds (A4284/S2617)
 - Ending law enforcement qualified immunity
 - Creating municipal civilian complaint review boards (A4656/S2963)
 - Reducing police enforcement of non-serious offenses, particularly for youth

KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE (continued)

- **Investments in Community-Based Public Safety Options.** Rethink policing by investing in community-based approaches to public safety that will decrease law enforcement's footprint:
 - Developing mental health first responder and crisis intervention systems that rely on highly trained professionals other than police to address certain crises
 - Reinvesting dollars into community-based services that empower communities—like schools, hospitals, libraries and parks
 - Funding restorative justice programs and services

ENSURE DEMOCRACY FOR ALL

To ensure democracy for all in New Jersey, we should achieve the following in 2021-2022:

- **Free the Vote for People in Prison.** Restore the right to vote to incarcerated people
- **Same-Day Voter Registration.** Enact same-day voter registration so that people can register to vote up to and on Election Day (A4548/S2824)
- **Early Voting.** Enact comprehensive early voting using e-poll books (A4830/S3203)
- **Racial Justice in Redistricting.** Guarantee that New Jersey's racial makeup is effectively represented in the redistricting process
- **Limited Police Presence at Voting Locations.** Ensure voters can cast their ballot without fear by limiting police presence at voting locations except for emergency response (A4655/S2923)

REPAIR HARM OF RACISM

To repair the harm of divestment from New Jersey's Black communities, we should achieve the following in 2021-2022:

- **COVID-19 Racial Data.** Ensure the Department of Health releases COVID-19 impact data by race, ethnicity and other key demographics at the municipal and county levels (in compliance with P.L.2020, c.28)
- **Reparations Taskforce.** Create the New Jersey Reparations Taskforce (A711/S322) so New Jersey can take responsibility for its role in American slavery and make sweeping policy recommendations for reparative investments in communities impacted by racial discrimination