

BLACK IN NEW JERSEY

2022/2023 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

61% PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE DENIED
THE VOTE WHO ARE BLACK (VS 15% POPULATION)

18:1 RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE KIDS LOCKED UP
HIGHEST DISPARITY IN U.S.

12:1 RATIO OF BLACK TO WHITE ADULTS INCARCERATED
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

\$103,500 VS **\$4,900** FOR BLACK INDIVIDUALS
MEDIAN NET WEALTH OF WHITE RESIDENTS **\$2,300** FOR LATINA/O INDIVIDUALS

\$322,500 VS **\$17,700** FOR BLACK FAMILIES
WHITE FAMILY MEDIAN NET WEALTH **\$26,100** FOR LATINA/LATINO FAMILIES



BLACK IN NEW JERSEY

2022/2023 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 Black communities by the coronavirus pandemic, to persistent violence by police against Black people, to disparities in wealth, health and criminal justice, we are seeing our very foundation erupt into earthquakes from the deeply embedded cracks of structural racism.

This is true right here in New Jersey, where Black people face some of the worst racial disparities in America.

We must seize this urgent moment to repair these cracks of structural racism and build a new foundation.

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

To close the racial wealth gap

- Baby Bonds
- Guaranteed Income
- Debt-Free College
- Expanded Homeownership
- Elimination of Discrimination in Appraisals

To transform the youth justice system

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

To keep communities safe

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

To ensure democracy for all

- Freedom to Vote for People in Prison
- Same-Day Voter Registration
- Early Voting
- Racial Justice in Redistricting
- Limited Police Presence at Voting Locations
- Ability for People with Criminal Convictions to Serve on Juries

To repair the harm of divestment from NJ's Black communities

- COVID-19 Racial Data
- Reparations Task Force

TO CLOSE THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP:

- **Baby Bonds.** Create and fully fund a baby bonds program that is progressively designed to provide the greatest support to children of color from low-wealth households (A1579/S768)
- **Guaranteed Income.** Develop and resource a targeted, statewide guaranteed income program
- **Debt-Free College.** Repair harm for existing student borrowers and avoid future student debt with expansion of tuition-free college and increased state investments in higher education
- **Expanded Homeownership.** Strengthen New Jersey's existing homeownership programs and launch new initiatives to meet the specific needs of Black families and reduce racial homeownership disparities
- **Elimination of Discrimination in Appraisals.** Ensure Black families and other families of color are able to enjoy equitable financial benefits from homeownership by protecting against discrimination in home appraisals (A1519/S777)

TO TRANSFORM THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM:

- **Youth Prison Closure & Investment in Kids.** Close New Jersey's three youth prisons and invest \$100 million in front-end youth services and programs
- **Implementation of a Community-Based System of Care for Youth.** Monitor the implementation of the Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youths and Communities Pilot Program bill (A4663/S2924) which will 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 (Signed into law on August 11, 2021)

TO KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE:

- **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:
 - Limit military-grade equipment available to local law enforcement agencies through the federal 1033 program
 - Ban and criminalize police use of chokeholds (A2431/S265)
 - End law enforcement qualified immunity
 - Create municipal civilian complaint review boards (A1515)
 - Reduce police enforcement of non-serious offenses, particularly for youth

TO 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:
 - Develop mental health first responder and crisis intervention systems that rely on highly trained professionals other than police to address certain crises
 - Reinvest dollars into community-based services that empower communities—like violence intervention programs, schools, hospitals, libraries and parks
 - Fund restorative justice programs and services

TO ENSURE DEMOCRACY FOR ALL:

- **Freedom to Vote for People in Prison.** Restore the right to vote to incarcerated people
- **Same-Day Voter Registration.** Enact same-day voter registration, including on Election Day (A1966/S247)
- **Early Voting.** Enact comprehensive early voting using e-poll books (Signed into law on March 30, 2021)
- **Racial Justice in Redistricting.** Guarantee that New Jersey's racial makeup is effectively represented in the redistricting process (new maps, which are more racially equitable than last cycle's maps, were certified in December 2021 for congressional districts; February 2022 for state legislative districts)
- **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 (Signed into law on January 18, 2022)
- **Ability for People with Criminal Convictions to Serve on Juries.** Restore the ability to serve on a jury to people with criminal convictions, including those on parole and probation (A977/S3043)

TO REPAIR THE HARM OF DIVESTMENT FROM NEW JERSEY'S BLACK COMMUNITIES:

- **COVID-19 Racial Data.** Ensure the Department of Health maintains and regularly updates 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) (Municipal data released and updated in 2021 to ensure compliance)
- **Reparations Task Force.** Establish the New Jersey Reparations Task Force (A938/S386) to study and advocate for reparative justice