

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/blog/government-leaders-must-meet-voters-demands-for-justice>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

Black voters played a pivotal role in this election, which President-elect Biden acknowledged during his acceptance speech, promising to have their backs. There is no doubt that these voters see justice reform as a top priority.

The Vera Institute of Justice in partnership with Latino Decisions, the African American Research Collaborative, Asian American Decisions, and the National Congress of American Indians participated in the [American Election Eve \(AEE\) Poll](#) to learn more about the vote choices and views of thousands of voters nationwide, especially voters of color and voters in battleground states.

From the pandemic's disproportionate impact on people of color, especially in jails and prisons to police violence targeting and killing Black people, to the unrelenting criminalization of immigrants, it is clear that justice matters to voters, especially to voters of color.

The AEE poll found that:



**93% of Black voters support
removing laws that make it hard to hold
police officers accountable when they
kill or abuse Black people.**

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**70% of Black voters nationwide support
reducing funding for law enforcement
and investing more in social services and
programs proven to reduce violence.**

Despite the deep political divide in the United States, we saw signs of progress and the promise of a movement to end mass incarceration in communities across the country:

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**More than
two-thirds of all
voters agree**



With 2.3 million people in jail and prison today, the government must take steps to reduce the number of people behind bars.

Though we celebrate these victories, we know there is much work to do. We're redoubling our commitment to ending mass incarceration and securing equal justice for families and communities, from ending the use of bail, fines, and fees to ensuring federally funded universal representation for all people facing deportation.

Justice was on the ballot, and the American people have spoken. As vote margins in communities in Milwaukee, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Atlanta changed the course of the presidential election, we saw the power of voters of color. At the state, federal, and local level, their demands for justice must be answered with meaningful change.

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