

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FR:** Lincoln Park Strategies  
**RE:** Legislative Priorities in Maine: Survey Results  
**DATE:** March 9, 2021

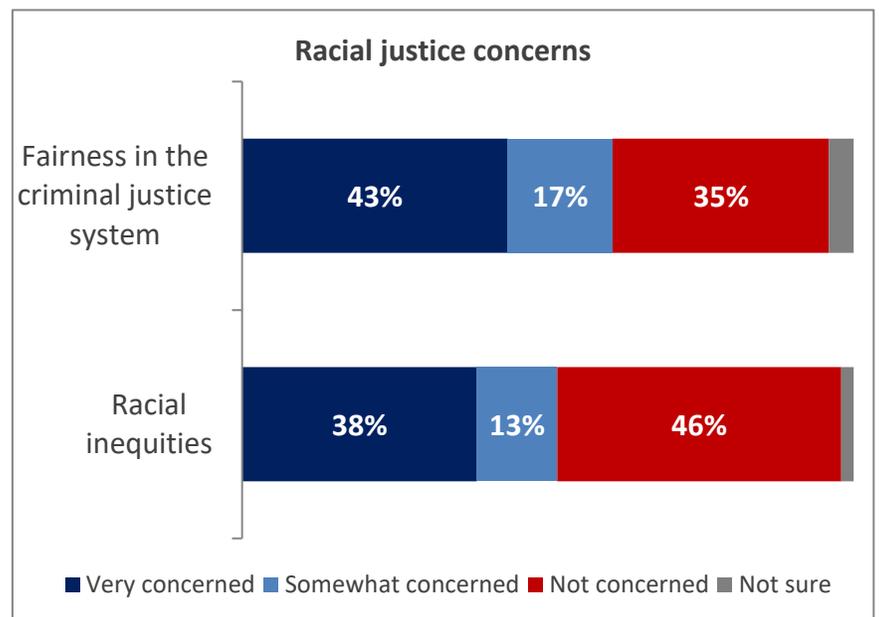
As the 2021 legislative session was starting, State Innovation Exchange (SiX) commissioned Lincoln Park Strategies to conduct a survey of Mainers<sup>1</sup> to gauge voters’ feelings about the state’s future and their views on the legislative leadership’s policy agenda. One thing is clear: a majority of Mainers support progressive policies that the legislature is considering for this year.

While there were many interesting findings throughout the data, this memo focuses specifically on Mainers’ reactions to racial justice legislation that is considered by the state legislature.

**1) Overall, a majority of Mainers are concerned about fairness in the criminal justice system along with racial inequities.**

Key findings on this topic include:

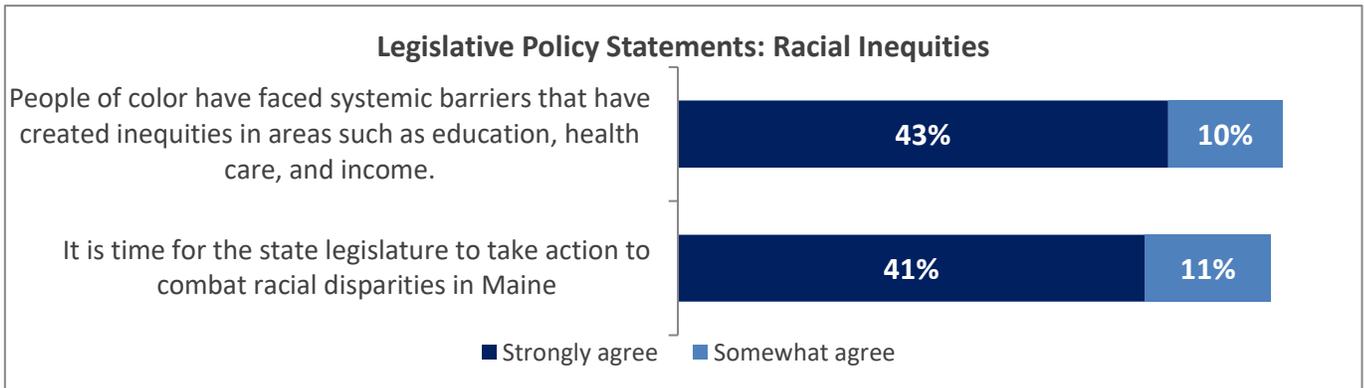
- Across the state, residents are concerned (61%) about fairness in the criminal justice system, with 43% of Mainers very concerned.
- Concern is consistent across the state, in both congressional districts, and across age groups. Concern is highest among college women as a majority (50%) are very concerned.
- Similarly, a majority of Mainers are concerned about racial inequities (51%) with women (55%), Mainers under 45 (56%), and Mainers 65 and older (55%) most likely to be concerned. Concern over racial inequities is consistent in both congressional districts.



<sup>1</sup> 500 interviews among adults were conducted from February 18 – 23, 2021 via both internet and phone survey. The results were weighted to ensure proportional responses. The margin of error is ±4.4 percent at the 95% confidence level.

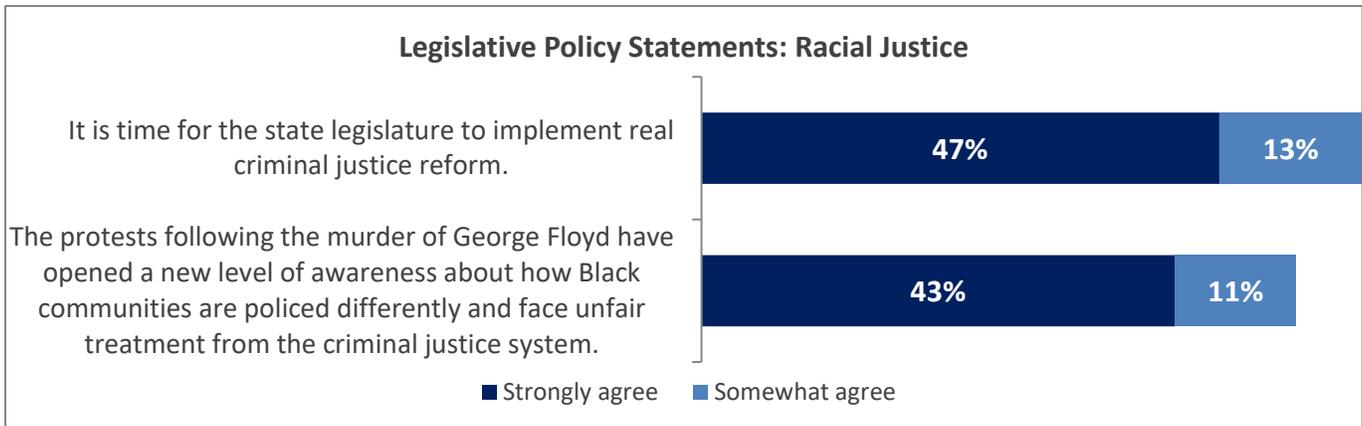
**2) Given voters’ concern about racial inequities, it is not surprising that Mainers believe that it is time to address this issue.**

- A majority of Mainers agree that people of color have faced systemic barriers that have created inequities in areas such as education, health care, and income (54%). Also, that the protests following the murder of George Floyd have opened up a new level of awareness about how Black communities are policed differently and face unfair treatment from the criminal justice system (54%). College-educated women and Mainers 65 and older are most likely to agree with both statements.



- A majority (53%) also agreed that it is time for the state legislature to take action to combat racial disparities in Maine. Similar to the other statements, Mainers 65 and older (63%) and college women (62%) are most likely to agree, while non-college men (46%) and Mainers 45-64 (41%) are least likely to.

**3) Additionally, when asked to rate various statements around legislative policies that are pending, three in five Mainers (60%) agree that it is time for the state legislature to implement real criminal justice reform, with 47% strongly agreeing. Mainers 65 and older (68%), women (62%), and Mainers making less than \$40,000 a year (69%) are most likely to agree.**



In conclusion, progressive legislative policies focused on racial justice are popular in Maine, and legislators will garner strong support from their constituents. These polling results show strong support for a progressive legislative agenda in the current session.