Social Equity Caucus
an Inclusive Learning Community

SURVEY ON
POLICE REFORM IN VERMONT

The Social Equity Caucus is a group comprised of legislators and advocates working with a mission to improve outcomes for marginalized peoples and create a vehicle for Vermonters to access their representation, leadership and community. It is not enough to get rid of institutionalized inequality— we aim to institutionalize equity and inclusivity.

The Vermont legislature is considering ideas on how police practices in our state should change, including policies on use of force, citizen oversight, use of body cameras, implicit bias, hiring and training of police officers, and other relevant issues.

Before the legislature reconvenes in August, we want to hear from Vermonters across the state with your thoughts and suggestions on how to improve interactions between the police and communities, specifically with people of color and other marginalized groups.

The results of this survey will be compiled and shared with legislators to help inform upcoming policy decisions.

<u>Please respond by Friday August 21st</u>.
Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey.
Your feedback is important to us.

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* 1. Where should Vermont focus its efforts in making police reforms? Please rank each on a scale from 1 (not important) to 5 (extremely important)

	1	2	3	4	5
Increase training for officers around de-escalation techniques	○	○	○	○	○
Require Cross-cultural awareness training for officers	○	○	○	○	○
Require all officers to wear body cameras	○	○	○	○	○
Recruit more officers who identify as Black, Indigenous or a Person of Color	○	○	○	○	○
Add more social workers to law enforcement	○	○	○	○	○
Increase funding for mental health outreach	○	○	○	○	○
Restrict police departments from purchasing, accepting or using military weaponry	○	○	○	○	○
Require accreditation for all police agencies	○	○	○	○	○
Replace policing with a new system	○	○	○	○	○
Increase citizen oversight	○	○	○	○	○

Other (please specify)

* 2. Would you support a statewide body camera policy to manage use of body cameras and public access to their recordings?

○ Yes

○ No

Please share any thoughts on any restrictions on their use and on public access to the recordings.

* 3. Should the legislature create a state-wide legal standard clarifying when police may use lethal force in Vermont?

○ Yes

○ No

Please share any concerns or suggestions regarding a use of lethal force standard.

* 4. Would you support a uniform state-wide use of force and de-escalation policy?

○ Yes

○ No

Please share any concerns or suggestions on such a policy.

* 5. Where should Vermont focus its efforts on accountability of police and civilian oversight of police? (please rank 1 being the most important to 5 as least important)

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greater consequences when police file false reports

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greater public access to police disciplinary records

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⬍

improved system of professional regulation and training for law enforcement

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establishment of citizen review boards who are independently elected by local communities and empowered to investigate complaints and conduct investigations alongside internal investigations

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state-wide adoption of 21st Century Policing Task Force's 6 Pillars:

Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology and Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Reduction, Officer Training and Education and Officer Safety and Wellness

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6. Please share any additional thoughts on what you'd like to see for police reform and the future of policing in Vermont?

* 7. Which Vermont county do you live in? (select one)

○ Addison County

○ Bennington County

○ Caledonia County

○ Chittenden County

○ Grand Isle County

○ Franklin County

○ Essex County

○ Lamoille County

○ Orange County

○ Rutland County

○ Washington County

○ Windham County

○ Windsor County

○ Don't know - enter name of town

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It will help us to know your background, but answering the remaining questions is not a requirement for submitting the survey.

8. What is your age?

○ Under 18

○ 18-24

○ 25-34

○ 35-44

○ 45-54

○ 55-64

○ 65+

9. What is your gender identity?

○ Woman

○ Man

○ Genderqueer or non-binary

○ Agender

○ Not specified above. Please specify if desired

[   ]

10. Do you identify as transgender or another non-cisgender identity?

○ Yes

○ No

11. Are you a person living with a disability?

○ Yes

○ No

Specify type of disability, if desired

[   ]

12. What is your racial or ethnic identity? (Select all that apply.)

☐ African-American/Black

☐ East Asian

☐ Hispanic/Latinx

☐ Middle Eastern

☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native

☐ Pacific Islander

☐ South Asian

☐ Southeast Asian

☐ White

☐ None of the above, please specify...

[   ]

13. What is your first language?

○ English

○ French

○ Spanish

○ Swahili

○ Lingala

○ Maay maay

○ Somali

○ Karen

○ Nepali

○ Arabic

○ Vietnemese

○ Bosnian

○ Other (please specify)

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