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To: Interested Parties

From: Ben Tulchin, Corey O'Neil and Kiel Brunner; Tulchin Research

Re: California Statewide Survey Finds Voters Have Strong Concerns About Police Discrimination, Profiling, and Use of Force; Strongly Support Reforms

Tulchin Research recently conducted a California statewide survey on behalf of the ACLU of California Center for Advocacy & Policy to assess how voters think and feel about criminal justice and law enforcement, including police profiling and the use of force based on race in our state and local communities. With the issue in the news in recent months due to high profile events, this research aims to gauge voter sentiments towards these issues in California specifically and help inform elected officials in Sacramento about the public's desire to reform how police interact with the public, especially communities of color.

The poll found that likely California voters overwhelmingly believe that police profile and discriminate based on race and would like to see steps taken to reduce this behavior. Notably, large majorities of voters support specific legislation to prevent racial and identity profiling (AB 953). Additionally, similar large majorities of voters favor a proposal to require more transparency and accountability of law enforcement and their use of force (AB 619 and AB 71). Impressively, these proposals attract support from voters of all ethnicities and party affiliations.

We provide below a summary of the key findings from the survey.

Police Discrimination and Profiling

Our survey found that voters have been paying attention to the recent events concerning use of force and potential misconduct by police officers that have led to the deaths of several unarmed African American men around the country. In fact, nearly every voter (95%) reports having heard of the recent high-profile police shootings and misconduct cases in Ferguson, New York and Charleston and most voters (80%) believe something like that could very well happen in California.

In this context, ***most voters in California fundamentally believe that police officers discriminate against communities of color.*** This became evident when we asked respondents if they think various ethnic groups are more likely to be discriminated against by police than others and their responses reveal a strong pattern of observed inequality when it comes to racial profiling and police bias.

- Across the state, nearly two-thirds of all likely voters (65%) believe blacks are more likely to be discriminated against by police.
 - This includes nearly 9 out of 10 black voters (89%) who believe the same, 84 percent of Asian voters, 81 percent of Latino voters and 57 percent of white voters.

- Voters specifically see young black men as the group that is *most* likely to be discriminated against by police as 71 percent of California voters believe police are more likely to discriminate against this group.
- Similarly, voters view Latinos (58%) and young Latino men (61%) as groups that are more likely to be discriminated against.
- Conversely, most voters believe that whites and Asians are NOT discriminated against by police as just 11 percent and 16 percent of California voters respectively, believe these groups are more likely to be discriminated against by police.

The table below shows the results among all voters.

Police Discrimination Likelihood (All Voters)

Do you think the following groups of people are more likely to be discriminated against by police?

Group	Yes	No	Und.	Yes - No
Young black men	71%	19%	10%	+52
Blacks	65%	23%	12%	+42
Young Latino men	61%	25%	13%	+36
Latinos	58%	28%	14%	+30
Asians	16%	65%	20%	-49
Whites	11%	79%	10%	-68

We can also see in the table below the YES responses for each group, broken down by the ethnicity of the voters surveyed.

Police Discrimination (Yes Response By Ethnicity)

Do you think the following groups of people are more likely to be discriminated against by police?

Groups more likely to be discriminated against by police.	Percent Yes				
	ALL CA Voters	Black Voters	Latino Voters	Asian Voters	White Voters
Young black men	71%	89%	86%	75%	64%
Blacks	65%	89%	81%	84%	57%
Young Latino men	61%	85%	77%	66%	54%
Latinos	58%	82%	73%	70%	50%
Asians	16%	17%	23%	34%	11%
Whites	11%	6%	13%	18%	10%

Voters want to take concrete steps to address racial profiling and they want to start by having police collect more information during stops so the public has a better sense of the scope of the problem. The survey asked voters whether they would support or oppose requiring police to collect demographic information during police stops such as age, gender and race as well as about what happens during the stops in order to provide the public with more information. This core concept finds support from nearly 7 out of 10 voters (69%), including 88 percent of black voters, 79 percent of Latinos, 77 percent of Asians and 64 percent of whites. The proposal also finds broad bi-partisan support that includes over three quarters of Democrats (77%), 69 percent of independents and 57 percent of Republicans. Below is a table with the question wording, the overall results and the findings broken down by ethnicity and party.

Voters Want More Information Collected During Police Stops

Would you support or oppose having demographic information gathered on who the police stop, such as age, gender and race, and what happens during police stops, in order to provide the public with more information about how police interact with the community?

	Support
All California Voters	69%
<u>Ethnicity</u>	
Blacks	86%
Latinos	79%
Asians	77%
Whites	64%
<u>Party</u>	
Democrats	77%
Republicans	57%
Independents	69%

Taking this a step further, the California legislature is currently considering legislation (AB 953) that aims to address racial profiling and bias by police officers. We provided respondents with a description of this proposal, which includes having police collect basic information during stops, modernizing police training, and creating an advisory board that would work with law enforcement agencies to develop recommendations to stop profiling from occurring. Voters offer strong support for AB 953 as fully two-thirds (67%) support this proposal while just 19 percent of voters oppose it and 14 percent are undecided. This support holds across a myriad of different demographic groups including gender, ethnicity, party and region.

The table below provides the language we used and illustrates the broad support for the proposal among various demographic groups.

Super-Majority Support for Police Profiling Prevention Bill (AB 953)

There is a proposal to prevent racial and identity profiling by police. It would have officers collect and report basic information about vehicle and pedestrian stops to increase transparency about police activities and gain a better understanding of how, when and where profiling occurs. It would modernize law enforcement training on profiling and ensure that it addresses bias that may not be intentional. The proposal would establish an advisory board that works with law enforcement agencies to develop recommendations on how to stop profiling from occurring.

Based on this description, would you support or oppose this proposal?

	Support	Oppose	Supp- Opp
All California Voters	67%	19%	+48
<u>Gender</u>			
Women	69%	16%	+52
Men	64%	22%	+43
<u>Ethnicity</u>			
Blacks	83%	5%	+78
Latinos	80%	7%	+73
Asians	56%	20%	+36
Whites	62%	24%	+38
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	78%	10%	+67
Republicans	54%	31%	+23
Independents	61%	21%	+40
<u>Region</u>			
LA County	66%	15%	+51
LA Area	69%	17%	+52
Bay Area	70%	17%	+53
San Diego	62%	25%	+36
Sacramento/ North	64%	26%	+38
Central Valley	64%	23%	+42

Police Officer Use of Force Reporting

The use of force by police officers has garnered great attention across the country in recent months. To gain a clearer picture of what types of force used by police are most concerning to the public, we asked voters to weigh in on proposed requirements for public reporting of some different instances of use of force. Their responses reveal a strong desire to collect information in nearly all types of instances involving the use of force, regardless of what kind of force was used or the outcome of the altercation. More than three-fourths of voters (77%) support requiring public reporting upon the death of an individual and 75 percent support these requirements whenever an officer fires a weapon, including 69 percent when an officer uses their Taser. Voters also strongly support public reporting for any altercation where medical treatment is needed (71%) and nearly the same number of voters (69%) supports public reporting where an officer strikes a person in the head. This support also extends across nearly every demographic group and the table below shows support for public reporting of use of force cases by different ethnicities in the state.

Use of Force Reporting Requirements (By Ethnicity)

Currently, police are not required to collect and report to the public information when they use serious force. Please indicate whether you support or oppose providing public access to basic information in the following situations when a police officer uses force that results in...

	All Voters (Support)	Black Voters	Latino Voters	Asian Voters	White Voters
A person's death	77%	78%	73%	81%	78%
The officer firing a weapon	75%	76%	73%	67%	76%
A person receiving medical treatment	71%	76%	77%	61%	69%
The officer striking a person on their head	69%	77%	68%	68%	68%
The officer using their Taser	69%	76%	74%	65%	66%

There is currently legislation in Sacramento (AB 619 and AB 71) that aims to increase transparency and accountability regarding how law enforcement agencies report incidents involving an officer's use of force. These bills would require that law enforcement agencies collect and report demographic information and the type of force used by an officer. The proposals would also require that the state regularly analyze and publicly release such information. Once presented to voters, more than 7 out of 10 (71%) support this proposed legislation while just 16 percent oppose it and 13 percent are undecided. This support extends across nearly all demographic groups including gender, ethnicity, partisanship and region. The table below showcases the support overall as well as among these different groups.

Support for Reforming Police Use of Force Practices (AB 619 and AB 71)

There is a specific proposal aimed at increasing transparency and accountability of law enforcement use of force practices. This proposal would expand existing law enforcement reporting requirements to include serious use of force incidents, such as when a person is injured at the hands of the police. It would require that basic information, such as the type of force used and age, gender and race of the people involved be included. And it would require that the state analyze and publicly release the use of force information. Based on this description, would you support or oppose this proposal?

	Support	Oppose	Supp-Opp
All Voters	71%	16%	+55
<u>Gender</u>			
Women	69%	14%	+55
Men	72%	17%	+55
<u>Ethnicity</u>			
Blacks	83%	5%	+78
Latinos	77%	9%	+68
Asians	77%	15%	+62
Whites	68%	19%	+49
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	80%	8%	+72
Republicans	58%	27%	+30
Independents	70%	15%	+55
<u>Region</u>			
LA County	71%	13%	+58
LA Area	76%	12%	+64
Bay Area	75%	15%	+60
San Diego	63%	20%	+43
Sacramento/ North	62%	27%	+35
Central Valley	68%	16%	+52

Conclusion

Our research finds that voters across the state have strong concerns about police behavior when it comes to interacting with people of color. Voters are particularly concerned about racial profiling and the use of force on the part of local law enforcement agencies, especially as it pertains to blacks and Latinos, and they want to see steps taken to change these practices.

In this context, voters from across a spectrum of different demographic groups strongly support proposed legislation to reduce and prevent racial and identity profiling by requiring public reports and information gathering during police stops. Similarly, voters show a strong desire to have reports made publicly available where use of force occurs by a police officer, regardless of the type of force or the outcome of the altercation. Furthermore, voters show overwhelming support for a proposal to require public reporting that includes collecting demographic information to help identify patterns and prevent the unnecessary use of force in the future.

Survey Methodology: *Tulchin Research conducted a statewide survey in California among 900 likely November 2016 voters, including a statewide base sample of 800 voters and an oversample of 100 African American voters. The oversample of African American voters provides increased statistical confidence for that specific demographic, especially in looking at key sub-groups within them given lower representation in the state population and base sample it reflects. Interviews were conducted online from July 10-14, 2015. The margin of error for the statewide base sample is +/- 3.46 percent.*