Systemic (Institutional) Racism

Areas of Importance:

- History
- Housing and Lending
- Voter Suppression
- Education
- Health

- Criminal Justice
- Immigration
- Environmental Justice
- Solutions

Definition & History:

- Systemic Racism is the collective *failure* of an organization to provide for all citizens.

- Systemic Racism has existed in varying degrees from the inception of our nation until the present day.

Housing & Lending:

Examples:

- ▶ Financial Redlining
- ▶ Foreclosures 2004-2008
- ▶ Foreclosures 2007-2009
- ▶ 2017 Median Wealth

Voter Suppression:

Historical Methods:
- Poll Taxes
- Literacy Tests

Contemporary Methods:
- Purging voter rolls
- Limitations on early & absentee voting
- Voting procedures & disinformation
- Caging lists
- Identification requirements

Education:

▶ **Today's K-12 Issues:**
- ❏ Underfunding in minority areas
- ❏ Expectations
- ❏ Little positive reinforcements
- ❏ Inadequate staff support
- ❏ Lack of school enrichment &/or support
- ❏ Equitable funding at state &/or federal level
- ❏ Lack of transparency

▶ **Post-Secondary Issues:**
- ❏ Enrollment of minorities
- ❏ Access
- ❏ Cooperative arrangements
- ❏ Affirmative Action
  - ▪ Polls
  - ▪ Critics

Health:

- COVID-19
  - Minority communities more severely impacted
  - Greater risk of death
  - Lack of protective equipment
- Longevity of life
- Mental Health
- Lack of health insurance
- Shortage of primary care physicians
- Biases & stereotypes
- Environmental factors

Criminal Justice:

Areas of Impact:

- Policing & profiling
- The drug war
- Juries & jury selection
- The death penalty
- Prosecutors-discretion & plea bargaining
- Bail, pre-trial detention, commutations, pardons, gangs, etc.
- Impact of privately funded prisons
- School suspension & school-to-prison pipeline

Examples:

- Three times as many Black & Hispanic drivers are searched than White males.
- Blacks are arrested at a greater rate for marijuana use.
- Blacks are imprisoned at twice the rate of whites, with longer sentences
- 65% of prisoners serving life sentences for non-violent crimes are black.
- 1 out of 11 African Americans are disenfranchised due to felony convictions, compared to 1-56 non-black voters

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Immigration:

Historical issues, examples:

▶ Many immigration policies were created from the inception of the nation to the present day.

▶ For example, in 1790 the Founders considered "free" people to be white and male.

▶ In 1924, a quota system was developed (The National Origins Act) and implemented.

Today's issues, examples:

▶ DACA

▶ Ice (established 2003)

▶ Congress still has not developed a comprehensive immigration policy.

It's time for our government to reflect & respond to the current realities of immigration in our world.

Environmental Justice:

Communities of color have:

❖ Higher rates of exposure to air pollution.

❖ More landfills, hazardous waste, sites, & other industrial facilities

❖ More lead poisoning affecting children of color.

❖ More climate change issues.

❖ Greater water contamination.

❖ More blighted neighborhoods (and housing)

❖ Lack of community resources, such as thriving businesses, garbage pick-up, lack of street repair, lack of health services, groceries, etc.

Possible Solutions:

▶ Close the racial wealth gap

▶ Eliminate inequities in public school quality

▶ Close employment & earning gaps

▶ End punitive policing

▶ Environmental Justice issues should be recognized & prioritized as a national issue.

?? Questions ??

- What current policies of systemic racism within our local, state, & federal agencies could & should be addressed?

- What plans & timelines are being considered & implemented?

- How do we as Americans overcome the resistance to positive change?

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Next steps might include:

- Contacting state & federal officials to get up-to-date info. on progress towards improvement of the preceding issues.

- Providing more opportunities to discuss the issues within our own Democratic Club.

- Inviting knowledgeable speakers to make presentations on the subject.

Thank you for your interest!