



Racial Equity Statement

The deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd are only the most recent injustices in our country's long history of police brutality against Black Americans. All officers involved must be held accountable, but we also need to address the systemic issues underlying these tragedies.

I cannot fathom the pain that Black Americans are feeling today and every day from the pervasive racism in this country, but I can pledge to listen to and work with you to build a better future.

Those of us in leadership must use government as a tool to build a more just society. We must not only say that Black Lives Matter, but enact policy that affirms they do. I have the privilege and obligation to fight for legislation and structural changes to address these problems.

I support Ayanna Pressley's Resolution to Condemn Police Brutality which demands we:

- ✓ Formally condemn excessive use of force and racial profiling
- ✓ Establish community oversight of police
- ✓ Call on the DOJ to reinstate investigations of police misconduct

Here in Chicago, I also appreciate Superintendent David Brown's advocacy and leadership, and I urge him to use his position to make profound change.

While passing legislation in Washington is a powerful and necessary step, it is only one of many. We also need to create spaces at the community level for discussion and healing. Through my Interfaith Coalition in IL-03, we have established a diverse, community level dialogue so that we actively engage the community to build a more equitable and just IL-03.

Our country is in need of healing and it's up to us to begin the process.

Clearly, our country has a centuries-old system of structural racism. The only way we will break down this destructive path is to address voting rights, reforming the criminal justice system, eliminating racist educational practices, and creating economic and environmental justice that works for everyone.

Voting Rights

- Restoring the Voting Rights Act
- Passing automatic voter registration legislation
- Ending the practice of gerrymandering through establishing independent redistricting committees
- Making Election Day a federal holiday

Reforming the Broken Criminal Justice System

- Stop police brutality, profiling and charge/prosecute police officers when criminal behavior has been demonstrated
- Create community oversight of police departments
- Pass federal legalization of marijuana and work to roll back mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses
- Ban private prisons and detention centers nationwide
- End cash bail
- Ban the death penalty
- Enforce hate crimes

Educational Justice

- Establishing cultural history education to foster cultural literacy across all cultures as part of elementary school social studies and civics studies
- Tuition debt relief with incentives and credits for taking on critical jobs that are unfilled.
- Support student debt cancellation
- College curriculum rejuvenation to address the lack of secure, well-paying careers after graduation
- Expand community college degrees and funding to enable more certifications, degrees, and programs to create more direct-to-hire graduates
- Use community colleges for trades and apprenticeships training programs as well as other technical certifications and training programs
- Create corporate apprentice partnerships with at-risk and lower income neighborhoods as part of high school and community college programming and curriculum
- Convene schools, government, and employers to discuss a new, more aggressive, and pertinent curriculum that introduces the importance of unions and the labor movement, specifically through trades jobs and apprenticeship programs

Economic Justice

- Passing Medicare for All
- Passing paid leave
- Creating a public bank inside all post offices
- Creating a universal childcare system
- Creating jobs for every American through empowering trade schools and using green infrastructure for all projects across IL03
- Enforcing affordable housing requirements and creating pathways to income growth by means of homeownership

Environmental Justice

- Prevent manufacturing practices and facilities who are known polluters from targeting black and brown neighborhoods
- Create legislation to systematically clean up/detoxify highly toxic zones in cities where at-risk and black/brown neighborhoods need cleaner air and water
- Through passing the Green New Deal and establishing programs through its framework, we can end the practice of environmental racism that still exists in Chicagoland and throughout our nation