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Killing of Houston native George Floyd didn't spur major changes: Poll

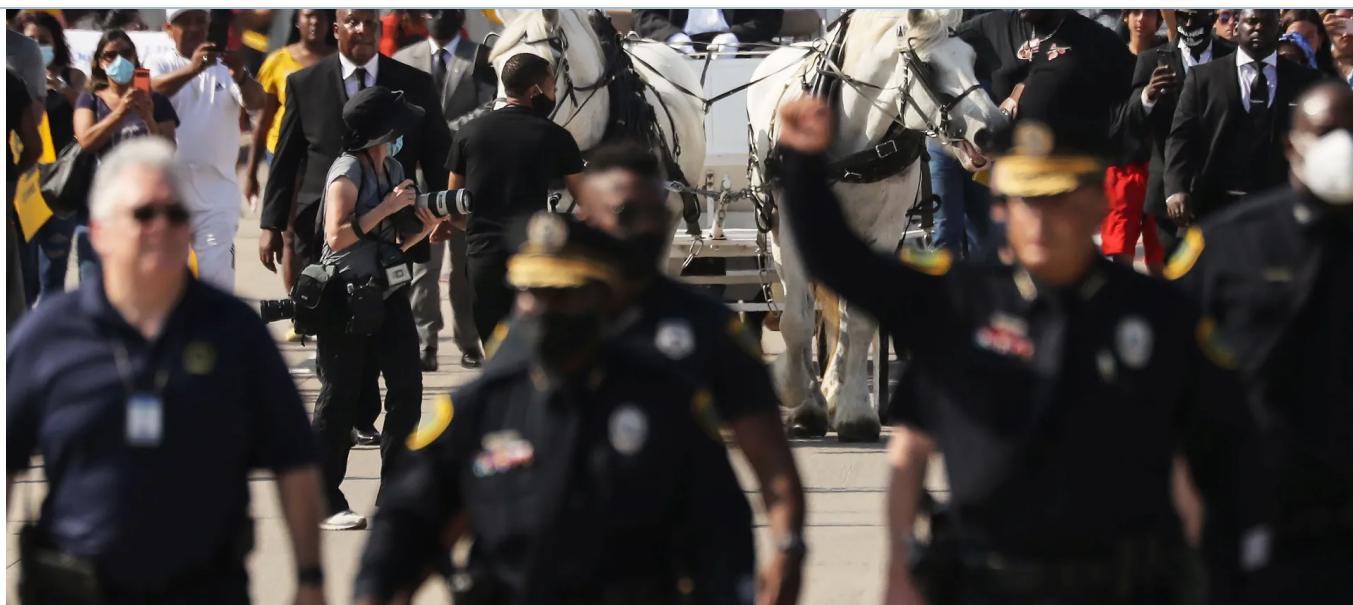


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Police escort the body of longtime Houstonian George Floyd, who was murdered by Minneapolis police officers, in 2020.
Photo: Mario Tama/Getty Images

A vast majority of Americans say the increased focus on race and racial inequality after former Houstonian [George Floyd](#) was murdered by police did not lead to changes that improved the lives of Black Americans, a new [Pew Research Center survey](#) finds.

Why it matters: Floyd's 2020 murder by Minneapolis officer [Derek Chauvin kneeling on his neck](#) sparked international protests and calls to tackle systemic racism, but five years later, that momentum appears all but gone.

By the numbers: Five years later, 72% of Americans say the increased focus on racial inequality didn't lead to significant changes that helped Black people, per the survey, released last week.

- Now 52% of Americans express support for the Black Lives Matter movement, a 15 percentage points drop from June 2020.
- In addition, 49% doubt that Black Americans will ever have equal rights with white Americans, up from 39% in 2020.

Zoom in: Floyd's death ignited a push for police reform in his native Houston that still resonates today.

- Former Mayor Sylvester Turner organized a now-disbanded [task force on policing reform](#) in July 2020 to study and [make recommendations](#) for changes within the Houston Police Department.
- Turner implemented only [some of those recommendations](#), including the creation of an [Independent Police Oversight Board](#) and [Office of Police Reform and Accountability](#).

The big picture: The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement convinced companies to commit to [diversity, equity and inclusion \(DEI\)](#) initiatives, but President Trump's [anti-DEI executive orders](#) have now forced many corporations to abandon those promises.

The intrigue: Support for BLM remains high among Black adults, Latinos, Democrats and young adults, while fading among white Americans.

- Black adults (76%), Hispanics (61%) and Asian Americans (61%) still express greater support for Black Lives Matter than white adults (45%).
- Among Democrats, Black Lives Matter garners 84% support vs. 22% among Republicans.

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Zoom out: Half of U.S. adults say they feel exhausted extremely often or very often when thinking about the state of race and racial issues in the U.S. today.

- 82% of Black Americans say the nation has not gone far enough when it comes to Black people having equal rights with White people.
- About half or fewer among white, Hispanic and Asian Americans say this, the poll found.

What they're saying: Sunny Slaughter, a law enforcement expert and CourtTV legal analyst, says she understands why so many Americans feel like the racial reckoning didn't lead to lasting change.

- "People feel exhausted. The momentum of 2020 doesn't look the same—and I get that."

be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other factors.

- *The margin of sampling error is ± 1.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.*



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