The majority (57%) of voters believed prejudice became more common over the last five years. This belief was also largely apparent across racial groups, seeing as 65% of Black voters, 50% of Latino voters, and 56% of White voters responded with more common. In contrast, only 34% of voters believed prejudice became more common over the last 50 years, a belief which varied by racial group. We found that 50% of Black voters believed it became more common, compared to 38% of Latino voters and 28% of White voters.
When asked about how *discrimination* has changed in the past five years, there was no consensus amongst voters. Many (42%) believed it became more common, 35% believed it stayed the same, and 23% believed it became less common. Both Latino and White voters primarily followed this response pattern. Black voters, however, were largely in agreement that it became more common, given that 58% responded in that manner. The majority (51%) of voters believed discrimination became less common in the past 50 years. This sentiment was not shared across racial groups. We found that 60% of White voters believed it became less common, compared to 29% of Black voters and 43% of Latino voters.

**Figure 2.** Would you say over the past 5 years, *discrimination* has become less common, more common, or stayed the same? What about the past 50 years?

Just over half (57%) of the voters believed that our country needs to continue making changes to give Black people equal rights with White people. Almost all (91%) Black voters and the overwhelming majority (69%) of Latino voters agreed with this statement compared to 43% of White voters. Voters who felt the country needs to make changes were asked a follow up question regarding whether or not they believe the country will eventually make these changes. Most (78%) voters believed the changes would be made and almost all (90%) White voters felt this way. However, only 59% of Black voters and 72% of Latino voters believed this.

**Figure 3.** Which of these two statements regarding the U.S. making changes to give Black people equal rights with White people comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right?
When it comes to improving race relations the majority (62%) of voters felt it is important to focus on what different racial and ethnic groups have in common rather than their unique experiences. This viewpoint was also popular across racial groups, given that 61%, 65%, and 62% of Black, Latino, and White voters agreed with the statement, respectively.

When it comes to discrimination against Black people in our country today, the overwhelming majority (72%) of voters felt discrimination based on the prejudice of individuals is a bigger problem than discrimination that is built into laws and institutions. We found that most White (78%) and Latino (72%) voters echoed this statement, while only 50% of Black voters agreed with it.
The vast majority (80%) of voters believed that bringing people of different racial backgrounds together to talk about race is an effective tactic to help Black people achieve equality. Almost all Black (87%) and Latino (87%) voters believed this compared to 76% of White voters. Similarly, most voters (74%) felt that working to get more Black people elected to office was an effective strategy to help Black people achieve equality. An overwhelming majority of Black (88%) and Latino (80%) voters agreed, compared to 68% of White voters.
Over the last decade the racial climate of the United States has shifted greatly towards a more explicit discourse of racially significant discontent. American people have been expressing frustrations with both individual and structural experiences of racism. Both Black and White Americans alike express frustration with the way that race impacts their lives. In polling registered voters in Texas about race relations in this country, these sentiments were largely consistent. Black, Latinx, and White respondents certainly varied in their specific manifestation of this significance, but all three groups gave responses that indicate significant shifts in the American consciousness with respect to race.

Although the majority of people believe that prejudice—having beliefs about a person or groups of people based on stereotype—has become more common in the past five years, the only racial group to also demonstrate this same result with respect to the past 50 years was Black Americans. In large part the significant historical moment that would potentially disrupt a racist trend in this country would be The Civil Rights Movement. Many Black Americans and Black Studies scholars feel that although Jim Crow laws were removed, racism persisted through a different manifestation, specifically through “beliefs.” In this sense, 50 percent of Black respondents expressing that prejudice has become more common the last 50 years might indicate that prejudicial beliefs have supplanted the law and strengthened.

Interestingly, when defining discrimination as “treating a person or group of people differently based on stereotypes,” there was little consensus amongst Black, Latinx, and White respondents regarding shifts in the last five years. Black respondents reported that discrimination has become more common both in the last five years and the last 50 years with 58 percent and 60 percent expressing this respectively. One might speculate that “treatment” indicates not only a feeling of discrimination in social interaction, but also in structural manifestations of racism. More specifically, the majority of Black respondents are expressing that in the immediate post Civil Rights era and in the globalized multicultural era of today they are treated differently or worse because of race. We see both social and structural manifestations of discrimination in law enforcement, for example, so that the rising counter-hegemonic voice of Black social movements such as Black Lives Matter exist and in many ways are consistent with the Black respondents in our sample.

In Figure 3 we see that 91 percent of Black voters and 69 percent of Latinx voters reported a belief that “our country needs to continue making changes to give Black people equal rights with White people.” The push for state sanctioned changes to improve Black American quality of life had been consistent throughout former President Barack Obama’s term as Black and Brown Americans often anticipated improvement with respect to race relations in this country. In many ways these desires went unanswered by the state and political demands such as The Movement For Black Lives Policy Platform were released. Seemingly, the national need for affirmative government intervention with respect to Black people’s quality of life is also consistent amongst Texas residents.
When asking respondents to specifically break down the source of discrimination—that is who is causing this race specific treatment—72 percent of the overall sample believe “individuals” more so than “laws and institutions” are to blame. White and Latinx voters were consistent with this trend; however, Black voters were split (50 percent) on whether the source was individuals or the state. The law has always been a consistent manifestation of oppression for Black people in this country so that a general suspicion of the role of the state in experiences of discrimination is to be expected. The racial underpinnings of the law have been studied by numerous Black scholars, and Black social movements have existed since The Middle Passage, indicating an ongoing negotiation between Black people and the government. In many ways the larger percentage of Black voters in Texas recognizing “laws and institutions” as the more significant source of discrimination is consistent with this history.

Ultimately, the majority of all respondents and the majority of Black respondents believe both that “bringing people of different racial backgrounds together to talk about race,” and getting “more Black people elected to office” are effective ways for “Black people to achieve equality.” Historically, Black Americans have been politically active within the state and our findings support a continued investment in securing Black policymakers and elected officials like our representatives in The Texas Legislative Black Caucus. The interesting finding here is that both White and Latinx voters support this as well, which certainly is a shift from the immediate Post Civil Rights Era, and even may suggest a general support for more Black political participation at all levels of government. Not surprisingly, nearly all Black voters support an interracial coalition approach to understanding race in this country, as has been common amongst Black social movements and Black patterns of life (housing, schooling) in The Post Civil Rights Era. As the majority of White and Latinx voters also agree with this approach, it seems that improving race relations in this country will require all types of people interacting at the individual level and at the structural level working towards a better quality of life for Black Americans.