

March on Washington Anniversary



Legislative Policy Forum

**Thursday, August 25, 2022
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
St. Paul Baptist Church
Montclair, NJ**



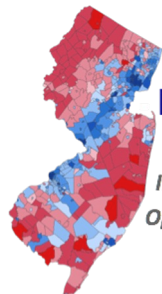
ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH

SERVICE • WORSHIP • FELLOWSHIP • GROWTH • EVANGELISM

**Building
One
America**

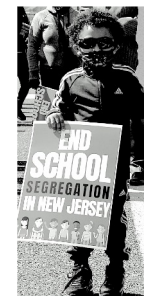


Organizing for Inclusion, Sustainability, and Opportunity



**Building One
New Jersey**

*Inclusion, Sustainability
Opportunity*



NJ-CARE

**The New Jersey
Coalition
Against
Racial
Exclusion**



- Host, Rev. Dr. Bernadette Glover, Pastor
St. Paul Baptist Church, Montclair



- Co-Chair, Rev. Dr. Terry Richardson,
Pastor, First Baptist Church South
Orange



Opening Prayer

Rev. Maria Crompton, Pastor, Elmwood United
Presbyterian, East Orange



Why we are here

- Rev. Dana P. Owens, Pastor, Messiah Baptist Church, East Orange



Format for Tonight's Meeting

Rev. Alfred Brown, pastor, First Baptist Church,
Cranford



Reflection of the March on Washington

Rev. Dr. Forrest Pritchett, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ



The March on Washington August 28, 1963

An Appeal to You from

JAMES FARMER
Congress of Racial Equality

JOHN LEWIS
Student Non-violent
Coordinating Committee

ROY WILKINS
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH
Negro American Labor Council

WHITNEY YOUNG
National Urban League

to MARCH on WASHINGTON

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28, 1963

America faces a crisis...

Millions of Negroes are denied freedom...

Millions of citizens, black and white, are unemployed

We demand: — Meaningful Civil Rights Law
— Massive Federal Works Prog
— Full and Fair Employment
— Decent Housing
— The Right to Vote
— Adequate Integrated Education

In our community, groups and individuals are mobilizing the August 28th demonstration. For information regarding your participation, call the local Coordinating Committee for the

MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM

1417 Van Street, N.W. Phone 2-2322

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WHITNEY YOUNG
National Urban League

EUGENE CARSON
National Council of the
Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

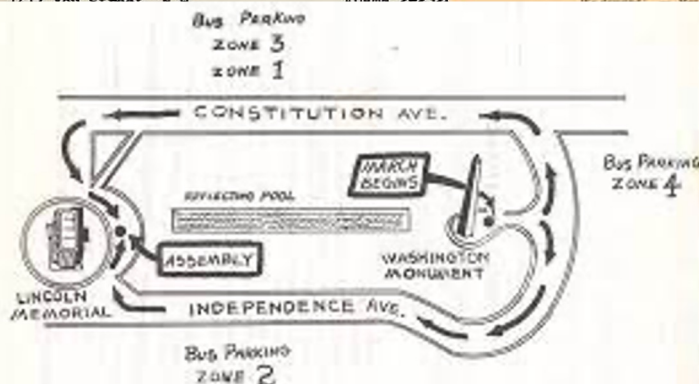
to MARCH on WASHINGTON

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28,

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MEMBERS

E. HANSEN
City Chapter of the
National Council of Social Workers

ED D. ISLER
of Churches of
Christ

ISRAEL
Anti-Communist
Immunity Relations

ES POSNER
Immunity Relations

M. R. SCHUMAKER
International Council

VINEGAR
of Chapter, CORE

COMMITTEE

ON MARCH

201 • Telephone

Chairman

Rabbi Joachim Prinz, President of the American Jewish Congress.

A. Philip Randolph, President of the Negro American Labor Council.

Walter Reuther, President of the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, AFL-CIO, and Chairman,

Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO.

Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director of the National Urban League.

In addition, the March has been endorsed by major religious, fraternal, labor and civil rights organizations. A full list, too long to include here, will be published.

WHAT WE DEMAND*

1. Comprehensive and effective civil rights legislation from the present Congress—without compromise or filibuster—to guarantee all Americans

access to all public accommodations
decent housing
adequate and integrated education
the right to vote

2. Withholding of Federal funds from all programs in which discrimination exists.

3. Desegregation of all school districts in 1963.

4. Enforcement of the Fourteenth Amendment—reducing Congressional representation of states where citizens are disfranchised.

5. A new Executive Order banning discrimination in all housing supported by federal funds.

6. Authority for the Attorney General to institute injunctive suits when any constitutional right is violated.

7. A massive federal program to train and place all unemployed workers—Negro and white—on meaningful and dignified jobs at decent wages.

8. A national minimum wage act that will give all Americans a decent standard of living. (Government surveys show that anything less than \$2.00 an hour fails to do this.)

9. A broadened Fair Labor Standards Act to include all areas of employment which are presently excluded.

10. A federal Fair Employment Practices Act barring discrimination by federal, state, and municipal governments, and by employers, contractors, employment agencies, and trade unions.

*Support of the March does not necessarily indicate endorsement of every demand listed. Some organizations have not had an opportunity to take an official position on all of the demands advocated here.



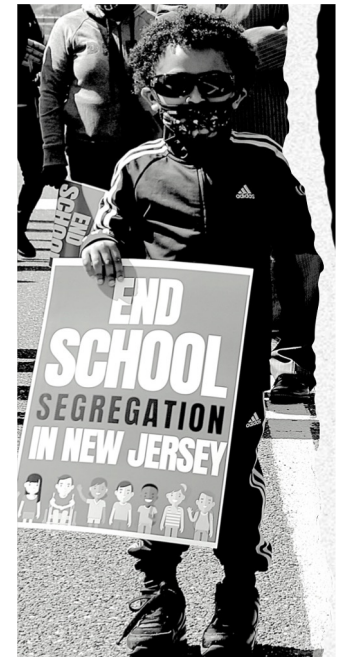
The promise of a fully Inclusive education in the United States of America *the unmet demand*

Rev. Dr. Willie D. Francois, Co-Chair of Building One
New Jersey & the Coalition Against Racial Exclusion
NJ-CARE, Pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church,
Pleasantville.

The unmet demand



- Of the 10 demands at the 1963 March, the 1st & the 3rd called for the immediate desegregation of America's public schools.
- As we enter our 6th decade since the march (7 since *Brown* was filed), schools in New Jersey have become some of the most segregated in the nation.
- This was not by accident. It was the result of deliberate policies still in place today. Still segregating our children by both race & poverty while denying them equal opportunity to a decent life.



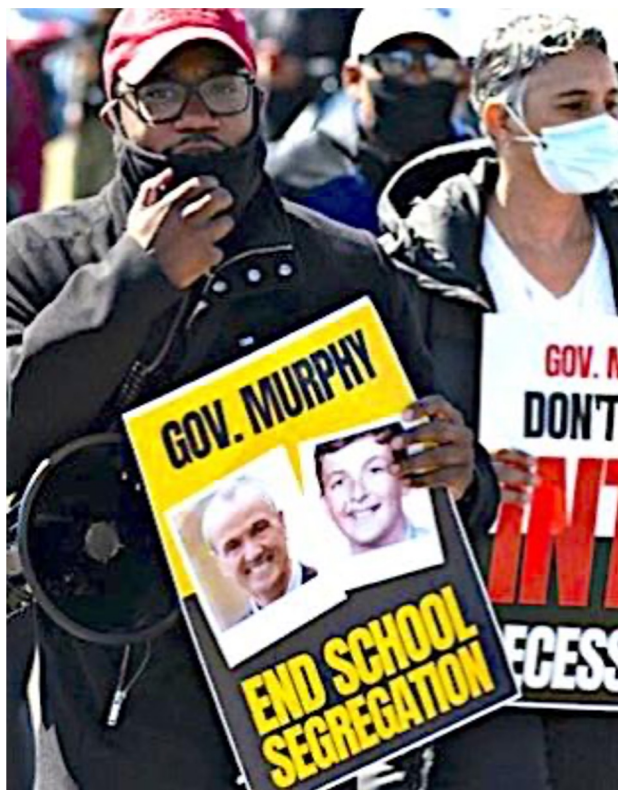
And it's getting worse..

...as concentrated poverty has intensified in the most racially segregated schools.

- According to The Center For Diversity and Equality In Education, “the proportion of children attending either *apartheid* or *intensely segregated* schools [in NJ] has risen almost continuously since 1990”.
- And, in a modern-day secession movement, some majority white schools have begun to *break* from majority Black & brown schools (Maywood from Hackensack, Merchantville from Pennsauken & Absecon from Pleasantville)...



SAY NO TO SECESSION



**But there are more reasons for us to act
NOW.**

1. There is a lawsuit that will almost certainly rule against the state.

You do not want the courts to impose a remedy. It's not their job *and they will get it wrong.*

2. The Pandemic has Exposed & Exacerbated segregations' Impact:

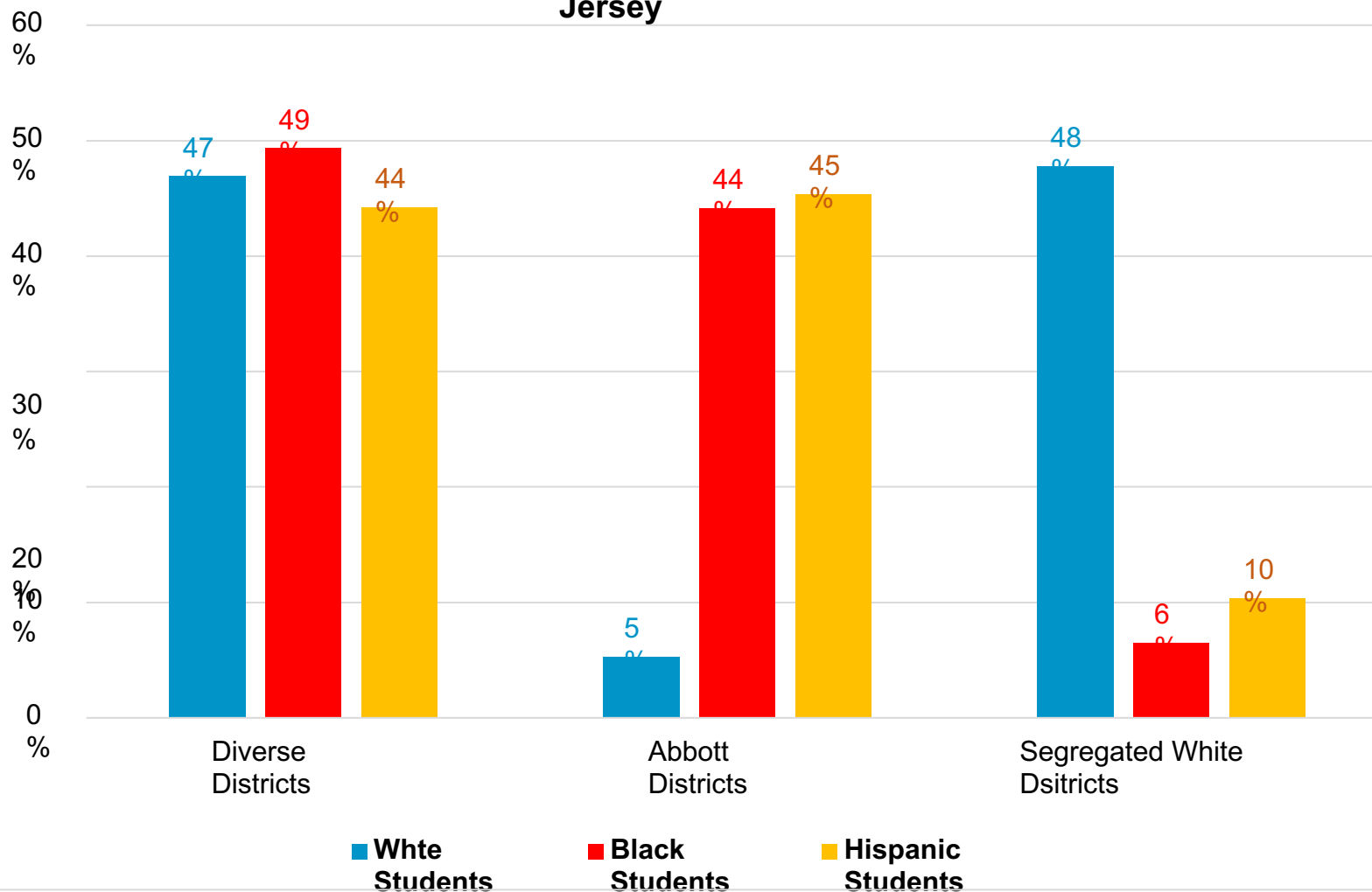
We face a catastrophe of post-pandemic learning loss. Early data shows far *too many children falling further and further behind.*

3. The political opportunity is *now*.

- *Intense* segregation by race & poverty is getting worse, but diversity is spreading in many suburbs.
- Diverse middle-class districts *have a self-interest* in combating segregation.
- We have an opportunity to build broad-based, multi-racial, support for a meaningful legislative approach.

Today, nearly half of all public school students, of all colors, attend diverse districts.

% Share of Total White, Black and Hispanic Students within Types in New Jersey



Some of North Jersey's Largest Diverse Districts



- Union
- Hillside
- Linden
- Mount Olive
- Morris
- Roxbury
- Dover
- West Orange
- Bloomfield
- Nutley
- Belleville
- Bayonne
- North Bergen
- Kearny

- Clifton
- Hackensack
- Teaneck
- Englewood
- Fair Lawn
- Bergenfield
- Lodi
- North Plainfield
- South Orange-Maplewood
- Rahway
- Montclair
- Cliffside Park



Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

- *School integration must involve everyone. It must be statewide & involve entire regions if it is to shut off doors to “flight”.*

Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

- *It must aim to incentivize & push all districts, schools, classrooms, and even faculty and curriculum to better reflect the diversity of their regions & the state.*

Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

- *and be based on a thorough analysis of racial as well as economic factors including a district's demographics and property tax capacity.*

It's not just about race, its about opportunity

The specific legislative tools
include the following:

Amend and Pass Senate Bill 820

Establishes the office of desegregation

- Reform & strengthen the DOE's civil rights capacity so it can develop a desegregation plan & has the power, funds, mandate, and expertise to enforce it.
- We can start by amending & passing S820 sponsored by Senator Joe Cryan and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey.

- The bill must include a mandate, a mission, a budget, expertise as well as:
 - accountability *and community engagement*
 - so that the people have a seat at the table.
- A task force or commission so our leaders and experts can help shape and oversee it.

Amend the School Consolidation Bill

- **We must end *illegal racist secessions*.**
 - Ban the terminating of any more regional send-receive arrangements or the dissolution of unified districts.
 - Amend the new *School Consolidation Bill* to ban secessions while requiring an *affirmative* obligation to promote integration.

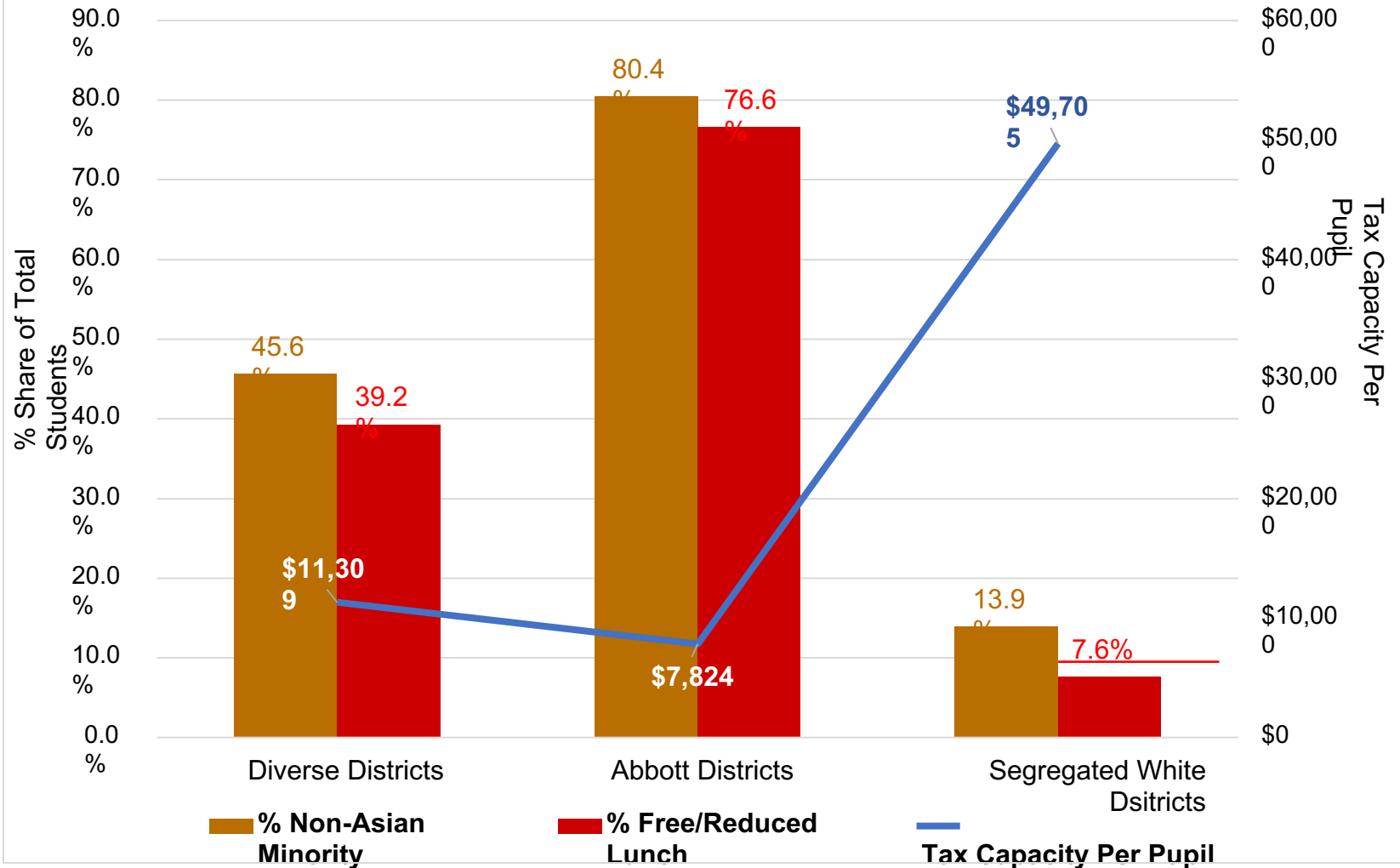
Amend Senate Bill 354

Establishes a School Funding Evaluation Task Force

- Criteria for school aid should incentivize inclusive schools in cities as well as diverse, middle-class suburbs.
- Reward inclusion best practices. *Stop rewarding exclusion.*
- *School Funding Evaluation Task Force must make racial justice and civil rights a goal of funding & include the appointment of pro-inclusion stakeholders.*
 - *Give us a seat at the table*
 - *so we can give inclusion and justice a prominent place at that table.*

- New Jersey's over-reliance on local property taxes rewards *exclusion* more than inclusion

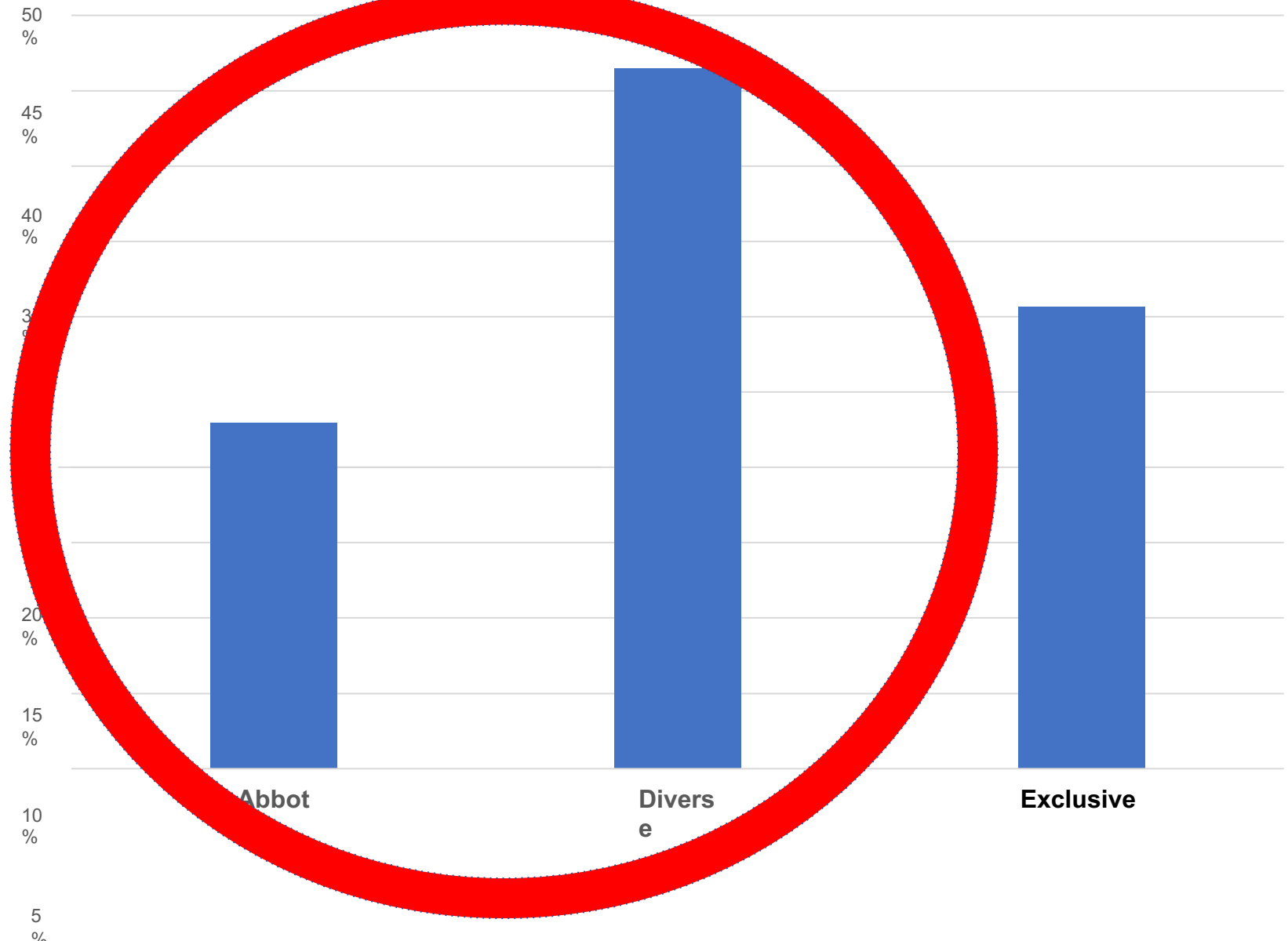
Race, Poverty and Tax Capacity of Types in New Jersey



- These reforms can be done because they are right and moral...

...and because urban and diverse suburban districts are a *70%* winning coalition.

New Jersey Public School Student



- Its time to align our values with our actions and advance this agenda in the New Jersey Legislature
- Next steps are the proposed amendments introduced into the Senate and Assembly Education Committees



Reactions and Feedback

Rev. Dr. Terry Richardson, Pastor, First Baptist Church
South Orange

Reactions and Feedback

- *What about Pastor Francois' presentation on the problems of segregated schools and the proposed solutions resonates with you?*
- *Do you have an experience or story as a leader, parent, student, educator, tax-payer or resident that relates to what was presented here tonight?*



Commitments and Next Steps

Assemblywoman Mila Jasey

Senator Joe Cryan



Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Schools

Two bills have been introduced in the Senate Education Committee earlier this year but have yet to be heard in the Assembly. Both need amendments as outlined by Rev. Francois.

- One establishes the ***Office of Desegregation*** sponsored by Senators Cryan and Assemblywoman Jasey
- The other establishes a ***School Funding Evaluation Task Force*** introduced and sponsored by Senator Vin Gopal the Chair of the Education Committee.



What Was Accomplished

- Rev. Dana P. Owens, Pastor, Messiah Baptist Church, East Orange



Call to Action

Next Steps

- Rev. Bernadette Glover, Pastor St. Paul Baptist Church, Montclair



Closing Prayer

Rev. Pamela Denise Sallie, Pastor, Mt. Pilgrim
Missionary Baptist Church, Passaic

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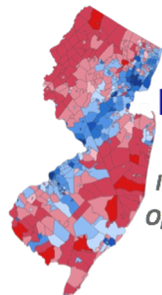
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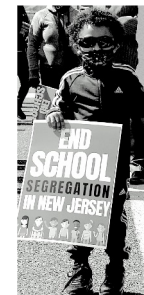


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