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## **NATIONAL: RACE RELATIONS WORSEN**

### *Racial divide on Black Lives Matter impact*

West Long Branch, NJ – On the heels of new incidents involving police and deaths of black men, the *Monmouth University Poll* finds that more American voters see racial discrimination as a major problem than did so just over a year ago. Voters say that the Black Lives Matter movement has brought attention to real racial disparities in society, but many – particularly white voters – feel the movement has made things worse. [Note: the interviews for this poll were conducted prior to Sunday’s shootings of Baton Rouge police officers.]

The *Monmouth University Poll* revisited questions asked after a number of incidents in late 2014 where black citizens died in incidents involving police. Nearly 9-in-10 voters nationwide (87%) consider racial and ethnic discrimination to be a problem in the United States, including 68% who describe this as a big problem. Back in January 2015, 81% saw this as a national problem, but fewer (51%) described it as a big problem than do so today. The feeling that racial discrimination is a big problem has increased among both white (from 44% to 64%) and black (from 67% to 88%) voters, although it has ticked up only slightly among Hispanic voters (from 66% in January to 72% now).

A majority of voters (58%) agree that the Black Lives Matter movement has brought attention to real racial disparities in American society while 35% disagree. Agreement with this statement comes from 83% of black voters, 54% of Hispanic voters and 53% of white voters.

At the same time, many white voters feel that Black Lives Matter has made racial issues worse, while most black voters say the movement has had little impact. Overall, just 10% of voters nationwide say Black Lives Matter has made racial issues in the United States better, 48% say it has made things worse, and 36% say the movement has not really changed things either way. Among black voters, 51% say it has not had much impact, 21% say it has made things worse, and 17% say it has made things better. Among white voters, 55% say Black Lives Matter has made racial issues worse in the country, 9% say it has made things better, and 31% say it has not really changed things either way.

“Most Americans agree that Black Lives Matter has shined a light on important issues of race, but there is a significant split on the impact that attention is having,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

The poll also asked about police use of excessive force. A majority of 52% say that police are no more likely to use excessive force in a given situation regardless of whether the culprit is black or white, while 34% say they are more likely to use excessive force if the person is black. This opinion is basically unchanged from December 2014 when 59% said race is not a factor in use of excessive force by police and 32% said it is more likely to happen if the person is black. Among those who say police are more likely to use excessive force against a black person are 77% of black voters (up from 60% in 2014), 38% of Hispanics (similar to 36% in 2014), and 25% of whites (identical to 25% in 2014).

A majority of voters (53%) say that race relations have worsened since Barack Obama became president, which is up from 45% a year and a half ago. Just 10% say this issue has improved during Obama’s tenure, compared to 15% who said the same in 2015. Another 33% say there has been no change in race relations since Obama took office, compared to 38% in the prior poll. Among white voters, 59% say race relations have become worse and 9% say they have gotten better, compared to 50% “worse” and 9% “better” last year. Among black voters, 37% say race relations have become worse and 8% say they have gotten better, which is a negative change from the 28% “worse” and 33% “better” opinion among black voters last year.

It should be noted that Pres. Obama’s overall job rating has held fairly stable over the past few months and is actually better than it was in late 2014 and early 2015. Currently, 49% of voters approve and 46% disapprove of the job Obama has been doing as president.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from July 14 to 16, 2016 with 805 registered voters in the United States. The results in this release have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.5$  percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

## QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-9 previously released]

### 10. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	July 2016	June 2016	March 2016	Jan 2016	Dec. 2015	Oct. 2015	Sept. 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	June 2015	April 2015	Jan. 2015	Dec. 2014	July 2013
Approve	<b>49%</b>	49%	48%	45%	40%	44%	45%	43%	47%	44%	43%	43%	42%	41%
Disapprove	<b>46%</b>	46%	45%	48%	54%	48%	51%	53%	49%	48%	50%	49%	50%	54%
(VOL) No opinion	<b>6%</b>	5%	6%	7%	5%	8%	5%	4%	4%	8%	7%	8%	8%	5%
<i>Unwt'd N</i>	<b>805</b>	803	848	872	856	836	847	1,033	840	829	825	863	887	850

11. Do you think that racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States is a problem or not a problem? [IF PROBLEM: Is it a big problem or a small problem?]

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	July 2016	January 2015
Yes, big problem	<b>68%</b>	51%
Yes, small problem	<b>12%</b>	21%
Yes, not sure if big or small	<b>7%</b>	9%
No, not a problem	<b>10%</b>	18%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>3%</b>	1%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	<b>805</b>	863

12. Have race relations in the United States become better or worse since Barack Obama became president, or has there been no change?

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	July 2016	January 2015
Better	<b>10%</b>	15%
Worse	<b>53%</b>	45%
No change	<b>33%</b>	38%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>4%</b>	2%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	<b>805</b>	863

13. When faced with a difficult or dangerous situation, are police officers more likely to use excessive force if the culprit is black, or are they just as likely to use excessive force against black and white culprits given the same type of situation?

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	July 2016	December 2014
More likely	<b>34%</b>	32%
Just as likely	<b>52%</b>	59%
(VOL) Police do not use excessive force	<b>2%</b>	1%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>12%</b>	8%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	<b>805</b>	887

14. Do you agree or disagree that the Black Lives Matters movement has brought attention to real racial disparities in American society?

<i>Registered voters</i>	July 2016
Agree	<b>58%</b>
Disagree	<b>35%</b>
(VOL) Don't know	<b>8%</b>
<i>Unwtd N</i>	<b>805</b>

15. Has Black Lives Matters made racial issues in America better or worse, or has it not really changed things either way?

<i>Registered voters</i>	July 2016
Better	<b>10%</b>
Worse	<b>48%</b>
Not really changed things	<b>36%</b>
(VOL) Don't know	<b>6%</b>
<i>Unwtd N</i>	<b>805</b>

**METHODOLOGY**

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from July 14 to 16, 2016 with a national random sample of 805 registered voters. Interviews were conducted by a live caller in English, including 402 drawn from a list of registered voters (202 landline / 200 cell phone) and 403 using random digit dial (200 landline / 203 cell phone). Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The final sample is weighted for age, gender, race and partisanship based on voter list and U.S. Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field), Aristotle (voter list sample), and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
	28% Republican
	39% Independent
	33% Democrat
	48% Male
	52% Female
	26% 18-34
	26% 35-49
	27% 50-64
	21% 65+
	71% White
	14% Black
	10% Hispanic
	5% Asian/Other

<i>MARGIN OF ERROR</i>		<i>unweighted sample</i>	<i>moe (+/-)</i>
<i>REGISTERED VOTER</i>	<i>Total</i>	805	3.5%
<i>LIKELY VOTER</i>	<i>Total</i>	688	3.7%
<i>PARTY ID</i>	<i>Republican</i>	226	6.5%
	<i>Independent</i>	320	5.5%
	<i>Democrat</i>	245	6.3%
<i>IDEOLOGY</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	284	5.8%
	<i>Moderate</i>	300	5.7%
	<i>Liberal</i>	186	7.2%
<i>GENDER</i>	<i>Male</i>	392	5.0%
	<i>Female</i>	413	4.8%
<i>AGE</i>	<i>18-34</i>	140	8.3%
	<i>35-54</i>	226	6.5%
	<i>55+</i>	431	4.7%
<i>RACE</i>	<i>White non-Hispanic</i>	629	3.9%
	<i>Other</i>	157	7.8%
<i>RACE</i>	<i>White</i>	629	3.9%
	<i>Black</i>	81	10.9%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	49	14.0%
<i>EDUCATION</i>	<i>HS or less</i>	200	6.9%
	<i>Some College</i>	212	6.7%
	<i>College grad</i>	389	5.0%
<i>INCOME</i>	<i>&lt;\$50K</i>	279	5.9%
	<i>\$50-100K</i>	241	6.3%
	<i>\$100K+</i>	205	6.9%

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		REGISTERED VOTER	LIKELY VOTER	PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
		Yes	Yes	Rep	Ind	Dem	Con	Mod	Lib
B1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?	Approve	49%	49%	9%	45%	89%	17%	51%	89%
	Disapprove	46%	47%	88%	49%	7%	79%	42%	7%
	[VOL] Neither_No opinion_Dont Know_Refused	6%	4%	3%	7%	4%	4%	8%	4%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		RACE 3-WAY
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hispanic	Other	White
B1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?	Approve	42%	55%	62%	48%	42%	41%	68%	41%
	Disapprove	53%	39%	32%	44%	54%	54%	25%	54%
	[VOL] Neither_No opinion_Dont Know_Refused	6%	6%	6%	8%	4%	5%	8%	5%

		RACE 3-WAY		EDUCATION			INCOME		
		Black	Hispanic	HS or less	Some College	College grad	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
B1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?	Approve	81%	55%	43%	47%	52%	54%	46%	48%
	Disapprove	14%	37%	48%	48%	43%	40%	49%	48%
	[VOL] Neither_No opinion_Dont Know_Refused	6%	8%	8%	5%	4%	6%	5%	3%

		REGISTERED VOTER	LIKELY VOTER	PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
		Yes	Yes	Rep	Ind	Dem	Con	Mod	Lib
B2. Do you think that racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States is a problem or not a problem? [IF PROBLEM, ASK] Is it a big problem or a small problem?	Yes, big problem	68%	68%	56%	64%	83%	58%	67%	85%
	Yes, small problem	12%	12%	15%	16%	6%	14%	14%	7%
	Yes, not sure how much of a problem	7%	7%	6%	8%	6%	7%	7%	7%
	No, not a problem	10%	11%	20%	9%	4%	17%	9%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		RACE 3-WAY
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hispanic	Other	White
B2. Do you think that racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States is a problem or not a problem? [IF PROBLEM, ASK] Is it a big problem or a small problem?	Yes, big problem	62%	74%	70%	71%	64%	64%	79%	64%
	Yes, small problem	14%	10%	13%	11%	12%	13%	9%	13%
	Yes, not sure how much of a problem	7%	7%	7%	5%	9%	8%	3%	8%
	No, not a problem	13%	8%	7%	11%	12%	13%	5%	13%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	3%	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%

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		RACE 3-WAY		EDUCATION			INCOME		
		Black	Hispanic	HS or less	Some College	College grad	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
B2. Do you think that racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States is a problem or not a problem? [IF PROBLEM, ASK] Is it a big problem or a small problem?	Yes, big problem	88%	72%	65%	71%	69%	72%	71%	63%
	Yes, small problem	4%	12%	9%	13%	13%	11%	14%	13%
	Yes, not sure how much of a problem	2%	5%	8%	7%	6%	5%	7%	7%
	No, not a problem	2%	8%	13%	6%	11%	8%	8%	14%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	3%	4%	5%	3%	1%	3%	0%	2%

		REGISTERED VOTER	LIKELY VOTER	PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
		Yes	Yes	Rep	Ind	Dem	Con	Mod	Lib
B3. Have race relations in the United States become better or worse since Barack Obama became president, or has there been no change?	Better	10%	10%	4%	9%	18%	4%	9%	19%
	Worse	53%	54%	78%	57%	27%	73%	54%	26%
	No change	33%	33%	17%	31%	49%	21%	34%	48%
	[VOL] Dont know _ Refused	4%	4%	2%	3%	6%	2%	3%	7%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		RACE 3-WAY	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hispanic	Other	White	Black
B3. Have race relations in the United States become better or worse since Barack Obama became president, or has there been no change?	Better	13%	8%	13%	10%	9%	9%	13%	9%	8%
	Worse	54%	51%	44%	50%	61%	59%	37%	59%	37%
	No change	29%	37%	41%	35%	26%	28%	45%	28%	49%
	[VOL] Dont know _ Refused	4%	4%	2%	5%	4%	3%	5%	3%	6%

		RACE 3-WAY	EDUCATION			INCOME		
		Hispanic	HS or less	Some College	College grad	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
B3. Have race relations in the United States become better or worse since Barack Obama became president, or has there been no change?	Better	14%	8%	8%	12%	10%	10%	12%
	Worse	38%	55%	56%	50%	45%	59%	55%
	No change	44%	33%	34%	32%	41%	28%	29%
	[VOL] Dont know _ Refused	4%	4%	3%	5%	4%	4%	3%

		REGISTERED VOTER	LIKELY VOTER	PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
		Yes	Yes	Rep	Ind	Dem	Con	Mod	Lib
B4. When faced with a difficult or dangerous situation, are police officers more likely to use excessive force if the culprit is black, or are they just as likely to use excessive force against black and white culprits given the same type of situation?	More likely to use excessive force if the culprit is black	34%	35%	11%	32%	59%	20%	32%	60%
	Just as likely to use excessive force against black and white culprits	52%	52%	78%	56%	26%	68%	54%	28%
	[VOL] Police do not use excessive force	2%	2%	3%	2%	0%	3%	2%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	12%	11%	8%	11%	15%	9%	11%	12%

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		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		RACE 3-WAY
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hispanic	Other	White
B4. When faced with a difficult or dangerous situation, are police officers more likely to use excessive force if the culprit is black, or are they just as likely to use excessive force against black and white culprits given the same type of situation?	More likely to use excessive force if the culprit is black	32%	37%	46%	34%	28%	25%	57%	25%
	Just as likely to use excessive force against black and white culprits	55%	49%	41%	51%	59%	62%	28%	62%
	[VOL] Police do not use excessive force	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	11%	12%	11%	12%	11%	10%	14%	10%

		RACE 3-WAY		EDUCATION			INCOME		
		Black	Hispanic	HS or less	Some College	College grad	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
B4. When faced with a difficult or dangerous situation, are police officers more likely to use excessive force if the culprit is black, or are they just as likely to use excessive force against black and white culprits given the same type of situation?	More likely to use excessive force if the culprit is black	77%	38%	31%	31%	38%	41%	33%	32%
	Just as likely to use excessive force against black and white culprits	11%	43%	57%	53%	49%	51%	54%	51%
	[VOL] Police do not use excessive force	0%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	13%	16%	10%	13%	11%	7%	12%	14%

		REGISTERED VOTER	LIKELY VOTER	PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
		Yes	Yes	Rep	Ind	Dem	Con	Mod	Lib
B5. Do you agree or disagree that the Black Lives Matters movement has brought attention to real racial disparities in American society?	Agree	58%	56%	41%	57%	75%	40%	61%	79%
	Disagree	35%	37%	49%	38%	18%	52%	30%	18%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	8%	7%	10%	5%	7%	8%	9%	3%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		RACE 3-WAY	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hispanic	Other	White	Black
B5. Do you agree or disagree that the Black Lives Matters movement has brought attention to real racial disparities in American society?	Agree	52%	62%	67%	54%	54%	53%	68%	53%	83%
	Disagree	40%	30%	27%	38%	36%	39%	24%	39%	11%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	7%	8%	6%	7%	10%	8%	8%	8%	6%

		RACE 3-WAY	EDUCATION			INCOME		
		Hispanic	HS or less	Some College	College grad	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
B5. Do you agree or disagree that the Black Lives Matters movement has brought attention to real racial disparities in American society?	Agree	54%	52%	57%	61%	66%	60%	50%
	Disagree	36%	34%	35%	34%	25%	34%	46%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	10%	13%	8%	5%	9%	7%	4%

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		REGISTERED VOTER	LIKELY VOTER	PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
		Yes	Yes	Rep	Ind	Dem	Con	Mod	Lib
B6. Has Black Lives Matters made racial issues in America better or worse, or has it not really changed things either way?	Better	10%	11%	5%	9%	17%	4%	10%	20%
	Worse	48%	48%	72%	51%	22%	65%	45%	27%
	Not really changed things either way	36%	36%	19%	35%	52%	27%	37%	48%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	6%	5%	4%	4%	9%	4%	7%	5%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		RACE 3-WAY
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hispanic	Other	White
B6. Has Black Lives Matters made racial issues in America better or worse, or has it not really changed things either way?	Better	8%	12%	12%	10%	10%	9%	12%	9%
	Worse	48%	47%	41%	51%	49%	55%	30%	55%
	Not really changed things either way	36%	36%	40%	34%	36%	31%	48%	31%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	7%	5%	7%	5%	6%	4%	10%	4%

		RACE 3-WAY		EDUCATION			INCOME		
		Black	Hispanic	HS or less	Some College	College grad	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
B6. Has Black Lives Matters made racial issues in America better or worse, or has it not really changed things either way?	Better	17%	11%	5%	10%	14%	10%	12%	10%
	Worse	21%	42%	51%	51%	44%	45%	47%	52%
	Not really changed things either way	51%	40%	40%	32%	37%	39%	36%	33%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	11%	7%	5%	7%	5%	7%	5%	4%