



202-262-5053  
tcfreaj@gmail.com

***“No African Americans take to the streets in protest to demand Whites to love us more. We demand a behavior change!”*** Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.

## **Montgomery Co. releases recommendations from 2-year audit of police department**



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. (7News) — Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich was joined by Montgomery County Police Chief Marcus Jones Friday morning to release key recommendations derived from a two-year audit of the department.

Officials say the audit was ordered by Elrich to "identify structural changes that should be made to improve and strengthen the already

nationally recognized and accredited Montgomery County Police Department." The audit details strategies that the department will use moving forward to help with mental health crisis situations, use of force policies and recruiting methods. "I'm very happy to be here today and to get to this point and to this report," Elrich said during the press conference. "It's been a while in the making, it's been very comprehensive."

**The six areas reviewed were the following:**

- **Use of force and internal affairs**
- **Mental health response**
- **Alternative response**
- **Officer wellness**
- **Education and training**
- **Data systems and technology**
- **Early warning and intervention system**
- **Leadership, operations and calls for service**
- **Recruitment and hiring process**

Elrich noted that the decisions made were done prior to "what happened to George

Floyd." Officials said the goal of the audit is to improve transparency and accountability within the department while promoting public safety and justice. "We want to protect everyone in this County, no matter what zip code they live in," county officials said. Leaders from Effective Law Enforcement for All, a consulting firm specializing in public safety, also joined county leaders for the Friday event.

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## Lawyers: Maryland repeatedly mislabeled police custody deaths



Jennell Black, mother of Anton Black, looks at a collection of her son's belongings at her home in Greensboro, Md. Lawyers for the family allege Maryland's medical examiner has systematically misclassified police custody deaths such as Black's. (Patrick Semansky/AP)

The deaths of people in police custody are ruled homicides far less than they should be in Maryland, lawyers suing the state medical examiner's office

argued this week in an analysis for the case of Anton Black, an Eastern Shore teen whose 2018 death prompted historic reform.

The family of Black, a Black teenager who died during an encounter with White police officers, settled with most parties in a wrongful death suit this summer but continued a challenge against the medical examiner's office.

The office ruled Black's death accidental, saying that it was "likely that the stress of his struggle" with police contributed to his death, as did bipolar disorder and underlying heart issues. Lawyers for his family contrasted that finding with a best practice for medical examiners called the "but-for" principle. If a death would not have happened "but for" an unnatural factor, it should be classified as unnatural, according to a 2002 guide by the National Association of Medical Examiners.

The lawyers identified 57 cases where people died in police custody in potential restraint situations, and they found that 88 percent were not ruled homicides, "even when the decedent had been Tased, pepper sprayed, subject to police baton strikes, prone restraint, or other uses of force," according to the court filing.

"The State is supposed to tell us the truth," one of the lawyers on the case, Sonia Kumar, senior staff attorney with the ACLU of Maryland, said in a statement. "Instead, for decades, it has

misled Marylanders by claiming police did not cause the deaths of people in their custody...”

The profile of the medical examiner’s office was elevated after its former chief, David Fowler, in 2021 testified that the death of George Floyd — whose case police reform advocates say echoes Black’s — was of “undetermined” causes, linking it to heart disease and drug use rather than to his oxygen being cut off from the pressure of a police officer’s knee.



Last month, Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh (D) ordered a detailed review of 100 autopsies performed during Fowler’s tenure of people who died in law enforcement custody after a team of experts determined that further scrutiny was warranted. Fowler’s testimony prompted the probe, which spanned his 17 years at the medical examiner’s office, from 2002 to 2019.

Black died after being wrestled to the ground and restrained face-down while in handcuffs. His autopsy said “no evidence was found that restraint by law

enforcement directly caused or significantly caused or significantly contributed” to his death. No one was criminally charged in his case.

The NAME guide states that “Deaths due to positional restraint induced by law enforcement personnel or to chokeholds or other measures to subdue may be classified as Homicide.” The guide defined homicide as a death resulting “from a volitional act committed by another person,” emphasizing that it does not imply criminal intent.

Fowler did not respond to an email seeking comment Thursday.

He said in an email last month that “I am proud of my seventeen years of service as Maryland’s Chief Medical Examiner, and I am confident that any fair review will confirm that the Office met or exceeded all applicable professional standards.”

Maryland’s interim chief medical examiner, John Stash, referred comment Thursday to Department of Health spokesman Chase Cook, who said in an email that “We have no comment regarding matters in litigation.”

Three small towns on Maryland’s Eastern Shore settled their part of the case in August, agreeing to pay Black’s family \$5 million and institute changes in policing to prevent more deaths involving police. A package of accountability bills approved by Maryland lawmakers last year included a measure in Black’s memory that requires increased transparency of public misconduct records.

The lawsuit, which seeks punitive damages and new policies at the medical examiner's office, among other remedies, accuses that office of classifying the death "utterly improperly and in contravention of medical evidence and the standards of their profession." It says the medical examiner's office kept pushing a police narrative that Black may have been on drugs even after two toxicology reports showed otherwise.



Advocates say Black's death is eerily similar to the killing of Floyd, who died in 2020 after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck. Floyd's death sparked outrage across the country, forcing a reckoning about systemic racism and policing.

The attorney general's probe began with a pool of about 1,300 autopsies, but a panel named by Frosh has narrowed the focus to 100 deaths that "occurred during or shortly after the decedent was physically restrained, and for which no obvious medical cause of death, such as a knife wound, was discerned during the autopsy," according to a report by the panel released last month.

The attorney general's office has not identified the 100 cases, but the ACLU lawyers assembled their similar pool of 57 cases out of the 1,300 by using news stories and medical examiner news releases, according to the court filing.

The lawsuit says the gravity of what it alleges is a pattern of misclassified cases "cannot be overstated." Findings by the medical examiner's office "dictate how police understand their actions; how state's attorneys decide whether to prosecute; whether decedents and their families are treated as victims; the hurdles survivors must clear to obtain relief; the scope of any given public health crisis; and how our society determines which deaths can be prevented."

"And the brunt of these failures has been borne disproportionately by Black Marylanders and, often, people with disabilities," the lawsuit states.

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**NOTHING IS TOO SMALL!!!**

# Why White Christian Nationalism Isn't Going Away



BY SAMUEL L. PERRY AND ANDREW WHITEHEAD

**T**he midterm elections were hardly a shot of confidence for Christian nationalist politicians. True, Republicans like Marjorie Taylor Greene in highly gerrymandered districts cruised to victory. But candidates like Doug Mastriano, Dan Cox, and Darren Bailey lost their elections handily, and others like Lauren Boebert, Kari Lake, and Mark Finchem were all in hotly contested races.

What is the likelihood that Americans who subscribe to Christian nationalism take these results as a referendum against their movement? We think that's

highly doubtful. That's because white Christian nationalists systematically over-estimate their strength in numbers. And they will almost certainly do so in the future.

Christian nationalism is currently a minority position in the United States. Most Americans don't believe that America has a special relationship with God, or that the federal government should declare the U.S. a "Christian nation," or that being a Christian is important to being truly American. And most Americans want a separation of church and state. Moreover, tracking such views over decades shows they are slowly declining, not growing. But that's not what white Christian nationalists believe. In fact, we find white Christian nationalists are uniquely confident about their prevalence and the growth of their own views.

In our recent national survey, we asked Americans how much they agreed with statements like "My views on the role of religion in government represent the views of most Americans" and "The percentage of Americans who share my

views on the role of religion in government is growing.” Empirically speaking, neither statement is true for Christian nationalists. Yet, the more that white Americans subscribe to Christian nationalist ideology, the more they believe most Americans share their views on religion in government and the more they think that percentage is growing. For example, among white Americans who disagree with the statement “The federal government should declare the United States a Christian nation,” less than 25 percent believe most Americans share their views on religion in government. Under 30 percent believe that percentage is growing.

In contrast, among those who strongly agree that the government should formally recognizing Christianity as the national religion, nearly half (46 percent) believe most Americans share their views and that this percentage is growing. Less than a quarter disagreed with either statement. And we see nearly identical patterns for other indicators of Christian nationalism. Given what we know about the slow decline of Christian

nationalist beliefs, and the inconsistent results Christian nationalist candidates experienced last Tuesday, how could white Americans who subscribe to that ideology believe most Americans back their views in growing numbers? Where does such confidence come from?



One reason is what social scientists call the “false consensus effect.” The false consensus effect is when people tend to wrongly think their own views are held by the majority. This happens most often when people are surrounded only by those who agree with them. That is certainly likely to be the case among right-wing leaders and groups who trust few media sources beyond those catering to their views.

Another more theological reason lies in various assurances all Christians cling to: that victory is in God’s hands and

thus is assured. And in an even more nuanced versions of this theology, some outspoken Christian nationalists like the antisemitic founder of Gab Andrew Torba explicitly preach a “theology of victory.” They believe Jesus Christ is already ruling and all his followers must do is claim dominion over the nations on his behalf.



Still another answer transcends Christian theology and helps make sense of a curious paradox. In other studies, we’ve shown that white Christian nationalists tend to believe that whites and Christians are the most persecuted group in the country. Yet here we’ve shown they also believe they represent the growing majority. This paradox—believing we are the majority but we are also oppressed—reflects the populist,

anti-elite character of white Christian nationalism.

Americans who subscribe to white Christian nationalism see themselves as representing “the nation,” and “the real Americans” over and against a corrupt “regime” of elites who would take away their rights and plunge the nation further into decadence. This should sound familiar. White Christian nationalists see themselves as a “moral majority,” who only need to be mobilized to thwart the “Luciferian” agenda of globalism, socialism, secularism, rampant crime, and sexual deviance.

Regardless of the reasons for their confidence, what is clear is that white Christian nationalist leaders and those who follow them are unlikely to be dissuaded from their mission when confronted with the reality of their shrinking numbers or the struggles of candidates like Mastriano or Boebert. If the results of 2020 and the ensuing embrace of the “Big Lie” are any indication, empirical reality is unlikely to change the narrative in their minds.

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  6. Newsletter and Political Statements
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  9. Employment
  10. Urban Food Deserts
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## Recommended Reading List for Reparations



Compiled by  
**Natalie Rozzell**

Reparations is the hottest issue on the Black political agenda. While many people know that reparations are owed to American Freedmen, some do not know what a reparations plan should

look like. The list of books below is recommended by the DMV Freedmen. The list contains books that explore what reparations can look like and how it can transform the lives of those who stand in the shoes of emancipated people in the United States. Some books also delve into why reparations are so sorely needed to repair our people and reconstruct our communities.

These books make excellent holiday gifts for your friends and family members, especially your children and grandchildren, who are not being taught the full history of our country in schools.

1. **From Here to Equality, Second Edition: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century**, by *William A. "Sandy" Darity, Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen*

Synopsis:

"Racism and discrimination have choked economic opportunity for African Americans at nearly every turn. At several historic moments, the trajectory of racial inequality could have been altered dramatically. But neither Reconstruction nor the New Deal nor the civil rights struggle led to an economically just and fair nation. Today, systematic inequality persists in the form of housing discrimination, unequal



education, police brutality, mass incarceration, employment discrimination, and massive wealth and opportunity gaps. Economic data indicates that for every dollar the average white household holds in wealth the average black household possesses a mere ten cents.



This compelling and sharply argued book addresses economic injustices head-on and make the most comprehensive case to date for economic reparations for U.S. descendants of slavery. Using innovative methods that link monetary values to historical wrongs, William Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen assess the literal and figurative costs of justice denied in the 155 years since the end of the Civil War and offer a detailed roadmap for an effective reparations program, including a substantial payment to each documented U.S. black descendant of slavery. This new edition features a new foreword addressing the latest developments on the local, state, and federal level and considering current

prospects for a comprehensive reparations program.”

*Available on Paperback, Kindle, and Audiobook*

## **2. The Black Reparations Project: A Handbook for Racial Justice by William A. “Sandy” Darity, Jr., A. Kirsten Mullen, and Lucas Hubbard**

Synopsis:

“This groundbreaking resource moves us from theory to action with a practical plan for reparations.

A surge in interest in black reparations is taking place in America on a scale not seen since the Reconstruction Era. The Black Reparations Project gathers an accomplished interdisciplinary team of scholars—members of the Reparations Planning Committee—who have considered the issues pertinent to making reparations happen. This book will be an essential resource in the national conversation going forward.

The first section of The Black Reparations Project crystallizes the rationale for reparations, cataloguing centuries of racial repression, discrimination, violence, mass incarceration, and the immense black-

white wealth gap. Drawing on the contributors' expertise in economics, history, law, public policy, public health, and education, the second section unfurls direct guidance for building and implementing a reparations program, including draft legislation that addresses how the program should be financed and how claimants can be identified and compensated. Rigorous and comprehensive, The Black Reparations Project will motivate, guide, and speed the final leg of the journey for justice."

*Hardcover available for Pre-order; release in May 2023*

**3. How White Folks Got So Rich: The Untold Story of American White Supremacy (The Architecture of White Supremacy Book Series) by Reclamation Project (2012)**

Synopsis:

"Updated and expanded pocket-size expose' of American WHITE SUPREMACY. This booklet explores the government policies, the corporate schemes, the \"special arrangements,\" the racist and devious actions that are at the very foundation of White Wealth in America. If you thought Whites achieved their riches through \"hard work,\" you definitely NEED this book. 192 pages,

fully illustrated, and retails for less than \$10."

*Available on Kindle and Perfect Paperback*

**4. Back of the Hiring Line: A 200-Year History of Immigration Surges, Employer Bias, and Depression of Black Wealth by Roy Beck**

Synopsis:

"One hundred fifty years after the end of slavery and nearly 60 years after the passage of the civil rights laws of the 1960s, average Black household wealth in the 21st century remains a fraction of the median assets of other racial, ethnic, and immigrant populations.



There are many reasons, but this book is about one: two centuries of governmental encouragement of periodic sustained surges in immigration.

Governmental policies and actions have enabled employers to depress Black wages and to avoid hiring African Americans altogether.

Here is a grand sweep of the little-told stories of the struggles of freed slaves and their descendants to climb job ladders in the eras of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, A. Philip Randolph, Barbara Jordan, and other African American leaders who advocated for tight labor migration policies. It is a history of bitter disappointments and, occasionally, of great hope:

- Setback: the first European immigration surge after 1820 and the ensuing, sometimes violent, labor competition
- Hope: the post-Civil War opening of the "golden door" to Northern and Western jobs
- Setback: the Ellis Island-era great wave of immigration
- Hope: Major reductions in immigration in the mid-20th century creates a labor demand among Northern and Western industrialists so great that they aggressively recruited descendants of slavery and precipitated the Great Migration of Black Southerners

- Setback: In 1965, Congress accidentally restarts mass immigration

Looking to the future, the author finds in the past assurance that any immigration policy that helps move more Black workers into the labor force and increases their wealth accumulation will also assist struggling Hispanics and other populations of recent immigration.”

*Available on Paperback, Kindle, and Audiobook*

#### **5. Reconstructing Democracy: Grassroots Black Politics in the Deep South after the Civil War by *Justin Behrend***

Synopsis:

“Former slaves, with no prior experience in electoral politics and with few economic resources or little significant social standing, created a sweeping political movement that transformed the South after the Civil War. Within a few short years after emancipation, not only were black men voting but they had elected thousands of ex-slaves to political offices. Historians have long noted the role of African American slaves in the fight for their emancipation and their many efforts to secure their freedom and citizenship, yet they have given surprisingly little attention to the

system of governance that freedpeople helped to fashion. Justin Behrend argues that freedpeople created a new democracy in the Reconstruction era, replacing the oligarchic rule of slaveholders and Confederates with a grassroots democracy.

Reconstructing Democracy tells this story through the experiences of ordinary people who lived in the Natchez District, a region of the Deep South where black political mobilization was very successful. Behrend shows how freedpeople set up a political system rooted in egalitarian values wherein local communities rather than powerful individuals held power and ordinary people exercised unprecedented influence in governance. In so doing, he invites us to reconsider not only our understanding of Reconstruction but also the nature and origins of democracy more broadly.”

*Available on Hardcover, Kindle, and Paperback*

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## TOTAL HYPOCRISY KYRIE IRVING – JEFF BESOS – JERRY JONES



America's hypocrisy between White America and Descendent of Slavery is right before our eyes and showing us that whites continue to have separate rules for their life than blacks. There was an attempt to "buck-break," embarrass, cancel, and bankrupt Kyrie Irving for posting a movie on social media that some say was insensitive to White America and their "history."

While the same movie, Jeff Bezos continues to sale on Amazon and has profited millions of dollars without harsh criticisms, demands from outrage, nor coverage from media of the hypocrisy. Nor has Jerry Jones, who's picture surfaced of him being present with a mob to stop integration into a public school in the south, been demanded to denounce racism, go to a racial sensitivity course, speak with black

preachers nor tour the African American Museum.

Neither has there been any effort to disprove biblically that Kyrie's views that descendants of slavery are from the Davidic lineage. Yet, the idea has been whitewashed and not given the proper attention needed to bring tranquility to the conversation. If we let the Bible, Science and History speak by theologians, and historians – truth will be attained. Yet, White America unwelcomes those who questions her validity of history and speaks freely.

### The demands on Kyree:

Brooklyn gave Irving a list of six requirements he would need to fulfill before rejoining the team, which are:

- Apologize and condemn the film he promoted.
- Make a \$500,000 donation to anti-hate causes.
- Complete sensitivity training.
- Complete anti-semetism training.
- Meet with the Anti-Defamation League and Jewish leaders.

### The demands on Jeff Bezos:

- The Anti-Defamation League in conjunction with Brooklyn Nets have sent a letter to Jeff Bezos and Amazon leaders to either remove book/movie at center of Kyrie Irving situation from the

platform or add explanation  
about issues with the content.



The demands on Jerry Jones:

- None

While Kyrie was forced to apologize and be made a public spectacle, the white businessmen received little attention and their lives were unchanged. This is where we see the hypocrisy of America.