THE CHARLESTON FORUM TRI-COUNTY SURVEY 2020

MARCH 2020

Prepared for:
The Charleston Forum

Prepared by:
The Center for Research & Public Policy, Inc.

CRPP

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OWNERSHIP

All the analyses, findings and recommendations contained within this report are the exclusive property of The Charleston Forum.

As required by the Code of Ethics of the National Council on Public Polls and the United States Privacy Act of 1974, The Center for Research and Public Policy maintains the anonymity of respondents to surveys the firm conducts. No information will be released that might, in any way, reveal the identity of the respondent.

Moreover, no information regarding these findings will be released without the written consent of an authorized representative of The Charleston Forum.

Introduction 1

Page 4

Methodology 2

Page 5

Highlights 3

Page 6

Summary of Findings 4

Appendix 5

Page 27
Survey Instrument
Crosstabulations

INTRODUCTION 1

The Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) is pleased to present the results to a residential survey on behalf of The Charleston Forum. The survey was conducted to collect resident input on race relations across topics including policing, the judicial process, education, housing, business and willingness to engage in community discussions on race relations.

The research study included 705 completed online surveys among residents in three South Carolina Counties – Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley.

The online survey (N=705) was conducted March 12 – 25, 2020.

The survey included the following areas for investigation:

- ➢ Quality of life and standard of living
- ➢ Views on policing and law enforcement
- ➢ Impressions of the criminal justice system
- ➢ Willingness to engage in community efforts / discussions on race relations
- ➢ Opinions on economic opportunities across different races
- ➢ Views on job discrimination
- ➢ Views on housing affordability and access
- ➢ Impressions of education equity in public schools
- ➢ Current views on controversial symbols such as the confederate flag and statues
- ➢ Demographics

Section II of this report discusses the Methodology used in the study, while Section III includes Highlights derived from an analysis of the quantitative research. Section IV is a Summary of Findings from the survey.

Section V is an Appendix to the report containing the crosstabulations and the survey instrument employed.

Crosstabulations display key, core questions by a number of demographic subgroups for further analysis of these results.

Using a quantitative research design, an online survey was completed among 705 residents living within Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley Counties in South Carolina.

Survey design input was provided during a project initiation meeting and subsequent sessions with CRPP which included The Charleston Forum leadership.

Survey design is a careful, deliberative process to ensure fair, objective and balanced surveys. Staff members, with years of survey design experience, edit out any bias. Further, all scales used by CRPP (either numeric, such as one through ten, or wording such as strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree) are balanced evenly. Additionally, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

Readers of this report should note that any survey is analogous to a snapshot in time and results are only reflective of the time period in which the survey was undertaken. Should concerted public relations or information campaigns be undertaken during or shortly after the fielding of the survey, the results contained herein may be expected to change and should be, therefore, carefully interpreted and extrapolated.

Furthermore, it is important to note that all surveys contain some component of "sampling error". Error that is attributable to systematic bias has been significantly reduced by utilizing strict random probability procedures. This sample was strictly random in that selection of each potential respondent was an independent event based on known probabilities.

Each qualified online panel member within the three counties had an equal chance for participating in the study. Statistical random error, however, can never be eliminated but may be significantly reduced by increasing sample size.

CRPP programmed the online survey instrument. This was followed by a pre-test and soft launch prior to full and random broadcast of the survey to qualified panel members.

Statistically, a sample of 705 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 3.69% at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite data – all 705 cases.

ON QUALITY OF LIFE & STANDARD OF LIVING

Impressively, 89.8% of all residents surveyed reported a very good (28.5%) or good (61.3%) quality of life living in the Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, South Carolina. White survey respondents (92.1%), as well as black respondents (86.1%), reported positive quality of life ratings.

Overall, just over two-thirds, 68.2%, suggested that race relations over the past ten years has either improved (23.7%) or is the same but good (44.5%). Another 25.6% suggested race relations had either remained the same and poor (17.9%) or declined (7.7%). Among white and black respondents, those offering "improved or the same and good" was 72.0% and 56.6%, respectively.

ON POLICING

Majorities agreed (strongly or somewhat) with a number of statements regarding policing:

➢ Officers should treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly – 95.5% agreeing
➢ Police departments need to develop programs to build trust in black communities – 82.7% agreeing
➢ Police departments must stop racial profiling even if effective – 81.7% agreeing
➢ The sentencing of white police officer Michael Slager was resolved to satisfaction – 53.2% agreeing

Fewer than one-half of all respondents agreed (strongly or somewhat) with other statements:

➢ Most officers racially profile when deciding to stop motorists – 48.8% agreeing
➢ Officers in the tri-county area treat everyone fairly and evenly – 44.3% agreeing
➢ I have, or I know someone who has, experienced abuse by police officers – 40.6% agreeing

Significant differences in agreement exist between white and black respondents on three statements:

➢ Most officers racially profile when deciding to stop motorists – whites (40.6%) and blacks (73.5%)
➢ Officers in the tri-county area treat everyone fairly and evenly – whites (46.5%) and blacks (32.5%)
➢ I have, or I know someone who has, experienced abuse by police officers – whites (33.1%) and blacks (57.8%)

ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Overall, just over one-half of all respondents (55.9%) suggested they have strong trust in police officers while 24.1% noted they have little or no trust in police officers. Trust was nearly twice as strong among whites (62.8%) than blacks (36.7%).

While 38.2% of all survey respondents suggested they had strong trust in the judicial system, another 32.1% held little or no trust. Trust in the judicial system was nearly twice as strong among whites (42.5%) than blacks (24.7%).

On trust in juries to apply the law evenly regardless of race or ethnicity, 38.2% offered strong trust. Among whites and blacks, trust was recorded at 42.3% and 25.3%, respectively.

A large majority, 95.9%, agreed (strongly or somewhat) that the criminal justice system should treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly. Among whites and blacks agreement was similarly strong at 97.0% and 93.4%, respectively.

Over two-thirds (67.5%) agreed (strongly or somewhat) that because fines, fees, bail amounts and time away from work impact minority families disproportionately, these factors should be considered by the courts. Somewhat more blacks (76.5%) than whites (64.5%) agreed.

ON ENGAGEMENT / DIALOGUE

There exists an impressive willingness to engage in constructive dialogue on improving racial relations and building bridges with other races.

A large majority, 84.5%, suggested they would be very or somewhat willing to join others in building bridges to improve racial relations in the tri-county area.

Nearly three-quarters, 70.1%, agreed that the tragic massacre at the Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church has helped bring our communities together. Similarly, white and black respondents agreed at 72.2% and 68.1%, respectively.

On a composite basis, 79.6% of all respondents noted agreement that the majority of Americans, regardless of race, are interested in having race relations improve. Significantly more white respondents agreed than black respondents at 82.7% and 68.7%, respectively.

Nearly two-thirds of all respondents, 62.8%, were willing to volunteer or donate to local not-for-profits dedicated to helping minorities and low-income families close gaps in education, economics and health care. Whites and blacks were similarly willing at 60.8% and 66.9%, respectively.

Hard awareness for The Charleston Forum was 4.5% (very aware). The cumulative total for very and somewhat aware was 18.5%. Awareness (very and somewhat) was stronger among black survey respondents (28.3%) than white respondents (17.8%).

When extrapolated on the total population of the tri-county area, willingness (very and somewhat willing) to attend a forum or conversation on improving racial relations is impressive. Three-fifths, 60.1%, noted a willingness to attend such a forum. Whites were somewhat less willing (57.1%) than blacks (66.9%).

Those unwilling to attend were asked to indicate their reasons. The leading reasons, in declining order, included: don't like interacting with people I don't know, I don't like confrontation, work or family commitments, don't know enough about race relations, differing views are sometimes considered racist, and I don't see race relations as a problem in our community.

ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES / JOB DISCRIMINATION

Perceptions of systems and programs in the tri-county area were measured. Using a scale of one-to-ten, more survey respondents described these systems as broken over working well:

➢ Employment/wages – 31.1% working well / 34.5% broken
➢ Affirmative Action – 22.7% working well / 26.4% broken
➢ Investment in minority commuities – 23.0% working well / 32.6% broken

Among black respondents, the ratio of broken over working well was three to four times higher for each of these systems or programs.

Agreement ranged significantly for several statements regarding jobs and economics among all respondents:

➢ Job opportunities should be equally available to qualified candidates – 94.9%
➢ Business opportunities should be equally available to qualified candidates – 92.9%
➢ Lower-average incomes in black communities need to be addressed – 78.9%
➢ Qualified black applicants have as good a chance as white applicants to get any kind of job – 59.7%
➢ Blacks do have as good a chance as whites to start a successful business – 59.3%

Agreement was significantly lower among black respondents for two of the five statements:

➢ Qualified black applicants have as good a chance as white applicants to get any kind of job – 44.0%
➢ Blacks do have as good a chance as whites to start a successful business – 50.0%

ON HOUSING

A large majority, 95.5%, noted agreement (strongly or somewhat) that black residents have the right to live in any neighborhood they can afford.

Two-thirds, 65.8%, agreed (strongly or somewhat) that economic pressures are one of the causes black residents have to move out of certain neighborhoods. Black respondents were in somewhat more agreement at 73.6%.

Just over one-quarter of all respondents (26.2%) agreed that sufficient affordable housing in the tri-county area exists.

Views were mixed when asked about residential choice. Nearly two-fifths (39.1%) suggested individual choice and market forces, exclusively, should determine who lives in certain communities. Another 11.1% suggested the government should play a role in maintaining racial balance in communities. One-third, 33.3%, indicated that both market forces and some limited government involvement is required to achieve racial balance in communities.

ON EDUCATION / SCHOOLS

There is strong agreement (strongly and somewhat) in several areas of education and public schools:

- White and black children deserve the same opportunities to earn a quality education – 95.3% agreeing
- Children of any race should receive extra education support as needed – 92.6% agreeing
- Students can only receive a quality education with engaged parents who stress education – 83.1% agreeing

Many respondents, 74.2%, agreed (strongly and somewhat) that public schools in the tri-county area should be integrated.

Just over one-half, 54.3% agreed that white and black kids do have equal opportunities to get a quality education in the tri-county area. Among white and black respondents, agreement was recorded at 58.4% and 39.8%, respectively.

Over two-fifths agreed that failing schools should be shut down and merged into successful schools, and that schools in the tri-county area are sufficiently integrated – 44.7% and 44.3%, respectively.

Almost one-half (49.2%) of respondents believed that underperforming schools receive significantly or somewhat fewer resources per student than schools in more affluent areas. Just 13.0% believed they received somehat or significantly more than schools in more affluent areas.

More respondents, overall, suggest the tri-county education systems are "broken" than those suggesting the systems are "working well" at 35.7% and 27.0%, respectively. The ratio is broader among black respondents at 18.1% "working well" and 44.5% "broken".

The primary reasons offered by respondents for failing schools, in declining order, included: lack of parental support, lack of funding, lack of good teaching/teachers, lack of family partnerships and poor administration.

Over one-half of all respondents reported a willingness to pay more in taxes for higher teacher/principal pay and programs to engage parents at 57.0% and 51.0%, respectively.

ON SYMBOLS & CLUBS

A strong majority, 69.2%, agreed (strongly or somewhat) that private groups/clubs that exclude based on race are, indeed, prejudiced. More white respondents (70.5%) than black respondents (65.7%) agreed.

Majorities also agreed (strongly or somewhat) that the confederate flag should be removed from all state government property (58.0%) and that social and economic presssures of the tri-county area will change the organizations that exclude members of different races (57.3%).

Two-fifths (42.3%) agreed that South Carolina communities should move to remove controversial statues and public displays of historical figures. Differences in agreement were strong among white and black respondents – 35.0% and 65.1%, respectively.

Two-fifths (41.3%) also agreed that some communities in the tri-county area are going too far, too fast in addressing controversial statues and public displays of historical figures. Differences, again, were strong among white and black respondents – 46.1% and 24.7%, respectively.

Nearly two-fifths (39.4%) of all respondents agreed that private groups/clubs have a right to determine their own membership even if that excludes based on race.

Over one-third of all respondents, 36.2%, agreed the tri-county communities are responsibly and reasonably addressing the issue of controversial statues and public displays of historic figures.

Readers are reminded that the narrative throughout this report refers to composite aggregate online survey data – 705 residents of Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley Counties in South Carolina. Text, tables and graphs throughout this report present these composite results alongside results among both white (N=471) and black (N=166) respondents.

Several questions were replicated from national polling conducted by both Saint Leo University of Florida and Jackson State University of Mississippi (a HBUC – historically black university or college). Results to these questions, for comparison purposes, are presented within this report.

QUALITY OF LIFE / STANDARD OF LIVING

All survey respondents were asked to think about and report on their own quality of life today. A large majority, 89.8%, reported their overall quality of life as very good or good. Results are displayed in the following graph and table.

Quality of Life Today

- Composite: 89.8
- Whites: 92.1
- Blacks: 86.1

VERY GOOD AND GOOD

■ Composite ■ Whites ■ Blacks
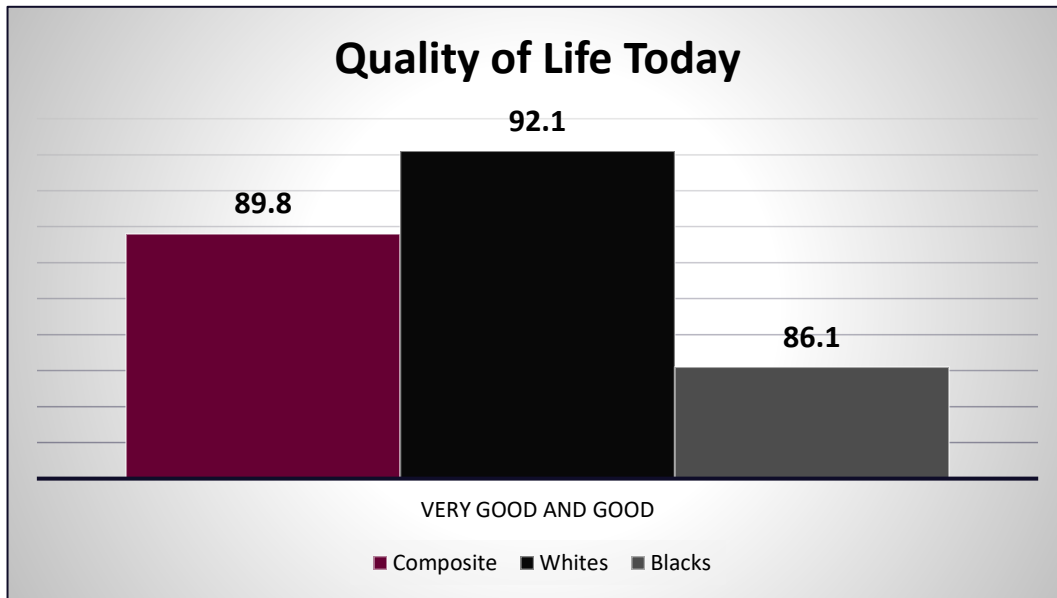
Quality of Life	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Very good	28.5	30.8	24.7
Good	61.3	61.4	61.4
Poor	6.2	5.3	6.6
Very poor	2.4	1.5	4.8
Unsure	1.6	1.1	2.4

Respondents were asked about race relations in their own community/neighborhood over the past ten years. Each was asked if relations had improved, remained the same and good, remained the same and poor or declined. Results are presented in the following graph and table.
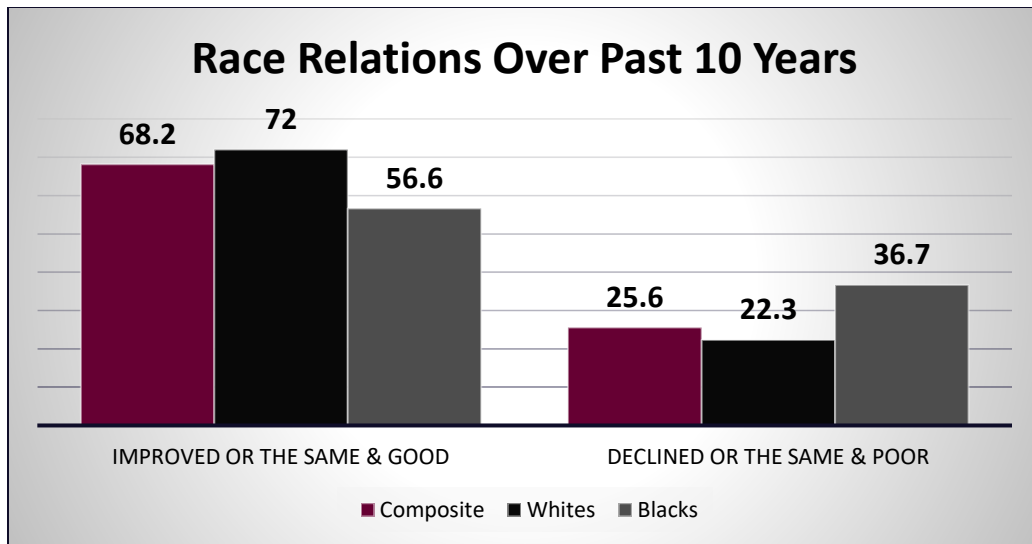
Race Relations Over Past Ten Years	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Improved	23.7	26.5	13.9
The same but good	44.5	45.4	42.8
The same but poor	17.9	15.7	24.7
Declined	7.7	6.6	12.0
Unsure	6.2	6.7	6.6

POLICING

Seven statements related to policing were presented to respondents. For each statement, respondents were asked to indicate if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed. The following table holds the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing with each statement. Results are displayed in declining order by agreement.

Statements	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Law enforcement officers should treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly	95.5	97.5	90.4
Police departments in the tri-county area need to develop programs in collaboration with their black community in order to build trust and confidence	82.7	81.3	87.3
Even if effective, police departments must stop racial profiling	81.7	77.9	89.8
The sentencing in 2017 of Michael Slager, a North Charleston white police officer, to 20 years in prison for shooting and killing Walter Scott, a black man, has been resolved to my satisfaction	53.2	52.0	57.2
Most law enforcement officers racially profile when deciding to stop motorists	48.8	40.6	73.5
Law enforcement officers in the tri-county area treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly*	44.3	46.5	32.5
I have, or I know someone who has, experienced abuse by police officers*	40.6	33.1	57.8

Note: *In a 2018 Saint Leo University national poll, 40.7% strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement: "I have, or I know someone who has, experienced abuse by police officers".

Similarly, in the same 2018 Saint Leo national poll, 45.6% strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement: "Law enforcement officers treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly". The Forum question wording included: "…in the tri-county area".

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The survey included questions about trust and confidence in police officers and the judicial system in the tri-county area. In three areas, respondents rated their own trust and confidence using a scale of one to ten where one was very strong trust and ten represented no trust at all.

The following table includes the cumulative totals for strong trust (ratings of one through four) as well as the cumulative totals for little/no trust (ratings of seven through ten).

Trust and Confidence in…	Composite Strong Trust	Whites Strong Trust	Blacks Strong Trust	Composite Little/No Trust	Whites Little/No Trust	Blacks Little/No Trust
Trust in police officers	55.9	62.8	36.7	24.1	18.0	41.5
Trust in the judicial system including courts, prosecutors, and judges	38.2	42.5	24.7	32.1	27.6	47.0
Trust in juries to apply the law evenly regardless of race or ethnicity	38.2	42.3	25.3	32.1	26.5	47.5

In a 2018 Saint Leo University national poll, the same trust and confidence questions were posed. Results for ratings of one through four (strong trust) are displayed in the following table comparing tri-county results.

Trust and Confidence in…	Composite Tri-County Strong Trust	SLU National Poll Strong Trust
Trust in police officers	55.9	52.4
Trust in the judicial system including courts, prosecutors, and judges	38.2	44.5
Trust in juries to apply the law evenly regardless of race or ethnicity*	38.2	45.4

Note: *The Saint Leo University jury question was worded: "Trust in juries to do the right thing".

Two statements related to the criminal justice system were presented to respondents. Each was asked to indicate if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed for the two statements. The cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat agreeing are presented in the following table.

| Criminal Justice Statements	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
The criminal justice system should treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly	95.9	97.0	93.4
Because fines, fees, bail amounts, and time away from work impact lower income and some minority families disproportionately, these factors should be considered in any court decision	67.5	64.5	76.5

ENGAGEMENT / DIALOGUE

The survey explored each respondents' willingness to engage in constructive dialogue on improving racial relations. Large majorities of respondents reported a willingness to join in building bridges with other races as displayed in the following results.

A few statements were offered. Respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each. The cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing are presented in the following table.

Statements	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
I would be willing to join others in building bridges with other races and improve racial relations in our tri-county area	84.5	84.7	84.3
The tragic massacre at the Mother Emanuel A.M.E Church has helped bring our communities together	70.1	72.2	68.1
The majority of Americans, regardless of race, are interested in having race relations improve	79.6	82.6	68.7

Respondents were asked if they would be willing to volunteer for or donate to local not-for-profits dedicated to helping minorities and low-income families close gaps in education, economics and healthcare. Nearly two-thirds of all respondents, 62.8%, note a willingness to voluneer or donate. Results are displayed in the following graph and table.

Willingness to Volunteer or Donate or Both?
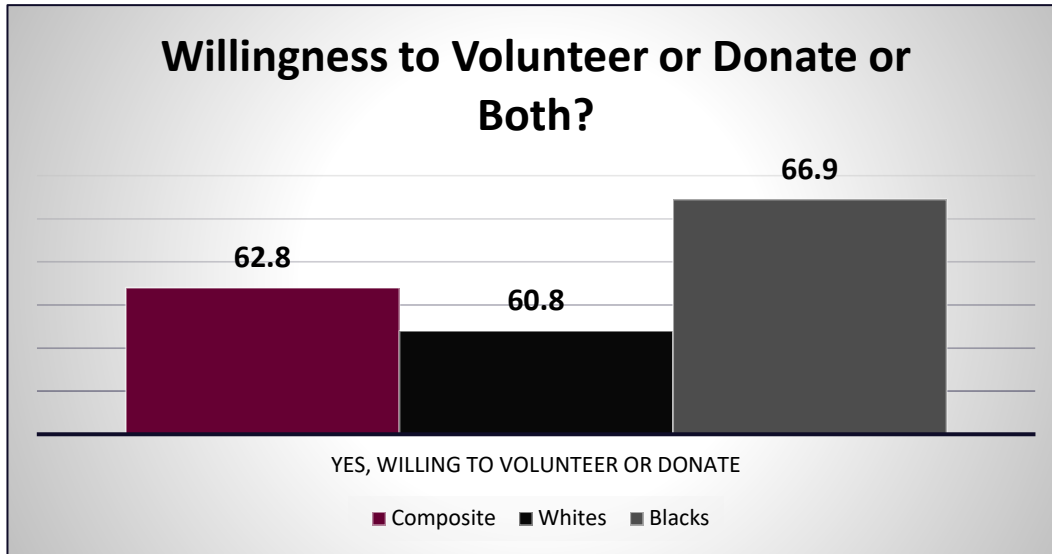
Willing to Volunteer or Donate?	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Yes, willing to volunteer	37.2	36.3	36.6
Yes, willing to donate	14.0	13.0	15.1
Yes, willing to volunteer and donate	11.6	11.5	13.3
No	12.9	13.2	10.8
Unsure	24.3	26.1	22.3

Awareness of The Charleston Forum was measured. Overall, while "hard awareness" was 4.5%, the cumulative total for very and somewhat aware was 18.6%. Results are displayed in the following table.

Awareness of The Charleston Forum?	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Very aware	4.5	3.4	6.0
Somewhat aware	14.0	11.0	22.3
Cumulative: Very & Somewhat Aware	18.6	14.4	28.3
Somewhat unaware	13.3	13.2	13.9
Not at all aware	64.3	69.6	52.4
Unsure	3.8	2.8	5.4

Majorities of respondents reported a willingness to attend a forum or conversation in or near their own community designed to engage residents in constructive dialogue on improving racial relations. Results are displayed in the following graph for the cumulative total of those strongly and somewhat likely to attend such a forum.
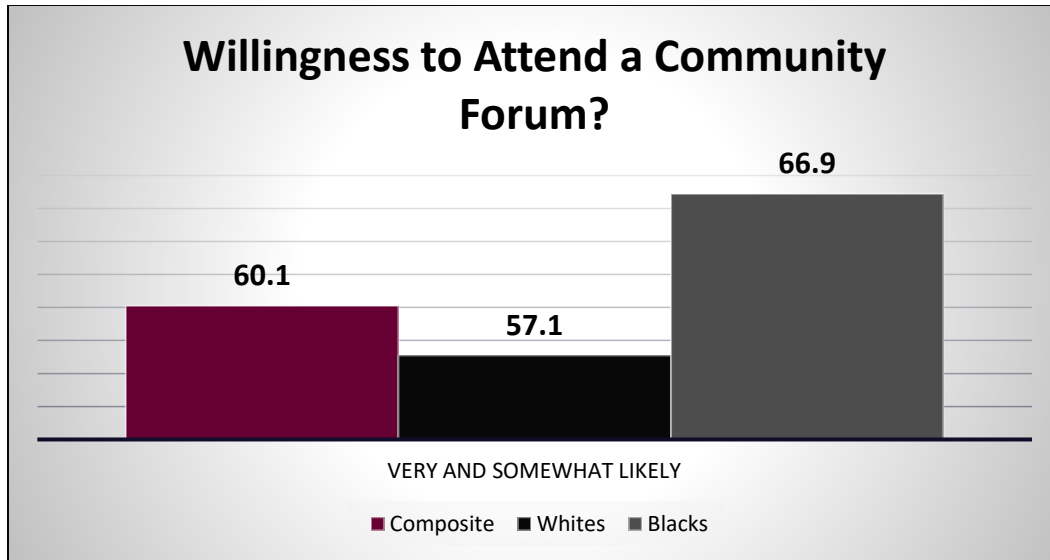
Those who reported being somewhat unlikely or not at all likely to attend such a forum were asked to name the reasons. The following table presents the results in declining order by frequency of mention on a composite basis.

Reasons for Not Attending	Composite	Whites	Blacks
I don't like interacting with people I really don't know well	36.2	40.9	22.2
I don't like confrontation	33.3	33.6	25.9
My work or family commitments	27.7	29.2	11.1
I really don't know enough about race relations to offer any help	20.9	20.4	25.9
Differing views are sometimes considered racist	18.6	21.9	3.7
I don't see race relations as a problem in our community	18.1	17.5	22.2
I would not have anything to offer	16.4	15.3	18.5
Transportation is an issue for me	14.7	9.5	37.0
I am not sure I would trust the moderators or sponsors	14.7	16.1	7.4
I am not comfortable talking about race	11.3	10.9	14.8
Nothing good will come of a community conversation about race relations	10.2	9.5	18.5
None of these	6.2	5.1	11.1
Other	5.1	4.4	3.7
I would not be comfortable with those of another race	1.1	1.5	---

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES / JOB DISCRIMINATION

Respondents were presented with a few systems or programs in the tri-county area. Respondents were asked to use a scale of one to ten to rate how well they believed each system/program was working. One represented working very well while ten represented the system/program was completely broken.

The following table presents the cumulative totals for "working well" or ratings of one through four as well as "broken" or ratings of seven through ten.

Systems in our Tri-County Area	Composite: Working Well	Whites: Working Well	Blacks: Working Well	Composite: Broken	Whites: Broken	Blacks: Broken
Employment/wages*	31.1*	34.0	20.5	34.5*	32.8	39.7
Affirmative Action efforts	22.7	25.1	11.4	26.4	21.0	31.9
Programs to invest in minority communities	23.0	25.9	12.7	32.6	27.1	46.9

Note: *In a 2018 national Jackson State University poll, 26.0% indicated "Employment / Wages" was working well, while 43.5% noted the same was broken.

On jobs and economics, respondents were presented with several statements and asked to indicate if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed. The following table presents the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing. Results are displayed in declining order by composite data.

Statements	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
Job opportunities should be equally available to qualified candidates – black or white	94.9	97.5	88.0
Business opportunities should be equally available to qualified entrepreneurs -- black or white	92.9	95.5	84.9
Lower average incomes in black communities in our tri-county area need to be addressed	78.9	78.3	81.3
Qualified black applicants have as good a chance as white applicants to get any kind of job in the tri-county area	59.7	65.0	44.0
Blacks do have as good a chance as whites to start a successful business	59.3	62.2	50.0

HOUSING

Respondents were presented with several statements related to housing. Respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each statement. The cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat agree are presented in the following table.

Statements	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
Black residents have the right to live in any neighborhood they can afford	95.5	96.6	92.2
Economic pressures are one of the causes black residents are having to move out of certain neighborhoods	65.8	62.6	73.6
We have sufficient affordable housing in the tri-county area	26.2	25.9	20.5

Regarding choice on where people choose to live, respondents were asked which of three statements best reflected their own personal view. Results are displayed in the following table.

Statement	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
Individual choice and market forces, exclusively, should determine who lives in certain communities	39.1	46.7	15.7
The government should play a role in maintaining racial balance in our communities	11.1	6.6	22.9
Both market forces and some limited government involvement is required to maintain racial balance in our communities	33.3	30.1	44.0
Unsure	16.5	16.6	17.5

EDUCATION / SCHOOLS

The survey included questions on education and public schools. Respondents offered opinions and views through seven statements on education.

For each statement, respondents indicated if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed. The cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat agree are displayed in the following table. Results are displayed in declining order by agreement on a composite basis.

Statements	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
White and black children deserve the same opportunity to earn a quality education as children of another race	95.3	97.0	90.4
Children of any race, in need of extra educational support, should be provided that support	92.6	94.7	86.1
Students can only receive a quality education if parents stress the importance of, and are engaged in, the education of their children	83.1	86.0	74.7
Public schools in our tri-county area should be integrated	74.2	76.4	69.9
White and black kids do have equal opportunities to get a quality education today in our tri-county area	54.3	58.4	39.8
Failing schools should be shut down and merged into successful schools	44.7	44.8	42.8
Schools in our tri-county area are sufficiently integrated	44.3	46.5	35.5

Respondents were presented with the following question: **"Please think about underperforming schools in the poorer areas of our communities for a moment. Which of the following best reflects your opinion about the financial resources, per student, these schools receive compared to schools in more affluent areas?"**

The largest group of respondents, on a composite basis, believed underperforming schools received significantly fewer financial resources per student when compared to schools in more affluent areas.

Underperforming schools receive…	Composite:	Whites:	Blacks:
Significantly fewer financial resources per student	32.5	28.0	44.6
Somewhat fewer financial resources per student	16.7	19.1	12.7
The same financial resources per student	12.2	10.6	15.7
Somewhat more in financial resources per student	7.9	9.1	4.2
Significantly more in financial resources per student	5.1	5.9	3.0
Unsure/Don't know	25.5	27.2	19.9

The condition of the tri-county educational systems was rated by respondents using a ten-point scale where one represented "working very well" and ten represented "completely broken". The following table holds the cumulative totals for "working well" (ratings of one through four) and "completely broken" (ratings of seven through ten).

System	Composite: Working Well	Whites: Working Well	Blacks: Working Well	Composite: Broken	Whites: Broken	Blacks: Broken
Our tri-county educational systems	27.0	29.7	18.1	35.7	32.8	44.5

A list of reasons some schools may be failing or not successful was presented to survey respondents. Each was asked which of these, if any, they believed were the primary reasons for failed schools. Multiple responses were accepted. Results are displayed in declining order on a composite basis.

Reasons for Failing Schools	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Lack of parental support	72.3	75.2	65.1
Lack of funding	61.8	58.6	74.7
Lack of good teaching/teachers	53.9	49.9	66.9
Lack of family partnerships – collaboration with teachers	53.2	56.3	46.4
Poor administration	51.5	49.9	57.8
Lack of discipline in schools	45.1	48.8	38.0
Lack of empathy for students among teachers / administrators	36.7	31.8	54.8
Lack of holistic education – meeting the needs of the whole student	36.2	33.1	46.4
Lack of extra time in school – starting at 3 & 4 years old	22.8	21.2	26.5
Unsure	5.1	4.5	6.6

Majorities of respondents, at least in two areas of education, would be willing to pay more in taxes to support. The following table presents the areas and the percentage of survey respondents willing to pay more in taxes to support. Multiple responses were accepted. The table is presented in declining order on a composite basis.

Willing to pay more in taxes for…	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Higher pay for teachers and principals	57.0	59.4	51.2
Programs to engage parents to effectively support their child's / children's education	51.1	47.3	63.3
After-school programming	44.7	37.2	64.5
Early childhood education	42.3	40.6	51.8
None of these	10.1	11.3	7.8
Unsure	9.9	10.8	6.0

SYMBOLS & CLUBS

Symbols and clubs were explored in the final survey section. Several statements related to symbols and clubs were presented to survey respondents. Each was asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed, or strongly disagreed.

The cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing are presented in the following table. The table is displayed in declining order by frequency of mention on a composite basis.

Statements on Symbols & Clubs	Composite: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Whites: Strongly & Somewhat Agree	Blacks: Strongly & Somewhat Agree
Private groups/clubs that exclude based on race are, indeed, prejudiced	69.2	70.5	65.7
The confederate flag should be removed from all state government property within South Carolina except museums	58.0	52.4	81.3
Over time, social and economic pressures of our area will change the organizations that currently exclude members of different races	57.3	58.0	56.6
In general, South Carolina communities should move to remove controversial statues and public displays of historical figures	42.3	35.0	65.1
Some communities in the tri-county area are going too far, too fast in addressing controversial statues and public displays of historical figures	41.3	46.1	24.7
Private groups/clubs have a right to determine their own membership even if that excludes based on race	39.4	39.1	36.7
Our tri-county communities are responsibly and reasonably addressing the issue of controversial statues and public displays of historic figures	36.2	31.8	46.4

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following are demographics collected among survey respondents. Demographic information allows a view of survey results by various subgroups.

Party Affiliation	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Republican	27.0	35.5	3.6
Democrat	34.2	26.3	59.0
Unaffiliated or independent	26.0	28.9	16.3
Member of some other party	1.0	1.1	1.2
Prefer not to answer	5.2	4.5	4.2
Unsure	6.7	3.8	15.7

Religious Affiliation	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Catholic	12.5	13.0	2.4
Protestant (Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian)	25.4	28.5	22.9
Christian (non-denominational)	25.8	21.9	38.0
Greek Orthodox	0.1	0.2	0.6
Jewish	2.3	3.2	---
Buddhist	0.6	0.6	---
Muslim	1.0	0.4	2.4
Latter Day Saint / Mormon	0.1	0.2	---
Other	6.7	4.7	10.8
No preference / no religious affiliation	23.1	25.9	17.5
Don't know / unsure	2.4	1.5	5.4

Age	Composite	Whites	Blacks
18 - 25	19.9	15.1	30.7
26 – 35	19.4	18.9	22.3
36 – 45	16.6	15.7	15.1
46 – 55	15.6	17.8	11.4
56 – 65	13.2	14.4	11.4
66 or older	14.9	17.8	9.0
Prefer not to answer	0.4	0.2	---

Total Family Income Before Taxes	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Under $20,000	17.6	11.7	34.3
$20,000 to less than $30,000	10.4	10.4	12.0
$30,000 to less than $40,000	12.5	11.5	15.7
$40,000 to less than $50,000	7.0	5.7	8.4
$50,000 to less than $60,000	8.4	9.3	4.8
$60,000 to less than $75,000	9.2	11.5	3.0
$75,000 to less than $100,000	14.2	15.3	12.0
$100,000 to less than $200,000	13.0	15.1	6.6
$200,000 or more	1.1	1.7	---
Unsure	1.3	1.3	0.6
Prefer not to answer	5.4	6.6	2.4

Have Children Under 18 Years Living at Home	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Yes	28.7	27.8	29.5

Hispanic?	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Yes	5.0	---	---

Race	Composite	Whites	Blacks
White	66.8	100.0	---
Black or African American	23.5	---	100.0
Asian	0.9	---	---
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.3	---	---
American Indian or Alaska native	0.9	---	---
Other	1.0	---	---

Education	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Did not graduate from high school	4.3	2.3	9.0
High school graduate or GED	18.9	14.9	29.5
Career credential or certificate	4.3	4.5	3.6
Associate degree	10.4	11.5	7.8
Some college	25.0	24.8	28.9
College graduate	25.1	28.2	14.5
Postgraduate or professional degree	12.2	13.8	6.6

Gender	Composite	Whites	Blacks
Male	46.8	49.7	48.8
Female	52.5	49.9	51.2
Other	0.7	0.4	---

INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey are presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the "Other" code.

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.