S.M.A.R.T Determination Process

Why has SMART chosen certain key urban cities? We cross-referenced cities where shootings have occurred since the beginning of 2020 with key races that impact the criminal justice system in these cities. We looked at prosecutors, DAs, mayors, judges, county attorneys, sheriffs, police commissioners etc. We thought this would be in alignment with SMART'S mission and one of SMART'S goal: Criminal Justice and Policing Reform.

The data regarding the shootings was obtained from the Washington Post database https://github.com/washingtonpost/data-police-shootings containing records of every fatal shooting in the United States by a police officer in the line of duty since January 1, 2015. To date, 5,652 people of all races have been shot and killed by police since January 1, 2015. We chose Black and Latinx people from this database. Our review was not exhaustive.

Unlike our review for LA County, we are only presenting candidates who have committed to criminal justice and policing reform. Links have been provided and, in most cases, will also provide the name of the candidate's opponent. We determined which candidate to endorse by reading their positions on the issues as expressed on their campaign websites and on Ballotpedia https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page The criteria consisted of whether or not they spoke to SMART's core issues, Racial Justice and Criminal Justice Reform, The Voting Rights Act, and strategies to reform policing.. In some cases, the candidate's previous stand on issues, along with their voting records, seniority and experience, as well as independent media, had a significant influence over our choice.

We hope to extend our research of key urban centers over the coming weeks.