

# “We really protested”: The Influence of Sociopolitical Beliefs, Political Self-efficacy, and Campus Racial Climate on Civic Engagement among Black Students attending PWIs (Leath & Chavous)



## OVERVIEW

We've seen a surge of protest and social action among Black students attending predominantly White institutions (PWIs) in response to their interpersonal and institutional experiences of racism and inequality on campus - demonstrating that Black students are invested in challenging campus culture and pushing for a more racially diverse and inclusive environment.

## KEY CONSTRUCTS

**What is civic engagement?** - actions that individuals take to improve the lives of others and influence the futures of their communities, like community service or voting

**What is political efficacy?** - individual's belief in their ability to affect social change



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Higher political self-efficacy related to more civic engagement behaviors over time.
- Black women who perceived more racial stigma on campus engaged in more civic engagement.
- Black men who had a stronger belief in a just world + a stronger sense of political self-efficacy, were more involved on campus.



## MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Race-related campaigns among Black students across the nation (e.g., #BBUM, I, Too, Am Harvard, etc.) can reflect transformational forms of participatory resistance and lends support to prior research on political agency as a promotive component of civic participation.

A critical understanding of how inequitable race relations function within a context, in this case, their university context, may spur Black women to try and effect positive change through civic engagement on campus.

## NEXT STEPS

- **Listen** to Black students about their campus-related concerns
- Provide **programmatic supports** specifically for Black students and other students of color
- Facilitate **intercultural dialogue** around social justice and activism in today's political climate



## OTHER SOURCES

### Teaching Tolerance

- Digital Literacy and Youth Civic Engagement
- The Black Lives Matter Movement Goes Beyond Black and White
- Black Students and Educators at Confederate-Named Schools

**Can be found at [tolerance.org](http://tolerance.org)**