

Racial Impact Law

A Comparative Analysis Washington vs. Texas

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A racial impact law is a tool that lawmakers use before adopting and implementing laws to assess the likelihood of disparities occurring under the proposed legislation. They help in detecting unforeseen policy consequences. Washington and Texas are among the states with some racial impact laws to help fight against racial discrimination. For Texas, they imposed the critical race theory where each public high school is required to have one teacher and one administrator have civic learning that will help in reducing the increased rate of racial segregation in schools. In Washington, through the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD), Chapter 49.60 RCW law, they have reduced racial disparities, especially at the workplaces, despite the person's sex, religion, ethnicity, religion, or color. They have gone further to implement laws that hinder discrimination on hair color from ensuring fairness and equality within the state. These states have racial demographics where the Whites have dominated in both states. Other groups are represented within the states, thus the need for racial impact laws to ensure there is mitigation of discrimination of the minority groups. The racial impact laws apply to both states but differently depending on the legislature of that specific state. The racial impact laws have not been effective enough. Thus the legislation of the states and the federal government should engage in more research to ensure the existing racial discrimination across the country has been eradicated. The government should involve the public by teaching them civic education to make it easy to eliminate racial segregation.

Keywords: racial impact law; Washington Law Against Discrimination, Texas Workforce Commission

Introduction

Racially disparate legislation is evaluated before it is adopted and implemented through racial impact statements (Benthall & Haynes, 2019). Like fiscal impact statements, they aid legislators in spotting policy ramifications that may not have been anticipated. If this happens, legislators will have the opportunity to make changes that would mitigate the current racial disparities. A policy's unintended consequences must be addressed before it is implemented because it is more complicated than it appears to avert sentencing policy ideas once they are in place (Benthall & Haynes, 2019). The racial laws are intended to intentionally discriminate the minority groups where one is supposed to show the photo identification issued by the government before they cast their ballots. However, these laws have various impacts on the voters as they may reduce the turnout if the voters have no appropriate documentation. This paper will discuss the racial impact law and racial demographics of Washington and Texas.

Research Intent

To conduct a Comparative Analysis of the racial impact laws between the states of Washington vs. Texas.

Purposes Statement

The paper extensively explores the current racial impact laws between Washington and Texas. I am researching public access laws regarding important legislative statutes and policies. The research compares the racial demographics of the two states while illustrating the pros and cons of each state's implementation of the racial impact laws. To reveal which states physical actions through a policy practice could be characterized as successful compared to another state. Finally, to conduct a comparative analysis of each state's racial impact laws and, based on processed analytical data, make a scholarly recommendation to reduce racial segregation.

Racial Impact Law of Washington and Texas States

The In Texas, a law requires one administrator on campus and one teacher to undertake civic training and should be implemented before the school year of 2025-26. As a result of a recent law, a teacher may not be obliged to address a hotly debated and current public policy or social issue (Benthall & Haynes, 2019). Defining what constitutes a "controversial issue" is beyond the scope of the law. As long as these topics are discussed, the teacher must do so objectively and without political bias. Each school district must also send a minimum of one campus administrator and one teacher to a civics learning program to teach about racism and race in Texas schools. The training will be about how the teachers will say and how they deal with the class designing it. They are taught how they might deal with sensitive issues on gender and race, sexism, and identity within the classrooms (Barreto et al., 2019). Critical race theory asserts that racism permeates the legal system and is not confined to the actions of a single person. It is a university-level academic study. However, conservatives have adopted the phrase "something about race learned or discussed in government high schools" as a catch-all term for any discussion of race in the classroom. In Washington, the state court struck down the Texas law that obligated the electorates to show their photo identification issued by the government before casting the ballots (Benthall & Haynes, 2019). This law restricted minority groups from exercising their rights to vote. The court made a rule that such restrictions should be abolished to ensure that American citizens exercise their rights to vote. This helps secure the minority groups to exercise their rights and mitigate the causes of discrimination.

Racial Demographics of Washington and Texas States

After the recent census, the population in Washington had increased by almost 1 million. The population in Washington is 7.4% of the entire country's population which is 331.4 million. This represents an increase in population from the previous census. However, there are disparities in racial population within the country and Washington. White alone 61.6 percent; Black alone 12.4 percent; Hispanic 18.7 percent; Asian alone 6 percent while American Indian and Alaska Native represent 1.1 percent. Other Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian make up 0.2 percent; Some Other Race alone 8.4 percent; Two or Extra Races 10.2 percent (Barreto et al., 2019). The diversity index increased from 54.9 percent to 61.1%. This result shows that there has been an increase in population for almost all races. Texas has been experiencing population increase across racial groups, making it the second most populated state in the nation. Based on the recent census, the Whites form the most significant part of the population with 73.97 percent, followed by Black Americans at 12.13 percent. Other races represent 5.82 percent, while Asians represent 4.8 percent (Barreto et al., 2019). Two or more races form the 2.69 percent; Native Americans represent 0.5 percent, and native Hawaiian form 0.09 percent of the entire population in the state.

Pro's vs. Con's Illustrates Washington State is Progressively Successful Regarding Racial Disparity

The Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD), Chapter 49.60 RCW law in Washington State has been strengthened to include provisions prohibiting racial discrimination based on hair color and citizenship status. In Washington and absent in Texas, there is initiative 200, a measure to end preferential treatment. The main goal of this initiative is to improve racial relations by enhancing fairness and equal treatment for each person in the diverse society irrespective of their national origin, race, color, sex, or ethnicity (Robles-Ramamurthy & Watson, 2019). In Texas, there is the critical race theory legislation that was approved to ensure they mitigate the cases of racial discrimination. Moreover, participation in civic activities such as political activism or lobbying of elected officials on a specific issue is not eligible for credit or extra credit (Monarrez & Washington, 2020). Only a handful of states have enacted laws that dictate how educators explain present actions and prevent learners from getting credit for engaging in civic activities.

Comparative Analysis

In Washington State, they have implemented the racial impact laws to help mitigate the causes of racial discrimination and enhance fairness and equality regardless of the person's sex, religion, race, national origin, and color. Though the Washington law against discrimination, the state has played a part in the fight against racial discrimination. The law goes further and expounds on racial discrimination based on hair (Monarrez & Washington, 2020). Because hairstyles can be altered, federal courts have ruled that hairstyles are not protected from discrimination. Because afros can only be achieved through extensive and often damaging procedures, the federal courts have decided to distinguish between them and protective hairstyles (Monarrez & Washington, 2020). In Texas, the Texas Workforce Commission protects the civil rights of workers. It protects them from discrimination based on race, relation, color, gender, or ethnicity. Also, the critical race theory aims to abolish racism within the states (Monarrez & Washington, 2020). According to critical race theory, our governing structures and institutions are rife with racism. Everything about it is a commonplace, and it has been instilled in the citizenry through the schooling, federal government, the media, and other systems in which citizens participate. Individuals must be punished, but structural and policy changes must combat racism. This will be an effective method to abolish racial discrimination.

Recommendation

The state legislature should ensure that the critical race theory has taken place soonest possible to mitigate racial segregation. They should also implement other bills where the public should be educated on the importance of enhancing fairness and equality and observing human rights (Dettlaff & Boyd, 2020). The state legislature should be the role model in ensuring that people follow their actions in mitigating the causes of racial discrimination. The state board of education should modify some portions of the social studies for civics education, which entails training the teachers to eliminate racial segregation. These actions will help the state government reduce racial segregation.

Conclusion

To sum up, the racial impact laws have played a significant role in ensuring education in cases of racial discrimination. Due to the strict laws, it makes people follow the rules, which helps reduce racial discrimination. However, racial discrimination has not yet been eradicated within the country; thus, the state and federal governments should research more racial impact laws to help solve this problem.

Author Contributions

I researched and wrote the discussion topic based on the ongoing social justice issues currently discussed within the criminal justice department. I explored this topic as a criminologist and advising board member. Mindfully so to progress the conversation to all people with the courage to discuss this sensitive yet critical topic.

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