



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

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STATEMENT FROM STATE TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN ON THE GUILTY VERDICT OUTCOMES IN THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

Hartford, CT – Please see the following statement from Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden in response to the guilty verdict outcomes in the trial of Derek Chauvin, charged with the murder of George Floyd.

“While today’s ruling will grant the Floyd family a small measure of the justice they deserve, it is an anomaly. For far too long, our justice system has offered inconsistent protections to the rampant killings of unarmed Black and Brown Americans by police officers.

As the father of two Black teenage young men, I have had the difficult but necessary “talk” about what to do in the event they are stopped by a police officer. It is a dreaded ritual for Black and Brown parents, but I never expected that my son, a runner, would ask if it was safe to jog while Black.

Sadly, it took a video to emerge publicly for Georgia’s criminal justice system to respond to the Ahmaud Arbery’s murder, and in the case of George Floyd’s killing, we saw the world respond in anguish, after watching the eight minutes and 46 seconds of video footage in which Derek Chauvin had his knee on Floyd’s neck, leading to his death. The world didn’t need to hear today’s verdict to know that what happened to George Floyd was wrong. The video was so powerful that it sparked a national racial reckoning, something I often refer to as our modern-day “Emmett Till” moment. A moment that led to half a million people in the United States peacefully protesting in nearly 550 places across our country on one given day last June.

This cannot just be a moment; it must be a movement for change. We know that change often takes time, especially change that requires the hard work of dismantling systemic bias in the criminal justice system. But, today’s verdict gives Americans a renewed sense of hope. As leaders, advocates and activists, we cannot rest until every single individual feels safe – safe while running in the case of Ahmaud Arbery, safe while driving with an air freshener in their car in the case of Dante Wright, safe while going to sleep in their own bed in the case of Breonna Taylor, safe while playing in the park in the case of Tamir Rice, safe while being pulled over for failing to signal a

lane change in the case of Sandra Bland, safe while walking in their neighborhood in the case of Trayvon Martin, and safe while being detained after leaving a grocery store in the case of George Floyd. The system has to change. It has to work for everyone.

Today is a reminder of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." However, it doesn't bend on its own. But, today, a jury of fellow Americans just bent that arc towards justice for all a little more. Today is a good day for America."

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Under the leadership of Connecticut's State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden, the Office of the Treasurer is dedicated to safeguarding the state's financial resources and taxpayers' dollars, while maximizing returns and minimizing risks for pension beneficiaries and operating at the highest professional and ethical standards. Through investments and cash management, the office continues to enhance the state's fiscal stability, financial literacy, college savings, and its approach to leveraging business partnerships to combat social issues such as gun violence, climate change, and equal opportunity for economic growth. Learn more about the Office of the Treasurer [here](#) and follow along on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).