

2014

Louisiana Survey 2014

LSU Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs

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**Manship School of
Mass Communication**
**Reilly Center For
Media & Public Affairs**



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SURVEY INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Louisiana Survey is to establish benchmarks and assess progress and regressions in residents' assessments of state government services. The Survey has been conducted annually since 2002, and was conducted twice in 2005 and 2006. Each survey includes core items designed to serve as barometers of public opinion including whether the state is moving in the right direction, identification of the most important issues facing the state, grades for various areas of government service, evaluations of state taxes, and identification of spending priorities. Each survey also includes items designed to better understand contemporary issues.

As part of an effort to assure that the Louisiana Survey fulfills its public service mission, input was solicited from a statewide Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee provided invaluable insight into the design of the questionnaire and in identifying the issues that the survey most needed to address. While we are indebted to the committee members for their time and contributions, they bear no responsibility for any mistakes in the questionnaire, analysis, or interpretation presented in this report. We also thank the Reilly Family Foundation for their generous support and vision in helping to create the Louisiana Survey.

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For more information on previous surveys, please visit: www.survey.lsu.edu.

**Manship School Research Facility
Public Policy Research Lab
Media Effects Lab**

The **Manship School's Research Facility** houses the **Public Policy Research Lab (PPRL)** and the **Media Effects Lab (MEL)**. The facility is part of the Manship School of Mass Communication and the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs. The **Public Policy Research Lab** is dedicated to quality public policy research through state-of-the-art survey technologies. It helps advance scholarly and practical research while playing a leadership role in state and national public policy development.

The Public Policy Research Lab (PPRL) is a joint effort between the LSU Manship School's Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs and the LSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Public Policy Research Lab offers a variety of research services including phone surveys, online surveys, mail surveys, in-person intercept surveys, and focus groups. We also provide social media monitoring and analysis via Radian6, and demographic mapping services via ArcGIS.

PPRL is primarily known for phone surveys. PPRL has 52 computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) workstations, and is one of the largest phone survey data-collection facilities in the Southeastern Conference. The lab is dedicated to meeting the unique goals and objectives of each project by working closely with those seeking data, research expertise and analysis.

Clients include: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals; Louisiana Department of Labor; Louisiana Division of Administration; University of Southern Mississippi; Louisiana Public Broadcasting; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; LSU Health Sciences Center; Baton Rouge Area Foundation; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The **Media Effects Lab** is one of the largest and most sophisticated of its kind within a mass communication program in the country. It is a state-of-the-art experimental lab equipped with 16 computer stations and a living room area for research in a more natural environment. Researchers can measure audiences' physical responses (heart rate, blood pressure, eye movement and brain activity) to various media messages as well as gather their attitudes toward those messages. Experiments and projects track people's responses to particular media content: what stimulates them; what doesn't; what images they pay attention to; which ones don't resonate. Specific software measures user interactivity and responses to news websites and social networking sites. Unconscious attitudes can also be measured. For example, one study looks at the effectiveness of product placement in television dramas by using the heart rate as a measure of attention. This enables researchers to connect the individual's involvement with the content, the product and the people using the product.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BY REPORT SECTION

Survey Methodology

About the Survey: The 2014 Louisiana Survey includes a traditional landline telephone survey combined with a survey of Louisiana cell phone users. The results are weighted to reflect current population demographics as reflected in the most recently available Census data (see Table 1 at the end of the Executive Summary on page 8). The combined survey includes 1095 respondents, including 571 respondents selected from landline telephone numbers via random-digit dialing and 524 respondents selected from available cell phone blocks. Interviews were conducted from February 4 to February 24, 2014. The overall survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percentage points. The response rate for the landline portion of the survey was 9 percent, meaning that 9 percent of calls to eligible households resulted in a completed interview. The response rate for the cell phone survey was also 9 percent. Response rates for surveys have been consistently declining over the past several decades and these response rates are within the range of what national survey organizations such as the Pew Center for the People and the Press and Gallup have reported.

State of the State

- Forty-four percent of Louisiana residents say the state is headed in the wrong direction, down 8 points (from 52) in 2013. There has been little movement from last year in the number of respondents who believe the state is heading in the right direction; only 41 percent of residents say the state is headed in the right direction.
 - Residents in Southwest Louisiana and in the Northshore and surrounding parishes are most optimistic about the direction of the state. We also see significant differences by gender, race, and partisanship with whites, males, and Republican residents most positive about the state's direction.
- Nearly 3 out of 10 residents (29 percent) say that "Education" is the biggest problem facing the state. This is the first time since 2008 that more Louisiana residents identified education, rather than the economy, as the state's most pressing problem.
 - Over the past year, the number of residents identifying education as the most important issue increased by 9 points from 20 to 29 percent while the number identifying the economy decreased slightly from 25 percent to 23 percent.
 - Unlike the rest of the state, New Orleans residents believe crime rivals education and the economy as the public's top concern. Sixteen percent of respondents cite crime as the most important problem, more than double that of any other area.
- Nearly 2 out of 5 (36 percent) residents have confidence that state government will effectively address the most important problem facing the state. Since 2009, confidence that state government will address the most important issues has declined by 28 points from 64 percent to 36 percent.

Economic Evaluations

- Thirty-two percent of residents said the Louisiana economy was doing better than the national economy and 26 percent said the Louisiana economy was doing better than other states in the southern region.

- This is strange as Louisiana's unemployment continues to be below national and regional averages, yet Louisiana residents generally do not perceive the Louisiana economy as stronger than the national or regional economies.
- Louisiana residents are more positive about state business conditions. Twenty-six percent of residents say state business conditions have gotten better over the past year. This is up from 19 percent in 2013.
- Three out of four (74 percent) of Louisiana residents (and 55 percent of Republicans) support increasing the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour.

Taxes & Spending

- Forty-three percent of residents believe state sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced.
- Thirty-eight percent believe state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced. A majority of Louisiana residents – 55 percent – believe tax incentives are a good idea for attracting new business or encouraging existing businesses to expand.
- Louisiana residents support more government spending in several areas:
 - 80 percent of residents support increasing spending on primary and secondary education.
 - 74 percent on higher education.
 - 69 percent on roads and infrastructure.
 - 68 percent on economic development.
 - 57 percent on health care.
- Only 1 out of 5 residents (22 percent) support more spending on social assistance programs such as welfare.
- Only 1 out of 5 residents (19 percent) support more spending on prisons.

Education and the Common Core

- Only 1 out of 5 Louisiana residents give Louisiana's public schools an A or a B on a standard A, B, C, D, F scale.
 - For reference, in 2011 1 out of 3 (33 percent) residents gave the public schools an A or B.
- Fifty-three percent of residents in the Northshore and surrounding parishes give the schools in their local community an A or B, compared to 26 percent in the Orleans region.
- Nearly 1 out of 2 Louisiana residents have not heard of the Common Core. Forty-eight percent of residents said they were not very or not at all familiar with the Common Core.
- Nearly 1 out of 4 (24 percent) residents say the Common Core is too demanding, 24 percent say it is about right and 25 percent say it is not demanding enough.
- Forty-eight percent of residents said they are very or somewhat confident the Common Core will ensure students are college or career ready, while 35 percent said they were not very or not at all confident.
 - People who are more familiar with the Common Core are more likely to say the standards are too demanding and that the Common Core will not make students more college or career ready. Forty-five percent of residents who say they are very familiar with the Common Core say it is too demanding and 55 percent say of these residents say they are not very or not all confident the Common Core will make students more college or career ready.

Higher Education

- Nearly 3 out of 4 (72 percent) of residents say they would support a small increase in the sales tax if the additional money went to higher education.
 - Seventy-four percent of Louisiana residents say spending on higher education should be increased when asked a general question only about state spending priorities.
- Nearly 3 out of 5 residents (59 percent) said they oppose giving state colleges and universities tuition authority, 33 percent support the proposal, and 7 percent were unsure or didn't know.
- Louisiana residents reject the idea of reducing the total amount qualified students receive for TOPS by a 74-22 margin; however, 54 percent of residents support increasing academic requirements while 49 percent support providing a flat monetary award.

Health Care:

- The majority of Louisiana residents have negative views on the Affordable Care Act, in regard to cost, quality, and overall opinion.
- Nearly 3 out of 5 (58 percent) Louisiana residents have an unfavorable view of the Affordable Care Act, 31 percent have a favorable view, and 11 percent don't know or are unsure.
- Two out of five (39 percent) Louisiana residents believe the ACA will reduce the overall quality of health care while only 14 percent of residents believe it will improve quality.
- Additionally more than 1 out of 2 (55 percent) residents believe the ACA will make their health care insurance more expensive. Only 7 percent believe it will make their health insurance less expensive, and 1 in 3 residents (33 percent) believe it won't make much difference.

Social Issues:

- *Race Relations:* A majority of Louisiana residents – 54 percent – believe that some groups in Louisiana are advantaged because of their race while 42 percent believe everyone has a fair chance.
 - These perceptions are sharply divided by race: 75 percent of African-Americans believe some groups are advantaged because of race compared to 43 percent of white residents.
- *Political Influence:* An overwhelming majority of Louisiana residents – 78 percent – believe that campaign contributors have more influence over the political process than citizens.
 - Seventy-one percent support requiring donors to disclose their occupation.
- *Crime:* Sixty-two percent of Louisiana residents believe that crime is increasing in the state and 47 percent believe that crime is increasing in their local community.
- *Sentencing Reform:* Louisiana residents overwhelming support – by a 72-22 margin – reducing sentences for people convicted of non-violent crimes.
- *Same Sex Marriage and Civil Unions:* Support for same sex marriage increased from 39 to 42 percent over the past year while support for civil unions increased from 47 to 50 percent.
 - *A Washington Post ABC-News poll in Feb. 2014 reported national support for gay marriage as 59 percent.*
- *Legalizing Marijuana:* Louisiana residents endorse legalizing medical marijuana - by a 79-19 margin - but continue to oppose legalization for personal use.
 - Forty-four percent of Louisiana residents support legalizing marijuana for personal use while 54 percent are opposed.

- *Restricting Firearms:* Louisiana residents might support some tighter restrictions on firearms access, but oppose a ban on assault weapons. Fifty-five percent of residents said they support stricter statewide restrictions on access to firearms while 43 percent were opposed. Fifty-four percent, however, oppose a statewide ban on assault weapons.
- *Vaccinations:* While Louisiana residents overwhelmingly recognize that the health benefits of vaccinations outweigh the risks, a substantial minority (25 percent) either believe vaccinations are more dangerous than the diseases they are designed to prevent (14 percent) or are unsure (11 percent).
- *Climate Change:* Sixty-percent of Louisiana residents say the world's temperatures have probably been going up over the past 100 years, but only half of those same respondents believe the change is due to human activity.
- *Tort Reform:* Sixty-four percent of Louisiana residents believe there should be limits on the amount of damages a plaintiff can seek in a case, and 50 percent believe that at least some businesses avoid Louisiana over concerns about the legal environment.

Census Population and Weighted Sample

In Table 1, we present the basic demographics for the population and the weighted sample. As part of the analysis, we examined crosstabs on age, race, education, income, and partisan affiliation on each of the substantive questions included in the report but present only the crosstabs that are statistically significant and substantively interesting. A full set of crosstabs is available on request.

Table 1: Comparison of Census Population Estimates and Louisiana Survey Weighted Survey Sample Estimates

| | Census Population | Louisiana Survey 2014 Weighted |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Estimate | Sample Estimate |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 49.2 | 48.3 |
| Female | 50.8 | 51.7 |
| Race | | |
| White | 63.6 | 60.9 |
| Black | 29.1 | 30.6 |
| Other | 7.3 | 8.6 |
| Age | | |
| 18-24 | 13.0 | 13.7 |
| 25-34 | 17.5 | 18.7 |
| 35-44 | 17.6 | 16.1 |
| 45-54 | 19.0 | 18.2 |
| 55-64 | 15.6 | 16.3 |
| 65 and older | 17.3 | 17.1 |
| Education | | |
| Less than High School | 14.2 | 9.0 |
| High School | 28.2 | 22.6 |
| Some College | 29.0 | 32.2 |
| College | 28.5 | 35.9 |
| Income | | |
| Less than \$10,000 | 10.4 | 10.5 |
| \$10,000 - \$19,999 | 14.1 | 12.2 |
| \$20,000 - \$29,999 | 12.2 | 10.6 |
| \$30,000 - \$39,999 | 10.9 | 10.6 |
| \$40,000 - 49,999 | 9.5 | 9.1 |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999 | 17.2 | 16.2 |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999 | 10.7 | 12.0 |
| \$100,000-\$199,999 | 12.3 | 14.1 |
| \$200,000 or more | 2.7 | 4.8 |

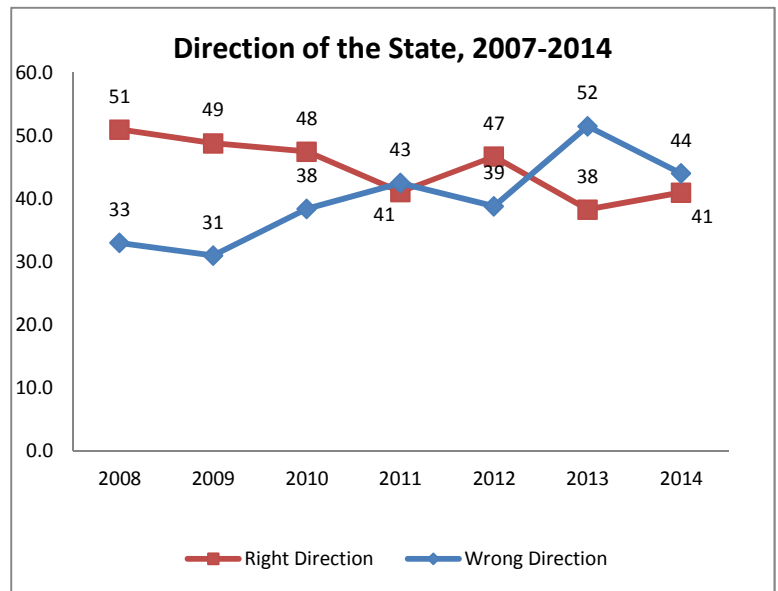
Chapter 1: The State of the State

I. Right Direction

Over the past year, the percentage of Louisiana residents saying the state was moving in the wrong direction declined by 8 points. Residents are not suddenly more positive about the direction of the state as the right direction number increased only slightly from 38 percent to 41 percent. The biggest shift was in the “don’t know” responses, which increased from 10 percent in 2013 to 15 percent in 2014. The best interpretation may be that there is increased uncertainty about the state’s direction relative to 2013.

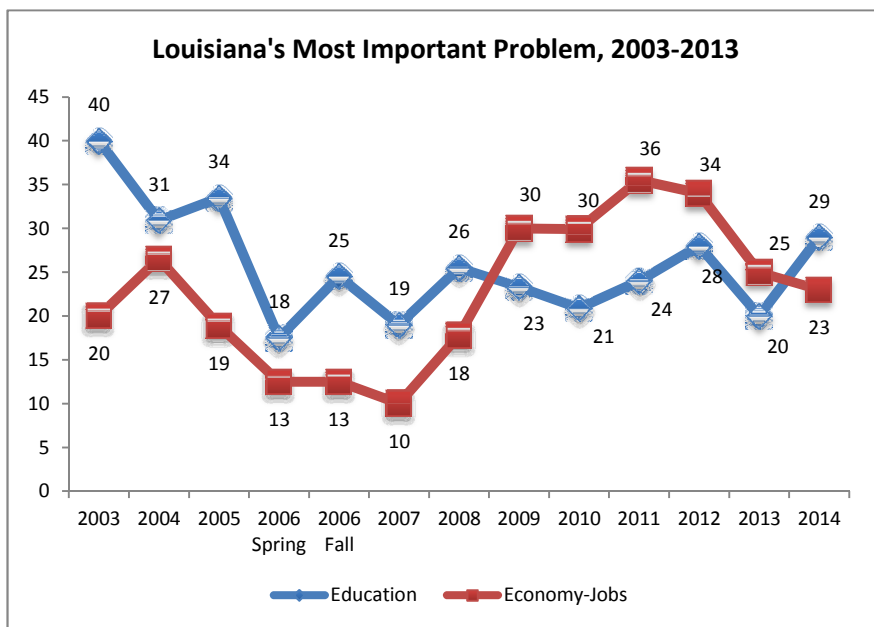
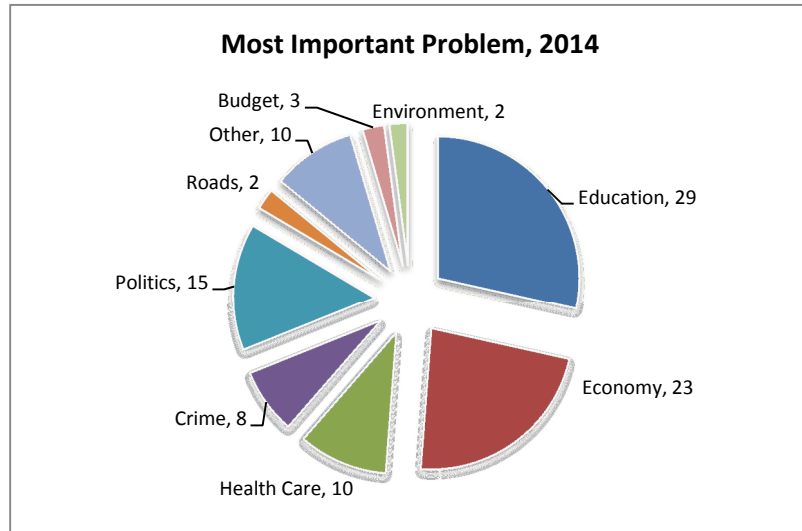
Regional differences emerge in these perceptions with residents in the Northshore and Southwest Louisiana most positive about the direction of the state. Forty-nine percent of Northshore residents and 47 percent of Southwest Louisiana residents said the state was heading in the right direction compared to 38 percent in Baton Rouge, 37 percent in North Louisiana and 37 percent in Orleans.

Men, Republicans, and wealthier residents are generally more positive. The gender gap on the right direction question is 12 points, with 47 percent of men compared to 35 percent of women saying the state is heading in the right direction. In terms of income, 1 in 2 residents earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000 say the state is heading in the right direction compared to slightly less than 1 in 4 residents earning between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Finally, partisanship colors perceptions of the state’s direction: 55 percent of Republicans compared to 37 percent of Democrats and 35 percent of Independents say the state is moving in the right direction.



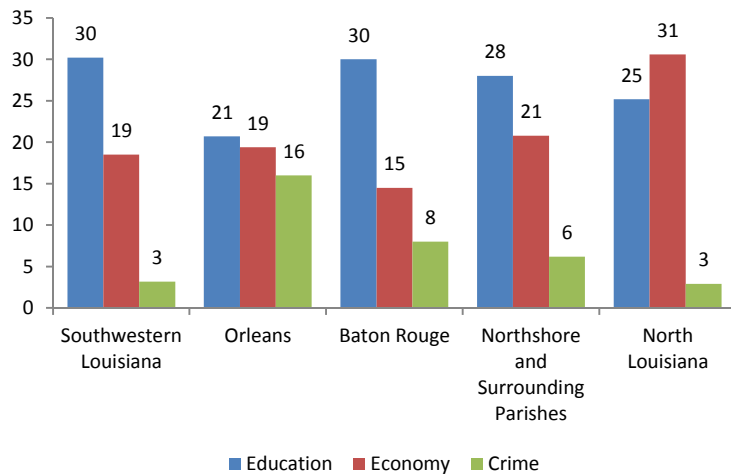
II. Most Important Problem

Respondents continue to cite education and the economy as Louisiana's most important problems. The percent of residents identifying education as the state's most pressing problem increased by 9-points relative to 2013, while concern about the economy declined slightly from 25 percent to 23 percent. Since 2012, the percent of residents citing the economy as the state's most pressing problem has declined 11-points from 34 percent in 2012 to 23 percent in 2014.



For the first time since the 2008 Louisiana Survey, the number of residents citing education as the state's most important problem is greater than the number citing the economy. While the number of people who cite politics as a top concern increased only slightly relative to 2013 – increasing from 14 percent to 15 percent – it remains more than double the number who identified politics or government as a top concern in 2012 (7 percent).

Regional Differences in Most Important Problem



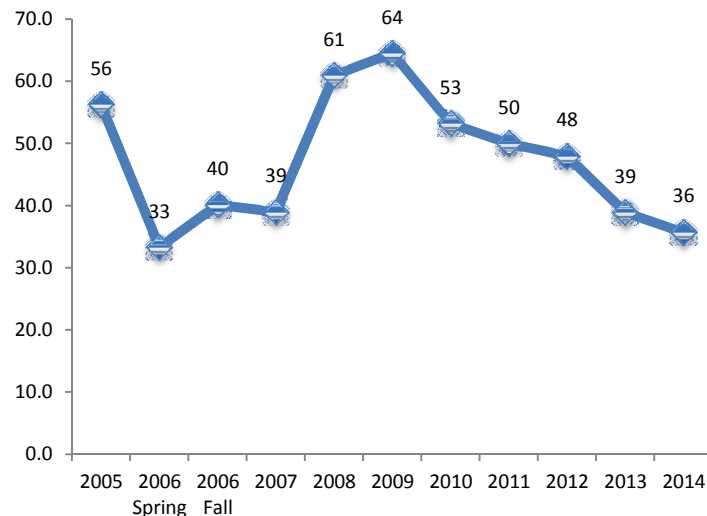
As in previous years, we also see notable regional differences. In Southwest Louisiana, the Northshore, and Baton Rouge, for example, residents express greater concern about education and less concern about the economy and crime. North Louisiana is the only region where more residents identified the economy and jobs as a more pressing concern than education. In New Orleans, concern about crime rivals concerns about education and the economy and is significantly greater than in any other region.

III. Confidence State Officials Will Effectively Address Most Important Problem

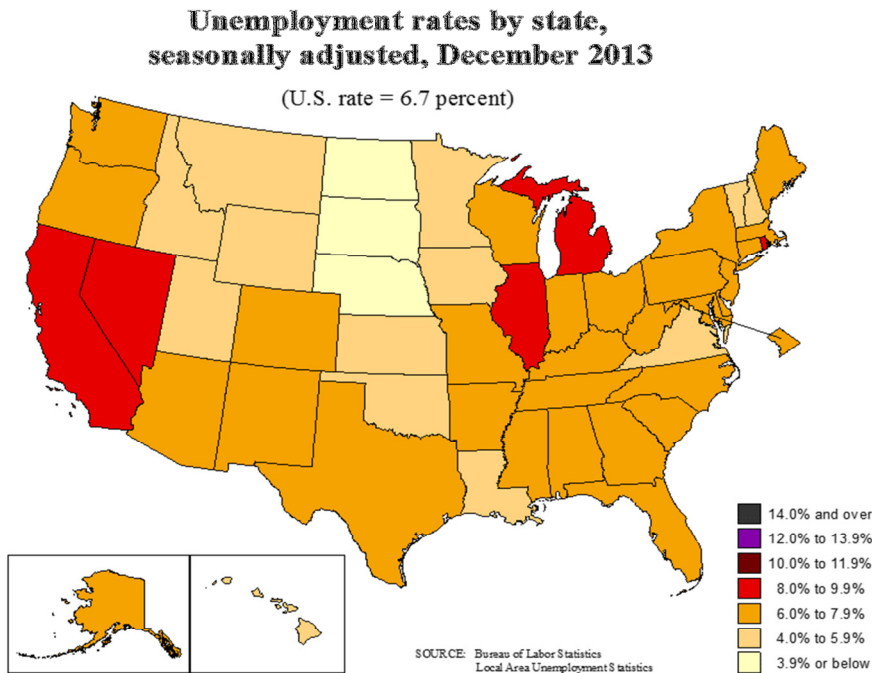
The 2014 Louisiana Survey reveals another drop in confidence that officials will effectively address the state's most important problem. While the drop relative to 2013 is small (3-points), it fits the downward trend that began in 2009. In 2009, 64 percent of Louisiana residents said they were somewhat or very confident that the state would address the most important problem. In 2014, only 36 percent say they are somewhat or very confident their most pressing concerns will be addressed.

Residents in the Baton Rouge area, the capitol region, express the least confidence their most pressing concerns will be addressed – only 28 percent said they are very or somewhat confident - while residents in Southwestern Louisiana express the most confidence (42 percent are very or somewhat confident). It is worth noting as well that more educated respondents express less confidence than less educated respondents. Thirty-one percent of residents with a college degree say they are very or somewhat confident state government will address their most pressing concern compared to 40 percent of residents with a high school degree. Republicans express greater confidence (47 percent very or somewhat confident) than Democrats (31 percent) or Independents (30 percent).

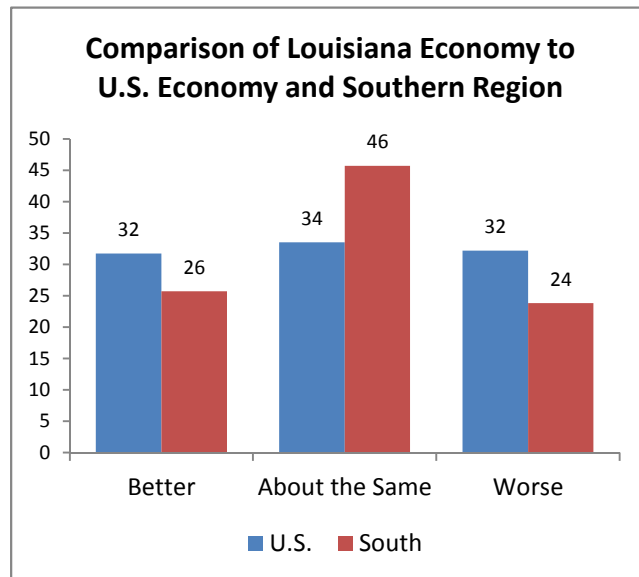
Confidence State Government Will Address Most Important Problem, 2005-2014



IV. Economic Evaluations



While citizen economic evaluations reflect a range of considerations, the unemployment rate is often used as a proxy for state economic health. On this measure, Louisiana fares quite well. The state unemployment rate has declined from 6.5 percent in 2012 to 5.4 percent for 2013, and Louisiana is outperforming the regional and the national averages. On other measures, such as personal income, Louisiana performs less well relative to the national averages, but those numbers are also less sensitive to short-term economic influences.

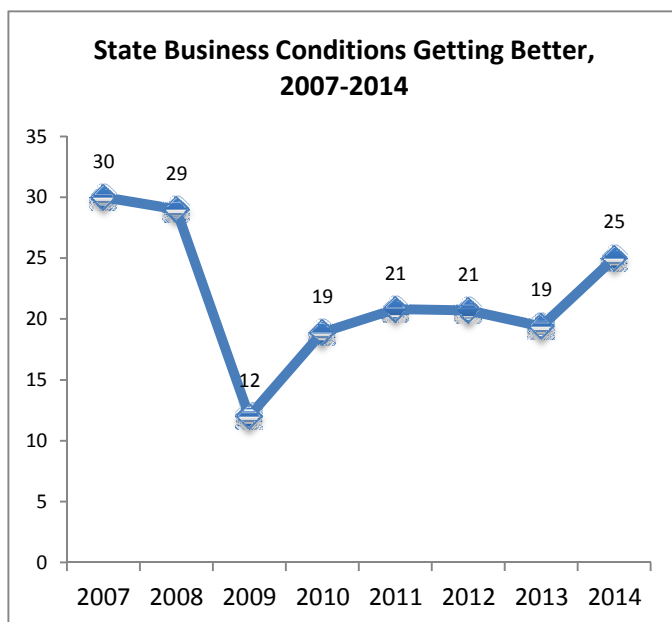
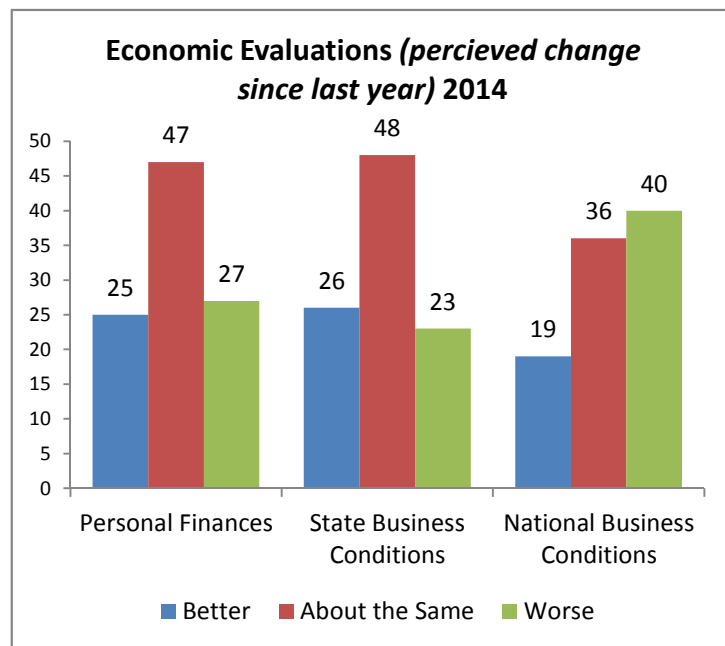


Despite the unemployment numbers, Louisiana residents are not overly positive about the performance of the state economy relative to the country or the southern region. Thirty-two percent of Louisiana residents say the state is doing better economically than the U.S. overall, 34 percent say Louisiana is doing about the same, and 32 percent say the state is doing worse than the national economy. This is a slight improvement (though statistically insignificant) over 2013 when 29 percent said Louisiana was doing better than the U.S. Perceptions of economic performance are closely tied to gender, race, income, and partisan affiliation. First, there

is a 20-point gender gap on the perception of Louisiana economic performance with 42 percent of men saying the state is doing better than the rest of the country compared to 22 percent of women. Second, 38

percent of white residents compared to 18 percent of black residents say the state economy is outperforming the national economy. Third, approximately 23 percent of Louisiana residents making less than \$20,000 say the state is performing better than the national economy. This compares to 49 percent of residents earning \$100,000 to \$200,000. Finally, 47 percent of Republicans compared to 24 percent of Democrats say the state economy is doing better than the national economy.

Louisiana residents are less positive about how the state is performing relative to the southern region: 26 percent of residents say the Louisiana economy is outperforming other states in the region, 46 percent say it is about the same, and 24 percent say it is worse. As with the national numbers, this is a slight, though statistically insignificant, improvement over 2013 when 22 percent said the Louisiana economy was doing better than the southern region. We see similar gender, race, income, and partisan gaps in evaluations of regional economic performance with men, whites, wealthier residents, and Republicans more likely to say the Louisiana economy is doing better than the region.



The overall economic situation is reflected in citizen evaluations, as Louisiana residents are more positive about both their personal financial situation and state business conditions. First, the percent of residents saying that their personal finances have gotten better over the past year increased from 19 percent in 2013 to 25 percent in 2014. More educated residents are more likely to report their personal financial conditions have gotten better (29 percent) than residents with a high school degree (21 percent) or less (18 percent). Older and retired residents are the least likely to say their personal finances have gotten better. Only 11 percent of retired residents and only 13 percent of residents 65 and older say their personal finances have improved over the past year.

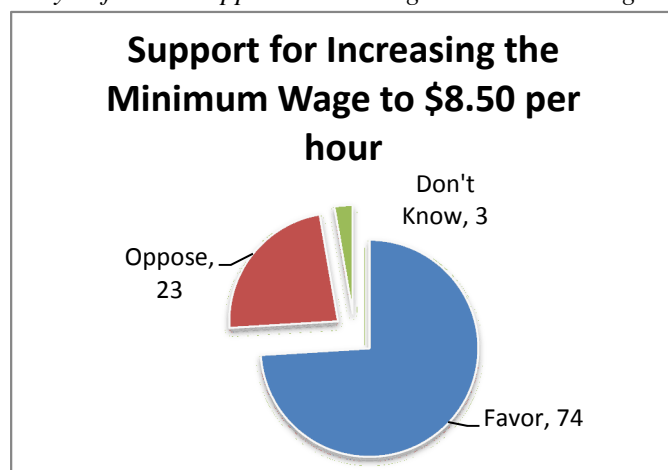
The storyline is similar when we turn to state business conditions. The percent of residents saying state business conditions have gotten better increased from 19 percent in 2013 to 26 percent in 2014. This perception holds throughout most of the state with one notable exception: In North Louisiana, only 14 percent of residents say state business conditions have gotten better. Moreover, while older and retired residents may express greater concern about their personal finances, we see few differences in their evaluations of state business conditions.

When it comes to national business conditions, most Louisiana residents believe conditions have remained largely the same. The percent of Louisiana residents saying national business conditions have gotten better decreased slightly from 21 percent to 19 percent, while the percent saying national business conditions had gotten worse declined from 45 to 40 percent. Perceptions of national business conditions are reflective of race and partisanship. Only 13 percent of white residents compared to 28 percent of black residents say national business conditions have gotten better over the past year. Similarly, only 6 percent of Republicans compared to 30 percent of Democrats say national business conditions have improved.

V. The Minimum Wage

Legislators in Baton Rouge and Washington, D.C. are currently debating proposals to increase the minimum wage. Without commenting on the merits of these proposals, Louisiana residents are generally supportive of efforts to increase the minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour. The specific question wording is as follows:

Do you favor or oppose increasing the minimum wage in Louisiana to \$8.50 an hour?



Seventy-four percent of our respondents said they supported the minimum wage increase, 23 percent opposed and 3 percent said they were unsure or did not know. While we do see some differences in levels of support across various groups, majority support for an increase extends across regional, demographic, and partisan breakdowns. For example, men are less supportive (68 percent) than women (80 percent). College educated respondents are similarly less supportive (68 percent) than respondents without a high school degree (83

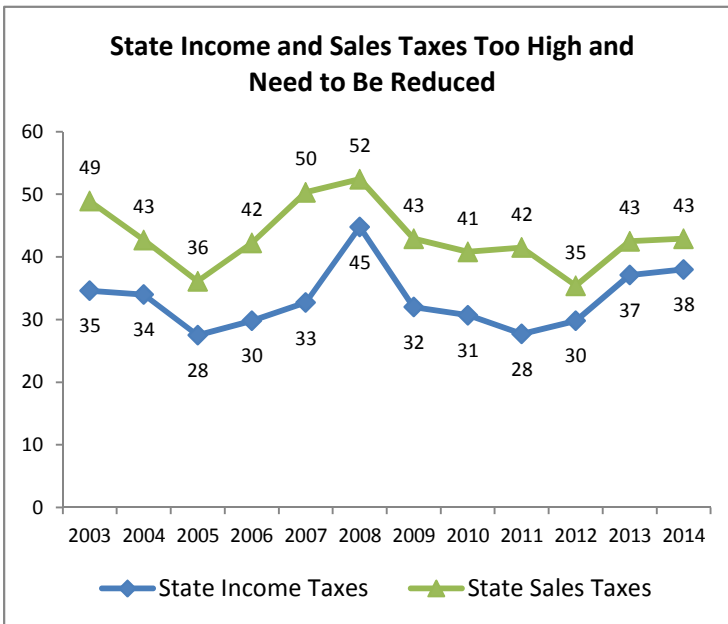
percent). Across all of these groups, however, support outpaces opposition. Fifty-five percent of Republicans support the proposal as asked in this specific question. While the question captures a base level of support for increasing the minimum wage, it does not capture how willing people are to make a tradeoff between increasing the minimum wage and the potential increased costs for goods and services, potential effects on small businesses, or potential for the increase to result in a net job loss.

Please also note that this question did not contain a qualifier in regard to automatically increasing the minimum wage with the cost of living. We asked such a question in the fall of 2013 in a separate survey on behalf of the *Louisiana Budget Project*, but this is a different question, in a different survey.

(The Louisiana Budget Project data is here: <http://www.labudget.org/lbp/2014/02/louisiana-needs-a-higher-wage/>)

Chapter 2: Taxes & Spending

I. Are Taxes Too High?



We see little change in perceptions that state income or state sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced. Since 2013, the percent of residents saying state sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced remained flat at 43 percent. The survey showed a one-point increase in residents saying state income taxes were too high and needed to be reduced – from 37 percent to 38 percent. With regard to local property taxes, the percent of residents saying taxes were too high and needed to be reduced declined slightly from 45 percent in 2013 to 43 percent in 2014. Consistent with previous years, few residents (no more than 7 percent)

believe that taxes are too low and need to be increased.

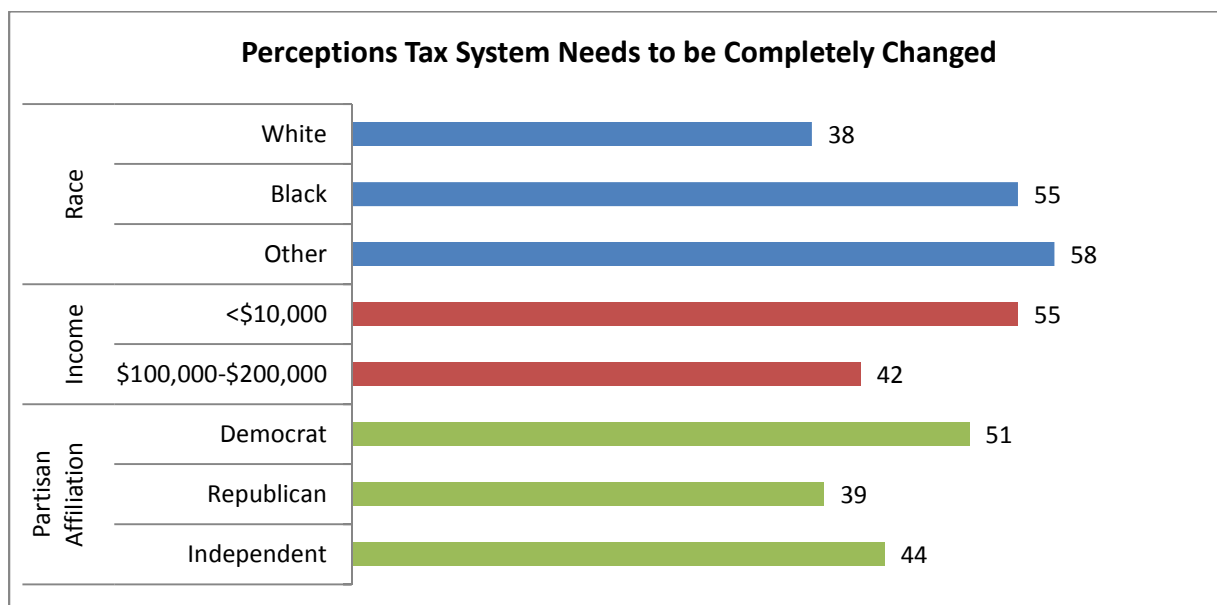
The responses also showed partisan differences in tax preferences. For example, 49 percent of Democrats say that sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced compared to 40 percent of Republicans. When it comes to income taxes these numbers are reversed: 34 percent of Democrats compared to 43 percent of Republicans say income taxes are too high and need to be reduced.

II. Tax System Overhaul

Viewing the tax system as a whole, Louisiana residents are split on whether the system needs a major overhaul or – at most – only minor tweaking. Specifically, we asked residents to respond to the following question:

Which of the following statements comes closest to expressing your view when it comes to reforming the Louisiana tax system?

- *On the whole, the Louisiana tax system works pretty well and the state legislature should make only minor changes to make it work better.*
- *There is so much wrong with the Louisiana tax system that the state legislature should completely change it.*



The results are fairly evenly split between residents who think the system works pretty well (46 percent) and those who believe it needs to be completely changed (45 percent). Perceptions of how well the tax system works differ by race, income, and partisan affiliation with African-Americans, lower income, and Democrats more likely to say the system needs to be completely changed.

- Thirty-eight percent of white respondents compared to 55 percent of African-Americans say the system should be completely changed.
- More than 55 percent of respondents making less than \$10,000 annually say the system should be completely changed compared to 42 percent of respondents making between \$100,000 and \$200,000.
- Fifty-one percent of Democrats compared to 39 percent of Republicans say the system needs to be completely changed.

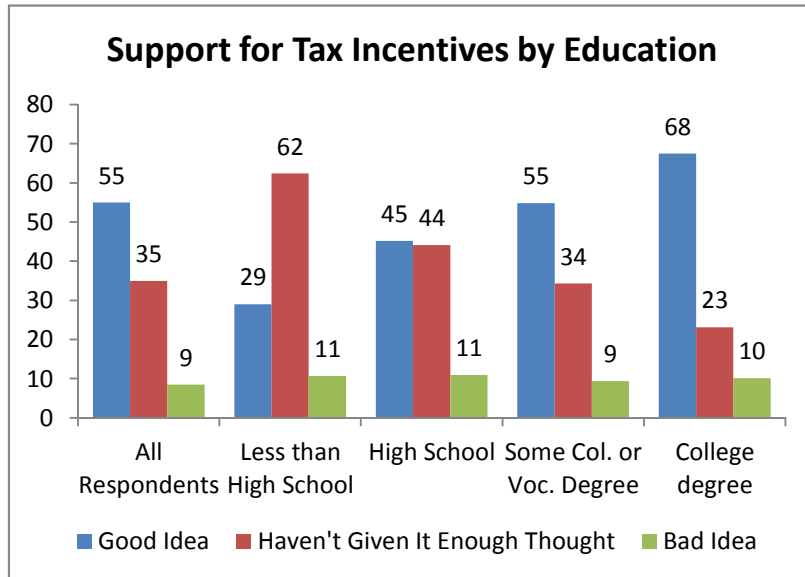
III. Support of Tax Incentives

To gauge support for tax incentives as an economic development tool, we asked respondents the following question:

As you may be aware, Louisiana often provides tax incentives to businesses to locate or expand in Louisiana. Overall, do you think it is a good idea for Louisiana to provide these tax incentives to businesses, a bad idea, or haven't you given it enough thought?

A majority of respondents – 55 percent – thought tax incentives were a good idea. There is very little opposition to tax incentives – only 10 percent of respondents. The remaining 35 percent said they had not given it enough thought or did not know. Support for tax incentives differs by region, race, education, income, and partisanship.

- In terms of regional differences, Orleans shows the least support (50 percent) for tax incentives, while the Northshore and surrounding parishes showing the most support (63 percent).
- Sixty-two percent of white respondents compared to 42 percent of African-American respondents say tax incentives are a good idea. More than 50 percent of African-American respondents

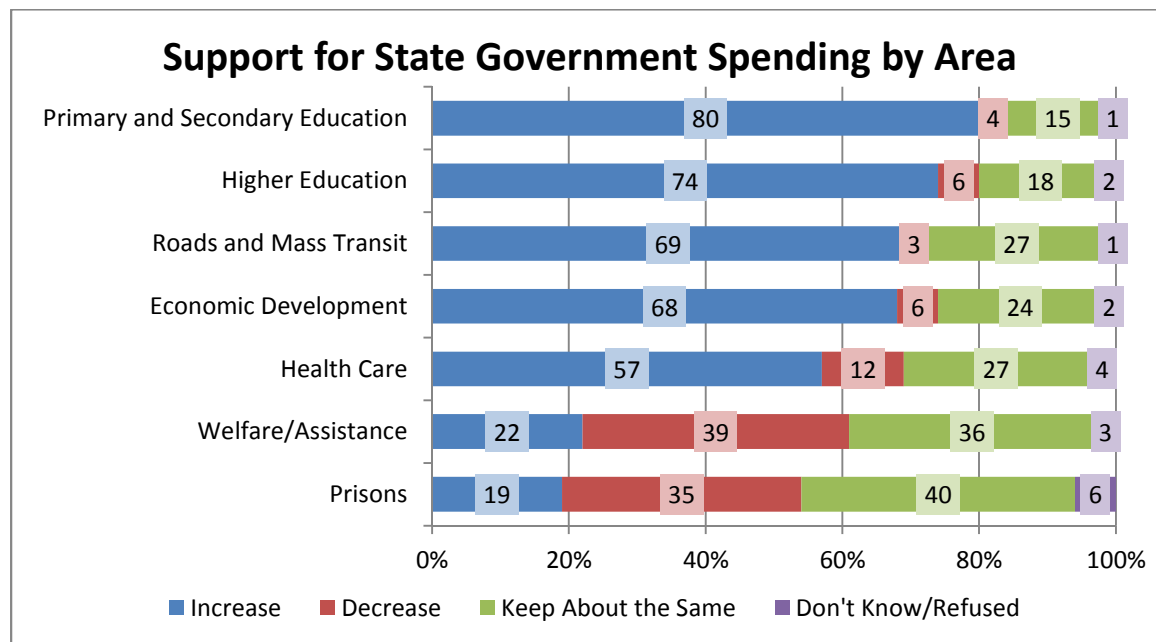


compared to 26 percent of white respondents said they did not know or hadn't given it enough thought.

- Sixty-seven percent of college graduates compared to 45 percent of high school graduates say tax incentives are a good idea. Slightly fewer than 1 in 4 college graduates say they haven't given it enough thought to know whether tax incentives are a good idea, compared to 44 percent of respondents with a high school degree, and 59 percent of respondents with less than a high school degree.

- Twenty-seven percent of residents earning less than \$10,000 annually say tax incentives are a good idea, compared to 73 percent of residents earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000.
- Sixty-six percent of Republicans compared to 50 percent of Democrats say tax incentives are a good idea.

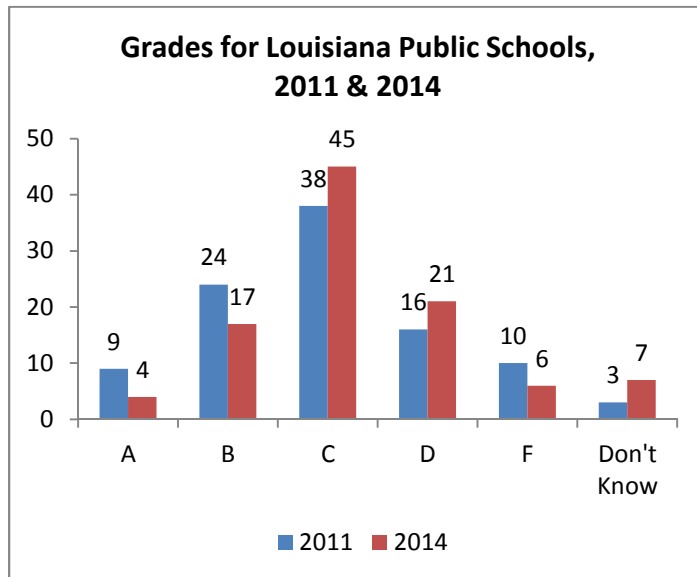
IV. Support for Spending



While Louisiana residents often express support for smaller government in the abstract, they also endorse more spending on a range of government services. In the 2014 Louisiana Survey, we asked residents whether spending should be increased, decreased or kept about the same for primary and secondary education, higher education, roads and infrastructure, attracting new businesses and jobs to the state, health care, social assistance programs such as welfare and food stamps, and prisons. Louisiana residents show strong support for increased spending on primary and secondary education (80 percent), higher education (75 percent), roads and infrastructure (69 percent), efforts at attracting news businesses and jobs to the state (68 percent), and health care (57 percent). In only two areas – prisons and social assistance programs – does support fall below 50 percent for increased spending.

One of the weaknesses of this type of question is that it is difficult to force citizens to make a tradeoff between available revenue and spending. As such, it is perhaps best to read the results as a list of priorities rather than actual preferences for spending.

Chapter 3: Education and the Common Core



I. Grading Public Schools

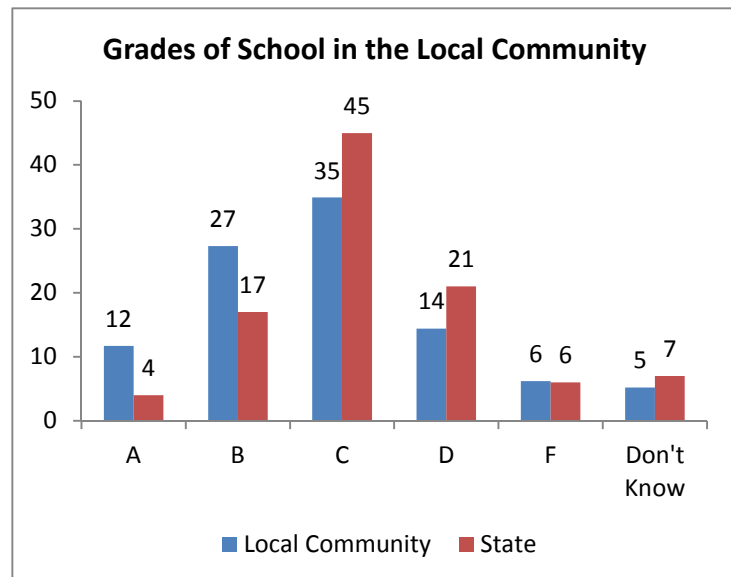
In the twelve years we have been conducting the Louisiana Survey, K-12 education has consistently rated as one of the single most important issues confronting the state. As a long-standing issue, public schools have also fared poorly in the eyes of the citizenry. Despite a wave of reform efforts, citizen grades for public schools barely differ from 2011 (the last time we asked this question). Though this may reflect a slight change in question wording, fewer Louisiana residents gave public schools an A or B in 2014 than in 2011.

For reference in 2011 the question wording was:

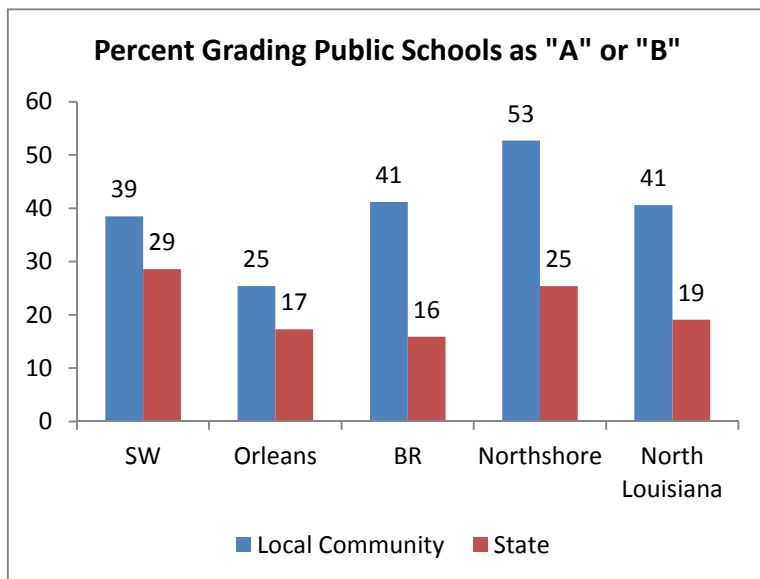
As you know students are often given a grade A through F. Please indicate what grade you would give the following items [a few items were listed including...] Louisiana public schools

In 2014 the wording was:

Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, or F to denote the quality of their work. What grade would you give to Louisiana public schools overall?



Citizens are significantly more positive about schools in their local community than in the state overall. Thirty-nine percent of residents gave the schools in the local community an A or B compared to 21 percent for the state overall. We don't see many differences across demographic or partisan categories when we examine evaluations of local community schools, but differences do emerge for schools in the state overall. For example, 28 percent of African-American respondents graded schools in Louisiana overall as A or B compared to 17 percent of white respondents. Twenty-nine percent of Louisiana residents with a high school degree or less grade Louisiana schools as an A or B compared to 15 percent of respondents with a college degree. Similarly, 28 percent of residents earning less than \$10,000 give schools an A or B compared to approximately 10 percent earning \$100,000 or more. Such differences are consistent with what we know about public opinion more generally: Views of the system are often more negative than views of local institutions.

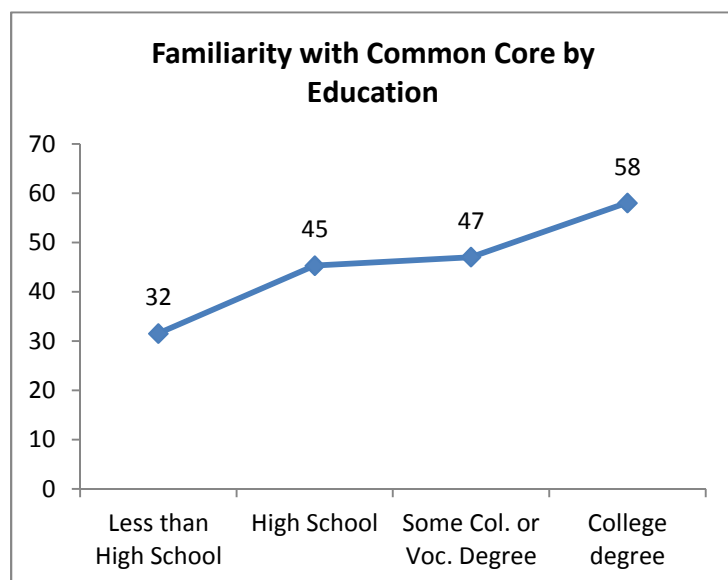


This is even more apparent when we look at differences across region. While the gap varies from region to region, residents give local schools higher grades than public schools statewide.

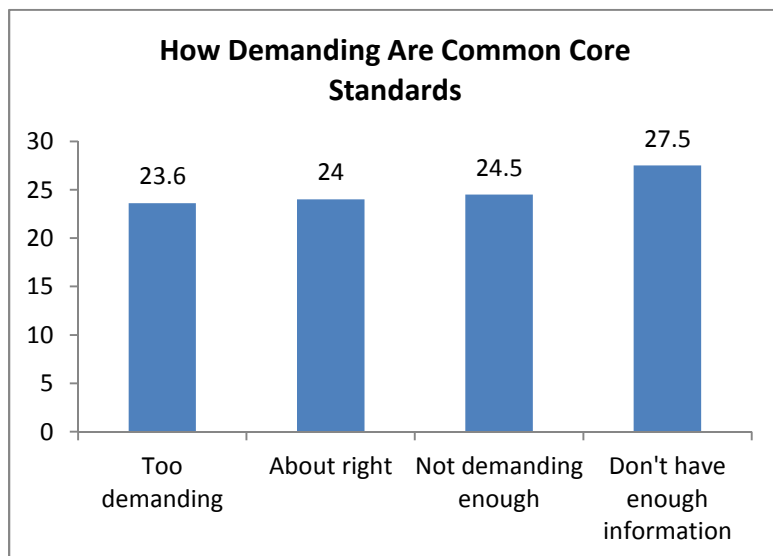
II. The Common Core

One effort to improve the public schools has been to adopt consistent standards across all states via the Common Core. While controversies over the adoption and implementation of the Common Core standards have been heated, they haven't penetrated deeply into public

consciousness. Roughly half of Louisiana residents (48 percent) claim they are not very or not at all familiar with the standard. Familiarity with the Common Core reflects education levels and the presence of a child in the household. Fifty-eight percent of college-educated residents are very or somewhat familiar with the Common Core compared to 32 percent of respondents with less than a high school degree. Those most directly affected are also more familiar: 65 percent of respondents with a child in public school are familiar or very familiar with the Common Core. For reference, 51 percent of respondents with a child in private school are very or somewhat familiar.



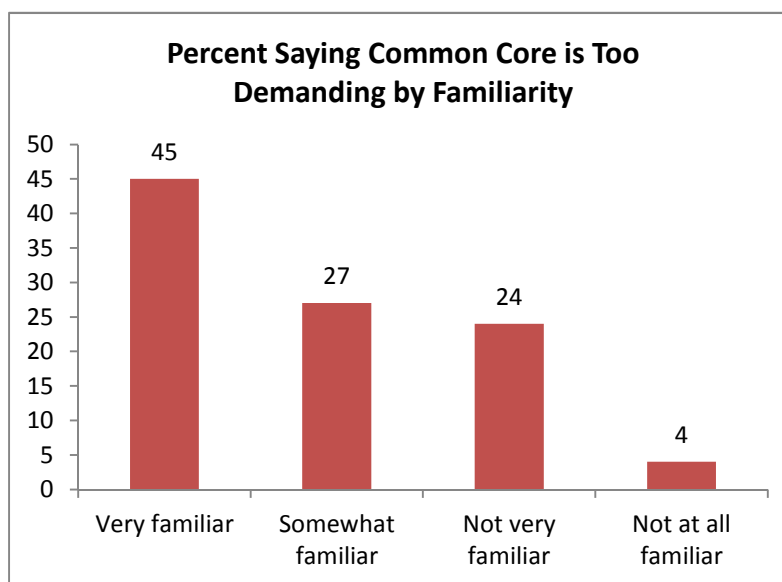
Given the low levels of familiarity with the Common Core, one should exercise caution in evaluating associated opinion. We sought to gauge two related attitudes: (1) Whether residents believe the Common Core standards were too demanding, about right, or not demanding enough; and (2) Whether residents believe the Common Core standards would make students more college or career ready when they graduated.



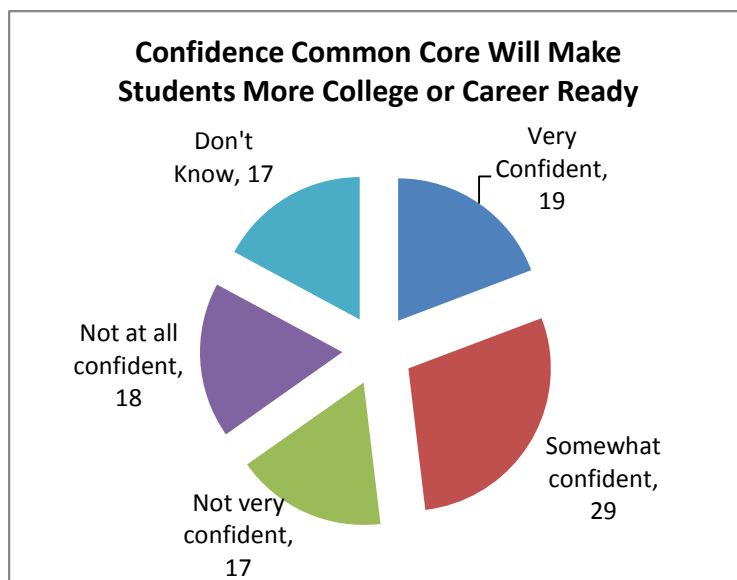
On the first question, the jury is decidedly split: 24 percent say the standards are too demanding, 24 percent say they are about right and 25 percent say they are not demanding enough. More than 1 in 4 residents admit to not having enough information or simply not knowing if the standards are too demanding. Women, more educated respondents, and respondents with a child in the public schools are more likely to say the standards are too demanding:

- Thirty percent of women compared to 17 percent of men say the standards are too demanding.
- Twenty-nine percent of college-educated respondents compared to 13 percent of respondents with less than a high school education say the standards are too demanding.
- Thirty-eight percent of respondents with a child in the public schools say the standards are too demanding.

The critical variable that crosses each of these findings appears to be familiarity. Forty-five percent of residents who say they are very familiar with the Common Core believe the standards are too demanding compared to 27 percent who are somewhat familiar, 24 percent who not very familiar and 4 percent who are not at all familiar. Generally, those less familiar with the Common Core are also more likely to say the standards are not demanding enough. Nineteen percent of respondents who are very familiar



say the standards are not demanding enough compared to 31 percent of those who say they are not familiar. The one exception is the group who says it is not at all familiar: 64 percent of these respondents say they do not know or do not have enough information.

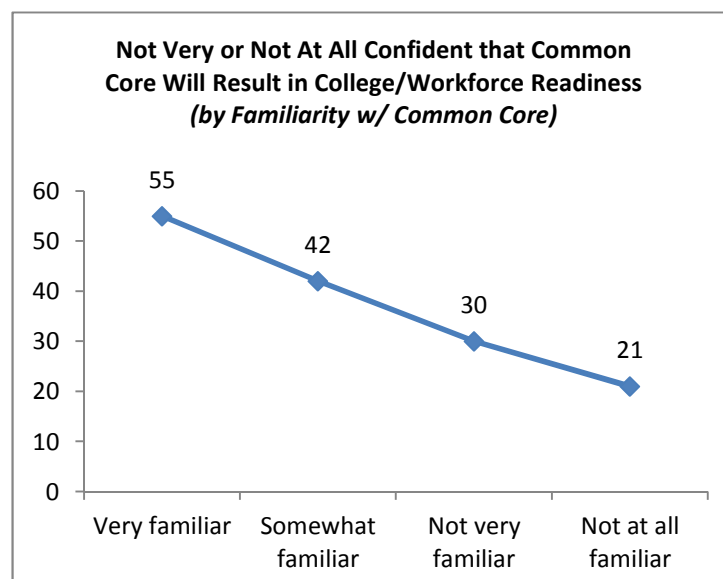


Louisiana residents are also divided as to whether the Common Core standards will better prepare students for college and careers. Forty-eight percent of respondents say they are very confident (19 percent) or somewhat confident (29 percent) that the Common Core will assure that students are college or career ready when they graduate from high school; 35 percent are not very confident (17 percent) or not at all confident (18 percent); and, 17 percent were unsure or did not know. Several interesting demographic differences emerge on this question:

- Forty-one percent of white respondents compared to 65 percent of African-Americans say they are very or somewhat confident the Common Core will make students more college or career ready.
- Forty percent of college educated respondents express confidence in Common Core compared to 57 percent of respondents with a high school degree.
- Fifty-nine percent of Democrats compared to 36 percent of Republicans and 43 percent of Independents express confidence in Common Core.

Also, we do not see a big difference for respondents with children in public schools. Forty-five percent of respondents with a child in public schools say they are very or somewhat confident the Common Core will make students more college or career ready, only slightly below the number for all respondents (48 percent).

The findings do parallel the earlier results with respect to familiarity. The more familiar respondents are with the Common Core, the more likely they are to say they are not very or not at all confident that it will achieve its objectives of assuring students are college or career ready. Fifty-five percent of respondents who say they are very familiar with the Common Core say they are not very or not at all confident it will help make students more college or career ready, compared to just 21 percent of respondents who are not at all familiar. Notably, the less familiar are not more inclined to say they are very or somewhat confident but are instead more likely to say they do not know.



III. School Vouchers

While vouchers are now a reality in Louisiana, public opinion remains divided. Fifty percent of respondents support “providing parents with children in failing public schools with tax money in the form of scholarships to help pay for their children to attend private or religious schools,” while 45 percent are opposed and 5 percent are unsure or don’t know.

- Fifty-five percent of men compared to 45 percent of women support vouchers.
- Sixty-one percent of African-Americans compared to 44 percent of white respondents support vouchers.
- Sixty percent of respondents with less than high school compared to 44 percent of college graduates support vouchers.

Chapter 4: Higher Education

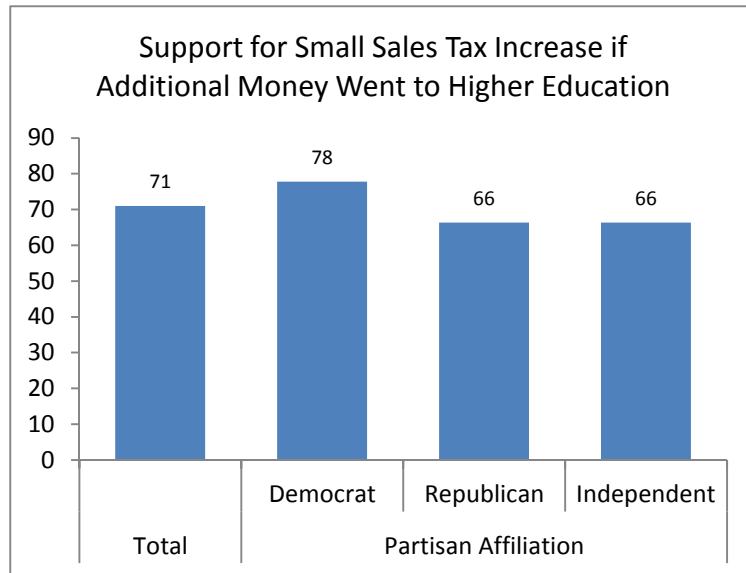
Earlier in the report we noted support for higher education as a spending priority. Seventy-six percent of respondents said they preferred increased spending on higher education, and they place higher education second as a spending priority behind primary and secondary education. To gauge whether respondents would support a spending increase even if it meant they had to pay more in taxes, we asked the following question: *Would you support or oppose a state-wide sales tax increase of 1 extra cent for every 4 dollars spent if all of the additional money generated went toward higher education?*

Seventy-one percent of residents said they would favor such a proposal, 27 percent opposed and 2 percent said they were unsure or didn't know.

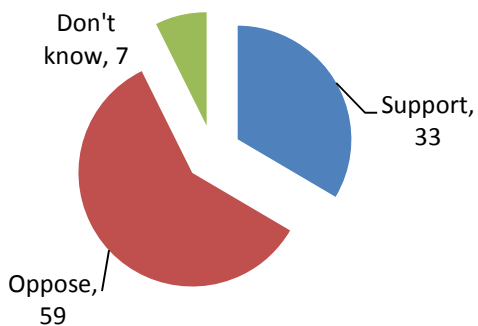
While we see differences in levels of support across demographic

categories, support never falls below 50 percent. The lowest level of support – 55 percent – is from our oldest age group (65 and older).

Even though a majority of residents support spending more on higher education to the point of paying more taxes, they are unwilling to turn over the keys to universities to set their own tuition. The specific question wording is as follows: *Would you support or oppose a proposal allowing Louisiana colleges and universities to set tuition without state legislative approval?*

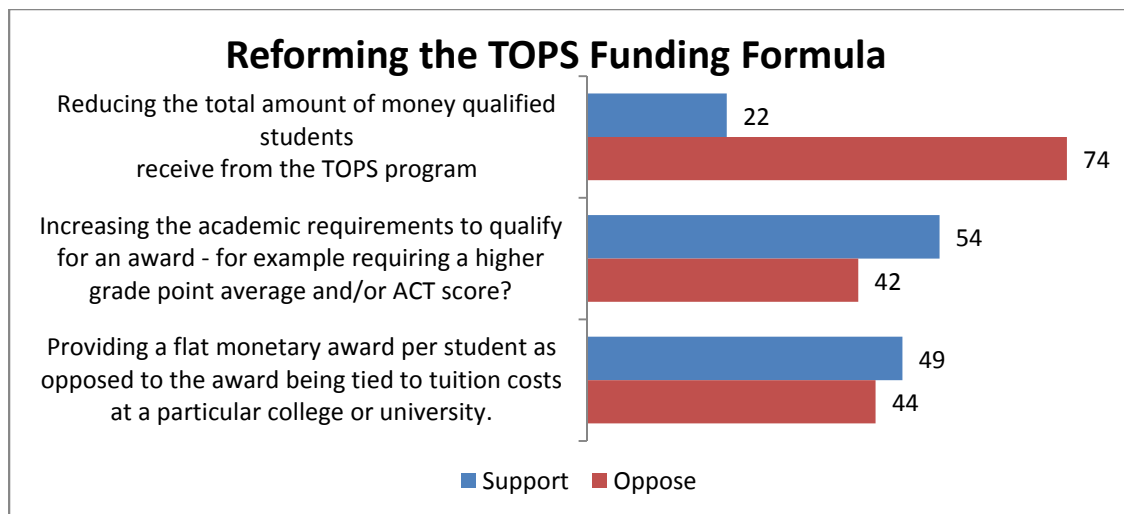


Support for Giving Universities Tuition Authority



Just 1 in 3 residents support allowing colleges and universities to set tuition; 59 percent are opposed and 7 percent are unsure. While there are some differences across demographic and partisan divisions, those differences tend to reflect the degree of opposition rather than support. For example, 35 percent of Democrats say they support giving universities tuition authority compared to 27 percent of Republicans.

Please note that in the question we did not specify public universities in Louisiana, so it is possible that some uninformed respondents could have assumed private universities, such as Tulane, were included in the question.



As in previous years, residents are unwilling to alter the total amount of money qualified students receive from TOPS, but may be more willing to consider an increase of the academic requirements for eligibility or providing a flat monetary fee that is not tied to tuition. Seventy-four percent of respondents oppose reducing the total amount qualified students receive from the TOPS program, yet 54 percent would support increasing academic requirements to qualify for an award or providing a flat monetary award not tied to tuition. While potential reforms to the TOPS funding formula have been on the legislative agenda for several years, these attitudes have not changed a great deal. In the 2013 Louisiana Survey, 78 percent opposed reducing the total amount qualified students receive for TOPS, 57 supported increasing the academic requirements, and 46 percent supported providing a flat monetary award.

Opposition to reducing the total amount of money that qualified students receive from TOPS is nearly universal. However, differences appear in the demographic breakouts:

- Men are more supportive of reducing the total amount received than women by a 26 to 18 percent margin.
- Forty-two percent of residents with less than a high school education support reducing the total amount of a TOPS awards compared to 14 percent of respondents with a college degree.
- Seventeen percent of white respondents compared to 30 percent of African-American respondents support limiting the amount of a TOPS award.

When we examine the demographic breakouts for increasing the academic standards to qualify for a TOPS award, we see very different patterns:

- Fifty-nine percent of white respondents compared to 44 percent of African Americans support increasing the academic requirements to qualify for a TOPS award.
- We see no clear pattern with respect to education level but do see differences based on partisan affiliation. Sixty-nine percent of Republicans compared to 48 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of Independents support increasing the academic requirements.

Finally, we see very few demographic or partisan differences in support for providing a flat monetary award not tied to tuition.

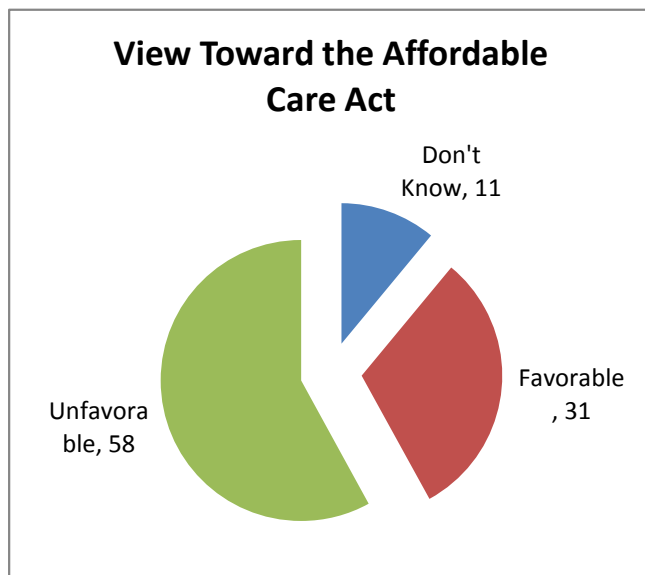
Chapter 5: Health Care

Though only identified by 10 percent of Louisiana residents as the state's most pressing issue, health care is consistently ranked as the third most important issue behind education and the economy. Despite recent budget cuts, this is also an area where a majority of residents (57percent) would like to see increased spending, while only a small fraction – 12 percent – would like to see cuts. With this in mind, we asked a series of questions about national health care reform, including whether the individual has a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), whether families are better or worse off under the ACA, and perceptions regarding the expense and quality of care.

The current survey estimates that 16 percent of Louisiana adults (18 and over) and 19 percent of nonelderly adults (18-64) are uninsured. This is slightly below the 2013 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey (LHIS), which estimated the number of nonelderly uninsured at 22 percent. Such variations are common and are likely due to differences in sampling, question and weighting procedures. Even so, the current estimate is a little low compared to the LHIS. (For reference, the 2013 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey study is here: <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/medicaid/LHIS/2013LHIS/LHIS2013Finalv2.pdf>)

The specific question wording to gauge favorability is listed as follows: *As you may know, The Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the Affordable Care Act, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?*

[For reference – our callers were specifically instructed that they could say “Obama Care” if a respondent asked for clarity on whether the ACA and “Obama Care” were one in the same. However, the callers could not independently choose to say “Obama Care”, they only said it if asked for clarification.]



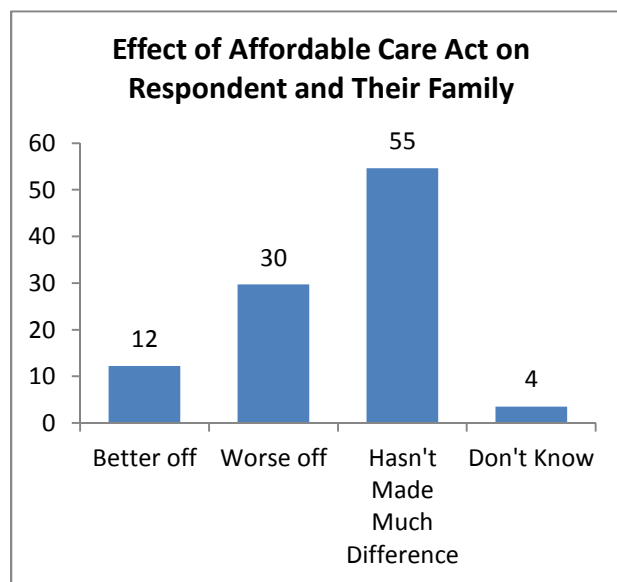
Fifty-eight percent of Louisiana residents have an unfavorable attitude toward the Affordable Care Act, 31 percent have a favorable attitude and 11 percent don't know or are unsure.

This is an issue where opinions depend very much on regional, racial, and partisan differences. First, in terms of region, Orleans residents are most favorable (42 percent), though even in the Orleans regions more residents are unfavorable (47 percent) than favorable. Residents are least favorable in Southwestern Louisiana where only 21 percent of residents have a favorable attitude toward the ACA. In the three remaining regions, support varies from 28 percent to 33 percent.

Attitudes toward the Affordable Care Act are also sharply divided by race and partisanship. Fifty-seven percent of African-American respondents have a favorable view of the ACA compared to just 19 percent of white respondents. Similarly, 54 percent of Democrats have a favorable view compared to just 10 percent of Republicans and 21 percent of Independents. These differences are accentuated by the fact that

17 percent of African-American respondents and 15 percent of Democrats say they are unsure about the ACA, compared to 7 percent of white respondents and 3 percent of Republicans. Uninsured residents are less favorable toward the ACA than respondents with health insurance. Twenty-one percent of uninsured residents compared to 33 percent of the insured had a favorable view of the ACA.

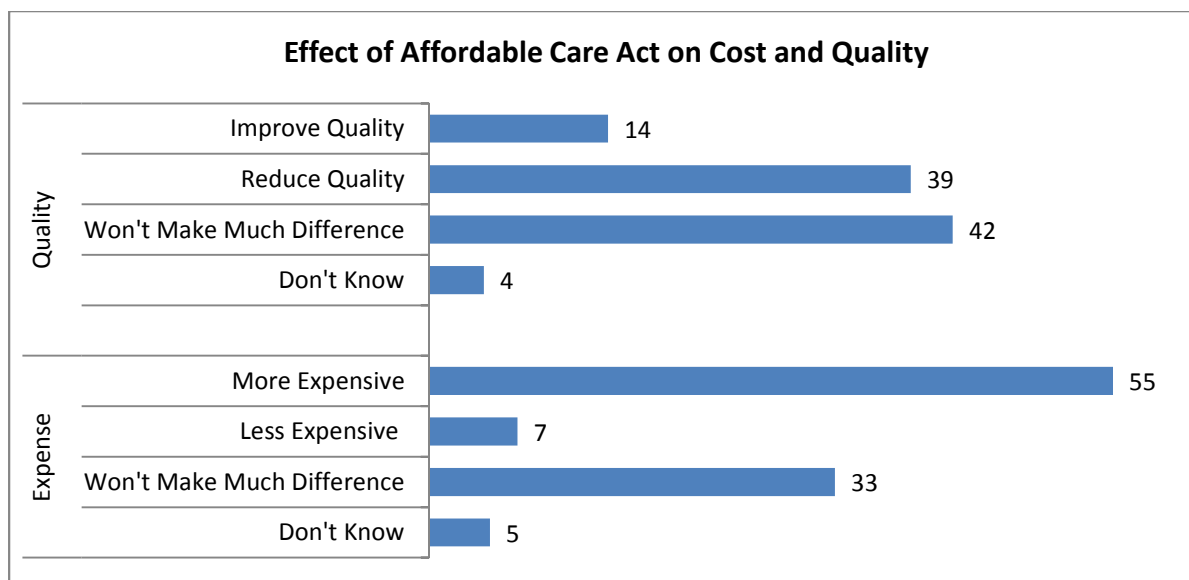
Despite the unfavorable attitudes, a majority of Louisiana residents said the ACA hasn't made much difference for their families. The specific question wording is as follows: *Do you think you and your family are better off or worse off as result of The Affordable Care Act, or hasn't it made much difference?*



A majority of Louisiana residents – 55 percent – say the Affordable Care Act has made no difference for their families. Even so, a substantial minority – 30 percent – say they are worse off, while relatively few Louisiana residents (12 percent) say they are better off. Whites, Republicans and wealthier respondents are more likely to say they are worse off.

- Thirty-eight percent of white respondents compared to 11 percent of African-American respondents say they are worse off. Notably, 24 percent of African-American respondents compared to 6 percent of white respondents say they are better off because of the ACA.
- Forty-three percent of Republicans and 37 percent of Independents say they are worse off compared to 16 percent of Democrats.
- Thirty-seven percent of residents earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000 and 44 percent earning more than \$200,000 say they are worse off because of the ACA, compared to 25 percent earning less than \$25,000.

As with the question toward favorability, the most curious result resides with uninsured residents who are more likely to say they are worse off – 37 percent of uninsured residents compared to 28 percent of the insured say they are worse off because the ACA.



The low ratings for the Affordable Care Act are likely rooted in concerns over costs and quality. To gauge perceptions regarding the consequences on the costs and quality of care, we asked respondents the following two questions:

- *Do you think the 2010 Affordable Care Act will reduce the quality of YOUR healthcare, improve the quality of your healthcare, or not make much difference?*
- *And, do you think the 2010 Affordable Care Act will make your health insurance more expensive, less expensive, or do you think it will not make much difference?*

While a plurality of Louisiana residents – 42 percent – believe the ACA won’t make much difference in terms of the quality of care, a roughly equivalent number – 39 percent – believe the ACA will reduce overall quality. Relatively few residents believe the ACA will improve quality. Concerns about the ACA are magnified when we consider the costs. Fifty-five percent of residents believe care will be more expensive because of the ACA, 33 percent believe it won’t make much difference, and only 7 percent believe care will be less expensive. Overall, residents believe the best-case scenario for the ACA is that it won’t make much of a difference in quality or cost. In the worst-case scenario, the ACA will reduce quality for more expensive health care.

Differences in Perceptions of the Effect of the ACA on Quality and Costs of Health Care

| | Lower Quality | More Expensive |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Race | | |
| White | 53 | 67 |
| Black | 7 | 28 |
| Education | | |
| Less than High School | 12 | 35 |
| High School | 40 | 55 |
| Some College | 44 | 56 |
| College Graduate | 40 | 58 |
| Income | | |
| Under 10k | 25 | 39 |
| 10k-19,999 | 25 | 46 |
| 100k-199,999 | 47 | 68 |
| 200k+ | 53 | 74 |
| Party | | |
| Democrat | 14 | 35 |
| Republican | 69 | 81 |
| Independent | 44 | 60 |

Whites, the better educated, the wealthier, and Republicans are more likely to believe the ACA will reduce quality and increase the costs of health care.

Chapter 6: Social & Political Issues

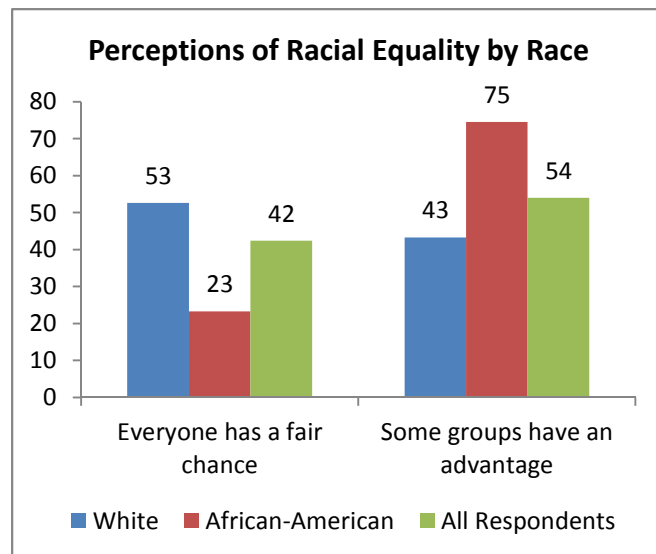
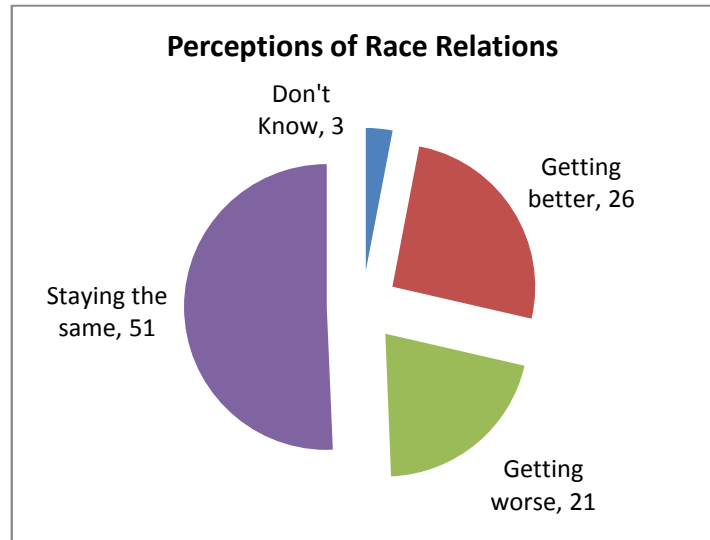
I. Race Relations

One question added to this year's Louisiana survey gauges perceptions of race relations. Specifically, respondents were asked: *Now thinking about race relations in Louisiana: Do you think race relations in Louisiana are getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?*

A majority of Louisiana residents (51 percent) believe that race relations are about the same, while just over a quarter of residents (26 percent) believe relations are getting better, and 21 percent believe race relations are getting worse. Differences are not as pronounced as one might expect by race. Twenty-eight percent of white respondents said race relations were getting better compared to 20 percent of African-American respondents. Similarly, while there is a partisan difference, it is not particularly striking: 30 percent of

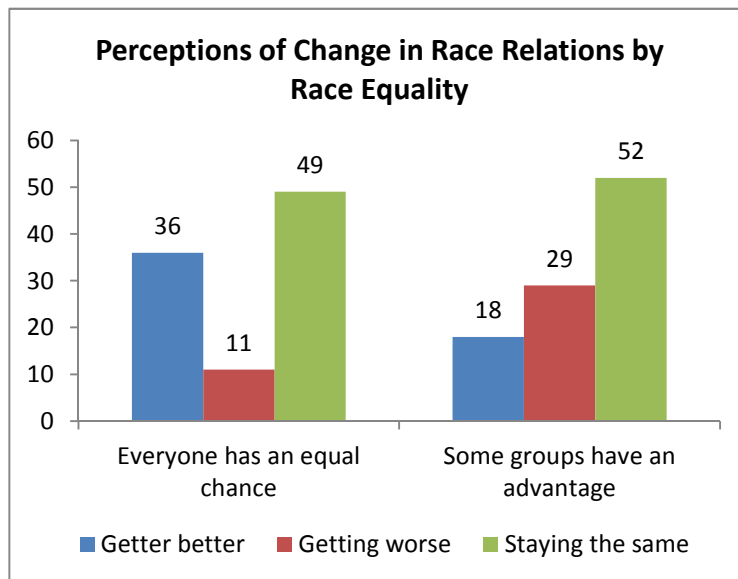
Republicans compared to 22 percent of Democrats say race relations are getting better. Republicans are less likely to say relations are getting worse (15 percent) than Democrats (26 percent).

To place this finding in context, we need a better understanding of where people believe race relations currently stand. To capture this dimension, we asked respondents: *Do you think everyone in Louisiana has a fair chance to improve their economic standing regardless of race or do you think some racial groups have an advantage over others?*



Overall, a majority of respondents believe that some racial groups have an advantage but the differences are not particularly large. Fifty-four percent of all Louisiana residents believe some racial groups have an advantage while 42 percent believe everyone has a fair chance. This cursory glance, however, blurs marked distinctions by race. Seventy-five percent of African-American respondents believe that some racial groups have an advantage compared to 43 percent of white respondents. Similarly, only 23 percent of African-American respondents say everyone has a fair chance compared to 53 percent of white respondents.

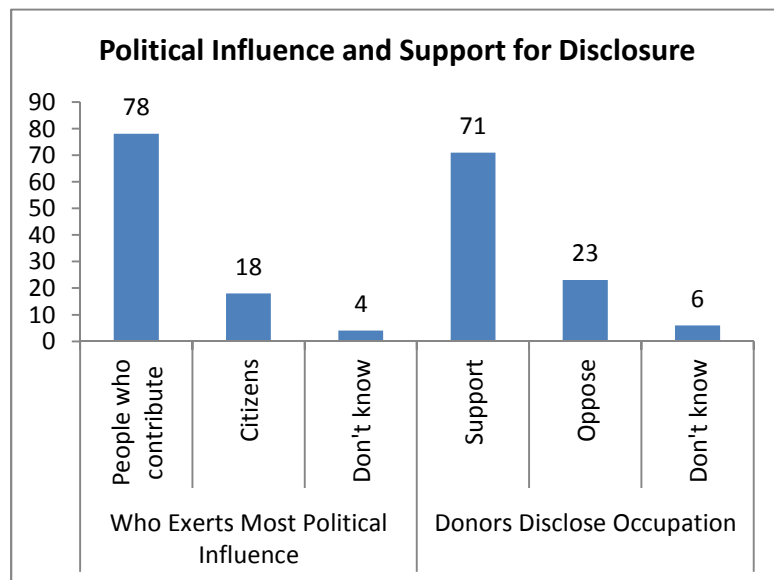
To place this in the context of whether race relations are improving, about half of the respondents who say everyone has an equal chance (49 percent) also believe race relations are “staying the same.” Thirty-six percent of these respondents believe that race relations are getting better. A similar number – 52 percent – believe that race relations are “staying the same,” but that some racial groups have an advantage. Overall, the view about whether racial relations are getting better or worse depends on whether one believes that a group had a fair chance to start.



We also see strong partisan differences on this question. Thirty percent of Democrats believe that everyone has an equal chance compared to 59 percent of Republicans.

II. The Political Process

This year’s Louisiana Survey included several questions designed to gauge attitudes toward the political process. The first asked residents the importance of political contributors relative to the importance of citizens. The specific question wording is as follows: *Overall, who do you think exerts more influence over Louisiana state government today - Louisiana citizens or the people who contribute to political campaigns?*

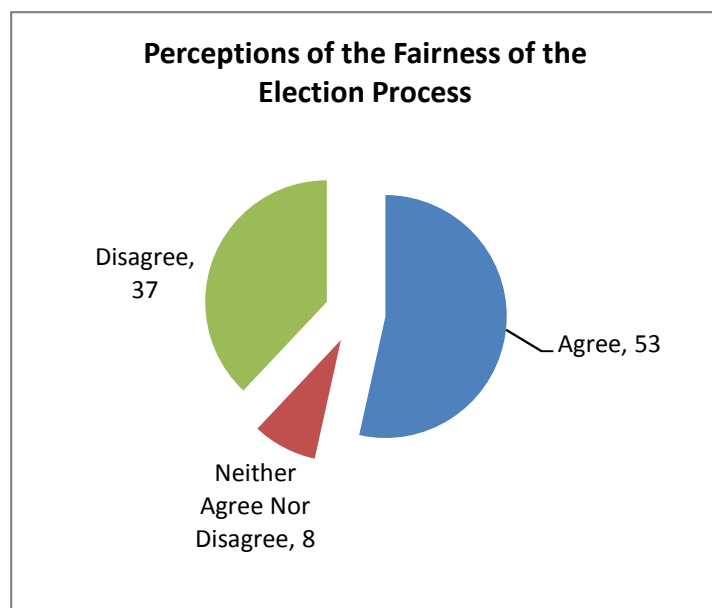


More than three-quarters (78 percent) of Louisiana residents believe that people who contribute to political campaigns exert the most influence. Only 18 percent believe that citizens exert the most influence. While there is some variation in the levels of support, this belief holds across partisan affiliation, region, and demographic characteristics.

Perhaps as a result of the concerns over political influence, citizens express strong support for requiring the disclosure of donors’ occupations. Specifically, respondents were asked:

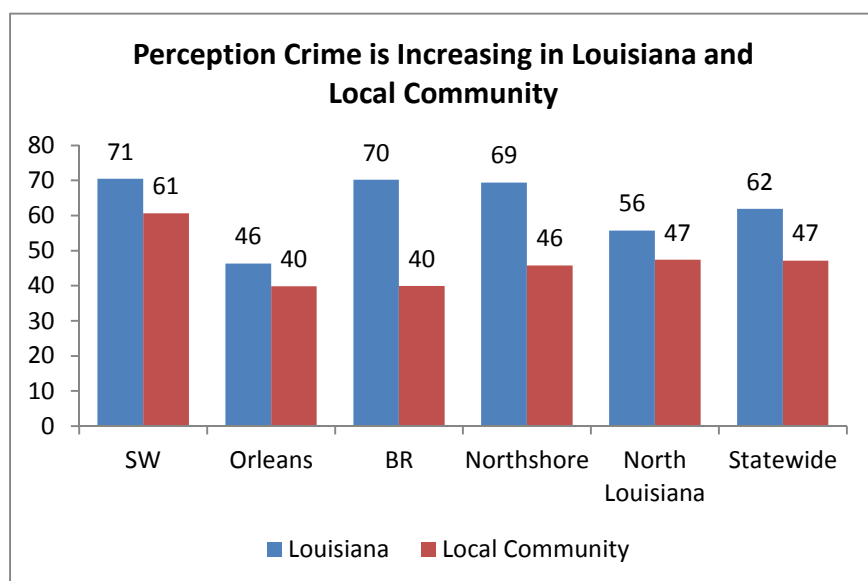
Would you support or oppose a proposal requiring political contributors to disclose their occupation when making a contribution to a political campaign? Seventy-one percent support the proposal, 23 percent are opposed, and 6 percent were unsure or did not know.

To gauge attitudes toward fairness of the electoral process, residents were asked their level of agreement with the following statement: *I am confident the current election process in Louisiana produces fair outcomes.*



While a majority of residents agree with the statement (53 percent), a substantial number – 37 percent – disagree. Regional and demographic differences on this question are fairly muted, but some partisan differences emerged, with Democrats and Independents more likely to disagree about the fairness of the system. Thirty-nine percent of Democrats and 43 percent of Independents disagree that the system produces fair outcomes compared to just 29 percent of Republicans. Alternatively, 66 percent of Republicans agreed the system produces fair outcomes compared to 51 percent of Democrats and 45 percent of Independents.

III. Crime and Punishment



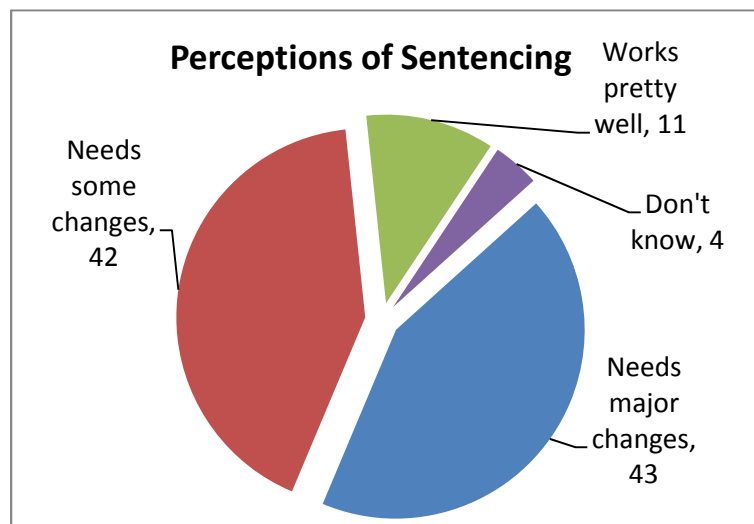
A substantial majority of Louisiana residents – 62 percent – believe that crime is increasing in the state; 25 percent believe crime is decreasing; and 11 percent believe crime is staying about the same. Perceptions of crime at the state level do not always extend to the local community. Forty-seven percent of residents said crime was increasing in their local community, 35 percent said crime was decreasing, and 15 percent said crime was staying

about the same. Regional differences exist, though these differences do not mirror local crime rates. Seventy-one percent of residents in Southwest Louisiana, 70 percent in Baton Rouge, and 69 percent in the Northshore and surrounding parishes said crime was increasing in the state overall. In New Orleans, in contrast, 46 percent said crime was increasing in the state. Fewer residents say crime is increasing in their

local community. The most notable difference is a 30-point gap in Baton Rouge between perceptions crime is increasing in the state (70 percent) versus the local community (40 percent).

Given concerns about crime, we also wanted to gauge citizen perceptions regarding criminal sentencing. Specifically, residents were asked: *Overall, do you think sentencing for people convicted of crimes in*

Louisiana is working pretty well, needs some changes, or needs major changes?



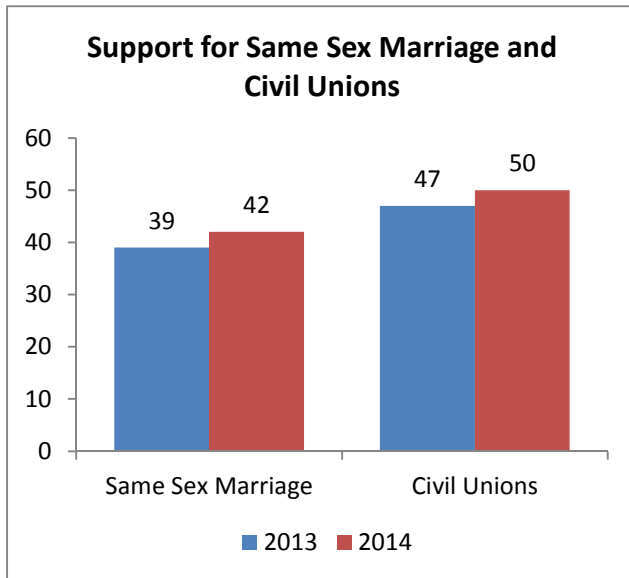
Respondents to the question were split, but only on the question of whether we need major or minor changes. Overall, 42 percent said major changes were needed, 38 percent opted for minor changes, and 16 percent said the system worked pretty well. We don't see very large differences in our regional, demographic, or partisan breakouts.

It is important to note the question did not contain a descriptive qualifier in sentences being “too harsh” or “too light” – the question was only in regard to changes.

Whether they consider this a major or minor change in sentencing, Louisiana residents show strong support for reducing the sentences of nonviolent criminals. Our specific question wording is as follows: *Overall in regard to sentencing criminals in Louisiana- would you support or oppose SHORTER sentences for people convicted of NON-VIOLENT crimes?*

Seventy-two percent of residents support a shorter sentence for people who commit non-violent crimes, 22 percent were opposed, and 6 percent were unsure. We see some differences in levels of support across subgroups but not in the direction of support. For example, 77 percent of African-American respondents compared to 69 percent of white respondents support shorter sentences for people who commit nonviolent crimes. Similarly, 75 percent of Democrats compared to 61 percent of Republicans support shorter sentences. These differences, however, do not change the basic picture: Louisiana residents support shorter sentences for people who commit nonviolent crimes.

IV. Same Sex Marriage



At the national level, supporters of same sex marriage now constitute a growing majority (59% as of a February 2014 Washington Post-ABC News poll). While support for gay marriage in Louisiana lags behind national support, the survey suggests growing support for same sex marriage and civil unions, though the increases are small and within the margin of error. Support for same sex marriage increased by three points over the past year from 39 percent to 42 percent, while support for civil unions increased from 47 percent to 50 percent.

We see notable regional differences. In New Orleans, a substantial majority – 58 percent – support same sex marriage while in Southwestern Louisiana (36 percent) and North Louisiana (29

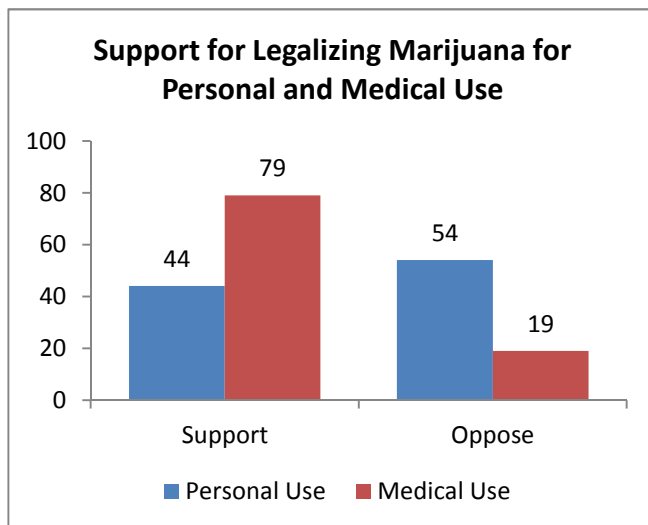
percent), opposition remains strong.

We also see differences by age and partisan affiliation. Sixty percent of 18-24 year olds support same sex marriage compared to 28 percent of residents 65 and older; and, 46 percent of Democrats compared to 23 percent of Republicans support same sex marriage. Forty-eight percent of Independents support same sex marriage. We see similar patterns for civil unions with support highest in New Orleans (65 percent), among younger age groups, and Democrats and Independents.

Regardless of their current opinion, most Louisiana residents believe same sex marriages will eventually be legal in Louisiana. The specific question wording is as follows: *Regardless of your personal view, do you think same sex marriages will eventually be legal in the state of Louisiana?* More than two-thirds of Louisiana residents – 67 percent – believe that same sex marriage will eventually be legal. The most notable difference on this question is by age: 81 percent of 18-24 year olds believe same sex marriages will eventually be legal compared to 57 percent of residents 65 and older. Partisan differences on this question are relatively small: 63 percent of Democrats, 64 percent of Republicans, and 71 percent of Independents believe same sex marriage will eventually be legal in Louisiana.

V. Marijuana

Support for legalizing marijuana for personal use has increased since 2013, but only slightly from 42 percent to 44 percent. Support for legalization in Louisiana lags roughly 10-points behind the national average. The most recent survey conducted by the Pew Research Center (February 2014) reported support for legalization at 54 percent. Support in Louisiana for legalizing marijuana for medical purposes is much stronger – 79 percent – but that also lags behind national estimates, which range as high as 88 percent in support.



Support for legalization for personal use differs by region, gender, age, race, and partisan affiliation.

- New Orleans residents are most supportive of legalizing marijuana (55 percent) while residents in Southwestern Louisiana (37 percent) and North Louisiana (35 percent) are least supportive.
- Men are more supportive of legalization than women by a 49-38 margin.
- Younger people are more supportive of legalization, but the strongest levels of support are in the 25-34 age group (63 percent) rather

than the 18-24 year olds (50 percent). Less than 1 in 4 adults age 65 and older support legalization (24 percent).

- In terms of race, white respondents are more supportive than African-American respondents by a 47-38 margin.
- Democrats are more supportive of legalizing marijuana for personal use (43 percent) than Republicans (34 percent), but Independents are more supportive than either partisan group (49 percent).

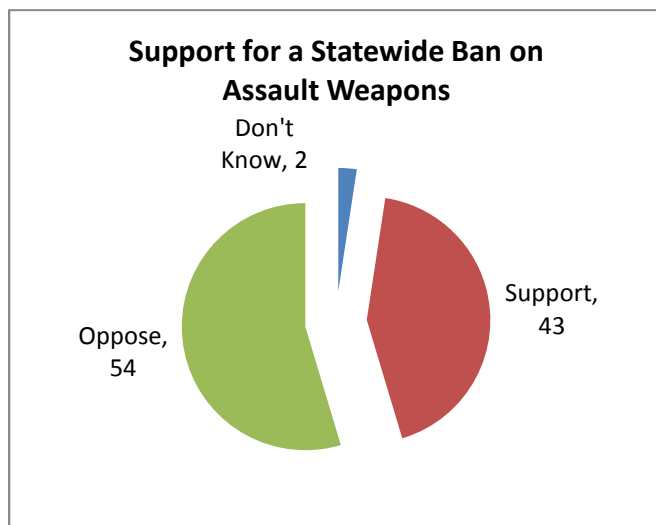
When it comes to legalization for medical use, support is stronger, and there are fewer differences across region and partisanship. New Orleans is still most supportive (89 percent), while North Louisiana is least supportive. In North Louisiana, 72 percent of respondents support legalization for medical purposes. Similarly, younger residents are more supportive of legalization for medical use, but support is strong (71 percent) among the 65 and over age group. Finally, 82 percent of Democrats and 85 percent of Independents support legalization for medical use compared to 63 percent of Republicans.

Regardless of their opinion on legalization for personal use, just under two-thirds of Louisiana residents (65 percent) believe marijuana will eventually be legal for personal use, 30 percent believe marijuana will not eventually be legal, and 5 percent were unsure. We found significant differences for gender and education, but not for partisan affiliation.

- Seventy-three percent of men compared to 59 percent of women said marijuana will eventually be legalized.
- Sixty-two percent of college graduates compared to 71 percent of high school graduates said marijuana would eventually be legalized for personal use.

VI. Guns

To gauge support for restrictions on firearms, respondents were asked about their support of a ban on assault weapons and for stricter restrictions on firearm access. With respect to a ban on assault weapons, a majority of Louisiana residents – 54 percent – oppose a statewide ban, 43 percent support a ban and 2



percent don't know or are unsure. Support for a ban on assault weapons differs by region, gender, race, education, and political party.

- Support for the ban is strongest in the Orleans region (55 percent) and is weakest in Southwestern Louisiana (33 percent) and North Louisiana (39 percent).
- Women are more supportive of an assault weapons ban than men by a 49 to 36 margin.
- Forty-nine percent of African-American respondents compared to 39 percent of white respondents favor an assault weapons ban.
- Forty-seven percent of residents with a college degree compared to 32 percent of residents with less than a high school education

favor a ban on assault weapons.

- Fifty-four percent of Democrats, 31 percent of Republicans, and 43 percent of Independents favor an assault weapons ban.

Though Louisiana residents are not particularly supportive of a ban on assault weapons, they do appear open to some restrictions. The specific question wording is as follows:

Would you support or oppose stricter statewide restrictions on access to firearms? We should note the question intentionally leaves vague what those restrictions might be.

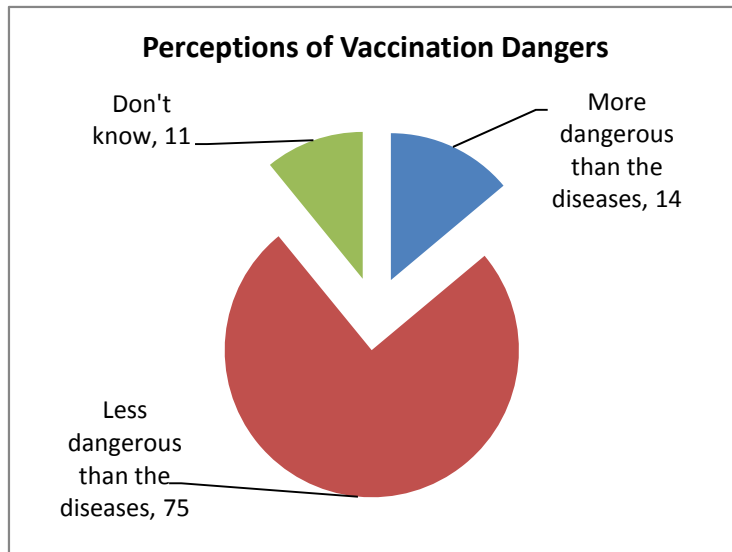
Overall, 55 percent of residents say they would support stricter restrictions on access to firearms, 43 percent are opposed, and 2 percent are unsure or don't know. Support is strongest in the New Orleans region (69 percent) and weakest in Southwest Louisiana (48 percent). Support is 50 percent or better in each of the remaining regions. Support also differs by race, gender, and partisanship.

- Sixty-four percent of women compared to 46 percent of men support tighter restrictions on firearms.
- Sixty-eight percent of African-American respondents compared to 49 percent of white respondents support tighter restrictions on firearms.
- Seventy-one percent of Democrats compared to 41 percent of Republicans support tighter restrictions. Independents fall in-between at 52 percent.

VII. Vaccinations

Concern over the side effects of vaccinations has led some parents to forego routine vaccinations, creating both individual and public health risks. To see how common these perceptions are in Louisiana we asked respondents the following question: *I have a question about childhood vaccines, such as vaccines for measles, mumps, and polio. Do you think these vaccines are more dangerous than the diseases they are designed to prevent, or less dangerous than the diseases they are designed to prevent?*

The vast majority of Louisiana residents recognize that the health benefits of vaccinations outweigh any risks. Seventy-five percent of residents said vaccinations are less dangerous than the diseases they are designed to prevent, but 14 percent of respondents thought vaccinations were more dangerous and 11 percent said they did not know or were unsure. This means 1 in 4 Louisiana residents either think vaccinations are less safe than the diseases they were designed to prevent or that they did not know.



were more dangerous than the diseases they were trying to prevent and 23 percent said they did not know or were unsure.

Lower income, less educated, and African-American residents are most at risk based on the responses to this particular question:

- Twenty-three percent of African-American respondents say vaccines are more dangerous than the diseases they are designed to prevent, and 13 percent say they do not know or are unsure about their safety.
- Twenty-one percent of residents with less than a high school education said vaccines were less safe, and an additional 15 percent said they were unsure or did not know.
- Twenty-four percent of residents earning less than \$10,000 said vaccines

VIII. Climate Change

To gauge Louisiana residents' perceptions regarding climate change, we asked whether they thought the world's temperature has increased and whether this increase is because of human activity. Our first question is worded as follows: *What is your personal opinion? Do you think that the world's temperature probably has been going up over the past 100 years, or do you think this probably has not been happening?*

Overall, 60 percent of residents said temperatures were probably increasing, 34 percent said temperatures were probably not increasing, and 6 percent were unsure or did not know. Belief that temperatures are probably increasing is strongest in the Orleans region (70 percent) and are weakest in the Northshore and surrounding parishes (52 percent). In the remaining regions, belief that temperatures have probably been increasing ranges from 56 to 61 percent. In addition to region, women, African-Americans, and Democrats are more likely to say temperatures have probably been increasing.

- Sixty-six percent of women compared to 53 percent of men believe temperatures are probably increasing.
- Seventy-seven percent of African-American respondents compared to 51 percent of white respondents believe temperatures are probably increasing.
- Seventy-six percent of Democrats believe temperatures are probably increasing compared to 39 percent of Republicans.

Among those respondents who believe that climate change is happening, a majority – 53 percent – believe that increasing temperatures are due to human activity, 40 percent say it is due to other factors and 7 percent were unsure or did not know. The specific question wording is as follows: *Do you think that this rise in global temperature is primarily the result of human activity or primarily the result of other factors?* The interpretation is that while a majority of Louisiana residents (60 percent) believe

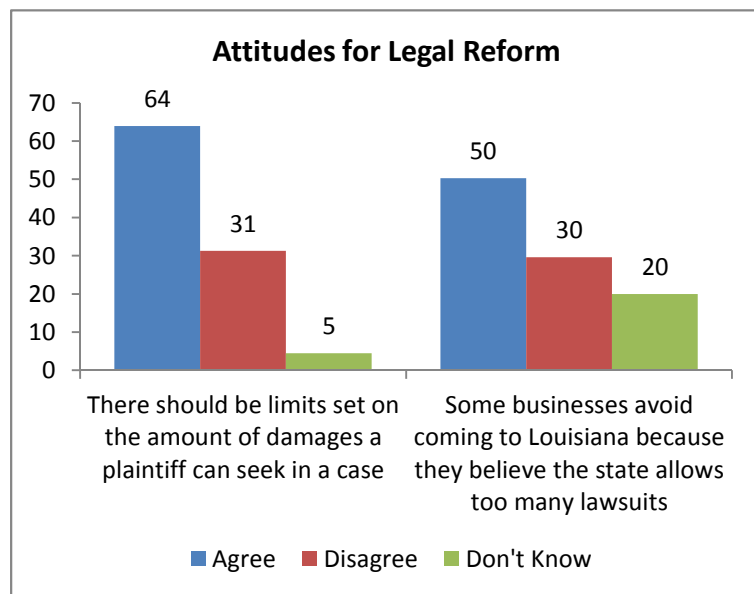
temperatures are probably increasing, only slightly more than half of these respondents believe the increase is due to human activity, or roughly 31 percent of the overall population.

With the exception of age and political party, we don't see many differences across this question. First, 62 percent of 18-24 year olds believe that rising temperatures are due to human activity compared to 46 percent of those 65 and older. Second, 58 percent of Democrats compared to 38 percent of Republicans believe rising temperatures are due to human activity.

IX. Tort Reform

Because of lawsuits brought against oil and gas companies, tort reform will be an important issue during the legislative session. In the current survey, we sought to tap public attitudes toward tort reform by including questions asking respondents about limits on damages to plaintiffs and whether businesses would avoid locating in Louisiana over concerns about possible lawsuits. Specifically, we asked respondents whether they would agree or disagree with the following statements:

1. *There should be limits set on the amount of damages a plaintiff can seek in a case;*
2. *Some businesses avoid coming to Louisiana because they believe the state allows too many lawsuits.*



A substantial majority of respondents – 64 percent – agree to limiting the amount of damages a plaintiff could seek, 31 percent disagree, and 5 percent are unsure. Residents are more divided over whether “some businesses” avoid coming to Louisiana because of the number of lawsuits. Fifty percent of residents agreed, 30 percent disagreed and 20 percent said they were not sure or did not know. The language here matters, as “some businesses” is not clearly defined and should yield a different response than some other qualifier.

Overall, there are not substantial demographic or partisan differences in agreement that there should be limits set on damages. We do, however, see some regional and partisan differences in the perception that businesses will avoid the state because of the legal environment. Forty-two percent of residents in the Orleans region agree that “some businesses” would avoid Louisiana because of lawsuits compared to 57 percent of residents in the Northshore and the surrounding parishes. Similarly, 48 percent of Democrats agree that lawsuits serve as a deterrent to businesses locating in the state, compared to 62 percent of Republicans.

Survey Methodology, Script, and Basic Frequencies:

Survey Methodology

About the Survey: The 2014 Louisiana Survey includes a traditional landline telephone survey combined with a survey of Louisiana cell phone users. The results are weighted to reflect current population demographics as reflected in the most recently available Census data. The combined survey includes 1095 respondents, including 571 respondents selected from landline telephone numbers via random-digit dialing and 524 respondents selected from available cell phone blocks. Interviews were conducted from February 4 to February 24, 2014. The overall survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percentage points. The response rate for the landline portion of the survey was 9 percent, meaning that 9 percent of calls to eligible households resulted in a completed interview. The response rate for the cell phone survey was also 9 percent. Response rates for surveys have been consistently declining over the past several decades and these response rates are within the range of what has been reported by national survey organizations such as the Pew Center for the People and the Press and Gallup.

Full Script and Frequencies:

- 1) To begin with, would you say things are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things are going in the wrong direction here in Louisiana?

| | (N=1,080) |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Right Direction | 41 |
| Wrong Direction | 43.8 |
| Don't Know | 14.7 |
| Refused | 0.6 |
| Total | 100 |

- 2) In your opinion, what do you think is the SINGLE most important problem facing the state of Louisiana? [open-ended]

| | (N=1,080) |
|--------------|-----------|
| Education | 28.5 |
| Economy-Jobs | 22.7 |
| Politics | 14.6 |
| Health Care | 10.2 |
| Crime | 7.5 |
| Roads | 2.4 |
| Budget | 2.5 |
| Environment | 2.1 |
| Other | 9.5 |

- 3) How much confidence would you say you have in state government to effectively address this problem? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?

| | N=1095 |
|----------------------|--------|
| Very Confident | 5.7 |
| Somewhat Confident | 30 |
| Not Very Confident | 32.2 |
| Not at all confident | 27.2 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 4.7 |

- 4) We are also interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same as you were a year ago?

| | |
|------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Better | 25 |
| Same | 47.2 |
| Worse | 27.1 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 0.4 |

- 5) What about business conditions in the state of Louisiana -- do you think that at the present time business conditions in Louisiana are better, worse, or about the same as they were a year ago?

| | |
|------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Better | 25.7 |
| Same | 47.5 |
| Worse | 22.8 |
| Don't Know | 4.1 |

- 6) What about business conditions in the nation -- do you think that at the present time business conditions in the country as a whole are better, worse, or about the same as they were a year ago?

| | |
|------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Better | 18.5 |
| Same | 35.5 |
| Worse | 39.6 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 6.3 |

- 7) When it comes to the overall state economy, would you say Louisiana is currently faring better than the rest of the country, worse than the rest of country or about the same as the rest of the country?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Better | 31.7 |
| Same | 33.5 |
| Worse | 32.2 |
| Don't Know | 2.7 |

- 8) And how do you think the Louisiana economy compares relative to other southern states? Do you think Louisiana is currently faring better than the rest of the south, worse than the rest of the south or about the same?

| | N=1094 |
|------------|--------|
| Better | 25.7 |
| Same | 45.7 |
| Worse | 23.8 |
| Don't Know | 4.8 |

- 9) Do you favor or oppose increasing the minimum wage in Louisiana to \$8.50 an hour?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Favor | 73.8 |
| Oppose | 23.2 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 2.7 |

10) As you may be aware, Louisiana often provides tax incentives to businesses to locate or expand in Louisiana. Overall, do you think it is a good idea for Louisiana to provide these tax incentives to businesses, a bad idea, or haven't you given it enough thought?

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Good Idea | 54.8 |
| Bad Idea | 10.1 |
| Haven't given it enough thought | 33.2 |
| Don't Know | 1.9 |

11) Thinking about state income taxes, would you say that state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced, too low and need to be increased, or just about right?

| | N=1095 |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Too high and need to be reduced | 38.2 |
| Too low and need to be increased | 7.6 |
| Just about right | 47.1 |
| Refused | 0.8 |
| Don't Know | 6.4 |

12) What about the state sales tax, would you say that the state sales tax is too high and needs to be reduced, too low and needs to be increased, or just about right?

| | N=1095 |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Too high and need to be reduced | 42.9 |
| Too low and need to be increased | 4.7 |
| Just about right | 49.8 |
| Don't Know | 2.7 |

13) What about local property taxes, would you say local property taxes are too high and need to be reduced, too low and need to be increased, or just about right?

| | N=1095 |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Too high and need to be reduced | 43.4 |
| Too low and need to be increased | 5 |
| Just about right | 38 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 13.2 |

14) Which of the following statements comes closest to expressing your view when it comes to reforming the Louisiana tax system?

| | N=1095 |
|--|--------|
| LA tax system works well (needs small changes) | 46.2 |
| There is too much (need complete change) | 44.6 |
| Refused | 0.7 |
| Don't Know | 8.4 |

Now I'm going to read you some different areas where Louisiana spends tax dollars. As I read each one, tell me if you would like to see state spending in this area increased, decreased, or kept about the same.-

First what about spending for...

15) Primary and secondary education

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Increase | 80 |
| Decrease | 4.4 |
| Keep about the same | 14.5 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 1 |

16) Higher education

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Increase | 74.3 |
| Decrease | 6.4 |
| Keep about the same | 17.5 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 1.7 |

17) Health care

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Increase | 57 |
| Decrease | 11.9 |
| Keep about the same | 26.6 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 4.2 |

18) Roads, bridges, and mass transit

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Increase | 69.1 |
| Decrease | 2.5 |
| Keep about the same | 27 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 1.2 |

19) Prisons

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Increase | 18.5 |
| Decrease | 34.9 |
| Keep about the same | 40.2 |
| Refused | 0.5 |
| Don't Know | 5.9 |

20) Social Assistance Programs such as Welfare and Food Stamps

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Increase | 21.5 |
| Decrease | 38.5 |
| Keep about the same | 36 |
| Refused | 0.4 |
| Don't Know | 3.6 |

22) Attracting new businesses and jobs to the state

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Increase | 68.2 |
| Decrease | 6.2 |
| Keep about the same | 23.9 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 1.7 |

23) Now thinking about race relations in Louisiana: Do you think race relations in Louisiana are getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?

| | N=1095 |
|------------------|--------|
| Getting better | 25.5 |
| Getting worse | 20.7 |
| Staying the same | 50.5 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 3 |

24) Do you think everyone in Louisiana has a fair chance to improve their economic standing regardless of race or do you think some racial groups have an advantage over others?

| | N=1095 |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Everyone has a fair chance | 42.4 |
| Some groups have an advantage | 54 |
| Refused | 0.4 |
| Don't Know | 3.2 |

25) Overall, who do you think exerts more influence over Louisiana state government today - Louisiana citizens or the people who contribute to political campaigns?

| | N=1095 |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Louisiana Citizens | 17.6 |
| Campaign Contributors | 77.7 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 4.5 |

26) Would you support or oppose a proposal requiring political contributors to disclose their occupation when making a contribution to a political campaign?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 70.8 |
| Oppose | 23.2 |
| Refused | 0.4 |
| Don't Know | 5.6 |

27) Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: "I am confident the current election process in Louisiana produces fair outcomes."

| | N=1095 |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Strongly Agree | 9.4 |
| Agree | 43.1 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 8.4 |
| Disagree | 27.6 |
| Strongly Disagree | 9.7 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 1.6 |

28) Now turning our attention to crime: In the last five years, would you say the amount of crime in Louisiana has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

| | N=1095 |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Increase | 61.9 |
| Decreased | 10.5 |
| Stayed about the same | 24.6 |
| Don't Know | 3 |

29) And what about crime in your local community? Would you say the amount of crime in your local community has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

| | N=1095 |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Increase | 47.1 |
| Decreased | 15.4 |
| Stayed about the same | 35.2 |
| Don't Know | 2.3 |

30) Overall, do you think sentencing for people convicted of crimes in Louisiana is working pretty well, needs some changes, or needs major changes?

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Works pretty well | 11.1 |
| Needs some changes | 42.2 |
| Needs major changes | 42.8 |
| Don't Know | 3.9 |

31) Overall in regard to sentencing criminals in Louisiana- would you support or oppose SHORTER sentences for people convicted of Non-Violent crimes?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 71.8 |
| Oppose | 22.2 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 5.7 |

32) Now I have some questions about education in Louisiana.

Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, or F to denote the quality of their work. What grade would you give the public schools in your local community?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| A | 11.7 |
| B | 27.3 |
| C | 34.9 |
| D | 14.4 |
| F | 6.2 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 5.2 |

33) What grade would you give to Louisiana public schools overall?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| A | 4 |
| B | 17.2 |
| C | 45.1 |
| D | 20.8 |
| F | 6.1 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 6.7 |

34) How familiar are you with the "Common Core" standards in English and Math recently adopted for all Louisiana public schools?

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Very familiar | 16.2 |
| Somewhat familiar | 32.8 |
| Not very familiar | 19.7 |
| Not familiar at all | 28.6 |
| Don't Know | 2.6 |

35) Based on what you do know, do you think Common Core standards are too demanding, about right, or not demanding enough?

| | N=1095 |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Too demanding | 23.6 |
| About right | 24 |
| Not demanding enough | 24.5 |
| Don't have enough information | 16.5 |
| Refused | 0.4 |
| Don't Know | 11 |

36) Do you think private schools in Louisiana should also have to meet Common Core standards?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Yes | 67.1 |
| No | 21.2 |
| Don't Know | 11.7 |

37) How confident are you that implementing Common Core standards in Louisiana public schools will make students more college or career ready upon graduation?

| | N=1094 |
|----------------------|--------|
| Very Confident | 19.2 |
| Somewhat confident | 28.8 |
| Not very confident | 17.1 |
| Not at all confident | 17.6 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 17.1 |

38) When it comes to the number of state tests currently taken by public school students, do you think there is too much testing, not enough testing, or the right amount of testing?

| | N=1095 |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Too much testing | 35.2 |
| Not enough testing | 17.8 |
| Right amount of testing | 36.5 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 10.3 |

39) Do you favor or oppose providing parents with children in failing public schools with tax money in the form of scholarships to help pay for their children to attend private or religious schools?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Favor | 50 |
| Oppose | 44.9 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 5 |

40) As you may be aware, TOPS is a scholarship program funded by the state of Louisiana that provides financial support for Louisiana high school students to attend Louisiana state colleges and universities. Some state leaders have proposed reducing the number or amount of TOPS awards as a way of addressing current budget shortfalls. What about you? Would you support or oppose the following proposals:

Reducing the total amount of money qualified students receive from the TOPS program?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 21.5 |
| Oppose | 73.8 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 4.6 |

41) Increasing the academic requirements to qualify for an award - for example requiring a higher grade point average and/or ACT score?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 54.2 |
| Oppose | 41.7 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 4 |

42) Providing a flat monetary award per student as opposed to the award being tied to tuition costs at a particular college or university.

| | N=1094 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 48.5 |
| Oppose | 44.4 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 6.8 |

43) Would you support or oppose a proposal allowing Louisiana colleges and universities to set tuition without state legislative approval?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 33.3 |
| Oppose | 59 |
| Refused | 0.4 |
| Don't Know | 7.3 |

44) Would you support or oppose a state-wide sales tax increase of 1 extra CENT for every 4 dollars spent if all of the additional money generated went toward higher education?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 71.4 |
| Oppose | 26.6 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 1.7 |

45) To the best of your knowledge, what type of Research is LSU Baton Rouge known for? [open-ended] *(Note: Numbers will not add to 100 as some respondents said more than one type of research)*

| | N=1095 |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Medical/Biological | 26.3 |
| Agriculture | 18.3 |
| Engineering/PetroChem | 4.8 |
| General Research/Science | 4.1 |
| Veterinary Medicine | 2.6 |
| Coastal/Environmental | 2.0 |
| Football/Sports | 2.0 |
| Bus./Econ./Pol. Sci. | 2.0 |
| Law | 1.8 |
| Education | 0.8 |
| Other | 4.1 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 42.0 |

46) Now I have some questions for you about laws in Louisiana. Would you support or oppose a law allowing same-sex couples to be legally married in Louisiana?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 41.7 |
| Oppose | 52.7 |
| Refused | 1.5 |
| Don't Know | 4.1 |

47) Would you support or oppose a law allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions in Louisiana?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 49.8 |
| Oppose | 43.4 |
| Refused | 1.4 |
| Don't Know | 5.4 |

48) Regardless of your personal view, do you think same-sex marriages will eventually be legal in the state of Louisiana?

| | N=1095 |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Yes: will eventually be legal | 67 |
| No: will not be legal | 27.5 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 5.1 |

49) Would you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of Marijuana for PERSONAL use?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 43.5 |
| Oppose | 54.1 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 2.1 |

50) Would you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for MEDICAL use?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 78.7 |
| Oppose | 19.4 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 1.8 |

51) Regardless of your personal view, do you think possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use will eventually be legal in the state of Louisiana?

| | N=1095 |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Yes: will eventually be legal | 65.4 |
| No: will not be legal | 30 |
| Don't Know | 4.6 |

52) On another note - Would you support or oppose a Statewide ban on the sale of assault weapons?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 42.8 |
| Oppose | 54.4 |
| Refused | 0.4 |
| Don't Know | 2.4 |

53) Would you support or oppose stricter statewide restrictions on access to firearms?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Support | 55.3 |
| Oppose | 43.1 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 1.4 |

54) I have a question about childhood vaccines, such as vaccines for measles, mumps, and polio. Do you think these vaccines are more dangerous than the diseases they are designed to prevent, or less dangerous than the diseases they are designed to prevent?

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| More dangerous than the diseases | 13.9 |
| Less dangerous than the diseases | 75.2 |
| Refused | 0 |
| Don't Know | 10.9 |

55) What is your personal opinion? Do you think that the world's temperature probably has been going up over the past 100 years, or do you think this probably has not been happening?

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Probably has been happening | 59.6 |
| Probably has not been happening | 34.4 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 5.8 |

56) Do you think that this rise in global temperature is primarily the result of human activity or primarily the result of other factors?

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| | N=647 |
| Human activity is the primary cause | 52.6 |
| Other factors are the primary cause | 39.8 |
| Refused | 0.6 |
| Don't Know | 7 |

57) On another topic.....Should there be penalties for bringing frivolous lawsuits to court?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Yes | 78.5 |
| No | 17.6 |
| Refused | 0.4 |
| Don't Know | 3.5 |

58) Should the loser of a court case be required to pay the winners attorney's fees?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Yes | 53.6 |
| No | 40.3 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 6 |

59) Would you agree or disagree with the following statement- "Most lawsuits are unnecessary and motivated by greed?"

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Agree | 73.3 |
| Disagree | 23.3 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 3.2 |

60) Would you agree or disagree with the following statement - "there should be limits set on the amount of damages a plaintiff can seek in a case."

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Agree | 63.9 |
| Disagree | 31.3 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 4.5 |

61) Would you agree or disagree with the following statement - "some businesses avoid coming to Louisiana because they believe the state allows too many lawsuits"

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Agree | 50.3 |
| Disagree | 29.6 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 20 |

62) Now I have a few quick questions for you about Healthcare. Are you now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include health coverage through an employer, a private plan you bought yourself, and coverage through a government program like Medicare or Medicaid?

[READ IF NECESSARY: Military Champus or champ va is included]

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Yes | 83.7 |
| No | 16.2 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 0.1 |

63) As you may know, The Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the Affordable Care Act, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

[DO NOT READ: If respondent asks "Is that Obamacare?" or something similar- you can clarify that yes - The Affordable Care Act is commonly known as Obamacare]

| | N=1095 |
|-------------|--------|
| Favorable | 31.2 |
| Unfavorable | 57.5 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 11.1 |

64) Do you think you and your family are better off or worse off as result of The Affordable Care Act, or hasn't it made much difference? [INTERVIEWER if asked, you can say Obamacare]

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Better off | 12.2 |
| Worse off | 29.7 |
| Hasn't Made Much Difference | 54.6 |
| Don't Know | 3.5 |

65) Louisiana does NOT offer a state-based exchange for uninsured residents to purchase health insurance. Uninsured Louisiana residents have to purchase insurance from a federal exchange. Overall, do you think that makes the QUALITY of health insurance obtained better, worse, or about the same for Louisiana residents?

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Better | 11.3 |
| Worse | 43.6 |
| About the same | 35.8 |
| Refused | 0.4 |
| Don't Know | 9 |

66) Do you think the 2010 Affordable Care Act will reduce the quality of YOUR healthcare, improve the quality of your healthcare, or not make much difference?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| | N=944 |
| Improve the quality of my healthcare | 14.4 |
| Reduce the quality of my healthcare | 38.8 |
| Won't make much difference | 42.2 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 4.4 |

67) And, do you think the 2010 Affordable Care Act will make your health insurance more expensive, less expensive, or do you think it will not make much difference

| | N=944 |
|----------------------------|-------|
| More expensive | 55.1 |
| Less expensive | 7.1 |
| Won't make much difference | 32.7 |
| I don't have insurance | 0.1 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 4.9 |

68) Would you say you pay a great deal of attention, some attention, not very much attention, or no attention at all to news about state government?

| | N=1095 |
|-------------------------|--------|
| A great deal | 28.7 |
| Some attention | 45.4 |
| Not very much attention | 19.5 |
| No attention at all | 6 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 0.3 |

69) Do you get most of your news about Louisiana public affairs and politics from television, newspapers, radio, or the internet? (CHOOSE ONE)

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Television | 54.1 |
| Newspapers | 12.1 |
| Radio | 6 |
| Internet | 25.8 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 1.9 |

70) *[For those who answered Internet]* Which device do you use for the MAJORITY of your news consumption?

| | N=240 |
|----------------------|-------|
| iPhone/mobile phone | 40.7 |
| iPad or other tablet | 11.8 |
| Desktop Computer | 22.5 |
| Laptop | 24.2 |
| Don't Know | 0.8 |

71) In the past week, how many days did you read a newspaper

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| 0 | 42.3 |
| 1 | 10.1 |
| 2 | 10.3 |
| 3 | 8.5 |
| 4 | 3.9 |
| 5 | 3.4 |
| 6 | 0.9 |
| 7 | 20 |
| Don't Know | 0.5 |

72) When you read the newspaper, do you mostly read the paper version of the newspaper or do you read the paper online?

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| | N=684 |
| Read paper version | 74.3 |
| Read online | 24.3 |
| Don't Know | 1.4 |

73) In the past week, how many days did you watch a local television news program such as "Eyewitness News" or "Action News"?

| | |
|------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| 0 | 15.1 |
| 1 | 5.7 |
| 2 | 8.6 |
| 3 | 9.4 |
| 4 | 6.8 |
| 5 | 7.3 |
| 6 | 1.9 |
| 7 | 45 |
| Don't Know | 0.3 |

74) In the past week, how many days did you watch a national network news program such as ABC World News Tonight, NBC Nightly News or CBS Evening News?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| 0 | 30.9 |
| 1 | 6.4 |
| 2 | 11.1 |
| 3 | 9.3 |
| 4 | 4.6 |
| 5 | 7.1 |
| 6 | 1.2 |
| 7 | 28.8 |
| Don't Know | 0.7 |

75) In the past week, how many days did you watch a news program on one of the dedicated cable news networks such as Fox News, MSNBC, or CNN?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| 0 | 34 |
| 1 | 7.3 |
| 2 | 9.7 |
| 3 | 7.6 |
| 4 | 4.8 |
| 5 | 6.3 |
| 6 | 1.9 |
| 7 | 27.7 |
| Don't Know | 0.8 |

76) In the past week, how many days did you listen to a news program on radio?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| 0 | 55.3 |
| 1 | 6.1 |
| 2 | 7.3 |
| 3 | 4.5 |
| 4 | 3.5 |
| 5 | 6.8 |
| 6 | 0.4 |
| 7 | 15.9 |
| Don't Know | 0.3 |

77) In the past week, how many days did you go on-line to get news about public affairs and politics?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| 0 | 43.8 |
| 1 | 6.3 |
| 2 | 7.3 |
| 3 | 7.1 |
| 4 | 3.4 |
| 5 | 5.1 |
| 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 26 |
| Don't Know | 0.1 |

78) Generally speaking do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or what?

| | N=1095 |
|-------------|--------|
| Democrat | 37 |
| Republican | 24.4 |
| Independent | 25.3 |
| Other | 9.9 |
| Refused | 1 |
| Don't Know | 2.3 |

79) Would you consider yourself a strong or a not so strong [Democrat or Republican]

| | N=717 |
|---------------|-------|
| Strong | 61.7 |
| Not so strong | 36.8 |
| Don't Know | 1.5 |

80) Would you say, you lean to the Democratic Party or Republican Party, or would you say you don't lean to either party?

| | N=378 |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Democratic Party | 14.5 |
| Republican Party | 24.7 |
| Independent (no lean) | 55.4 |
| Refused | 1.6 |
| Don't Know | 3.7 |

81) We just have a few follow up questions left. Your data is very helpful and will be used only for statistical purposes. In what year were you born?

| Age Ranges | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| 18-24 | 13.7 |
| 25-34 | 18.7 |
| 35-44 | 16.1 |
| 45-54 | 18.2 |
| 55-64 | 16.3 |
| 65+ | 17.1 |
| Total | 100 |

82) Do you own your own home, pay rent, or something else?

| Do you own or rent a home? | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Own home | 62.1 |
| Rent home | 23.1 |
| Something else | 14.5 |
| Refused | 0.4 |

83) And do any children under the age of 18 currently reside in your household?

| | |
|---------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Yes | 37.1 |
| No | 62.6 |
| Refused | 0.3 |

84) (For those with at least 1 child in the household) Do any of these children attend a public school in Louisiana?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| | N=335 |
| Yes | 66.3 |
| No | 33.5 |
| Don't Know | 0.2 |

85) (For those with at least 1 child in the household) Do any of these children attend private school in Louisiana?

| | |
|---|-------|
| Any children in private schools in the household? | |
| | N=335 |
| Yes | 23.4 |
| No | 76.6 |
| Total | 100 |

86) Which of the following categories best describes your level of education? Please stop me when I get to that category.

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Less than High School | 9 |
| High School | 22.7 |
| Some Col. or Voc. Degree | 32.2 |
| College degree | 36 |

87) What is your current marital status?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Married | 48 |
| Single | 33.7 |
| Divorced | 10.2 |
| Separated | 1.3 |
| Widowed | 6.5 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 0.1 |

88) And what is your zip code?

[Data not included]

89) Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Yes | 3 |
| No | 96.4 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 0.5 |

90) Which of the following best describes you? Are you White, African-American, Asian, or something else?

| | N=1095 |
|------------------|--------|
| White | 62.4 |
| African American | 30.6 |
| Asian | 0.4 |
| Other | 6.6 |
| Total | 100 |

91) Is your religious preference Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Agnostic, Atheists, or something else?

| | N=1095 |
|----------------|--------|
| Christian | 83.4 |
| Jewish | 0.1 |
| Muslim | 0.8 |
| Agnostic | 1.8 |
| Atheist | 1.7 |
| Something Else | 11.3 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 0.5 |

92) Do you generally consider yourself Protestant, Catholic, nondenominational, or something else?

| | N=936 |
|-------------------|-------|
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 0.2 |
| Protestant | 14.6 |
| Catholic | 34.4 |
| Baptist | 25.4 |
| Nondenominational | 15.4 |
| Something Else | 9.9 |

93) Do you generally consider yourself an evangelical or born again?

| | N=936 |
|------------|-------|
| Yes | 52 |
| No | 43.6 |
| Refused | 0.1 |
| Don't Know | 4.3 |

94) How often do you attend services at a church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship?...Never, once a year, a few times a year, once a month, about twice a month, once a week or more often

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------|--------|
| Never | 14.8 |
| Once a year | 3.4 |
| A few times a year | 15 |
| Once a month | 6.2 |
| About twice a month | 12.1 |
| Once a week or more | 47.2 |
| Refused | 0.3 |
| Don't Know | 1.1 |

95) Are you currently employed full-time, employed part-time, retired, unemployed and looking for work, or not employed and not looking for work?

| | N=1095 |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Employed full-time | 52.2 |
| Employed part-time | 9 |
| Retired | 17.7 |
| Unemployed and looking | 8.4 |
| Not employed; not looking | 8.1 |
| On disability | 4.3 |
| Refused | 0.2 |
| Don't Know | 0.2 |

96) We would like to know what your household income was last year before taxes. This information will remain strictly confidential and will only be used for statistical purposes. Please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household income.

| | N=1095 |
|-------------|--------|
| Under 10k | 8.5 |
| 10k-19999 | 9.9 |
| 20k-29999 | 8.6 |
| 30k-39999 | 8.6 |
| 40k-49999 | 7.4 |
| 50k-74999 | 13.2 |
| 75k-99999 | 9.7 |
| 100k-199999 | 11.4 |
| 200k+ | 3.9 |
| Refused | 10.8 |
| Don't Know | 8 |

97) And finally- Are you a gun owner?

| | N=1095 |
|------------|--------|
| Yes | 46.1 |
| No | 52.5 |
| Refused | 1.2 |
| Don't Know | 0.2 |

98) Record Gender [DO NOT ASK]

| Gender | |
|--------|--------|
| | N=1095 |
| Male | 48.3 |
| Female | 51.7 |
| Total | 100 |

For Reference – We defined the 5 Regions in this report by Parish.
Details below:

| <u>337-Southwest Louisiana</u> | <u>504-New Orleans</u> | <u>225-Baton Rouge</u> | <u>985-Northshore and Surrounding Areas</u> | <u>318-North Louisiana</u> |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Acadia Allen Beauregard Calcasieu Cameron Evangeline Iberia Jefferson Davis Lafayette Natchitoches St. Landry St. Martin St. Mary Vermilion | Orleans St. Bernard Plaquemines Jefferson | Ascension East Baton Rouge East Feliciana Iberville Livingston Pointe Coupee Saint Helena West Baton Rouge West Feliciana | Assumption Lafourche Saint Charles St. Tammany St. John the Baptist Tangipahoa Terrebonne Washington Saint James | Avoyelles Bienville Bossier Caddo Caldwell Catahoula Claiborne Concordia De Soto East Carroll Franklin Grant Jackson La Salle Lincoln Madison Morehouse Ouachita Rapides Red River Richland Sabine Tensas Union Vernon Webster West Carroll Winn |

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