

2007

Louisiana Survey 2007

LSU Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs

The Public Policy Research Lab

www.survey.lsu.edu

A Partnership of the Manship School of Mass Communication's
Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs and the E.J. Ourso College of Business

The Spring 2007 Louisiana Survey Final Report



Sponsored by

The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs
Manship School of Mass Communication
Louisiana State University

&



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Spring 2007 survey marks the fifth year of the Louisiana Survey. A project of the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs at LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication, the survey began with a simple idea: to provide a nonpartisan source of public opinion data to state opinion leaders and media outlets. Critical to this effort was the development of a set of core items that would allow the survey to serve as a barometer of statewide public opinion. It was our belief in creating the survey that policy works best when it is based on an informed understanding of public opinion. This has never meant that policy should blindly follow our survey results (or anyone else's for that matter). We view public opinion as fluid, ever-changing, and open to the possibility of being lead by responsible and engaged leaders. Public opinion polls show us what public opinion is. An informed reading of these polls shows us what public opinion might be. As part of this effort, we have structured the Louisiana Survey to be used as a tool for policy development, not simply as a tool for generating media attention. We do not ask the type of horse race questions that are sure to generate news coverage but do little to inform policy. We do not ask standard approval questions that focus too much attention on individual politicians instead of the policies that are necessary to help move the state forward. All of the data is publicly available, and the findings have been presented throughout the state and have routinely been used in academic research. By providing this service, we hope that the Louisiana Survey has played a small part in advancing the state.

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 biannually 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 most important issues, 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. The current survey includes questions on the budget surplus, homeowners insurance, rebuilding and ethics reform.

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 most need to be addressed by the survey. While we are greatly 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. Five years out, we offer them a special thank you for seeing the value in this project. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Irene W. and Clark B. Pennington Foundation for its support of the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Louisiana Surveys.

Questions regarding the content of this report should be directed to:

Kirby Goidel, Director of the Louisiana Survey
Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs
Manship School of Mass Communication
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: (225) 578-7588
E-mail: kgoidel@lsu.edu

For more information on previous surveys or to download the full report, please visit:
www.survey.lsu.edu.

METHOD

The Public Policy Research Lab conducted the survey between March 16 and April 11, 2007. Calls were conducted from noon until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Telephone numbers were selected using random digit dialing. Numbers where callers received no answer were called 10 times before being removed from the pool of eligible numbers. When possible, a message was left briefly describing the survey along with a toll free number for the Public Policy Research Lab. Three attempts at refusal conversion were made no sooner than 72 hours after the initial refusal.

The survey has a sampling error of ± 3.3 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. This means that if we replicated the survey twenty times, only once will the answers differ by more than 3.3 percentage points from the answers in this report. The margin of error will be larger for subgroups, including the split ballot samples. The approximate margin of error for the split ballot samples is ± 4.7 percentage points. Other types of errors can also affect survey results, including question wording, question order, and errors in the interviewing process. The response rate for the survey is 28 percent, meaning that 28 percent of calls to eligible households resulted in a completed interview. The cooperation rate is 37 percent, meaning that 37 percent of calls in which a potential respondent was contacted yielded a completed interview. Differences in response rates among different segments of the population may result in biased estimates of public opinion. To account for these differences, data are often weighted by demographic characteristics where sample estimates do not closely mirror census-based population estimates. The results presented in this report are weighted to provide the most accurate estimate of population preferences possible. The data are also weighted to account for population shifts due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Weights were constructed using the most recent census data available (released March 22, 2007) and account for population changes at the parish level.

Table 1: Selected Sample Demographics in Final Weighted Samples

<u>Statewide Sample (N=870)</u>	
<u>Gender</u>	
Male	47.4
Female	52.6
<u>Race</u>	
White	64.7
Hispanic	0.3
African-American	32.5
Asian	0.2
Other	2.3
<u>Education</u>	
Less than High School	19.6
High School	32.4
Some College	25.5
College (4 Year Degree and Above)	22.5
<u>Income</u>	
Less than 20,000	28.4
20,000-49,999	33.1
50,000-99,999	26.0
100,000 or more	12.4
<u>Region</u>	
Baton Rouge (225)	17.2
New Orleans (504)	15.2
Orleans Surrounding Parishes (985)	18.2
Southwest Louisiana (337)	20.1
North Louisiana (318)	29.3

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

The Wrong Direction: Residents are increasingly skeptical about the direction of the state. In the Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey, we noted a 9-point increase in the percent of respondents saying the state was headed in the right direction. We noted at the time that this likely reflected the context in which the survey was taken: The state had just emerged from the hurricane season without having to deal with a major storm. Six months later, 50 percent of Louisianans say the state is heading in the wrong direction, 33 percent say the state is heading in the right direction, and 17 percent say they don't know or unsure. While there are some minor differences, these numbers generally match the lows reported in the Spring 2006 Survey.

Shifting Public Attention Away From Rebuilding: As the 2005 hurricanes move further into history, we continue to see public attention shifting away from rebuilding and toward other issues. First, the percent of respondents identifying rebuilding as one of the state's three most important problems continues to decline. In the current survey, 26 percent of respondents identified rebuilding as one of the three most important problems confronting the state, a 3-point decline from the Fall 2006 Survey and 36-point decline from Spring 2006. Second, the percent of respondents saying the state should increase spending on rebuilding has declined from 81 percent in Spring 2006 to 69 percent in the current survey. In addition, when asked to choose between their top spending priority and rebuilding fewer people selected rebuilding. In Spring 2006, 41 percent of respondents opted for rebuilding compared to 29 percent in the current survey. Third, when asked directly about whether "We have paid too much attention to rebuilding New Orleans and need to think about other issues and other areas of the state," 51 percent of respondents agreed. By comparison, 42 percent of respondents said "We need to continue to focus on rebuilding New Orleans even if it means paying less attention to other issues or other areas of the state."

Relocation, Voting, and Displaced Louisianans: When it comes to displaced persons returning to the state, a majority of Louisianans prefer a limited state role. Sixty-four percent of respondents said it should be left up to individuals to decide whether they return and rebuild, and the state should play little if any role. A third of respondents (33 percent) said the state should make every effort to help displaced residents return and rebuild. Louisianans are somewhat mixed on the question of whether displaced residents should be allowed to vote in the 2007 gubernatorial election. A substantial plurality of respondents (47 percent) said that any resident who has not returned since the hurricanes should not be allowed to vote. A slight majority of residents, however, believe displaced residents should be allowed to vote but disagree on the role of the state in providing access to the ballot. Twenty-eight percent of respondents said displaced residents should be allowed to vote using existing rules for absentee ballots, while 23 percent said the state should actively encourage voting by setting up polling stations in areas with significant displaced populations.

Ethics Reform: More than two-thirds of respondents (69 percent) said the state needs stronger ethics laws. Twenty-three percent of respondents said existing state ethics laws were strong enough. While there are differences across standard demographics categories, at no point did support for stronger ethics laws dip below 60 percent. When it comes to specific provisions of ethics legislation, Louisianans are most supportive of stronger ethics administration followed by access to public records, whistle blower protection, and limits on gifts to elected officials. Each of these items receives more than 80 percent support. Louisianans are somewhat less supportive of personal financial disclosure, though even here 65 percent of respondents support increasing requirements for personal financial disclosure.

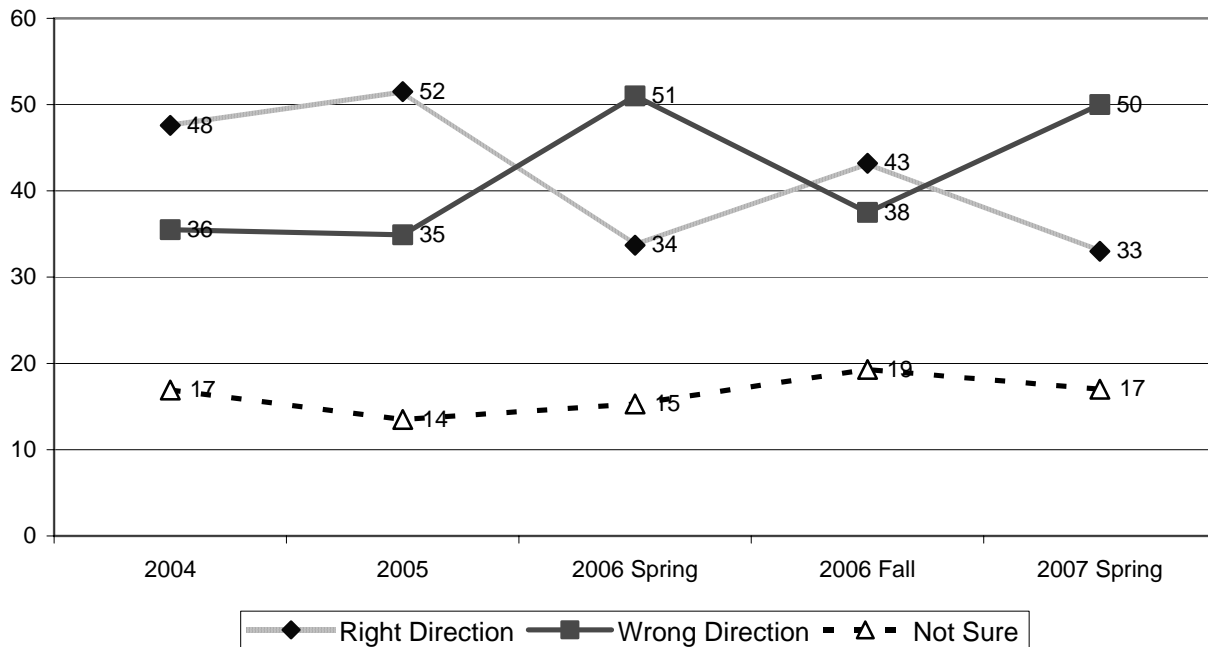
Attitudes Toward Insurance Companies and Insurance Reform: Forty-two percent of Louisianans with homeowners insurance have filed a claim in the past two years. Of these respondents, 37 percent

reported they received too little money to pay for repairs to their home. Most Louisianans (74 percent) said they would trust their insurance companies to treat them fairly were they affected by a severe weather event. Trust was much lower among respondents who had filed claim and reported receiving too little to pay for repairs to their home. Seventy-five percent of Louisianans reported noticing an increase in what they personally pay for homeowners insurance and 52 percent reported being concerned that they will be unable to afford or obtain homeowners insurance in the future. When it comes to reforming the insurance industry, Louisianans generally prefer state regulation over market forces. Sixty-two percent of Louisianans believe the state should play a role in regulating insurance companies, 73 percent believe the state should regulate rate increases to keep insurance affordable, and 66 percent believe the state should provide insurance coverage of last resort.

Using the Surplus: To gauge how Louisianans prefer using the budget surplus, we asked whether the money should be used on one-time items or recurring expenses. We then followed up with separate questions asking about spending preferences assuming the money could only be used on one-time or recurring budget items. First, 58 percent of respondents prefer spending the surplus on recurring items, while 25 percent prefer one-time items and 17 percent say they do not know or are unsure. Second, when asked about different areas to spend one-time only monies, more respondents favored using the money to repair roads, followed by paying off the pension debt, and recovery projects. Respondents were least favorable toward a tax rebate – though even here 58 percent of respondents either strongly favored (17 percent) or favored a tax rebate (41 percent). When asked about recurring budget items, respondents expressed the greatest support for providing health care for the uninsured, followed by teacher pay raises, a permanent tax cut, and a state employee pay raise. Eighty-four percent of respondents favored (54 percent) or strongly favored (30 percent) health care for the uninsured, while 82 percent favored (48 percent) or strongly favored (34 percent) a teacher pay raise. Notably each of these items receives majority support. There is less support for a permanent tax cut, though again tax cuts yield majority support (58 percent).

Grading the State

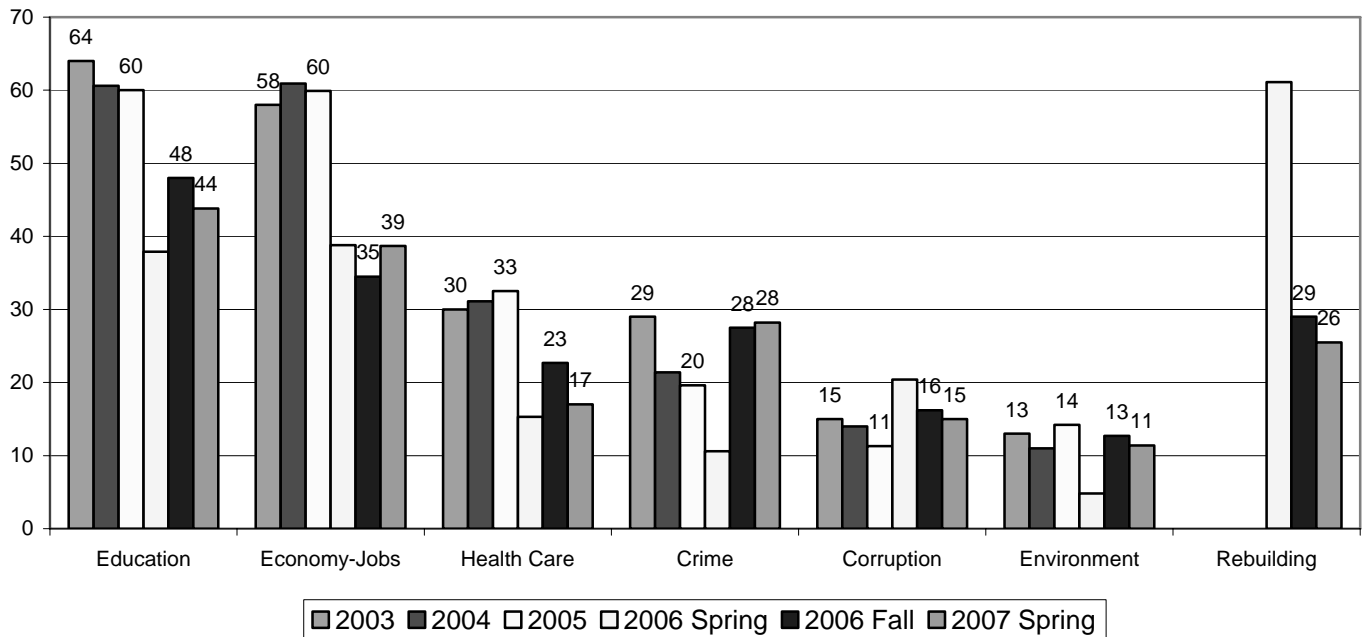
Direction of the State



Right Direction on the Decline: Since the Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey, there has been a substantial decline in the percent of Louisiana residents saying the state is headed in the right direction. In the current survey, only 33 percent of residents said the state is heading in the right direction, while 50 percent said the state is heading in the wrong direction and 17 percent said they don't know or are not sure. The percent of Louisianans saying the state is heading in the right direction is now lower than in surveys taken in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

- Fifty-four percent of white respondents said the state is heading in the wrong direction compared to 41 percent of non-white residents.
- The most negative respondents were older residents (55-64) and residents with some college. Sixty percent of residents 55-64 said the state is moving in the wrong direction compared to 41 percent of those 25-34. Similarly, 60 percent of respondents with some college said the state is moving in the wrong direction compared to 50 percent with a college degree and 45 percent with a high school degree or less.
- While there are regional differences, these are not as large as one might expect and these differences are not statistically significant. The New Orleans area and the Orleans surrounding parishes were more negative than the rest of the state. Fifty-five percent of respondents in these areas said the state is heading in the wrong direction, compared to 47 percent in Baton Rouge, 45 percent in North Louisiana, and 49 percent in Southwest Louisiana.

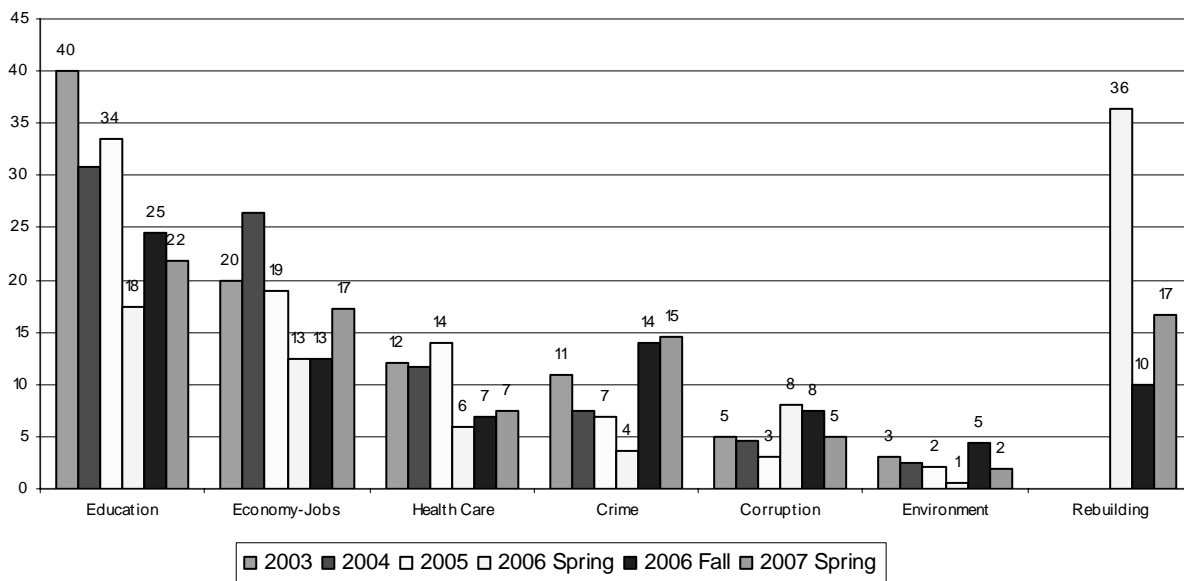
Top Three Most Important Problems, 2003-2007



Most Important Problem: Respondents are first asked to identify the three most important problems confronting the state. They are then asked which of these problems is the most important problem confronting the state.

Education and the economy remain the most important problems confronting the state. Forty-four percent of respondents say education is one of three most important problems confronting the state, while 39 percent of respondents say the economy is the most important problem. While education remains the most frequently cited problem, the percent citing education declined by 4 percentage points while the percent citing the economy increased by 4 points. Rebuilding continued a decline noted in the Fall 2006 Survey. Twenty-six percent of residents cite rebuilding as one of the state's most important problems, a decline of 3 points relative to the Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey. Identification of crime as one of the three most important problems changed little over the past year, but continues to hover at 28 percent. While this isn't reflected in the chart, we've noted an increase in the number of respondents specifically mentioning drugs and drug related issues.

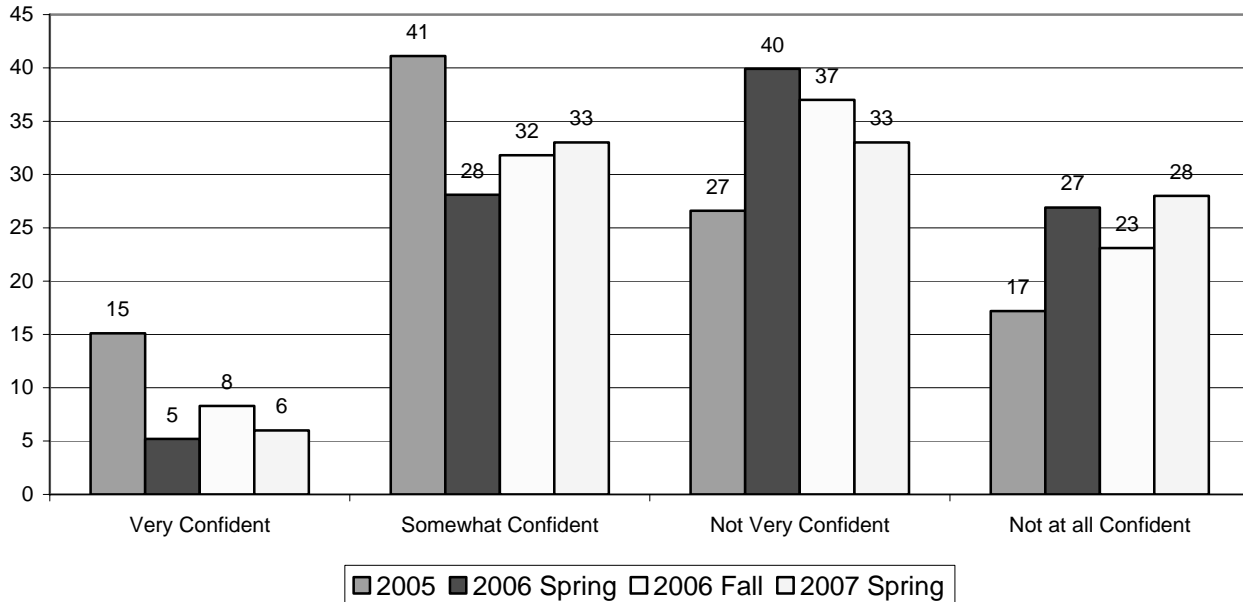
The Most Important Problem, 2003-2007



These patterns are generally mirrored in identification of the most important problem. Education emerges as the most important issue followed by the economy and rebuilding, crime, and health care. However, the considerable variation in problems identified by the public also illustrates the difficulties confronting state leaders: There is no single agreed upon most important problem. Rather there are problems – each of which varies in importance to different constituencies. This is most obvious in regional differences in problem identification. For ease of presentation, we present these differences using respondent's identification of the three most important problems confronting the state.

- Forty-six percent of New Orleans area residents identify rebuilding as one of three most important problems compared to 30 percent in the Orleans surrounding parishes, 29 percent in Baton Rouge, 20 percent in Southwest Louisiana, and 13 percent in North Louisiana.
- While rebuilding is more important in New Orleans, rebuilding has declined in importance even in New Orleans. In the Fall 2006 Survey, two-thirds of New Orleans residents cited rebuilding as the most important problem compared to 46 percent in the current survey.
- The economy is clearly most important in North Louisiana. Fifty-one percent of North Louisiana residents identify the economy as one of three most important problems compared to 41 percent in Baton Rouge, 27 percent in Southwest Louisiana, 33 percent in New Orleans, and 35 percent in the Orleans surrounding parishes.
- Education is most important in Baton Rouge. Fifty-percent of Baton Rouge residents compared to 40 percent in North Louisiana, 45 percent in Southwest Louisiana, 40 percent in New Orleans, and 45 percent in the Orleans surrounding parishes cite education as one the top three problems confronting the state.
- Forty-one percent of New Orleans residents, 37 percent in the Orleans surrounding parishes, 27 percent in Baton Rouge, 19 percent in North Louisiana, and 25 percent in Southwest Louisiana cite crime as one of the three most important problems confronting the state.

Confidence State Government Will Address Most Important Problem

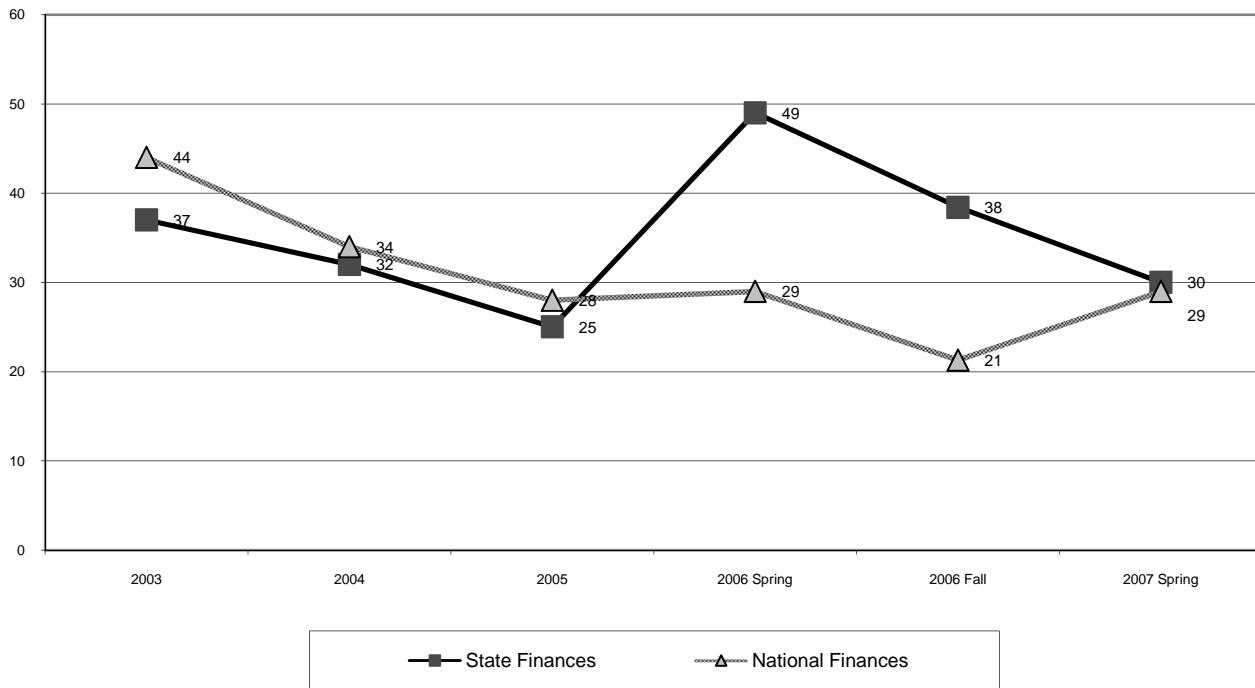


Confidence in Public Officials: Confidence that state government will effectively address respondents self-identified most important problem remains low. Confidence, however, has not declined noticeably since the Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey and remains higher than in Spring 2006. Thirty-nine percent of respondents said they were very (6 percent) or somewhat (33 percent) confident state officials would effectively deal with the most important problem. As would be expected, confidence levels differ depending upon which problems are selected. Respondents are most confident that state government will effectively address the education and economy followed by rebuilding, the environment, health care, crime, and corruption.

Table 2: Confidence State Officials Will Effectively Address the Most Important Problem by Issue Area

Issue Area	Confidence (Percent Very Confident)
Education	44 (3)
Economic Issues	44 (3)
Health Care	32 (5)
Crime	24 (11)
Corruption	17 (3)
Environment	35 (5)
Rebuilding	39 (8)

Economic Evaluations: Percent Believing State and National Business Conditions Will Get Worse

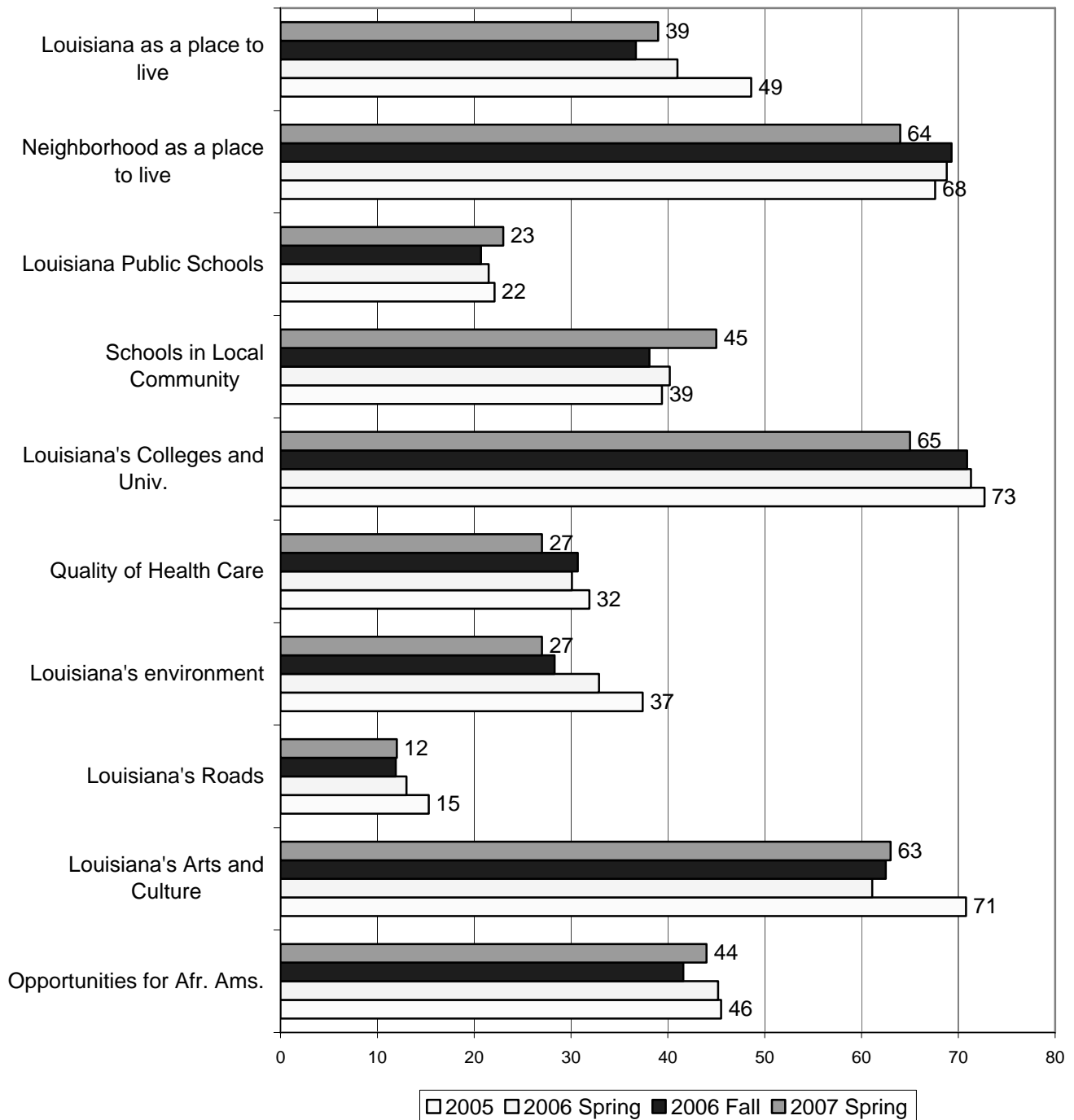


Economic Evaluations: Over the past six months, evaluations of state business conditions have improved significantly, presumably reflecting a relatively healthy state budget. Since the fall, there has been an 8-point decline in the percent of respondents saying the state economy has gotten worse. Notably, while only 30 percent of respondents said the state economy was getting better, this is the most optimistic response since 2003 when we began asking the question.

The improving state outlook corresponds with a more negative national outlook. The percent of respondents saying the national economy has gotten worse increased from 21 percent in fall to 29 percent in the spring. The decline in evaluations of national business conditions partly reflects a decline in the percent of respondents saying the national economy has gotten better (which declined from 32 to 27 percent), but also a decline in the percent of respondents saying the economy stayed the same (which declined from 47 to 44 percent).

As has been the case in recent surveys, residents in Baton Rouge and Southwest Louisiana are generally most positive about state business conditions, while residents in New Orleans are most negative. Thirty-nine percent of Baton Rouge Area residents and 38 percent of Southwest Louisiana residents said state business conditions are getting better compared to 21 percent in New Orleans. Perhaps more telling, 48 percent of New Orleans residents said state business conditions are getting worse compared to 27 percent in Baton Rouge and 23 percent in Southwest Louisiana. Clearly geography plays a critical role in how residents perceive state business conditions.

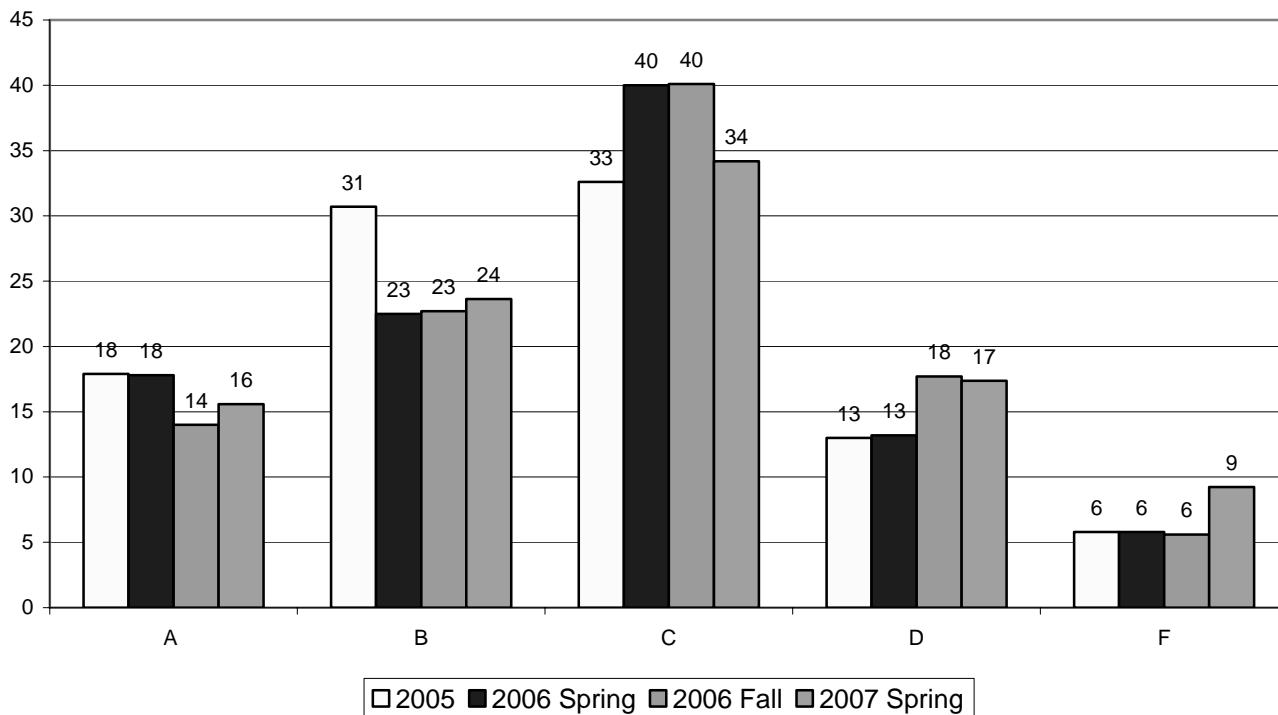
Grading Louisiana: Percent Giving a Grade "A" or "B"



Grading Louisiana: Grades for various public services have remained remarkably stable over time with a few notable exceptions: First, grades for the environment have consistently fallen since 2005. Over the two years included in the chart, the percent of residents giving the environment an A or B has declined by 10 points. Second, grades for Louisiana's colleges and universities declined from 71 percent in the fall

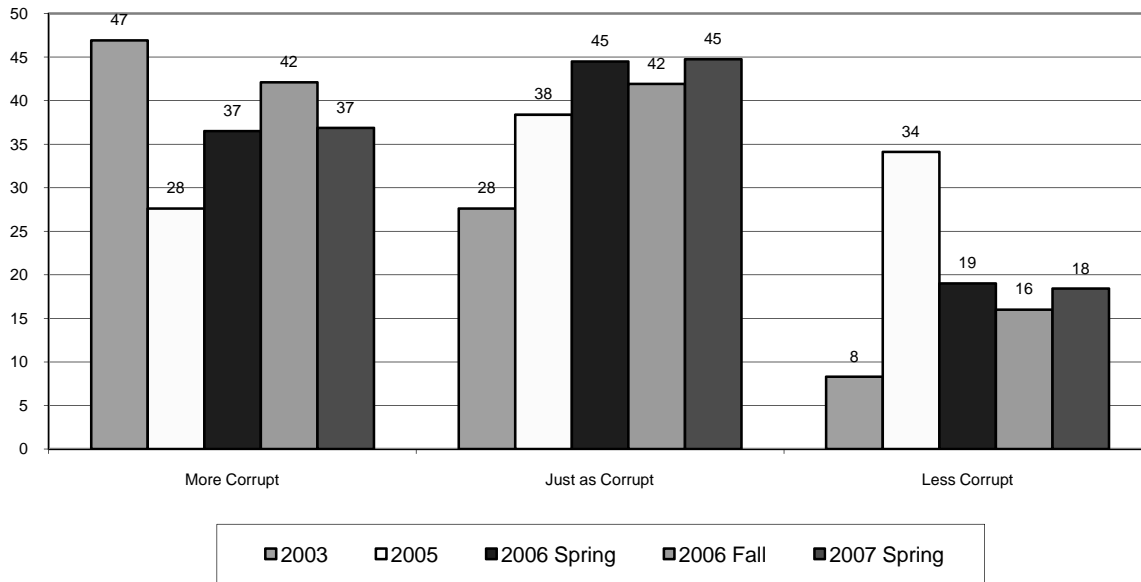
to 65 percent in the spring. Despite the decline, colleges and universities remain the top-rated item in terms of government services. Third, evaluations for the quality of health care declined from 31 percent in the fall to 27 percent in the spring.

Louisiana as a Place to Live



Finally, evaluations of Louisiana as a place to live changed marginally. There is a 6-point decline in the percent of Louisianans grading the state a “C” as a place to live, but this difference is accounted for by slightly more positive grades (+3 percentage points giving the state an A or B) and slightly more negative grades (+3 percentage points giving the state an F).

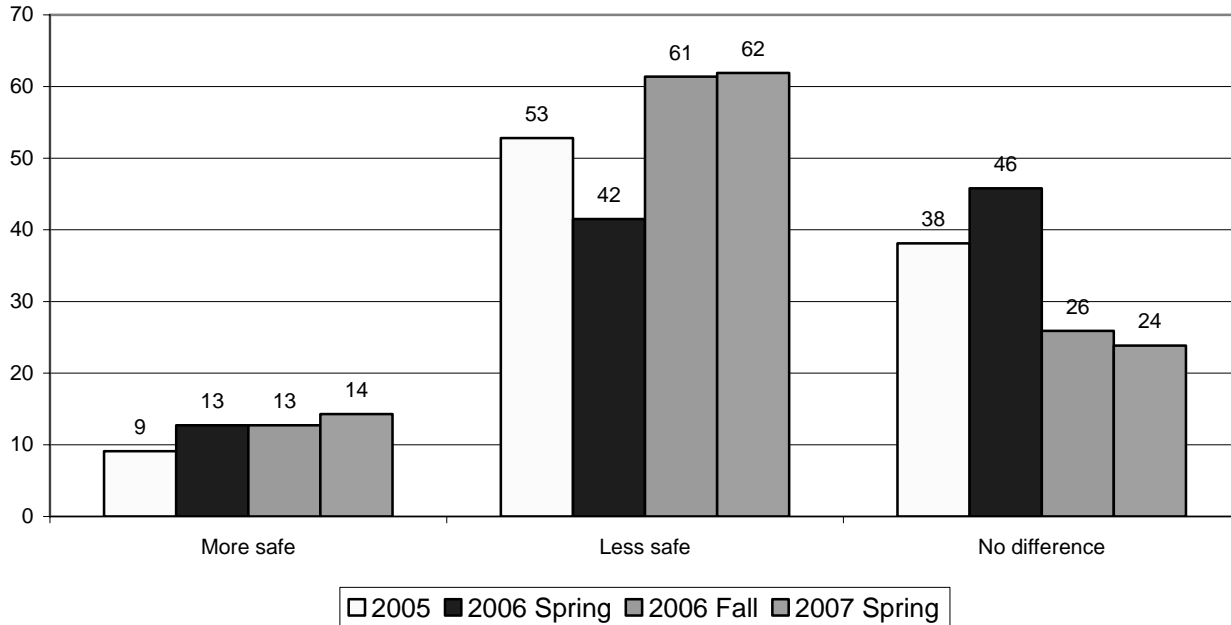
Perceptions of Corruption



Perceptions of Corruption: In the Fall 2006 Survey, we noted an increase in public perceptions that the state was more corrupt which continued a trend from 2005 when perceptions of corruption reached their low. In the spring survey, we see a 5-point decline in the percent of respondents saying the state is more corrupt. Perceptions that the state has become more corrupt are highest among less educated, lower income, and nonwhite respondents.

- Fifty percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 said the state has become more corrupt compared to 36 percent earning between \$30,000 and \$50,000, and 23% earning more than \$50,000.
- Fifty-seven percent of respondents with less than a high school education, 36 percent of respondents with a high school education, and 17 percent of respondents with a college degree say the state has become more corrupt.
- Forty-eight percent of minority respondents compared to 30 percent of white respondents believe the state has become more corrupt.

Perceptions of Public Safety

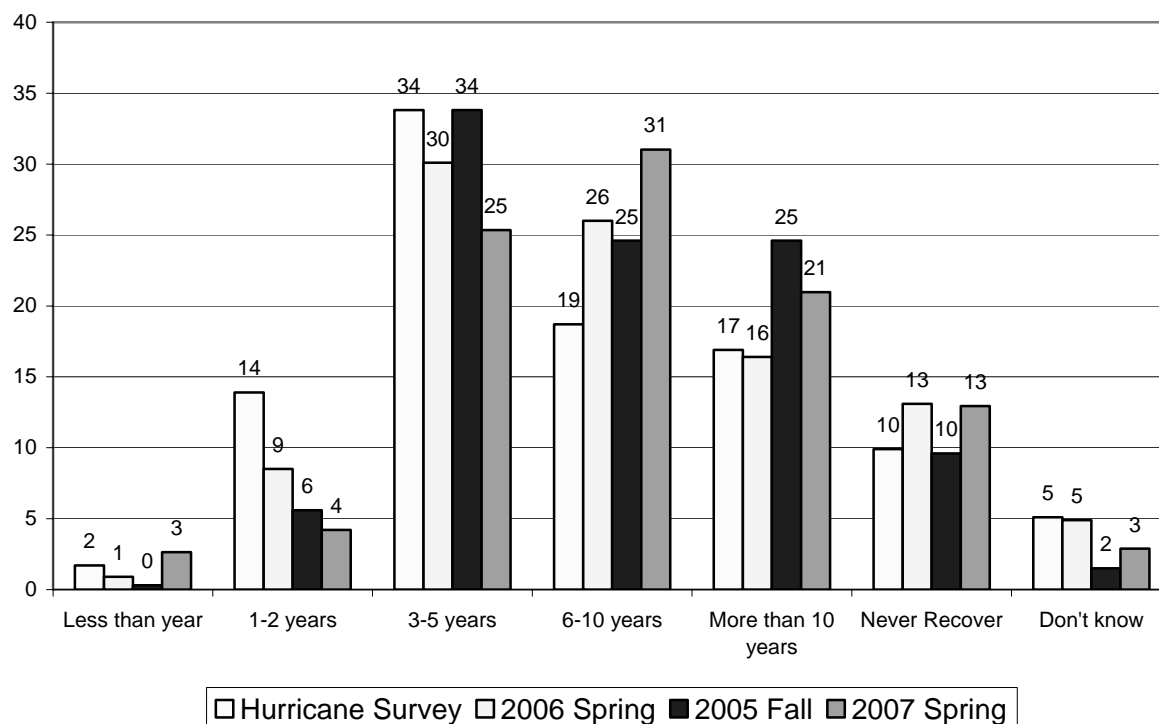


Public Safety: One of the most noteworthy findings in the Fall 2006 Survey was the sharp increase in concerns about public safety. While such concerns have not increased over the past six months, neither have they abated. In all, 62 percent of Louisianans believe the state has become less safe, while 14 percent believe the state has become safer, and 24 percent believe there is no difference.

Baton Rouge and New Orleans area residents are most likely to say the state has become less safe. Seventy-four percent of Baton Rouge area residents, 69 percent of New Orleans area residents, and 63 percent of the Orleans surrounding parishes said the state was less safe. By comparison, 55 percent of North Louisiana residents and 53 percent of Southwest Louisiana residents said the state was less safe.

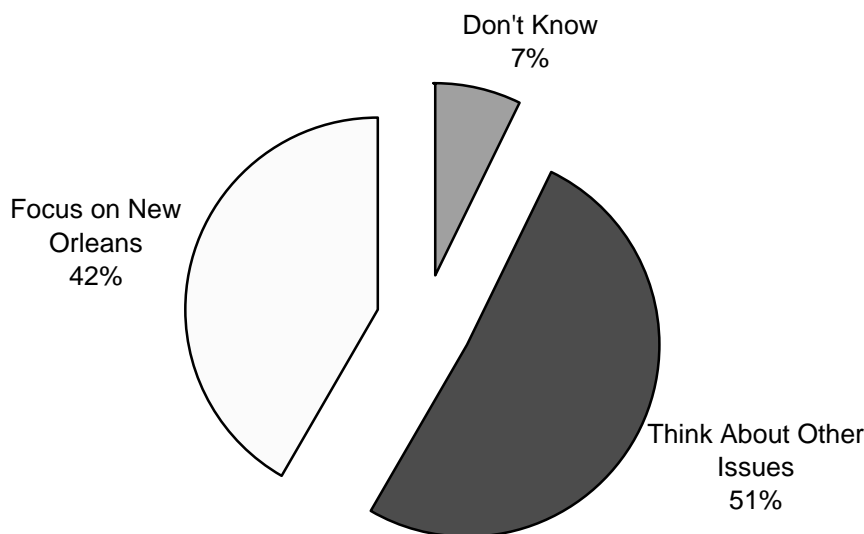
Assessment of Recovery Efforts

Recovery Time



Recovery Time: Since the 2005 hurricanes, Louisianans have been adjusting expectations about how long it will take to recover. The latest survey shows an increase in the percent of respondents saying it will take 6-10 years to recover and decreases in the percent of respondents saying it will take 3-5 years. Residents in North and Southwest Louisiana are more inclined, 22 percent in North Louisiana and 17 percent in Southwest Louisiana, to say the state will never recover. In comparison, only 5 percent of respondents in Baton Rouge and New Orleans say the state will never recover. This difference is primarily accounted for by larger percentages of New Orleans and Baton Rouge residents saying that recovery will take more than 10 years. Twenty-nine percent of Baton Rouge residents and 26 percent of New Orleans residents say recovery will take more than 10 years compared to 16 percent in North Louisiana and 19 percent in Southwest Louisiana.

Continue to Focus on New Orleans or Think About Other Issues



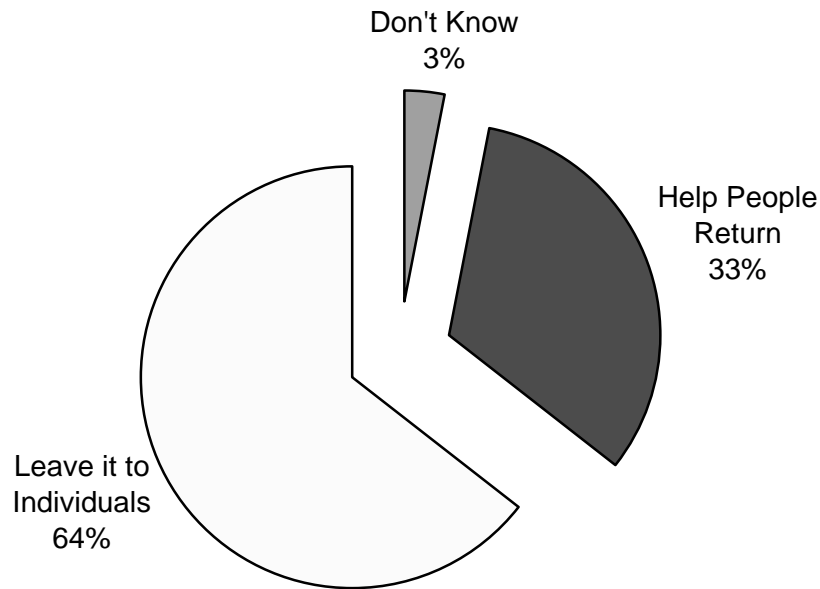
Attention to Rebuilding: As part of our effort to understand attitudes toward rebuilding, respondents were asked to identify which of the following statements comes closest to their view:

- We have paid too much attention to rebuilding in New Orleans and need to think about other issues and areas of the state; OR
- We need to continue to focus on rebuilding New Orleans even if it means paying less attention to other issues and other areas of the state.

The results illustrate that there is considerable division within the state in terms of response. Fifty-one percent of respondents said we have paid too much attention to New Orleans and need to think about other issues, while 42 percent said we need to continue to focus on New Orleans.

- Forty-seven percent of minorities compared to 39 percent of white respondents said we need to continue to focus on New Orleans.
- Sixty-eight percent of New Orleans residents, 47 percent of Baton Rouge residents, 36 percent of North Louisiana, 35 percent of the Orleans surrounding parishes, and 32 percent of Southwest Louisiana said we should continue to focus on rebuilding New Orleans. These regional differences, especially in Southwest and Orleans surrounding parishes, may reflect a belief that New Orleans is getting attention at the expense of other affected areas. Understood in this way, public opinion may support a shift in rebuilding attention, not an abandonment of rebuilding altogether.

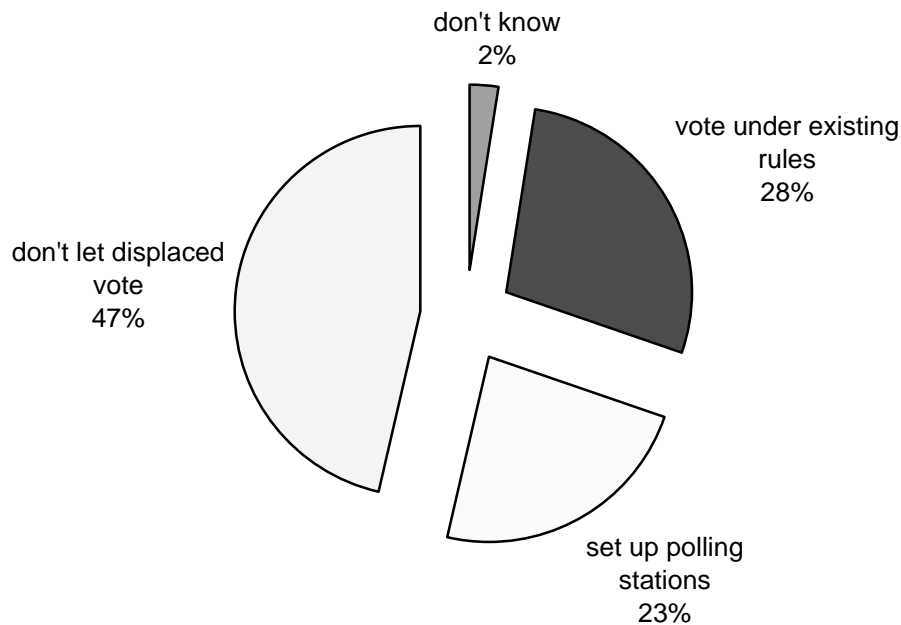
Should State Help People Return or Leave It To Individuals?



Helping the Displaced Return Home: Most Louisianans prefer a limited state government role when asked whether the state should help dislocated residents return to the state. Sixty-four percent of residents said “It should be left up to individuals whether they return and rebuild,” while 33 percent said “The state should make every effort to help them return and rebuild.”

- Minority respondents were much more likely to see a state role in helping the displaced return. Forty-nine percent of minorities said the state should play a role compared to 25 percent of white respondents. Perhaps more telling, 73 percent of white respondents said it should be left up to individuals whether they return and rebuild compared to 45 percent of African Americans.
- Not surprisingly, there is also significant regional variation, though in each of the regions a majority of respondents believed it should be left up to individuals as to whether they return and rebuild. Seventy percent of respondents in the Orleans surrounding parishes, 75 percent in Baton Rouge, 65 percent in Southwest Louisiana, 57 percent in New Orleans, and 55 percent in North Louisiana believe it should be left up to individuals to return.

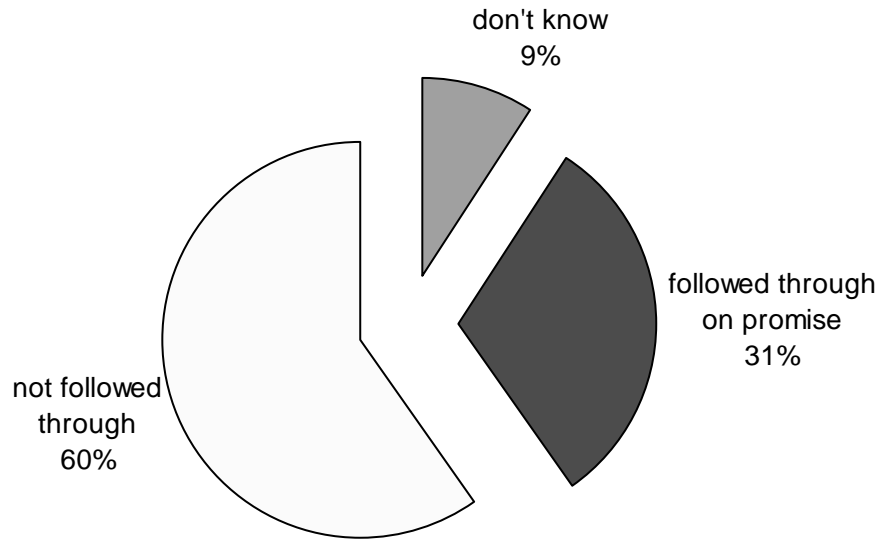
Should State Encourage Displaced Voting?



Voting and Displaced Residents: Louisianans are somewhat mixed on the question of whether displaced residents should be allowed to vote in the 2007 gubernatorial election. A substantial plurality of respondents (47 percent) said that any resident who has not returned since the hurricanes should not be allowed to vote. A slight majority of residents believe displaced residents should be allowed to vote but disagree on the role of the state in providing access to the ballot. Twenty-eight percent of respondents said displaced residents should be allowed to vote using existing rules for absentee ballots, while 23 percent said the state should actively encourage voting by setting up polling stations in areas with significant displaced populations.

- Fifty-eight percent of white respondents compared to 22 percent of minorities think that displaced residents should not be allowed to vote.
- Fifty-four percent of respondents earning more than \$50,000 compared to 37 percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 believe that displaced residents should not be allowed to vote.

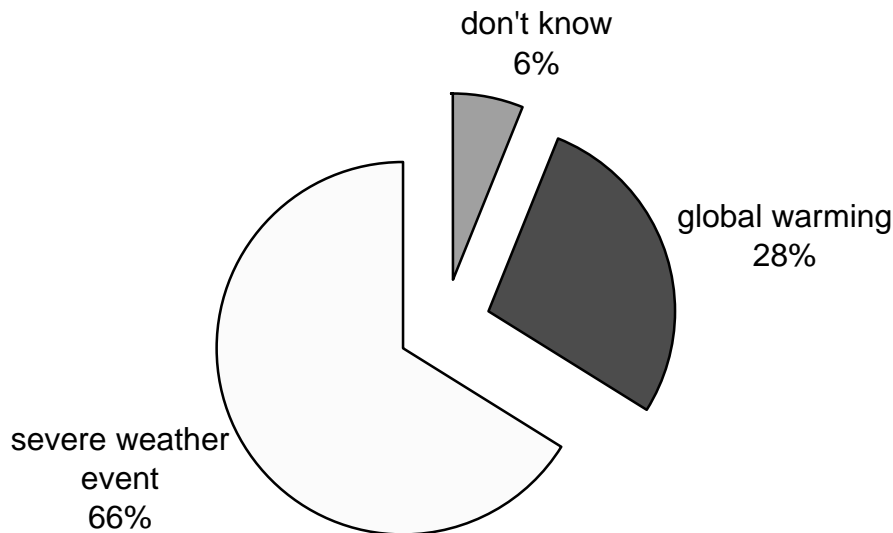
Has President Bush Followed Through on Promise to Rebuild Gulf Coast?



President Bush and the Promise to Rebuild the Gulf: A majority of Louisiana residents (60 percent) believe that President Bush has not followed through on his promise to rebuild the Gulf Coast. Thirty-one percent said the President has followed through on his promise, and 9 percent said they did not know or were unsure.

- Sixty-eight percent of women compared to 51 percent of men said President Bush has not followed through on promise to rebuild.
- Eighty-four percent of minorities compared to 48 percent of whites say Bush has not followed through.
- Thirty-nine percent of Baton Rouge residents, 58 percent North Louisiana residents, 61 percent Southwest Louisiana residents, 67 percent New Orleans residents, and 70 percent in Orleans surrounding parishes residents say Bush has not followed through.
- Seventy-four percent of those who made less than \$30,000 compared to 50 percent earning more than \$50,000 say Bush has not followed through on his promise to rebuild.

Are Hurricanes Due To Global Warming?

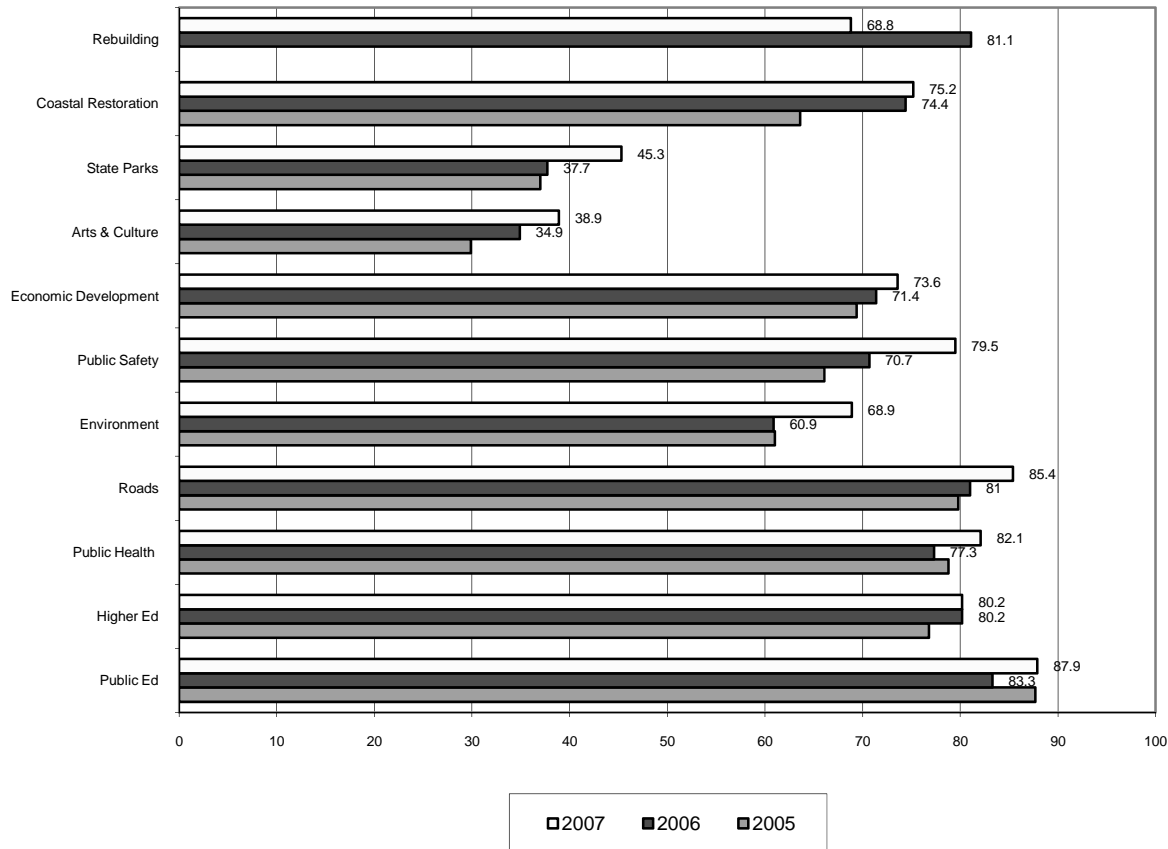


Severity of Recent Hurricanes and Global Climate Change: Louisiana residents do not connect the severity of recent hurricanes to global climate change. Twenty-eight percent of respondents said the severity of recent hurricanes is most likely the result of global climate change, while 66 percent said it is just the kind of severe weather that happens from time to time. A national survey conducted by ABC News in August 2006 produced similar results. The ABC survey found 39 percent believed the severity of hurricanes was tied to global climate change, while 54 percent said it was just a severe weather event. Overall, in comparison to the nation as a whole, Louisianans are more likely to see hurricanes as severe weather events and not as indicators of global warming.

Likelihood of another hurricane: When asked about the likelihood of Louisiana being hit by a major hurricane this year, 25 percent thought it was very likely, 46 percent somewhat likely, 19 percent not very likely and 5 percent not at all likely. Five percent also said they did not know or were unsure. Perhaps surprisingly, New Orleans residents were less likely to say that a major hurricane would hit the state in the next year. Thirteen percent of New Orleans residents said a major hurricane was very likely and 40 percent said such a hurricane was somewhat likely. Eighty-three percent of respondents in Southwest Louisiana, in contrast, believed a major hurricane was very (29 percent) or somewhat likely (54 percent). On the other side of the scale, 40 percent of New Orleans residents said a major hurricane was either not very or not at all likely. In other regions the percent saying that a major hurricane was either not very or not at all likely ranged from 15 percent in Southwest Louisiana to 27 percent in Baton Rouge.

Spending Priorities

Preferences for State Spending

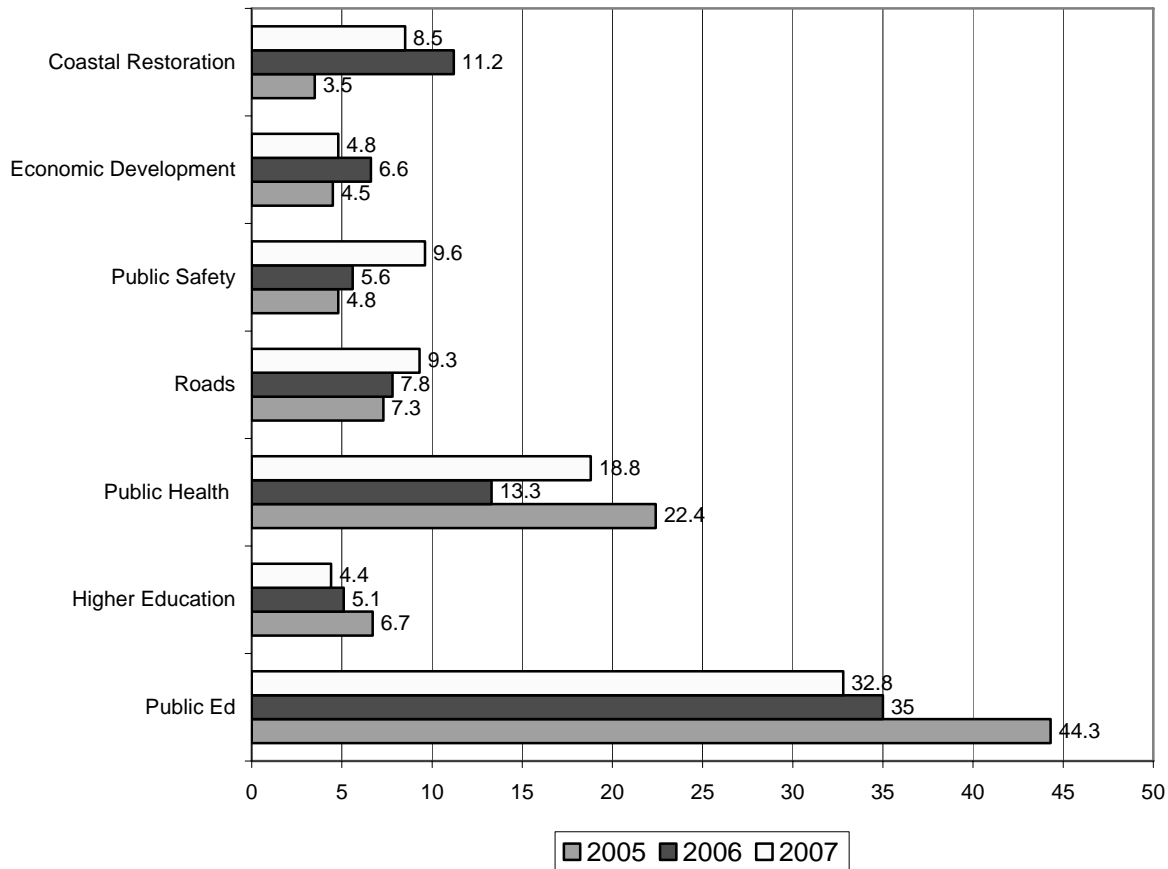


Spending Preferences: As part of the core items in the Louisiana Survey, respondents are asked whether they would increase, decrease, or keep spending about the same across a number of areas of government service. To better gauge priorities, respondents are then asked to identify a single area of government service in which they would increase spending. The value of the unrestricted spending preferences resides less in the number – people express stronger preferences for increasing spending when there are no associated costs – than in how these numbers change over time. With this in mind, three notable changes emerge. First, there has been a decline in the percent of respondents who want to increase spending on rebuilding. Eighty-one percent of respondents wanted to increase spending on rebuilding in 2006 compared to 69 percent in 2007. Second, there has been an increase in the percent of respondents who want to spend more money on public safety, presumably reflecting increased concerns about public safety. Third, there is an increase in the percent of respondents who want to spend more on state parks and tourism. While we have no real evidence to this point, this likely reflects recognition that the tourism industry remains damaged by the impacts of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Women, minorities, and New Orleans residents are more likely to want to increase spending on rebuilding. Seventy-six percent of women compared to 61 percent of men want to increase spending on rebuilding. Eighty-two percent of minorities compared to 61 percent of whites want to increase spending on rebuilding. Ninety-one percent of New Orleans residents, 75 percent in Southwest Louisiana, 68

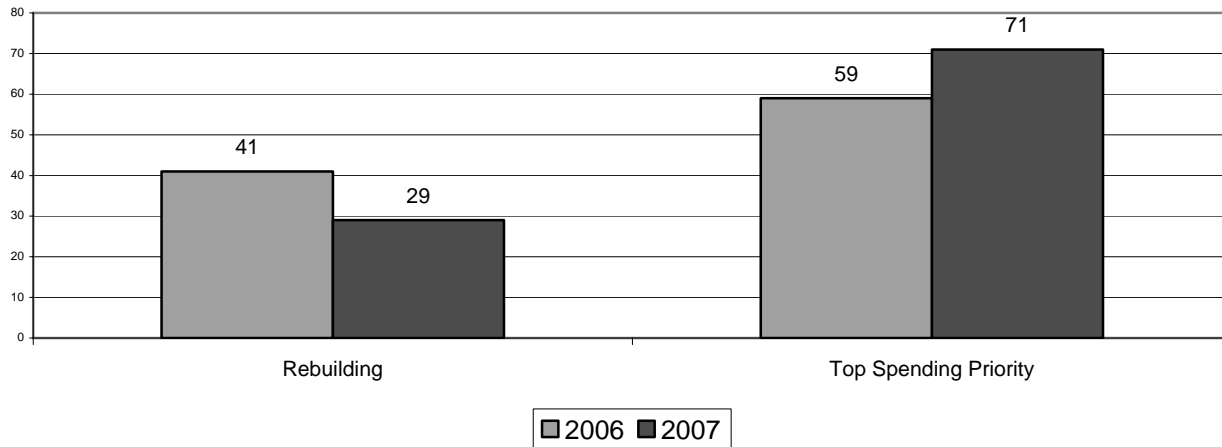
percent in the Orleans surrounding parishes, 59 percent in North Louisiana, and 58 percent in Baton Rouge want to increase spending on rebuilding.

The Top Spending Priority



Top Spending Priorities: Before turning to residents' top spending priorities, we should first note that we do not include rebuilding as one of these categories so that the results are comparable to our pre-hurricane surveys. We do, however, ask a follow-up question asking respondents whether they would prefer spending on their top priority or rebuilding. What we see is that respondents' top spending priorities generally reflect the priorities noted above. Education is the top priority followed by public health. Yet, while education remains the top priority, there has been a decline over time in the percent of residents identifying education as their top priority. Preferences for spending on public health and public safety, in contrast, have increased over the past year.

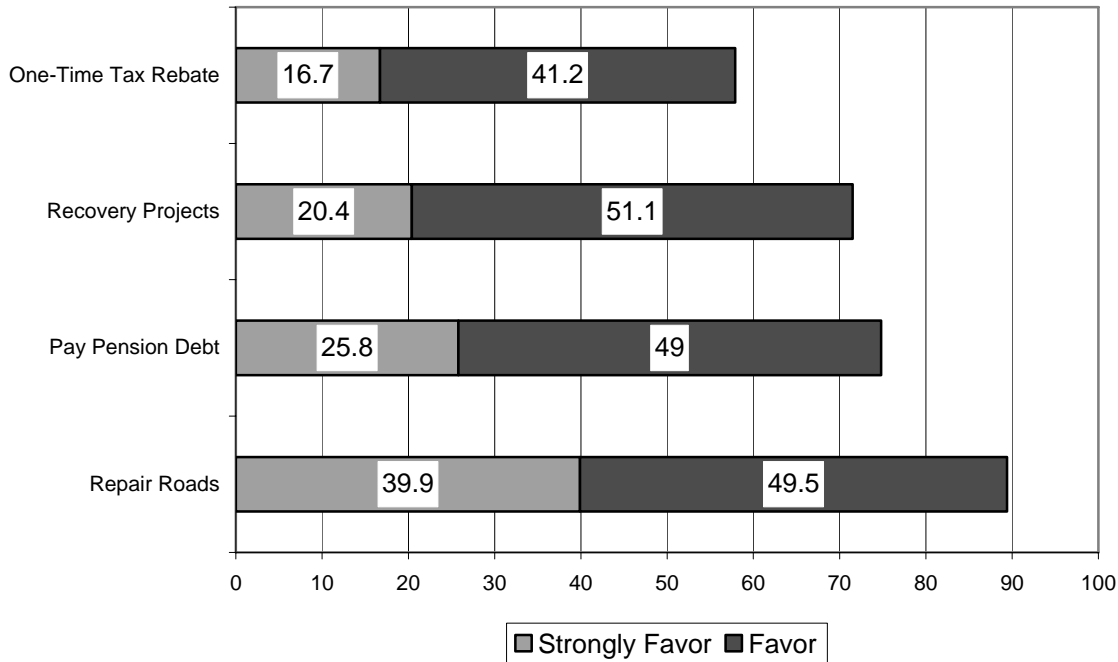
Rebuilding Versus Top Spending Priority



Top spending priority versus rebuilding: When asked to choose between their top spending priority and rebuilding, 29 percent of respondents selected rebuilding and 71 percent selected their top spending priority. This marks a 12-point decline over the past year. During the Spring 2006 Louisiana Survey (the last time this question was asked), 41 percent of respondents selected rebuilding over their top priority.

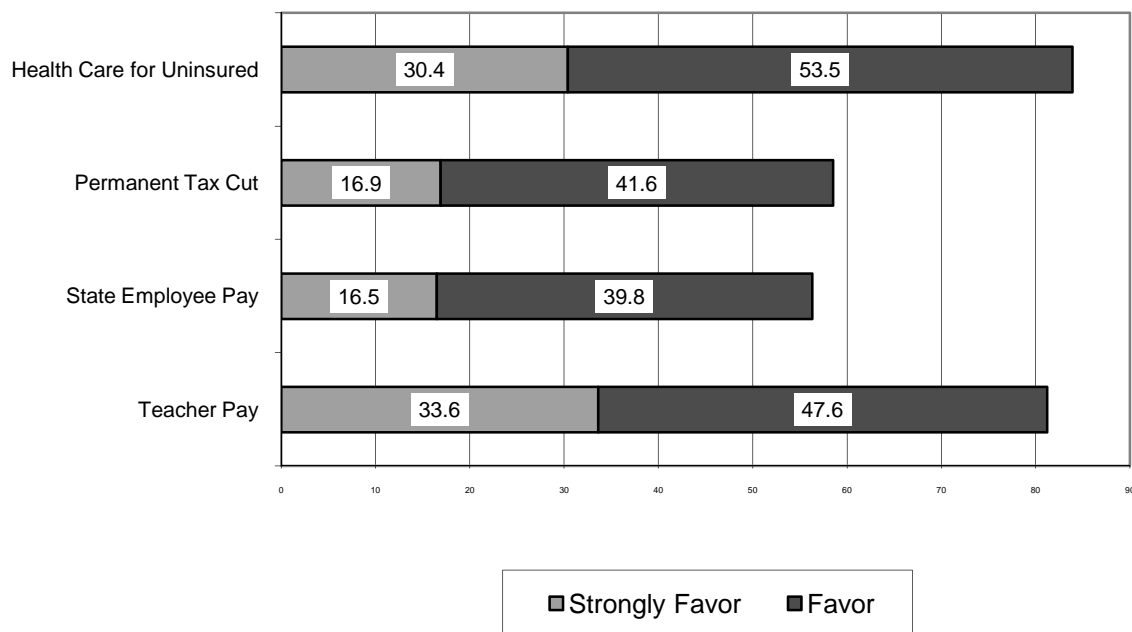
While the 29 percent selecting rebuilding may seem low, if we recalculate spending priorities including respondents who said rebuilding was their top priority, rebuilding would be the top spending priority, narrowly edging out education. Women, minorities, lower income, and New Orleans area residents were more likely select rebuilding over their top spending priority.

One-Time Spending Preferences



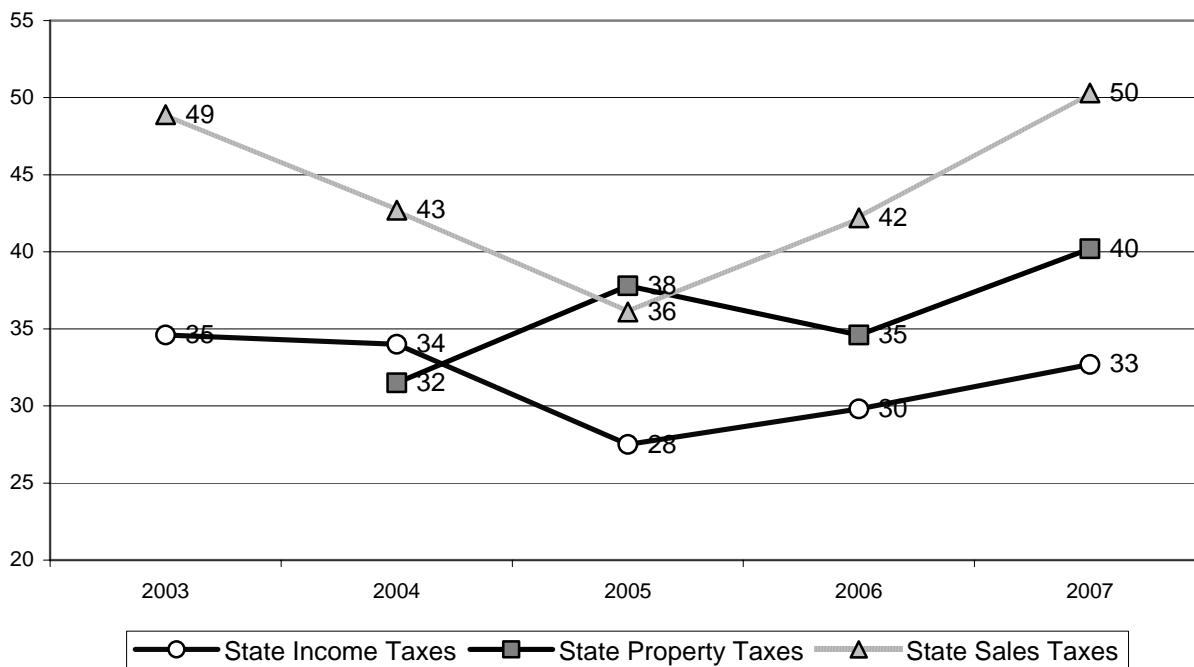
Surplus Spending: To gauge how Louisianans prefer to use the budget surplus, we first asked respondents whether the money should be used on one-time items or recurring expenses. We then followed up with questions asking about spending preferences assuming the money could only be used on one-time or recurring budget items. First, 58 percent of respondents prefer spending the surplus on recurring items, while 25 percent prefer one-time items and 17 percent say they do not know or are unsure. Second, when asked about different areas to spend one-time only monies, more respondents favored using the money to repair roads, followed by paying off the pension debt, and recovery projects. Respondents were least favorable toward a tax rebate – though even here 58 percent of respondents either strongly favored (17 percent) or favored a tax rebate (41 percent).

Recurring Spending Preferences



When asked about recurring budget items, respondents expressed the greatest support for providing health care for the uninsured, followed by teacher pay raises, a permanent tax cut, and a state employee pay raise. Eight-four percent of respondents favored (54 percent) or strongly favored (30 percent) health care for the uninsured, while 82 percent favored (48 percent) or strongly favored (34 percent) a teacher pay raise. Notably each of these items receives majority support. There is less support for a permanent tax cut, though again tax cuts yield majority support (58 percent).

Taxes Are Too High and Need to Be Reduced



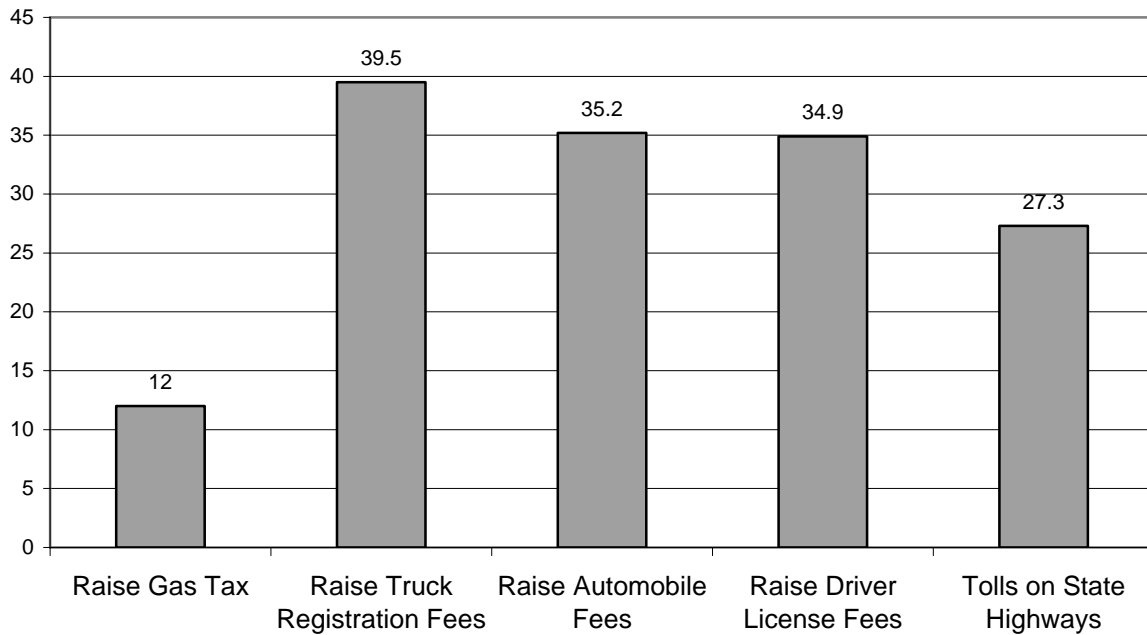
Attitudes Toward State Taxes: We see the value in the Louisiana Survey – and the ability to track attitudes over time - in the questions on state taxes. Perceptions that state sales taxes and state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced have increased since 2005. And, over the past year, there has been a 5-point increase in the percent of Louisianans believing state property taxes are too high. While we cannot directly connect this to budget surpluses, we suspect these increases are connected to increased state revenues. There are differences in perceptions across demographic categories and across the different types of tax.

Income Tax: The only demographic difference to emerge is across education levels. Twenty-nine percent of respondents with less than a high school education said income taxes were too high and need to be reduced compared to 40 percent with a college education or better.

Sales Tax: As income and education increase, the opinion that sales taxes are too high increases. Attitudes toward the sales tax reflect its regressive nature. Sixty-one percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 said that sales taxes were too high and need to be reduced compared to 42 percent earning more than \$50,000. Similarly, 67 percent of respondents with less than a high school education said sales taxes were too high compared to 47 percent with a college degree or more. In addition, 65 percent of minorities said state sales taxes were too high compared to 45 percent of white respondents.

Property Tax: Lower income and less-educated respondents generally believe income taxes are too high. Fifty-seven percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 said property taxes were too high and need to be reduced compared to 38 percent earning more than \$50,000 per year. Sixty percent of those with less than a high school education said property taxes were too high compared to 34 percent with a college degree. Fifty-seven percent of minorities compared to 41 percent of white respondents said property taxes were too high.

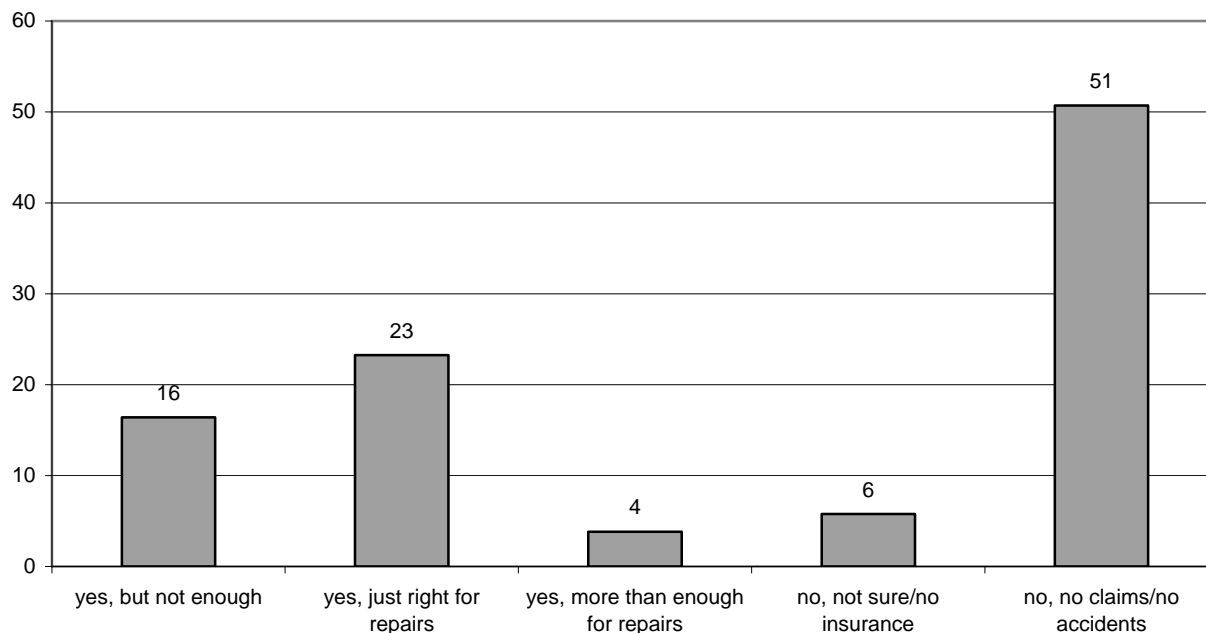
Support for Mechanisms to Increase Funding for Roads



Paying for Roads: If Louisianans are willing to spend the surplus to build roads, they are less inclined to pay for new roads through taxes, increased registration or licensing fees, or tolls on state highways. None of these items yield majority support. However, sixty-four percent of Louisiana residents said they would be more likely to support increased taxes and fees for road improvements if the state were going to lose federal highway money.

Evaluating Insurance

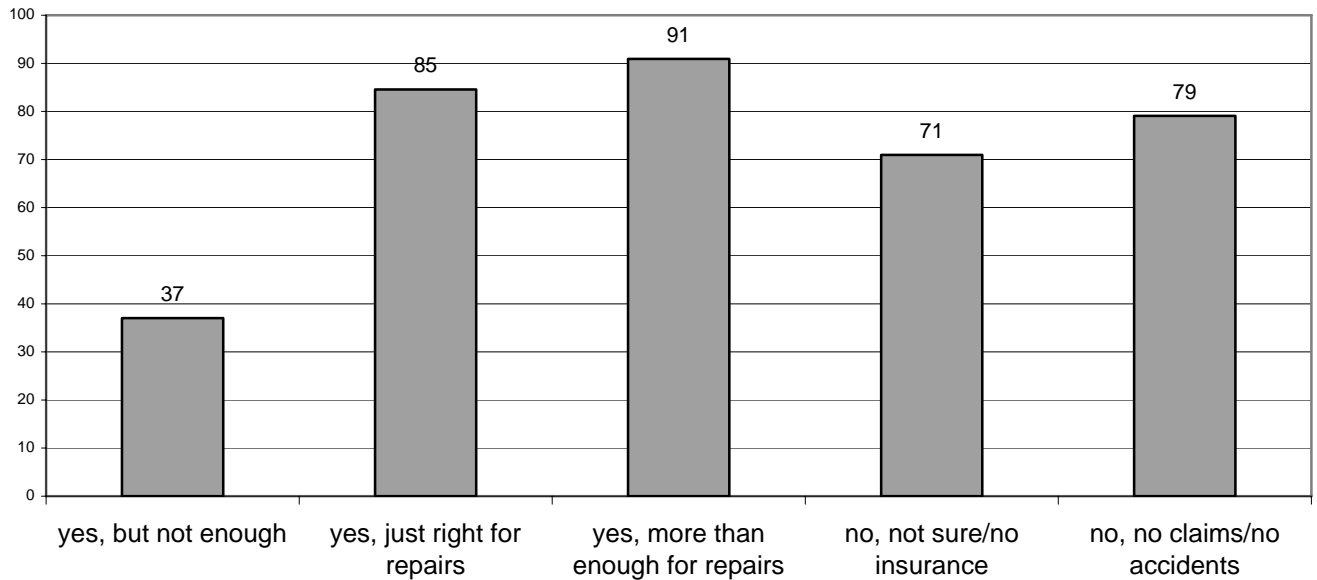
Has Respondent Filed Claim Against Homeowners Insurance?



Insurance-Related Attitudes: Among the respondents included in the survey, 72 percent own their own home. Of these, 88 percent reported having homeowners insurance. A majority of these homeowners (58 percent) have not filed any claim against their homeowners insurance. Notably, however, 42 percent of respondents have filed claims. Of these, 37 percent (16 percent of the total) report they were unable to pay for repairs to their home, 23 percent received the right amount to pay for repairs, and 4 percent received more than enough for repairs. Not surprisingly, there are significant differences across regions.

- In the New Orleans area, 89 percent of homeowners have filed a claim against their homeowners policy. Of these 40 percent (35 percent of all respondents) said they had not received enough to pay for repairs. Because the survey may miss many dislocated residents who are unable to repair their homes, this likely underestimates the total number of people unable to pay for repairs.
- In the Orleans surrounding parishes, 60 percent of homeowners had filed a claim, and more than 50 percent of these respondents (31 percent of the total) said they had not received enough to pay for repairs.
- In Southwest Louisiana, 47 percent of homeowners had filed a claim with 38 percent (18 percent of the total) saying they had not received enough to pay for repairs.

Trust in Insurance Companies by Claim Experience



Fairness & Insurance Companies: Despite these experiences, most Louisianans believe that if they were affected by a severe weather event they would be treated fairly by their insurance company.

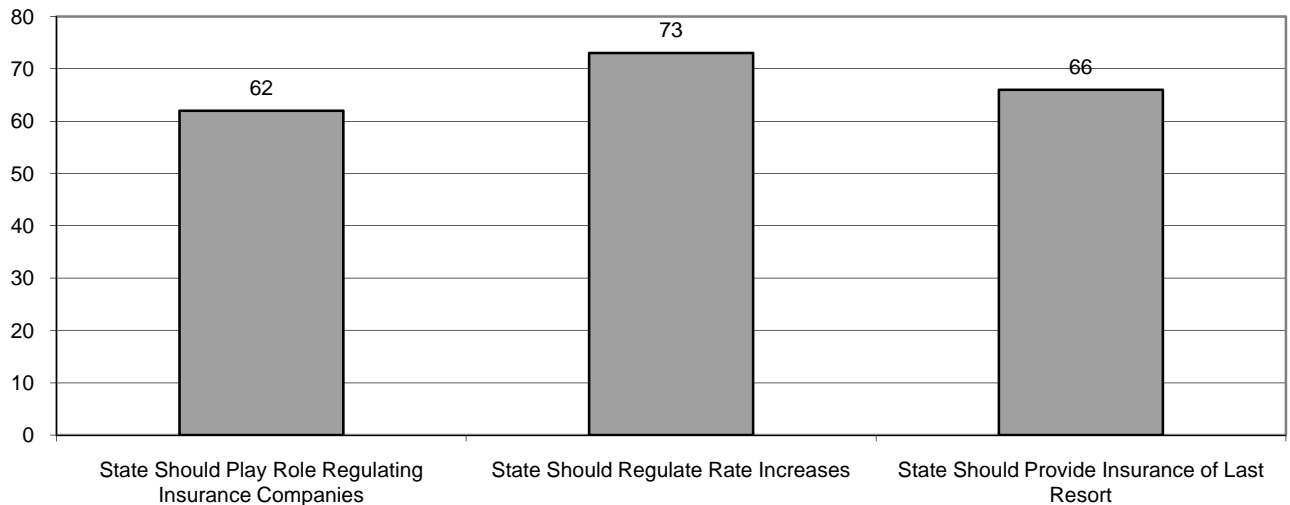
- Seventy-four percent of all homeowners with insurance said they would be treated fairly by their insurance company if they were affected by a severe weather event.
- As one would expect, expectations depend on past experience. Of those who believe they did not receive enough to pay for repairs in the past, only 37 percent thought they would be treated fairly. Of those who received enough for repairs, 85 percent thought they would be treated fairly. And, of those who received more than enough, 91 percent thought they would be treated fairly.
- There are also differences across regions. New Orleans area residents are least likely to say they would be treated fairly. Sixty-two percent of respondents in New Orleans and the Orleans surrounding parishes said they would be treated fairly compared to 87 percent in North Louisiana, 78 percent in Baton Rouge, and 70 percent in Southwest Louisiana.

Insurance Rate Increases and Affordability



Insurance rates: Seventy-five percent of Louisianans with homeowners insurance report having noticed an increase in what they personally pay for homeowners insurance since the 2005 hurricanes. While there are some differences across regions, the low was 65 percent in North Louisiana. When asked if they were concerned that they would be unable to afford or obtain homeowners insurance, 52 percent of respondents said yes. While there are differences across regions, the concerns are widespread, ranging from 46 percent in Baton Rouge to 57 percent in the Orleans surrounding parishes.

Role of State Government In Regulating Insurance



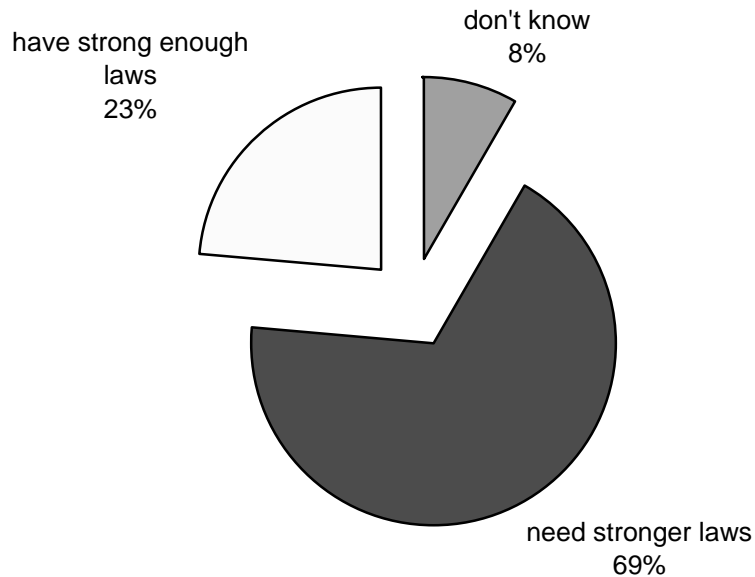
Insurance Reform: When it comes to reforming insurance practices, Louisiana residents prefer a state role. Sixty-two percent of residents said that it was better to have the state play a role in regulating insurance companies compared to 21 percent who said it was better to reduce the role of the state and let market forces determine insurance rates. An additional 17 percent said they did not know or were unsure. Seventy-three percent of residents said the state should regulate rate increases to make insurance affordable, while 19 percent said the state should not regulate rates and 9 percent said they did not know or were unsure. Finally, 66 percent of residents said the state should provide insurance coverage of last resort, while 26 percent said the state should not provide such coverage and 8 percent said they did not know or were unsure. Overall, Louisianans appear to favor a state role over market forces as the central mechanism for keeping insurance rates affordable and providing insurance of last resort.

While there are some demographic differences on the general question of whether the state should play a role regulating insurance companies or whether market forces should drive prices, the only substantial differences emerge on the question of whether the state should provide insurance coverage as last resort.

- Fifteen percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 said the state should not provide insurance coverage as a last resort compared to 37 percent of respondents earning \$50,000 or more.
- Nineteen percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 31 percent with a college degree thought the state should provide insurance coverage of last resort.
- Thirty-two percent of men compared to 21 percent of women thought the state should not provide insurance coverage of last resort.
- Thirty-three percent of white respondents compared to 13 percent of minorities said the state should not provide insurance coverage of last resort.

Ethics Reform

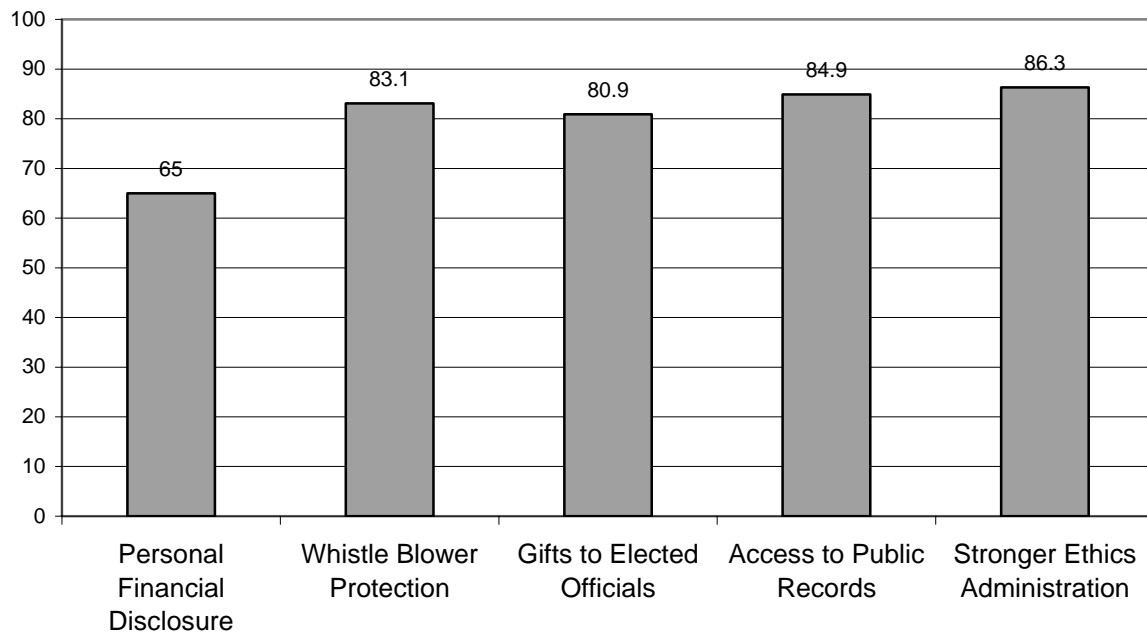
Support for Stronger Ethics Laws



Ethics Reform: To gauge attitudes regarding changes in state ethics laws, we first asked respondents whether the state needs stronger ethics laws or whether the current laws are strong enough. More than two-thirds of respondents (69 percent) said the state needs stronger ethics laws, while 23 percent said state ethics laws were strong enough. While there are differences across standard demographics categories at no point did support for stronger ethics laws dip below 60 percent.

When it comes to specific provisions of ethics legislation, Louisianans are most supportive of stronger ethics administration followed by access to public records, whistle blower protection, and limits on gifts to elected officials. Each of these items receives support from more than 80 percent of respondents. Louisianans are somewhat less supportive of personal financial disclosure, though even here 65 percent of respondents supported legislation to increase such disclosure.

Support for Ethics Reform Provisions



Top Line

Louisiana Survey, Spring 2007

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=871)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Right Direction	287	32.9
Wrong Direction	433	49.7
Don't Know	151	17.4

2. What do you say are the three most important problems facing the state of Louisiana? (N=871)

Education	381	43.8
Health Care	152	17.4
Taxes	68	7.8
Crime	246	28.2
Corruption	130	14.9
Young people leaving	7	0.9
Roads and Highways	154	17.6
Quality of Life Issues	12	1.3
Politics/Government	109	12.6
Economics/Jobs	337	38.7
Environment/Costal Erosion	100	11.4
Rebuilding	222	25.5

3. Of these problems, which do you think is the SINGLE most important problem facing the state of Louisiana? (N=871)

Education	190	21.8
Health Care	65	7.4
Taxes	24	2.7
Crime	126	14.5
Corruption	67	7.7
Young people leaving	3	0.3
Roads and Highways	50	5.8
Quality of Life Issues	7	0.8
Politics/Government	39	10.9
Economics/Jobs	150	17.3
Environment/Costal Erosion	43	5.0
Rebuilding	145	16.6

4. Looking ahead, by this time next year, do you think this problem will have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? (N=868)

Better	192	22.1
About the Same	434	50.0

Worse	165	19.0
Don't Know	78	8.9

5. 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=835)

Very Confident	47	5.6
Somewhat Confident	278	33.2
Not Very Confident	273	32.7
Not Confident	237	28.4

6. 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=859)

Better	270	21.1
Same	417	48.6
Worse	235	27.3

7. 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=830)

Better	250	30.1
Same	328	39.5
Worse	252	30.4

8. And 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=770)

Better	207	26.9
Same	337	43.7
Worse	226	29.3

9. As you know students are often given grades A through F. Please indicate what grade you would give each of the following items.

First, using the grading scale, how would you grade Louisiana as a place to live? (N=851)

A	133	15.6
B	201	23.6
C	291	34.2
D	148	17.4
F	79	9.2

10. And how would you grade your local neighborhood as a place to live? (N=869)

A	263	30.2
B	290	33.4
C	172	19.8
D	62	7.1
F	82	9.5

11. How would you grade Louisiana's public schools? (N=799)

A	38	4.7
B	140	17.5
C	251	31.4
D	200	25.0
F	170	21.3

12. And how would you grade the public schools in your local community? (N=780)

A	128	16.3
B	223	28.6
C	210	26.9
D	124	15.9
F	95	12.2

13. How would you grade Louisiana's colleges and universities? (N=747)

A	176	23.6
B	329	44.0
C	194	26.0
D	26	3.5
F	22	3.0

14. How would you grade the overall quality of health care in Louisiana? (N=850)

A	49	5.8
B	177	20.8
C	279	32.8
D	191	22.5
F	155	18.2

15. How would you grade the overall quality of Louisiana's environment, including clean air and drinking water? (N=851)

A	50	5.8
B	181	21.3

C	323	37.9
D	160	18.8
F	137	16.1

16. How would you grade Louisiana's arts and culture? (N=773)

A	182	23.5
B	319	41.2
C	200	25.8
D	49	6.4
F	24	3.1

17. How would you grade Louisiana's roads and highways? (N=860)

A	7	0.8
B	93	10.8
C	215	25.0
D	274	31.9
F	272	31.6

18. Finally, how would you grade Louisiana in terms of the opportunities available to African-Americans and other minorities? (N=786)

A	104	13.2
B	243	31.0
C	253	32.2
D	116	14.8
F	69	8.8

19. Thinking now about corruption, would you say that Louisiana has become more corrupt or less corruption over the last several years, or would you say corruption hasn't changed much? (N=840)

More Corrupt	310	36.9
Just as Corrupt	376	44.7
Less Corrupt	155	18.4

20. And thinking about crime and public safety, would you say Louisiana has become safer or less safe over the last several years? (N=847)

More Safe	121	14.3
Less Safe	524	61.9
No Difference	202	23.8

21. Now I am going to read a list of areas where state government generally spends taxpayer dollars. As I read through the list please tell me whether you would increase state government spending in the area, decrease spending in the area, or keep it about the same?

Public Education (Primary and Secondary) (N=854)

Increase Spending	751	87.9
Decrease Spending	22	2.6
Keep the Same	82	9.5

22. Higher Education (N=849)

Increase Spending	681	80.2
Decrease Spending	30	3.5
Keep the Same	138	16.2

23. Public Health and Hospitals (N=857)

Increase Spending	704	82.1
Decrease Spending	25	3.0
Keep the Same	128	15.0

24. Roads and Transportation (N=868)

Increase Spending	742	85.4
Decrease Spending	29	3.3
Keep the Same	97	11.2

25. Environmental Protection (N=839)

Increasing Spending	578	68.9
Decrease Spending	38	4.6
Keep the Same	223	26.6

26. Public Safety/ Criminal justice (N=854)

Increasing Spending	679	79.5
Decreasing Spending	28	3.2
Keep the Same	148	17.3

27. Economic Development (N=836)

Increase Spending	616	73.6
Decrease spending	31	3.7
Keep the Same	190	22.7

28. Arts and cultural institutions (N=830)

Increase Spending	323	39.9
Decrease Spending	78	9.4
Keep the Same	429	51.7

29. State parks and tourism (N=847)

Increase Spending	384	45.3
Decrease Spending	59	7.0
Keep the Same	404	47.7

30. Coastal Restoration (N=824)

Increase Spending	620	75.2
Decrease Spending	48	5.8
Keep the Same	156	19.0

31. Rebuilding NEW ORLEANS & THE GULF COAST (N=841)

Increase Spending	579	68.8
Decrease Spending	102	12.1
Keep the Same	161	19.1

32. ASIDE FROM REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS AND THE GULF COAST, if you could increase spending in only one of these areas, which area would you choose? (N=871)

Public Education	285	32.8
Higher Education	38	4.4
Public Health	164	18.8
Roads and Transportation	81	9.3
Environmental Protection	18	2.1
Public Safety	84	9.6
Economic Development	42	4.8
Arts and cultural	1	0.1
State parks and tourism	5	0.6
Coastal Restoration	74	8.5
Don't Know	69	7.9
Refused	9	1.1

33. If you could only increase spending on REBUILDING or on WHICH AREA WOULD YOU CHOOSE? (N=786)

Rebuilding	225	28.7
------------	-----	------

Other	561	71.3
-------	-----	------

34. And which comes closest to your view: (N=805)

1. We have paid too much attention to rebuilding New Orleans and need to think more about other issues and other areas of the state.
2. We need to continue to focus on rebuilding New Orleans even if it means paying less to other issues or other areas of the state.

Too much attention	444	51.2
Continue to Focus	361	41.7
Don't Know/Not Sure	62	7.1

35. Approximately how long do you think it will take Louisiana to recover from the 2005 hurricanes (Katrina and Rita)? Less than 1 year, 1-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-10 years, more than 10 years, or do you think Louisiana will never recover. (N=871)

Less than 1 year	23	2.6
1-2 years	37	4.2
3-5 years	221	25.3
6-10 years	270	31.0
More than 10 years	183	21.0
Never recover	113	12.9
Don't Know	25	2.9

36. When it comes to people who were forced to leave the state because of the 2005 hurricanes and who have been unable to return, which of the following best represents your view: (N=426)

1. The state should make every effort to help them return and rebuild.
2. It should be left up to individuals whether they return and rebuild. The state should play little - if any - role.

Help Return	139	32.6
Left up to individuals	274	64.4
Don't Know	13	3.0

37. Which of the following best represents your view regarding Louisiana residents who left the state as a result of the 2005 hurricanes and voting in the 2007 gubernatorial election: (N=428)

1. Any resident who was forced to leave the state should be allowed to vote using existing rules for absentee ballot; OR

2. The state should encourage voting among displaced residents by setting up polling stations in areas with significant displaced populations, including areas outside of the state such as Houston or Atlanta with large displaced populations; OR

3. Any resident who has not returned since the hurricanes should not be allowed to vote.

Existing rules	119	27.8
Polling Stations	100	23.3
Don't let vote	199	46.5
Don't know	10	2.4

38. All in all, do you think George W. Bush has followed through on his promise to rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, or not (following Hurricane Katrina)? (N=428)

Yes	133	31.0
No	256	59.8
Don't Know	39	9.2

39. Do you think the severity of recent hurricanes is most likely the result of global climate change, or is it just the kind of severe weather event that happens from time to time? (N=427)

Global Warming	118	27.6
Severe Weather Event	283	66.2
Don't Know	26	6.2

40. How likely do you think it is that Louisiana will be hit by another major hurricane this year - very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely? (N=427)

Very likely	105	6.2
Somewhat likely	196	45.6
Not very likely	80	18.8
Not at all likely	19	4.5

41. Do you own your own home, pay rent, or something else? (N=868)

Own Home	627	72.3
Pay Rent	180	20.7
Something Else	60	7.0

42. Do you currently have homeowners insurance? (N=625)

Yes	553	88.4
No	72	11.6

43. Have you filed a claim against your homeowners

insurance policy or someone else's in the past two years?

IF YES, was the money you received from the insurance company--plus any standard deductible that you had to pay yourself: (N=547)

Yes, but not enough to pay	90	16.4
Yes, right amount for repairs	127	23.3
No, not sure/no insurance	21	3.8
No, no claims	32	5.8

44. If your home were affected by a severe weather event - for example a tornado or hurricane - would you trust your insurance company to treat your claims fairly? (N=524)

Yes	387	73.8
No	137	26.2

45. Have you noticed any increase in what you personally pay for homeowners insurance since the 2005 hurricanes? (N=539)

Yes	403	74.7
No	137	25.3

46. Are you personally concerned that you will no longer be able to afford or obtain homeowners insurance in the near future? (N=602)

Yes	316	52.4
No	286	47.6

47. Some people argue that the best way to provide affordable homeowners insurance is to reduce state government regulation so that markets determine insurance rates. Others argue state government needs to play a role regulating insurance companies, what about you? (N=865)

1. better reduce the role of state government and let market forces determine insurance rates.

2. better to have the state play a role regulating insurance companies.

Market forces	182	21.0
Regulate	543	62.8
Don't Know	140	16.2

48. When it comes to the state regulating insurance companies, would you say the state should or should not regulate rate increases to keep insurance rates affordable? (N=870)

Should	630	72.5
--------	-----	------

Should not	165	18.9
Don't Know	75	8.6

49. And should the state provide insurance coverage of last resort to homeowners who otherwise would not be able to obtain coverage? (N=869)

Should	575	66.2
Should not	227	26.1
Don't Know	67	7.7

50. As you may be aware, Louisiana currently has an \$827 million budget surplus, and without any spending changes - is expecting additional surpluses for the current year of over a billion dollars. Some people argue that these surpluses should be used only on "one time" items that do not commit future state spending, while others argue the money should be used for recurring items that would have to be funded in future years. What about you? (N=866)

One Time	213	24.6
Recurring	502	57.9
Don't Know	151	17.5

51. Now I am going to read through some suggestions for ways to use the state budget surplus. The first set of items I will read assume the money will be used for one-time expenses. Please tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose each proposal:

Build and repair roads and infrastructure (N=870)

Strongly favor	348	39.9
Favor	431	49.5
Oppose	57	6.6
Strongly Oppose	27	3.1
Don't Know	7	0.9

52. Pay off the debt on pension and retirement programs for teachers and state workers (N=862)

Strongly favor	222	25.8
Favor	422	49.0
Oppose	153	17.7
Strongly oppose	27	3.2
Don't Know	38	4.4

53. Use the money for hurricane-recovery related projects (N=865)

Strongly favor	176	20.4
Favor	442	51.1
Oppose	158	18.3

Strongly oppose	39	4.5
Don't Know	50	5.7

54. Provide a ONE-TIME tax rebate or tax cut (N=870)

Strongly favor	145	16.7
Favor	359	41.2
Oppose	258	29.6
Strongly Oppose	51	5.8
Don't Know	58	6.6

55. Now I am going to read items that include recurring budget items and would commit future state funding. Please tell me whether you would strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose each proposal:

Provide pay raises for teachers in state public schools (N=870)

Strongly favor	293	33.6
Favor	414	47.6
Oppose	131	15.0
Strongly Oppose	25	2.8
Don't Know	8	0.9

56. Provide pay raises for all state employees (N=868)

Strongly favor	143	16.5
Favor	346	39.8
Oppose	276	31.8
Strongly Oppose	73	8.4
Don't Know	30	3.5

57. Provide PERMANENT tax cuts (N=869)

Strongly favor	147	16.9
Favor	361	41.6
Oppose	252	29.0
Strongly Oppose	56	6.4
Don't Know	53	6.1

58. Provide health care for people without health insurance (N=869)

Strongly favor	265	30.4
Favor	465	53.5
Oppose	94	10.9
Strongly Oppose	29	3.4

Don't Know	16	1.8
------------	----	-----

59. Would you support or oppose the following as ways to generate more money for state highway construction and road improvements?

Raise the state gasoline tax (N=442)

Support	53	0.7
Oppose	385	87.2
Don't Know	3	0.7

60. Raise truck registration fees (N=442)

Support	174	39.5
Oppose	226	51.2
Don't Know	41	9.3

61. Raise automobile registration fees (N=441)

Support	155	35.2
Oppose	271	61.4
Don't Know	15	3.4

62. Raise driver's license fees (N=442)

Support	154	34.9
Oppose	285	64.4
Don't Know	3	0.6

63. Place tolls on state highways (N=442)

Support	121	27.3
Oppose	307	69.5
Don't Know	14	3.2

64. Would you be more or less likely to support increases fees and taxes for highway and bridge improvements if you know that Louisiana could lose federal transportation funds because the state couldn't provide its matching share? (N=439)

More Likely	279	63.6
Less Likely	111	25.4
Don't Know	48	11.0

65. Many people think that Louisiana needs stronger ethics legislation in state government, while others think our present laws are strong enough. What about you? Do you think that Louisiana needs stronger ethic laws, or are the ones we have strong enough? (N=871)

Stronger Laws	593	68.1
Laws strong enough	204	23.5
Don't Know	73	8.4

66. When it comes to ethics reform, would you personally support or oppose:

Personal financial disclosure by elected officials and their Families. (N=442)

Support	288	65.0
Oppose	109	24.7
Don't Know	46	10.3

67. Better protection for whistle blowers - who are people in government who expose corruption (N=442)

Support	368	83.1
Oppose	50	11.2
Don't Know	25	5.7

68. Setting tougher rules on what gifts elected officials can receive (N=441)

Support	358	80.9
Oppose	50	11.2
Don't Know	34	7.6

69. Greater public access to public records and meetings (N=442)

Support	376	84.9
Oppose	34	7.6
Don't know	33	7.5

70. Stronger ethics administration to better enforce ethics laws (N=441)

Support	382	86.3
Oppose	28	6.3
Don't know	31	7.1

71. On Jan. 1, 2007 the Louisiana Smoke Free Air Act went into effect. The law bans smoking in public places in Louisiana, including restaurants, schools with Pre-K through 12th grades, hospitals, and all workplaces, with the exception of bars and gaming facilities such as casinos. Have you heard of this law? (N=438)

Yes	399	91.0
No	38	8.6

72. Still thinking about the new law, how strongly are you in favor of or opposed to it? Would you say you are... (N=435)

Strongly opposed	82	18.8
Somewhat opposed	47	10.7
Neutral	13	3.1
Somewhat in favor	59	13.6
Strongly in favor	234	53.9

73. Has smoking been eliminated from Louisiana restaurants (which does not include stand alone bars) that you have patronized since Jan. 1? (N=430)

Yes	347	80.7
No	36	8.3
Haven't eaten in Restaurant	47	11.0

74. Thinking about state income taxes, would you say that state income taxes were too high and need to be reduced, too low and need to be increased, or just about right? (N=790)

Too high	285	36.1
Too low	50	6.3
Just right	455	57.6

75. 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=845)

Too high	438	51.9
Too low	16	1.9
Just right	391	46.2

76. And 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=753)

Too high	350	46.5
Too low	38	5.0
Just right	365	48.5

77. In the past week, how many days did you read a newspaper? (N=870)

0	193	22.2
1	85	9.7
2	79	9.1
3	104	11.9
4	47	5.4

5	45	5.1
6	22	2.5
7	296	34.0

78. In the past week, how many days did you watch a local television news program? (N=870)

0	78	9.0
1	22	2.5
2	26	3.0
3	44	5.1
4	39	4.5
5	46	5.2
6	9	1.1
7	605	69.6

79. In the past week, how many days did you watch a national network news program? (N=867)

0	139	16.1
1	39	4.5
2	60	6.9
3	56	6.5
4	39	4.5
5	53	6.1
6	12	1.3
7	469	54.1

80. In the past week, how many days did you watch a news program on one of the cable news networks? (N=865)

0	270	31.2
1	37	4.2
2	83	9.6
3	50	5.8
4	24	2.8
5	27	3.1
6	13	1.5
7	361	41.7

81. In the past week, how many days did you listen to a news program on radio? (N=868)

0	433	49.9
1	43	4.9
2	60	6.9
3	46	5.3

4	23	2.6
5	40	4.6
6	7	0.8
7	217	25.0

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

0	596	68.6
1	52	5.9
2	36	4.2
3	34	3.9
4	18	2.0
5	18	2.1
6	7	0.8
7	107	12.4

83. Many states televise governmental proceedings on statewide public affairs networks, similar to C-SPAN's coverage of the U.S. Congress. Would you support or oppose a proposal to create a statewide public affairs network in Louisiana dedicated solely to broadcasting state public affairs programming? (N=442)

Support	323	73.0
Oppose	68	15.5
Don't Know	51	11.6

84. On average, how frequently do you check the following media for economic news? Almost everyday/ once or twice a week/ once or twice a month / rarely / never

Newspapers (such as the New York Times) (N=434)

Almost every day	88	20.2
Once or twice a week	93	21.3
Once or twice a month	18	4.1
Rarely	57	13.2
Never	178	41.0

85. TV channels (such as CNBC) (N=435)

Almost every day	168	38.6
Once or twice a week	83	19.0
Once or twice a month	16	3.6
Rarely	51	11.8
Never	118	27.1

86. Specialized media (such as Forbes, Barron's) (N=429)

Almost every day	36	8.4
Once or twice a week	48	11.1
Once or twice a month	21	4.8
Rarely	45	10.5
Never	279	64.9

87. Online sources (such as wsj.com or yahoo.com) (N=425)

Almost every day	63	14.7
Once or twice a week	31	7.3
Once or twice a month	17	4.0
Rarely	45	10.7
Never	269	63.4

88. When it comes to covering college sports teams, do you think news should be fair and balanced, or do you think coverage should support hometown teams? (N=381)

Fair and balanced	210	55.0
Support hometown teams	171	45.0

89. Should the news cover stories involving college athletes who get into legal or academic trouble, or should the news protect the privacy of college athletes? (N=390)

Cover stories	204	52.3
Protect privacy	185	47.5

90. Are you still living in the same address you did before the hurricane? (N=871)

Yes	743	85.3
No	128	14.7

91. Did you move specifically because of the hurricanes? (N=128)

Yes	58	45.3
No	70	54.7

92. Do you have any displaced family members or friends currently living in your home? (N=871)

Yes	67	7.7
No	804	92.3

93. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or what? (N=839)

Democrat	410	48.9
Independent	160	19.1
Republican	212	25.2
Other	57	6.8

94. When it comes to politics, do you consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative? (N=765)

Liberal	133	17.4
Moderate	283	37.0
Conservative	349	45.6

95. Age (N=871)

M=52.3 SD=16.1

96. Education (N=871)

Less than 9 th grade	38	4.4
9-12	132	15.1
High school Diploma	283	32.4
Some college/vocational school	222	25.5
4 year degree	107	12.3
Some graduate work	25	2.8
Advanced degree	64	7.3

97. Did you receive your highest level of education in Louisiana? (N=871)

Yes	714	82.0
No	157	18.0

98. Did you graduate from a Louisiana University? (N=196)

Yes	146	74.5
No	50	25.5

99. Race (N=871)

White	564	64.7
Hispanic	2	0.3
African American	283	32.5
Asian	2	0.2
Other	20	2.3

100.	Religious denomination (N=863)		
	Protestant	299	34.6
	Catholic	276	31.9
	Jewish	1	0.1
	Muslim	1	0.1
	Other	235	27.2
	None	51	6.0
101.	Employment status (N=866)		
	Full Time	362	41.8
	Part Time	62	7.2
	Retired	239	27.6
	Unemployed but looking	62	7.1
	Unemployed not looking	63	7.3
	Disability	78	9.0
102.	Does your employer offer health insurance? (N=424)		
	Yes	312	73.6
	No	112	26.4
103.	Do you participate in your employer-sponsored health insurance? (N=310)		
	Yes	238	76.9
	No	72	23.1
104.	Does your employer offer any type of employer sponsored retirement plan? (N=411)		
	Yes	259	72.9
	No	152	37.1
105.	Do you participate in your employer-sponsored retirement plan? (N=258)		
	Yes	226	87.5
	No	32	12.5
106.	Do you expect to receive a 5-10% raise in the next year? (N=392)		
	Yes	155	39.7
	No	236	60.3
107.	How satisfied are you with your current job or employment situation? (N=428)		

Very satisfied	232	54.3
Somewhat satisfied	153	35.7
Not very satisfied	18	4.1
Not at all satisfied	25	5.9

108. Have you personally invested in any of the following in 2006 – stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs or money market accounts, real estate, or commodities? (N=626)

Yes	197	31.5
No	429	68.5

109. Family Income (N=871)

Under 10,000	117	13.5
10,000-19,999	130	15.0
20,000-29,999	105	12.1
30,000-39,999	97	11.1
40,000-49,999	87	10.0
50,000-74,999	144	16.5
75,000-99,999	83	9.5
100,000 and more	108	12.4

110. Gender

Male	418	47.9
Female	453	52.1