

2005

## Louisiana Survey 2005

LSU Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs

# The Public Policy Research Lab

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

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## **The 2005 Louisiana Survey**

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

April 8, 2005

**Final REPORT**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

This is the third in a series of annual Louisiana Surveys designed to establish benchmarks and assess progress and regressions in residents' assessments of state government services. The survey is a telephone survey of 964 randomly selected Louisiana residents 18 years or older. It includes several split-ballot questions in which approximately half of the respondents were asked a particular series of questions, while the other half of the respondents were asked a different series of questions. The approximate margin of error for the overall survey is 3.2 percent and 4.6 percent for split-ballot questions.

As part of an effort to assure that the Louisiana Survey fulfilled its public service mission, input was solicited from a 15-member Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee provided invaluable insight into the design of the questionnaire and in identifying the issues that most needed to be addressed by the survey. While we are greatly indebted for committee members' time and contributions, they bear no responsibility for any mistakes in the questionnaire, analysis, or interpretation presented in this report. Questions regarding the content of this report should be directed to:

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### METHOD

The Public Policy Research Lab conducted the survey between Dec. 6, 2004 and Feb. 21, 2005. Calls were conducted from noon until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 8 p.m. 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 +/- 3.2 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. This means that if we replicated the survey 20 times, only once will the answers differ by more than 3.2 percent over the answers in this report. The margin of error will be larger for subgroups, including those respondents separated out as part of the split-ballot design. The approximate margin of error for each ballot is 4.6 percent. 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 48 percent, meaning that 48 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 were often weighted by demographic characteristics where sample estimates do not closely mirror census-based population estimates. The results presented in this report have been weighted to provide the most accurate estimate possible of population preferences.

Sample Demographics: What follows is a brief description of the demographics from the original sample. Seventy-three percent of respondents identified as Caucasian or Caucasian, 19 percent as African-American, 1 percent as Hispanic, 1 percent as Asian, and 4 percent as "other." In terms of gender, 66 percent of the respondents were female, 33 percent were male. The average age was 48, with 22 percent of respondents between the ages of 18 and 34, 19 percent between 35 and 44, 25 percent between 44 and 54, 18 percent between 55 and 64, and 16 percent 65 or over. On the question of income, 8 percent of respondents reported earning \$10,000 or less per year, 9 percent between \$10,000 and \$20,000, 13 percent between \$20,000 and \$30,000, 14 percent between \$30,000 and \$40,000, 12 percent between \$40,000 and \$50,000, 22 percent between \$50,000 and \$75,000, 11 percent between \$75,000, and \$100,000, and 11 percent at \$100,000 or more. In terms of education, 6 percent of respondents had less than a high school education, 23 percent completed high school, 35 percent attended some college, 26 percent were college graduates, and 10 percent had graduate degrees. Finally, 22 percent of respondents were from Acadiana (defined as the 337 area code), 25 percent were from northern Louisiana (318), 14 percent were Baton Rouge (225), and 22 percent were from Orleans Parish (504), and 17 percent were from the Orleans suburban parishes (985).

To best approximate opinion of the general population in Louisiana, the data were weighted to account for differences in participation rates in the survey among different groups of the population. A comparison of weighted and unweighted sample characteristics relative to census estimates are provided as follows:

## Comparison of Weighted and Unweighted Sample Estimates with Census Estimates

	Unweighted Sample Estimates	Weighted Sample Estimates	Census Estimates
<u>Education</u>			
High School or Less	29	58	58
Some College	35	24	24
College	26	12	12
Graduate Degree	10	6	6
<u>Race</u>			
Caucasian	74	63	64
African-American	19	34	36
<u>Income</u>			
Less than \$10K	8	16	10
\$10K- \$50K	48	52	51
More than \$50K	44	33	39
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	33	47	48
Female	66	53	52

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

### **Moving in the Right Direction**

A small but symbolically important increase in the percent of respondents believing the state is moving in the right direction is indicative of a more positive outlook among state residents in the 2005 Louisiana Survey. Fifty-two percent of respondents said the state is headed in the right direction, 35 percent said the state is headed in the wrong direction, and 14 percent were not sure or did not know. In the 2004 survey, 48 percent of respondents said the state was moving in the right direction, 36 percent said the state was moving in the wrong direction, and 17 percent were unsure or did not know. One's view of the state depends largely upon where one sits: Males, Caucasians, younger respondents, and respondents with higher-incomes and more education generally expressed greater optimism regarding the direction of the state.

### **Economic Confidence on the Rise**

Greater optimism is also reflected in greater economic confidence. This is reflected in several different findings from the survey: (1) The percent of respondents selecting the economy and jobs as the most important problem dropped from 27 percent in 2004 to 19 percent in 2005; and (2) The percent of respondents saying their personal financial situation, state business conditions, and national business conditions had improved increased relative to the 2004 results. The most dramatic increase was an 11-point jump (from 16 percent in 2004 to 27 percent in 2005) in the percent of respondents saying state economic conditions had improved over the past year. Perceptions that the national economy had improved increased 5 points from 26 percent in 2004 to 31 percent in 2005, while evaluations of personal financial situations increased slightly from 27 percent to 29 percent.

### **Grading Louisiana: The Macro, the Micro, and the Distance Between:**

As part of the 2005 Louisiana Survey, respondents were asked to grade various areas of state government service, ranging from the public schools to environmental quality to the opportunities available to minorities. Louisiana's universities, arts and culture, and state parks were given the most positive marks. Louisiana's roads and highways, public schools and the public health-care system were graded at the bottom of the scale.

In the areas of public schools and health-care, a low grade for the state's performance may not be indicative of negative personal experience or local context: Respondents were considerably more positive about their local public schools and the health-care either they or their family had received in the past 12 months. For example, 39 percent of respondents gave the public schools in their local communities an A or B compared to just 21 percent who gave "Louisiana public schools" an A or B. The difference was even more striking for health-care: Only 7 percent of respondents gave the overall quality of health-care in Louisiana an A grade compared to more than a third of respondents (34 percent) who gave the care either they or a member of their family had received an A. A final discrepancy exists in evaluations of Louisiana as a place to live

relative to the respondent's local neighborhood. While Louisianans were generally proud of their state - 49 percent gave the state an A or B grade as a place to live - they were even more satisfied with their local neighborhoods. Sixty-eight percent of respondents gave their local neighborhoods an A or B as a place to live.

Although there were some differences across these areas, gaps between evaluations of the state relative to local experience generally reflect differences in the social economic status of the respondents. The gaps between evaluations based on personal experience or local context and state policy or programmatic activity were generally greatest for Caucasian, wealthier, and more-educated respondents as these groups were best able to isolate themselves from general conditions. For example, 20 percent of Caucasian respondents gave the state an A as a place to live compared to 15 percent of African-American respondents. However, 44 percent of Caucasian respondents - compared to 17 percent of African -Americans - gave their local neighborhood an A. When asked to grade the opportunities available to African-Americans in Louisiana, 55 percent of Caucasians gave the state an A or B compared to 28 percent of African-Americans.

### **Property Taxes, the Homestead Exemption, and the Stelly Plan**

Consistent with the results from the 2004 survey, Louisiana residents tend to believe that property tax assessments are fair and equitable, and that they would be willing to have their property reassessed even if they had to pay more in taxes. There have, however, been significant declines in each of these areas. For example, in 2004, 69 percent of respondents reported that they believed their property taxes were fair and equitable compared to 62 percent in 2005. At the same time, the percent of respondents who said they were willing to have their property reassessed even if they had to pay more in taxes dropped from 60 percent in 2004 to 52 percent in 2005.

Attitudes toward the homestead exemption have remained relatively stable over the past year. A majority of respondents in the 2005 survey - 58 percent - said they thought the homestead exemption should be kept where it is compared to 55 percent in 2004. Respondents remained open to the possibility of reducing the homestead exemption if any additional revenue went to local public schools. Fifty-three percent of respondents said they would support such a proposal, a drop from 65 percent in 2005. However, the change likely reflects changes in question wording rather than public preferences: The 2005 question specifically linked a reduction in the homestead exemption to increased taxes for homeowners.

During tax season, respondents were also asked whether they noticed a difference in their state taxes due to the controversial Stelly Plan. Respondents were specifically asked: "As you may recall, the Stelly Plan restructured state taxes in an effort to create a more fair tax system. Critics of the plan argued that it would increase taxes for most Louisiana residents. We were interested in how the plan has personally affected you. Would you say you were paying more or less in state taxes, or haven't you noticed much of a difference?" A majority of respondents (54 percent) said they hadn't noticed much difference, while roughly a third of respondents (33 percent) said they were paying more, 4 percent said they were paying less, and 10 percent said they didn't know.



## **Perceptions of Waste in State Government**

In the 2004 Louisiana Survey, respondents said state government spending could be reduced by 22 percent by getting rid of the waste. This year's numbers were remarkably consistent, as respondents in the 2005 Louisiana Survey reported government spending could be reduced by 24 percent by ridding state government of wasteful spending.

To better gauge what respondents meant by waste in state government, they were asked a follow-up question on whether wasteful spending meant too much spending on the right programs or spending on unnecessary or ineffective programs. A majority of respondents (54 percent) said government waste involved spending on unnecessary programs, while 26 percent said waste involved spending too much on the right programs. An additional 10 percent of respondents said government did not waste much taxpayer money and 9 percent said they did not know. When asked to specifically identify which areas of government wasted the most money, a plurality of respondents (30 percent) said they didn't know. Among those programs that were identified, the most wasteful - according to 13 percent of respondents - was roads and transportation

## **Economic Development & Louisiana's Image**

A majority of respondents believe that Louisiana has a negative image and that this image has a negative impact when it comes to attracting business to the state. Fifty-three percent of respondents said Louisiana had either a negative or a very negative image, and an identical 53 percent of respondents said the image hurt economic development efforts. Asked to compare Louisiana's work force to the work force in other states, a plurality of respondents (43 percent) said the work force was less skilled, 33 percent said the work force was about the same, and 10 percent said the work force was more skilled.

When asked about the effectiveness of a series of initiatives designed to spur economic development, Louisiana residents said that improving the public schools, public health-care system, and infrastructure would be most effective. Ninety percent of respondents said improving public schools would have a positive effect on economic development. Improving health-care finished second at 84 percent, while improving roads and infrastructure finished third at 80 percent. When asked to identify the single most important thing the state can do to attract business, public schools remained at the top of the list, it was selected by 34 percent of respondents followed by tax incentives at 15 percent.

## **Health-Care and Economic Development Incentives**

Health-care concerns may be becoming more important over time as indicated by a number of small shifts on health-care related questions, but the shifts - at this point - were too slight to draw any definitive conclusions. First, there have been small increases (2-3 points) in the percent of respondents identifying health-care as one of the three most important problems and as the most important problem. Second, there was a 3-point increase in the percent of respondents saying someone in the household was not currently covered by insurance and in the percent of respondents reporting having gone without care in the past year. Thirty percent of respondents reported someone in the household

did not have health insurance in the 2005 survey compared to 27 percent in 2004, while 38 percent said they had gone without medical care because of the expense in 2005 compared to 35 percent in 2004.

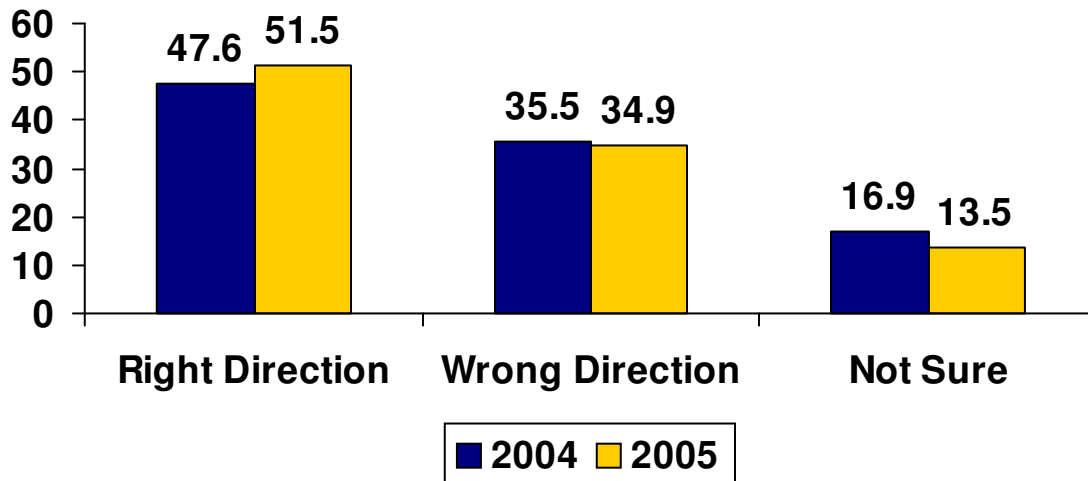
When it comes to Governor Kathleen Blanco's proposal to tie economic development incentives to health benefits, 56 percent of respondents thought it was a good idea, 35 percent said they didn't know, and 9 percent thought it was bad idea.

### **Perceptions of Corruption**

At first glance it may appear that the state is making little headway into public perceptions of corruption. Nearly a third of respondents believe that Louisiana has become less corrupt over time, 38 percent believe the state is just as corrupt, and 28 percent believe the state is more corrupt. Underlying a cursory glance at the findings, however, may be a more hopeful note - perceptions that corruption is lessening were strongest among more-educated and wealthier respondents. Forty-four percent of respondents with a college degree believe the state is less corrupt compared to 33 percent with a high school degree and 20 percent with less than a high school education. Moreover, we have seen a substantial drop from the 2003 Louisiana Survey in the percent of respondents saying the state is becoming more corrupt. In 2003, 47 percent of respondents said the state was more corrupt, 45 percent said the state was just as corrupt, and only 8 percent said the state was less corrupt.

### *I. Direction of the State*

**Figure 1: Louisianans' Perceptions Regarding the Direction of the State**



A majority of residents (52 percent) believe Louisiana is heading in the right direction, indicating a small but statistically and symbolically significant increase over the 2004 results. In the 2004 Louisiana survey, 48 percent of respondents said Louisiana was heading in the right direction.

Despite the increase in "right direction" responses, the percent of respondents believing the state was headed in the wrong direction remained virtually unchanged across the past year with only a slight decline from 36 percent in 2004 to 35 percent in 2005. The movement toward more positive attitudes regarding the direction of the state appears to reflect change from uncertainty to a belief that the state is heading in the right direction. In 2004, nearly 17 percent of respondents said they were unsure or didn't know whether the state was heading in the right direction. In 2005, this number dropped to 13.5 percent.

If respondents were generally more positive about the direction of the state, they were also generally more divided in their perceptions along demographic and political lines. In this year's survey, differences based on gender, race, age, income, education, region, and partisan affiliation were all statistically significant.

- **Gender:** In last year's survey, we found no differences between men and women in their perceptions regarding the direction of the state. This year, men were more likely to report an improved outlook, while women's perception regarding the direction of the state remained virtually unchanged. In 2004, 47 percent of women and 48 percent of men said the state was heading in the right direction. In 2005, 47 percent of women, but 56 percent of men, reported the state was heading in the right direction.

- Race: As in 2004, African-Americans were more negative in their assessment of the direction of the state: 43 percent of African-American respondents said the state was heading in the right direction compared to 56 percent of Caucasian respondents. Both African-American and Caucasian respondents were more positive about the direction of the state than they were in 2004. Although a racial gap persists, the improved outlook is reflected in both African-American and Caucasian responses.
- Age: As with last year's survey, we find that younger respondents were more likely to say the state was heading in the right direction. Fifty-eight percent of respondents 18-24 said the state was moving in the right direction compared to 53 percent of respondents 55 and over. Both the young (18-24) and old (55 and older) were considerably more positive about the direction of the state than in the 2004 survey. The middle age groups, however, were more negative: The percent of respondents 35-54 saying the state was moving in the right direction dropped from 49 percent in 2004 to 46 percent in 2005.
- Income and Education: Less-educated and lower-income respondents were less satisfied with the direction of the state: 35 percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 said the state was heading in the right direction compared to 56 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more. Respondents making less than \$30,000 per year were more negative than in the 2004 survey when 42 percent said the state was headed in the right direction. Likewise, respondents with less than a high school education were least satisfied with the direction of the state. Thirty-eight percent of respondents with less than a high school degree said the state was moving in the right direction (a slight increase from 2004) compared to 59 percent of college graduates.
- Region: Residents in north Louisiana (as indicated by the 318 area code) were most positive in their assessments of the direction of the state, while respondents in Baton Rouge (225 area code) and Lafayette/Lake Charles (337 area code) were most pessimistic. Fifty-seven percent of respondents in north Louisiana believed the state was moving in the right direction compared to 48 percent in Baton Rouge and the Florida parishes. In the New Orleans area code and the Orleans suburban parishes, 52 percent and 50 percent of respondents respectively said the state was moving in the right direction. In each of these regions, respondents were more positive than in 2004 with the exception of Acadiana where perceptions remained virtually unchanged.
- Party: Partisans of both political stripes were more positive than Independents: 54 percent of Republicans and 53 percent of Democrats believed the state was moving in the right direction. This represents a large increase of Democrats believing the state was moving in the direction (from 46 percent to 53 percent) and only a small increase in the percent of Republicans (52 percent to 54 percent). The view of Independents remained virtually unchanged, dropping slightly from 47 to 46 percent.

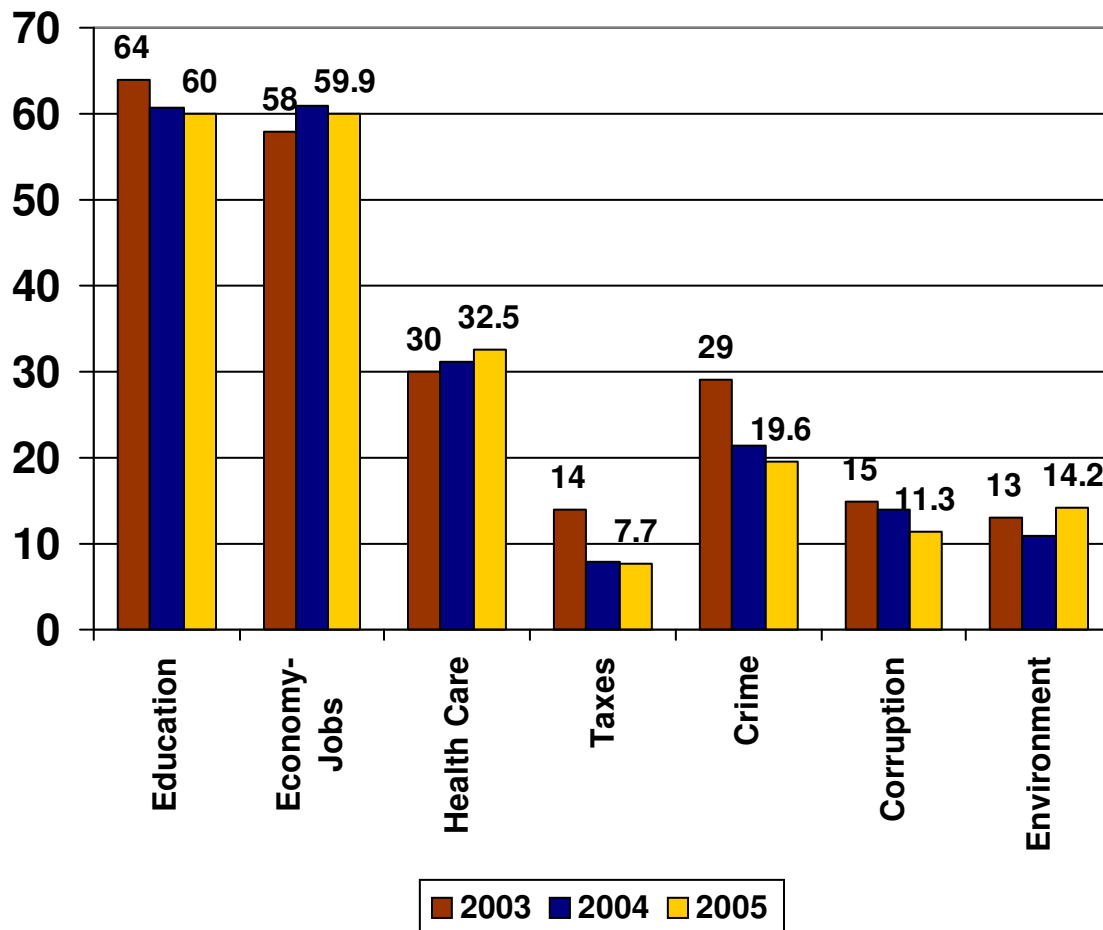
Overall, Louisianans were relatively optimistic that the state was moving in the right direction. However, gaps in perception along partisan and demographic lines appear to be growing, such that pessimism was greatest among the most marginalized residents - poorer, less-educated, and minority respondents.

Table 1: Louisiana Residents' Perceptions Regarding the Direction of the State

	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Not Sure/Don't Know
All Respondents	51.5	34.9	13.5
Gender			
Male	55.8	31.5	12.7
Female	47.7	14.3	38.9
Race			
Caucasian	56.0	29.2	14.8
African-American	43.1	45.5	11.4
Education			
Less than H.S.	37.5	47.7	14.8
High School	52.5	31.6	15.9
Some College	51.7	36.6	11.6
College (4 year degree)	59.3	31.4	9.3
Graduate	57.9	31.6	10.5
Income			
Less than \$30,000	34.9	49.7	15.4
\$30,000 - \$75,000	59.5	27.8	27.8
More than \$75,000	55.7	31.1	31.1
Age			
18-34	57.9	34.6	7.4
35-54	45.5	39.9	14.5
55 and over	52.8	28.1	28.1
Region			
Acadiana	47.5	35.6	16.8
North Louisiana	56.7	27.4	16.0
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	47.9	42.9	9.3
Orleans	52.1	33.2	14.7
Orleans Suburbs	50.7	42.1	7.2
Party			
Democrat	53.3	36.5	10.2
Independent	46.4	35.1	18.5
Republican	54.0	31.0	15.0

## II. Most Important Problems

**Figure 2: Selection of Three Most Important Problems  
2003-2005 Comparison**



*A. Top Three Most Important Problems:* To gauge residents' perceptions regarding the most important problem confronting the state, we first asked respondents to identify the three most important problems confronting the state. We followed this with questions asking respondents to name the single most important problem. In this section, we consider which problems were identified as one of three most important problems confronting Louisiana.

There has been remarkable consistency over the three years of the Louisiana Survey in evaluations of the most important problems. At the top of the list have been education and the economy cited by roughly 60 percent of respondents in each year of the survey. Health-care has consistently finished a distant third with a roughly 30 percent of respondents identifying health-care as one of the three most important problems. It is worth noting the slight upward trend in concern about health-care (30 percent in 2003,

31.1 percent in 2004, and 32.5 percent in 2005), but the change has been too small to make generalizations about increased health-related concerns. Likewise, there have been declines in the identification of crime, taxes, and corruption as leading issues, though most of the drop in concern about crime occurred from 2003-2004, while concern about corruption has only gradually declined from 15 percent to 11 percent over the three years of the survey.

- Gender: Men were more likely to identify the economy and jobs as one of three most important problems: 67 percent of men compared to 53 percent of women identified the economy and jobs and as one of three most important problems. Women were more likely to identify health-care - and somewhat surprisingly crime - as one of the top problems confronting the state. Thirty-eight percent of women compared to 27 percent of men identified health-care, and 23 percent of women compared to 15 percent of men identified crime as one of the state's most pressing problems. Women were also slightly more likely to identify education as a most important problem, though the difference was not statistically significant.
- Race: When it comes to perceptions regarding the most important problems confronting the state, race continues to be one of the most important dividing lines.
  - 66 percent of African-Americans identified education compared to 57 percent of Caucasians.
  - 57 percent of African-Americans identified the economy compared to 66 percent of Caucasians.
  - 28 percent of African-Americans identified health-care compared to 36.0 percent of Caucasians.
  - 27 percent of African-Americans identified crime compared to 15 percent of Caucasians.

The big picture remains the same - both African-American and Caucasian residents were most concerned about the economy, education, and health-care, but the differences were revealing in how differently one views the state based on one's racial identification. African-Americans were relatively more concerned about education and crime, while Caucasian respondents were more concerned about the economy and health-care.

- Education: More-educated respondents were more likely to select education as one of three most important problems, while less-educated respondents were more likely to select crime. Only 41 percent of respondents with less than a high school education selected education as one of three most important problems, compared to 67 percent of respondents with a college degree.
- Income: Respondents making higher-incomes were more likely to cite education as one of three most important problems, while lower-income respondents were more likely to select crime. Fifty-four percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 per year selected education compared to 80 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more. With respect to crime, 26 percent of respondents making less than \$30,000



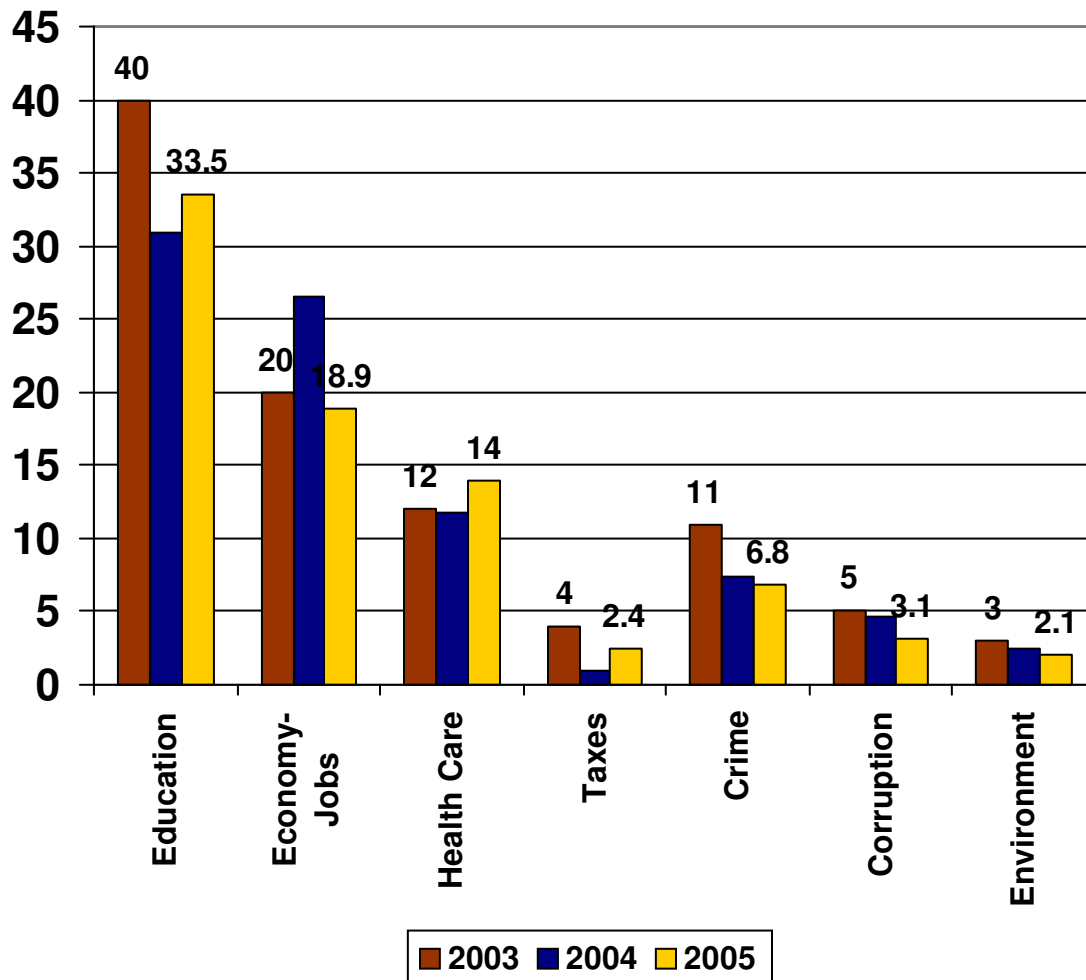
selected crime as one of the most important issues compared to 17 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more. Income is also associated with the probability that a respondent selected health-care as one of the most important issues confronting the state, though it is the middle-income categories that express the greatest concern. Thirty-nine percent of respondents in the middle-income category (\$30,000 - \$75,000) said health-care was one of the most important problems compared to 29 percent making less than \$30,000 and 28 percent making \$75,000 or more. There is an interesting and corresponding difference on age - in that the middle-aged categories (35-54) were most concerned about health-care.

- Region: The only strong regional difference on the selection of most important problems resides in New Orleans where respondents were significantly more likely to select crime as one of their leading concerns. Nearly a third of New Orleans residents cite crime as one of the most important problems compared to 18 percent or less in each of the other regions.
- Party: In a reversal from last year, Republicans were more concerned about the economy than Democrats or Independents. Republicans were also more concerned about corruption, while Democrats were more concerned about crime and health-care.

Table 2: Selection of Top 3 Problems

	Education	Economy/ Jobs	Health- care	Crime	Corruption	Environment
All Respondents	60.0	59.9	32.5	19.6	11.3	14.2
Gender						
Male	58.0	67.0	26.7	15.4	11.4	14.0
Female	61.8	53.5	37.8	23.4	11.1	14.3
Race						
Caucasian	57.1	66.3	35.0	15.2	12.9	14.9
African-American	66.2	56.8	29.5	26.9	8.7	12.1
Education						
Less than H.S.	40.6	49.6	31.3	14.7	12.4	15.6
High School	56.7	65.0	32.3	21.2	9.7	10.4
Some College	69.4	57.1	34.3	21.5	10.3	15.9
College (4 year degree)	66.9	56.8	29.7	14.5	13.6	22.0
Graduate	75.0	62.5	35.7	21.1	21.4	16.1
Income						
Less than \$30,000	54.4	59.4	28.9	26.4	10.4	17.4
\$30,000 - \$75,000	58.0	57.7	39.1	15.3	11.4	11.0
More than \$75,000	80.2	61.7	28.0	16.8	12.3	15.9
Age						
18-34	60.5	63.1	27.8	20.4	10.4	20.7
35-54	62.1	61.1	37.2	17.3	10.9	10.2
55 and over	56.4	54.5	31.2	21.8	12.8	12.4
Region						
Acadiana	58.6	54.2	38.1	14.4	10.3	16.7
North Louisiana	53.6	64.6	34.6	16.0	12.2	9.1
Baton Rouge	76.6	54.3	27.9	17.9	10.3	11.4
New Orleans	57.8	62.1	21.3	33.2	11.8	10.9
Orleans Suburbs	60.3	60.9	42.1	15.2	11.3	27.6
Party						
Democrat	61.5	60.2	36.7	22.1	7.1	13.1
Independent	53.5	58.5	31.6	20.8	14.0	16.6
Republican	67.4	63.9	26.9	11.9	17.2	15.0

**Figure 3: Selection of the Most Important Problem  
2003-2005 Comparison**



*B. The Most Important Problem:* As in previous years, education remained the single most important issue to Louisiana residents. A plurality of respondents, 34 percent, identified education as the most important issue, reflecting an increase over the 2004 levels but roughly six points less than in the 2003 survey. The percent selecting the economy and jobs decreased from 26.5 percent in 2004 to 18.9 percent in 2005, indicating a significant drop in economic concerns. This finding is consistent with other findings (presented elsewhere in this report) indicating increased economic confidence. The third most important problem - health-care - increased slightly from 12 percent in 2004 to 14 percent in 2005. Despite relatively small changes over the past year, the declining importance of crime and corruption are also worth noting.

- Gender: Men were more likely to select the economy and jobs as the most important problem, while women were more likely to select health-care. Twenty-three percent of men compared to 16 percent of women selected the economy and jobs as the most important problem. In contrast, 16 percent of women compared to 11 percent of men selected health-care as the most important problem.
- Race: In the 2004 survey, we found that African-American respondents were less inclined to select education and were more inclined to select the economy as the most important problem. This year we find no difference. Consistent with last year's results, we find that African-Americans were more likely to select crime as one of the most important problems.
- Education and Income: More-educated respondents were more likely to select education and less likely to select health-care as the most important problem. Thirteen percent of respondents with less than a high school education selected education compared to 44 percent of respondents with a college education. On health-care, only 4 percent of college-educated respondents selected this as the most important problem compared to 17 percent of respondents with a high school education or less. Notably, this education gap is considerably larger than in the 2004 survey. Income works in similar directions. Lower-income respondents were less likely to identify education as the most important problem and were more likely to identify crime.
- Region: Regional differences also emerge in the selection of the most important problem. Baton Rouge respondents were considerably more likely to identify education as the most important problem. Forty-six percent of Baton Rouge residents selected education as the most important problem. The Lake Charles and Lafayette area was less likely to select the economy and jobs, but was more likely to select health-care and corruption. New Orleans residents were, not surprisingly, more likely to select crime, and residents of the Orleans suburban parishes were more likely to select environmental issues, primarily coastal erosion.
- Party: Republicans were more likely to identify education as the most important issue confronting the state, while Democrats were more likely to select health-care. Thirty-eight percent of Republicans compared to 25 percent of Democrats selected education as the most important problem. In contrast, 17 percent of Democrats compared to 10 percent of Republicans selected health-care as the most important problem.

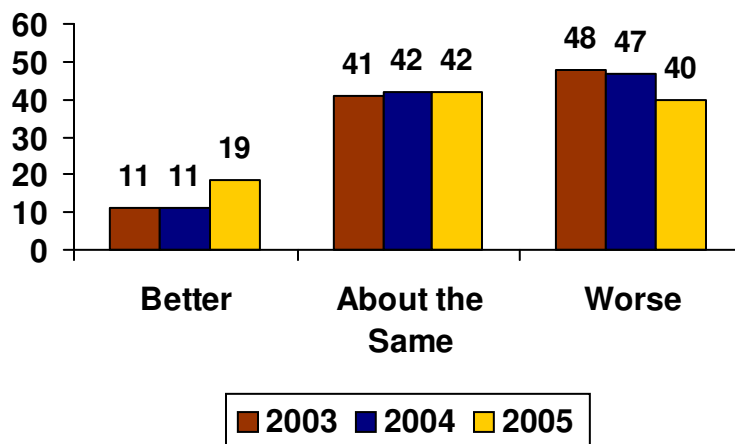
Table 3: Selection of the Most Important Problem

	Education	Economy/ Jobs	Health- care	Crime	Corruption	Environ- ment
All Respondents	33.5	18.9	14.0	6.8	3.1	2.6
Gender						
Male	34.1	22.5	11.4	3.5	3.7	1.3
Female	33.0	15.7	16.4	9.8	2.5	3.7
Race						
Caucasian	34.3	17.5	15.5	4.0	3.3	3.3
African-American	32.6	20.8	12.0	12.7	2.4	0.6
Education						
Less than H.S.	12.5	22.7	17.2	5.5	6.3	0.8
High School	30.4	16.8	17.6	8.5	2.5	1.8
Some College	43.3	17.7	10.8	6.5	3.0	2.6
College (4 year degree)	44.4	20.5	4.3	6.0	0.8	6.8
Graduate	44.6	26.3	10.7	0.0	5.4	1.8
Income						
Less than \$30,000	25.8	21.1	12.4	9.7	5.0	2.7
\$30,000 - \$75,000	36.3	19.3	14.7	4.7	1.3	1.3
More than \$75,000	48.1	17.0	11.3	4.7	1.9	3.8
Age						
18-34	32.4	15.9	12.9	6.1	2.9	3.2
35-54	36.4	21.1	14.0	5.6	3.6	1.5
55 and over	30.7	19.2	15.0	9.7	2.6	3.4
Region						
Acadiana	32.5	10.9	23.2	4.3	6.9	1.0
North Louisiana	27.8	23.5	13.7	3.8	0.8	1.1
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	46.4	17.9	12.1	4.3	0.7	0.0
New Orleans	33.6	19.0	5.7	16.6	4.3	1.4
Orleans Suburbs	32.6	22.5	15.2	4.0	2.6	10.6
Party						
Democrat	25.2	20.1	16.8	8.0	2.2	2.0
Independent	34.5	18.8	13.9	8.3	3.8	1.9
Republican	37.7	18.5	9.7	2.6	4.4	4.8

### ***III. Evaluations of Most Important Problem and Confidence That State Officials Will Effectively Address the Problem***

To gauge respondent perceptions regarding the nature of self-identified most important problems, we asked respondents whether the problem had gotten better or worse over the past year, whether they thought it would get better or worse over the next year, and how much confidence they have in state government officials to address the problem.

**Figure 4: Louisiana Residents' Retrospective Evaluations of Most Important Problem**



*A. Retrospective Evaluation of Most Important Problem:* Reflecting greater optimism in the direction of the state, the percent of respondents who believe the most important problem is getting better has increased relative to 2004. Nineteen percent of respondents said they believed the most important problem was getting better compared to 11 percent in 2003 and 2004, respectively. The percent of respondents saying the problem had stayed the same remained unchanged, while the percent indicating the most important problem had gotten worse declined from 47 percent in 2004 to 40 percent in 2005.

This largely reflects the two most important problems - education and the economy - and perceptions that each has improved over the past year. It also reflects a less negative perception on health-care: While respondents who selected health-care as the most important problem were not any more positive in their evaluations, they were considerably less negative. In the 2004 survey, 65 percent of respondents who selected health-care said the problem had gotten worse over the past year. In 2005, this number dropped to 47 percent, while the number saying health-care stayed the same increased from 30 percent in 2004 to 47 percent in 2005.

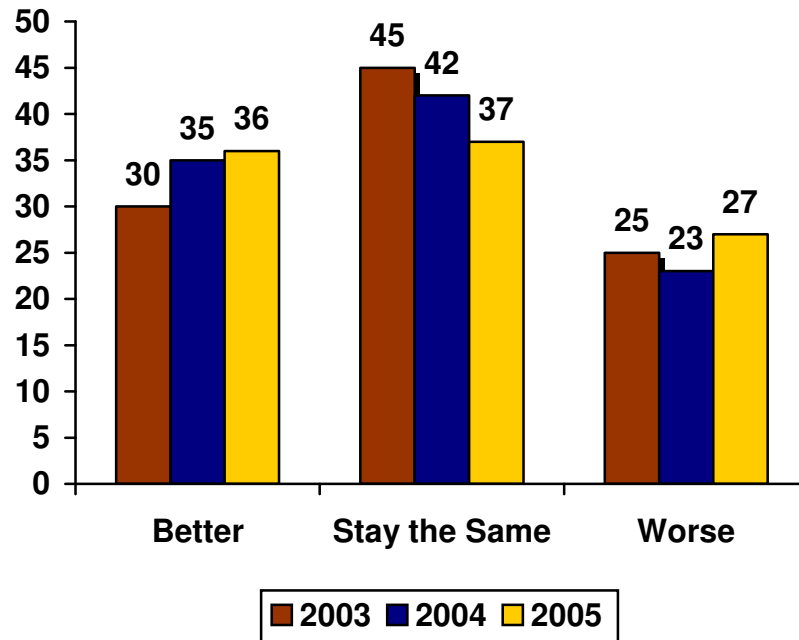
Table 4: Perceptions of the Most Important Problem by the Problem Identified

	Better	About the Same	Worse
<b>Retrospective Evaluation</b>			
All Respondents	18.6	41.7	39.7
Education	26.6	48.3	25.1
Economy- Jobs	28.2	38.7	33.1
Health-care	5.9	47.1	47.1
Crime	4.5	27.3	68.2
Corruption	6.9	55.2	37.9
<b>Prospective Evaluation</b>			
All Respondents	36.1	36.8	27.1
Education	41.7	38.4	19.9
Economy- Jobs	44.7	31.8	23.5
Health-care	28.3	38.6	33.1
Crime	38.3	23.3	38.3
Corruption	13.8	51.7	27.1

*B. Prospective Evaluation of the Most Important Problem:* When it comes to survey research, the future generally looks brighter than past. That is, prospective evaluations were generally more positive than retrospective evaluations. This is true in the 2005 survey with the important caveat that improved retrospective evaluations have not necessarily translated into improved prospective evaluations. Thirty six percent of respondents believed the most important problem would improve over the next twelve months, just one point different from the 2004 survey, while 37 percent believed the problem would stay about the same, and 27 percent believed the problem would get worse.

Respondents who selected the economy were most optimistic reflecting on a theme of increased economic confidence, followed by education and crime. Compared to 2004, optimism about education increased eight points from 34 percent to 42 percent, while optimism about health-care decreased four points from 32 percent to 28 percent. Optimism on the economy remained virtually unchanged: 43 percent said they believed the economy would get better in 2004 compared to 45 percent in 2005.

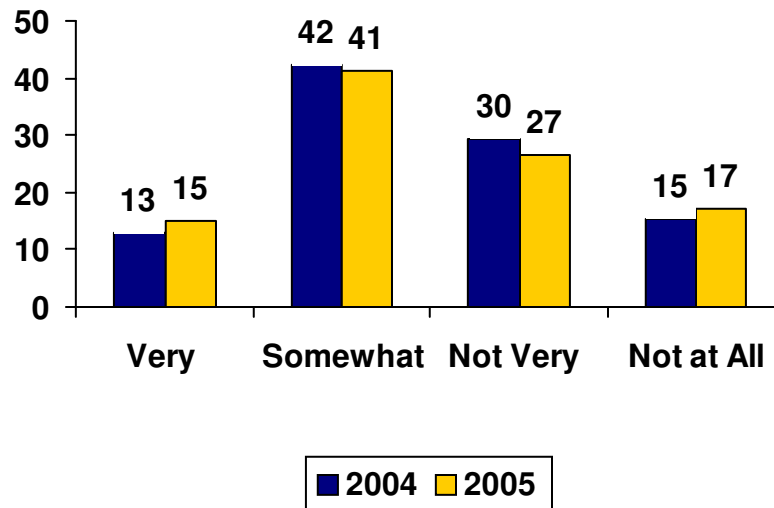
**Figure 5: Louisiana Residents' Prospective Evaluations of Most Important Problem**



*C. Confidence That State Government Officials Will Effectively Address Problem:* Confidence that state government officials would effectively address the most important problem remained virtually unchanged from 2004 to 2005. Fifteen percent of respondents said they were very confident state officials would solve their self-identified most important problem compared to 13 percent in 2004. Similarly, 41 percent said they were somewhat confident compared to 42 percent in 2004. On the other side of the confidence coin, 27 percent said they were not very confident (compared to 30 percent in 2004) and 17 percent said they were not at all confident (compared to 15 percent in 2004) that state officials would effectively address the most important problem. There were some differences across issue areas: Respondents were less confident state officials would effectively address corruption, and more confident that officials would address health-care and the economy.



**Figure 6: Louisiana Residents' Confidence That State Government Officials Will Effectively Address the Most Important Problem**

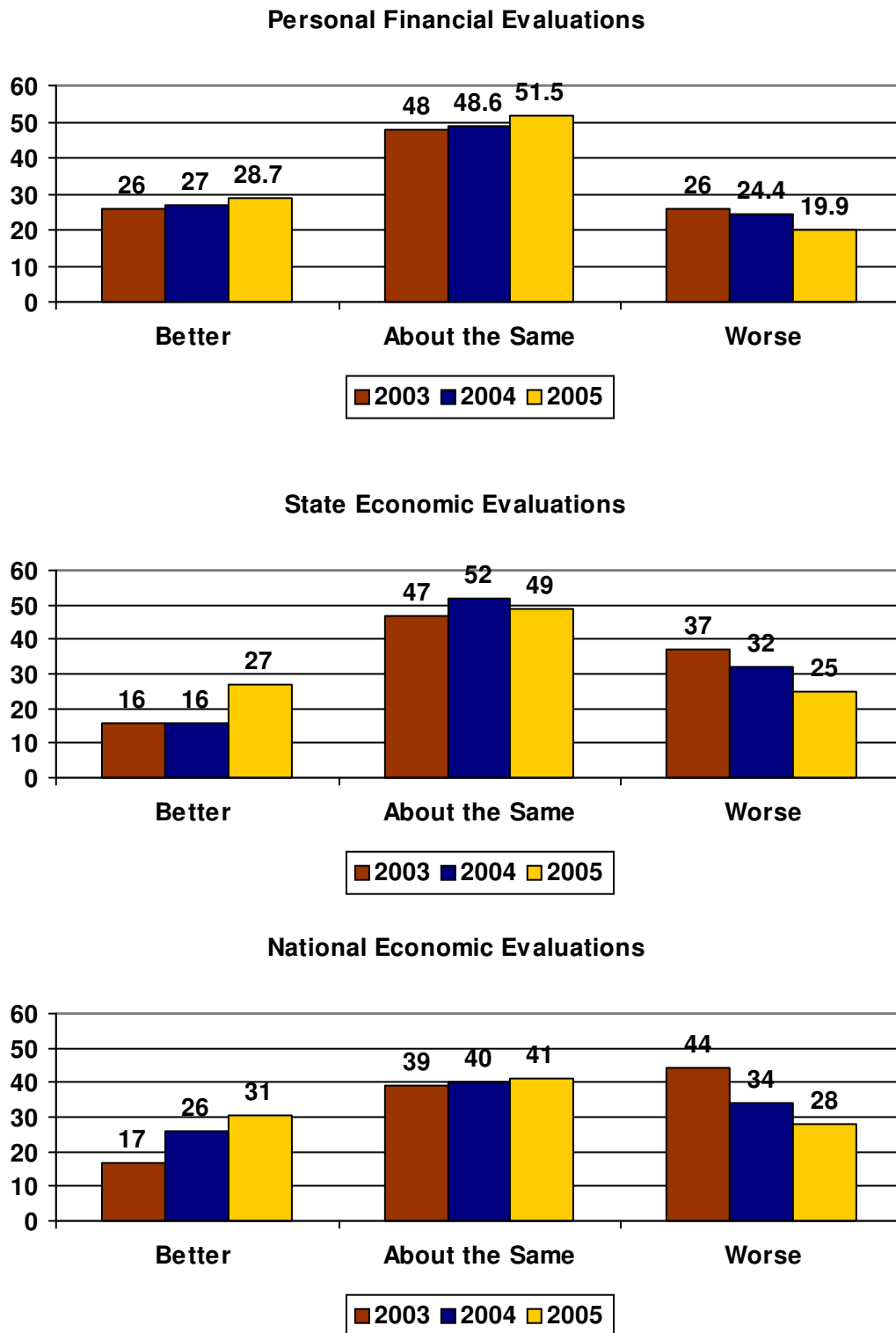


**Table 5: Confidence in State Government Officials by the Problem Identified**

	Very	Somewhat	Not Very	Not at All
Confidence in State Officials				
All Respondents	15.1	41.1	26.6	17.2
Education	12.1	38.2	31.1	18.6
Economy- Jobs	18.3	49.4	20.0	12.2
Health-care	20.5	32.6	21.2	25.6
Crime	14.9	56.7	22.4	6.0
Corruption	6.9	41.4	20.7	31.0

#### IV. Economic Evaluations

**Figure 7: Personal, State, and National Economic Evaluations**



After remaining largely stable over the past two years, economic confidence appears to have increased significantly in 2005. On each of the measures included in this survey - personal finances, state economic conditions, and national economic conditions - respondents were reporting that conditions have improved over the past 12 months. There has been only a small increase in the percent of respondents reporting that their personal finances had improved over the past year: 29 percent of respondents reported that their finances were better compared to 27 percent in 2004. There is a comparable 3-point increase in the percent of respondents reporting their personal finances had stayed about the same (49 percent in 2004 compared to 52 percent in 2005). This leaves the greatest change in personal finances over the past year - a 5-point decrease in the percent of respondents saying their personal finances had gotten worse. Wealthier and Republican respondents were considerably more positive in their assessments of their personal finances. Fifty-four percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more reported that their personal finances had improved compared to only 20 percent making \$30,000 or less. Likewise, 39 percent of Republicans reported an improved personal financial outlook compared to 26 percent of Democrats.

More positive results can be found when one looks at perceptions of the state economy. The percent of respondents believing the state economy had improved over the past 12 months increased from 16 percent in 2004 to 27 percent in 2005. As with personal finances, income was related to state economic perceptions with wealthier respondents more likely to perceive an improving state economy.

National economic conditions also improved, though the change was not quite as dramatic. Thirty-one percent of respondents in the 2005 survey said that the national economy had improved over the past 12 months compared to 26 percent in 2004 and 17 percent in 2003. Interestingly, perceptions of national economic conditions depend more on demographic and political characteristics than personal finances or state economic conditions. Higher-income, males, and Republicans were more positive in their assessments of national economic conditions. Lower-income, females, and Democrats are, in contrast, most negative.

When it comes to buying major household items, 55 percent of respondents believe now is a good time to buy. This compares to 56 percent in the 2004 survey and 55 percent in the 2003 survey. Caucasians, males, relatively high income, and Republicans were more inclined to believe that now is a good time to purchase major household items.

Table 8: Louisiana Residents' Evaluations of Personal Finances Over Last Year

	Better	About the Same	Worse
All Respondents	28.7	51.5	19.9
Gender			
Male	29.0	52.1	18.9
Female	28.4	50.7	20.9
Race			
Caucasian	31.5	53.3	15.2
African-American	23.0	41.2	28.8
Education			
Less than H.S.	28.9	34.3	36.7
High School	23.9	60.9	15.3
Some College	31.0	49.3	19.7
College (4 year degree)	39.7	39.7	20.7
Graduate	32.1	51.8	16.1
Income			
Less than \$30,000	19.8	52.7	27.5
\$30,000 - \$75,000	27.4	56.5	16.1
More than \$75,000	53.8	30.2	16.0
Age			
18-34	37.8	42.5	19.7
35-54	25.8	51.7	22.5
55 and over	22.8	61.2	16.0
Region			
Acadiana	31.5	46.5	25.8
North Louisiana	29.2	53.1	19.9
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	23.4	47.9	25.5
New Orleans	32.1	46.4	27.0
Orleans Suburbs	24.1	51.0	24.8
Party			
Democrat	25.8	50.3	23.8
Independent	23.9	56.5	19.6
Republican	39.3	46.9	13.8

Table 9: Louisiana Residents' Evaluations of State Economic Conditions

	Better	About the Same	Worse
All Respondents	26.7	48.6	24.7
Gender			
Male	27.6	43.7	28.7
Female	25.9	53.1	21.0
Race			
Caucasian	27.4	48.8	23.7
African-American	26.0	47.9	26.0
Education			
Less than H.S.	16.5	52.9	30.6
High School	33.0	47.2	19.8
Some College	20.8	52.2	27.0
College (4 year degree)	23.7	45.6	30.7
Graduate	30.9	41.8	27.3
Income			
Less than \$30,000	22.7	48.5	28.8
\$30,000 - \$75,000	29.0	45.8	25.3
More than \$75,000	32.1	44.3	23.6
Age			
18-34	26.1	50.2	23.7
35-54	25.4	44.0	30.6
55 and over	29.8	53.3	16.9
Region			
Acadiana	29.7	42.7	27.6
North Louisiana	27.9	52.3	19.8
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	28.1	46.0	25.9
New Orleans	23.8	47.0	29.2
Orleans Suburbs	23.5	54.4	22.1
Party			
Democrat	26.7	47.1	26.2
Independent	27.7	44.6	27.7
Republican	27.8	52.5	19.7

Table 10: Louisiana Residents' Evaluations of National Economic Conditions

	Better	About the Same	Worse
All Respondents	30.5	41.4	28.2
Gender			
Male	35.6	35.8	28.6
Female	25.8	46.5	27.7
Race			
Caucasian	31.5	41.5	27.0
African-American	28.6	41.5	29.9
Education			
Less than H.S.	26.7	43.1	30.2
High School	29.1	43.8	27.2
Some College	30.8	40.7	28.5
College (4 year degree)	36.6	33.0	30.4
Graduate	35.8	37.7	26.4
Income			
Less than \$30,000	26.1	41.3	32.5
\$30,000 - \$75,000	26.6	42.9	30.4
More than \$75,000	46.1	30.4	23.5
Age			
18-34	33.6	42.0	24.4
35-54	27.6	38.5	33.9
55 and over	30.9	44.7	24.4
Region			
Acadiana	23.0	43.5	33.5
North Louisiana	36.8	42.5	20.6
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	29.2	35.0	35.8
Orleans Suburbs	32.6	41.5	25.9
	27.5	43.0	29.6
Party			
Democrat	23.2	39.0	37.8
Independent	24.1	45.3	30.6
Republican	51.4	40.4	8.3

Table 11: Louisiana Residents' Perceptions Regarding Whether Now is a Good Time to Buy Major Household Items.

	Good Time
All Respondents	55.9
Gender	
Male	60.9
Female	51.2
Race	
Caucasian	57.8
African-American	52.8
Education	
Less than H.S.	43.0
High School	56.8
Some College	60.1
College (4 year degree)	58.9
Graduate	56.9
Income	
Less than \$30,000	53.3
\$30,000 - \$75,000	53.8
More than \$75,000	73.3
Age	
18-34	59.6
35-54	51.7
55 and over	58.0
Region	
Acadiana	53.6
North Louisiana	54.9
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	63.0
New Orleans	58.7
Orleans	49.6
Party	
Democrat	52.8
Independent	57.6
Republican	64.5

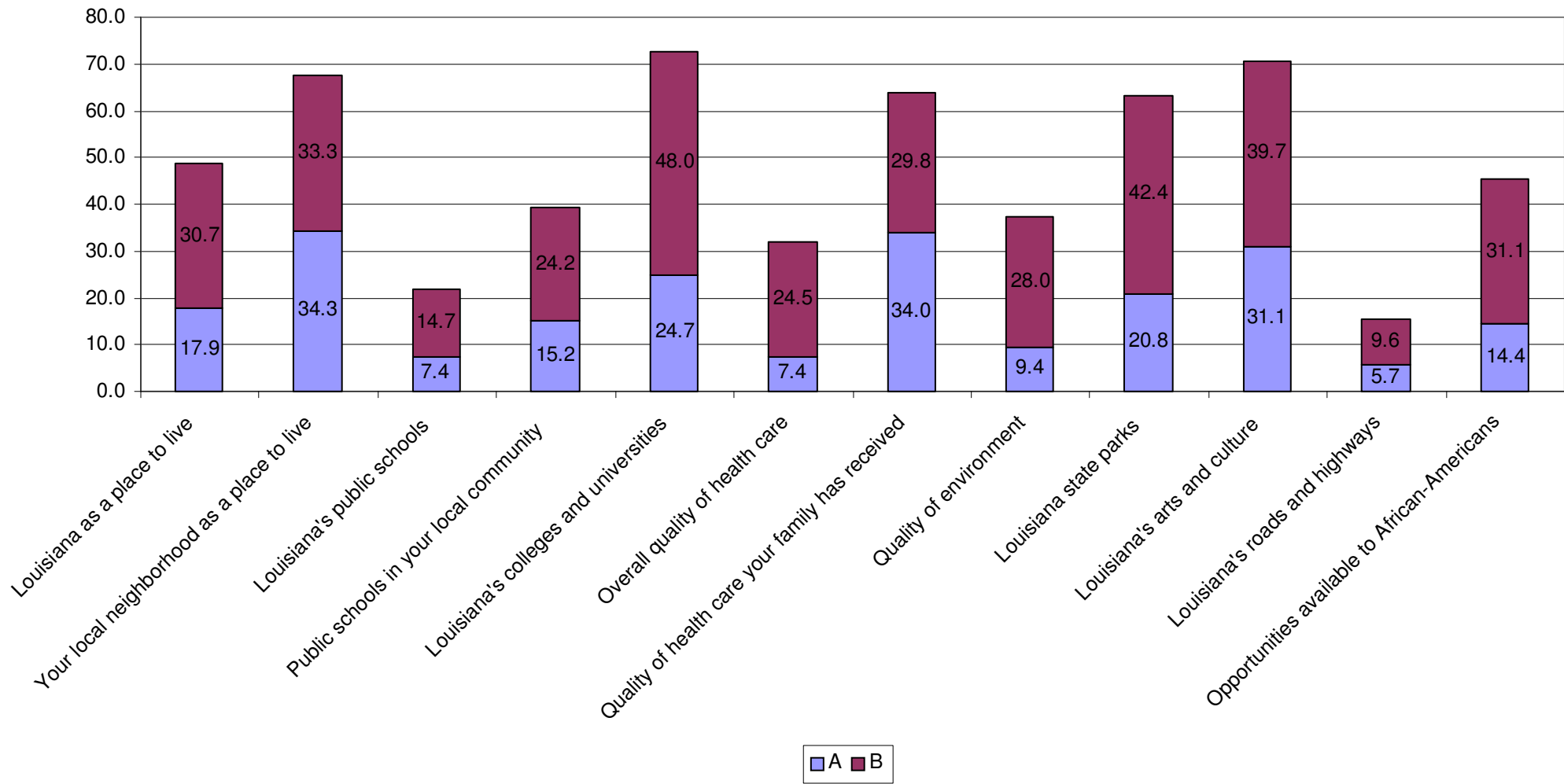
### ***V. Grading Louisiana***

To assess respondents' ratings of various areas of government services, respondents were asked to give letter grades to state conditions across a range of issue areas. Because we also wanted to gauge how respondents' ratings differed depending on personal experience and local context, we asked respondents to rate local public schools, the health-care the respondent or their family had received in the past 12 months, and the local neighborhoods in which they reside. Figure 8 illustrates the percent of respondents grading each item as an A or B.

Looking first at the distribution of A grades, respondents rate their local neighborhood and the health-care received most positively. Roughly 34 percent of respondents gave their local neighborhoods and personal health-care an A grade. This is followed by Louisiana's arts and culture (31 percent) and Louisiana's colleges and universities (25 percent). At the bottom of the list, we find Louisiana's public schools and Louisiana's health-care system graded an A by only 7 percent each, and Louisiana's roads and highways graded an A by only 6 percent of respondents.

Looking at both A and B grades combined, we get a slightly different perspective. Louisiana's colleges and universities finish at the top of the list with 72 percent of respondents giving an A or B grade, followed closely by Louisiana's arts and culture (70 percent), the local neighborhood (67 percent), and the quality of health-care received (64 percent). In the rest of this section, we will discuss each of these evaluations in turn, examining demographic differences in perceptions and -where possible - comparisons with the 2002 Louisiana Survey.

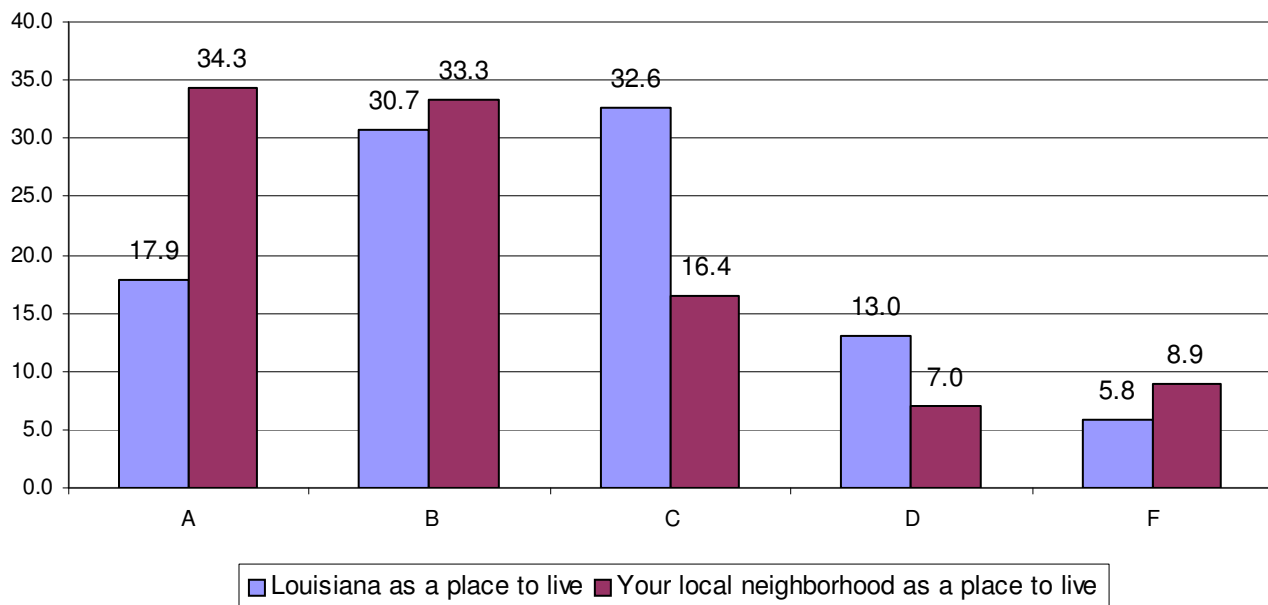


**Figure 8: Percent of Respondents Grading Louisiana an A or B by Area**

Louisiana as a Place to Live: Louisianans were generally proud of their state as a place to live and gave the state relatively high marks for livability. Eighteen percent of respondents gave the state an A and 31 percent gave the state B as a place to live. Only 20 percent of respondents gave the state a D or F.

Respondents were, not surprisingly, even more positive about their local neighborhoods: 34 percent of respondents gave their local neighborhood an A and 33 percent gave their neighborhood a B. In comparison, 16 percent gave their neighborhood a D or F.

**Figure 9: Grading of Louisiana and Local Neighborhood as a Place to Live**



When we consider demographic and political differences in evaluations of Louisiana as a place to live, we find significant differences for age, race, income, education, and region. Most of these differences reflect fairly minor shifts in terms of the percent of respondents giving an A rather than a B or a D rather than F. For example, a cursory glance at Table 12 might lead one to conclude that women were more positive in their grading of Louisiana as a place to live than men since women gave more A's (20 percent) than men (16 percent). However, men gave more B's than women. As a result, the overall GPA given by women (2.11) is virtually undistinguishable from the GPA given by men (2.12).

Aside from these more minor differences, there were several important differences that bear mentioning. First, Caucasian respondents were significantly more positive in their evaluations of Louisiana as a place to live than African-Americans. Fifty-five percent of Caucasian respondents compared to 38 percent of African-American respondents gave Louisiana an A or B as a place to live. The overall GPA for Caucasian respondents is a 2.26 compared to 1.87 for African-Americans. The second important

difference involves education, though the pattern is not necessarily what one might expect. Generally speaking, more-educated respondents were more negative about the state as a place to live, but the most negative ratings were for respondents with some college education and with a college degree - and not respondents with a graduate education. Eight percent of respondents with some college and 11 percent of respondents with a college degree gave the state an A as a place to live compared to 15 percent of respondents with a graduate degree and 22 percent with a high school education. Moreover, the least-educated respondents display the greatest variation in their responses giving the highest percentage of A's (27 percent) and the highest percentage of F's (16 percent).

We find very similar patterns when we look at rating of local neighborhoods. As with Louisiana more generally, women and men differ in their perspectives, but when it comes to evaluating the local neighborhoods they live in, women were less negative than men. In this respect, men and women were equally likely to an A or B (with women more likely to gave an A and men more likely to gave a B). However, women were more likely to give a C to their local neighborhood rather than a D or an F.

Race also provides an important lens through which respondents view their local neighborhoods. Caucasian respondents were consistently more positive in their evaluations, and there is much larger gap in their evaluations of their local neighborhoods. Forty-four percent of Caucasian respondents gave their local neighborhood an A compared to only 17 percent of African Americans. For Caucasian respondents this equates to a 24-point increase in their evaluations of their local neighborhood relative to their evaluations of the state. For African-Americans, the difference is 3 points.

As was the case with ratings of Louisiana more generally, less-educated respondents showed greater variation in their evaluations of their local neighborhoods. Thirty-seven percent of respondents with less than a high school education gave their local neighborhoods an A, while 32 percent gave their neighborhoods an F. As one would expect, as income increases respondents evaluate their neighborhoods more positively. Sixty percent of respondents making less \$30,000 per year gave their local neighborhoods an A or B compared to 84 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more.

Table 12: Grading Louisiana as a Place to Live

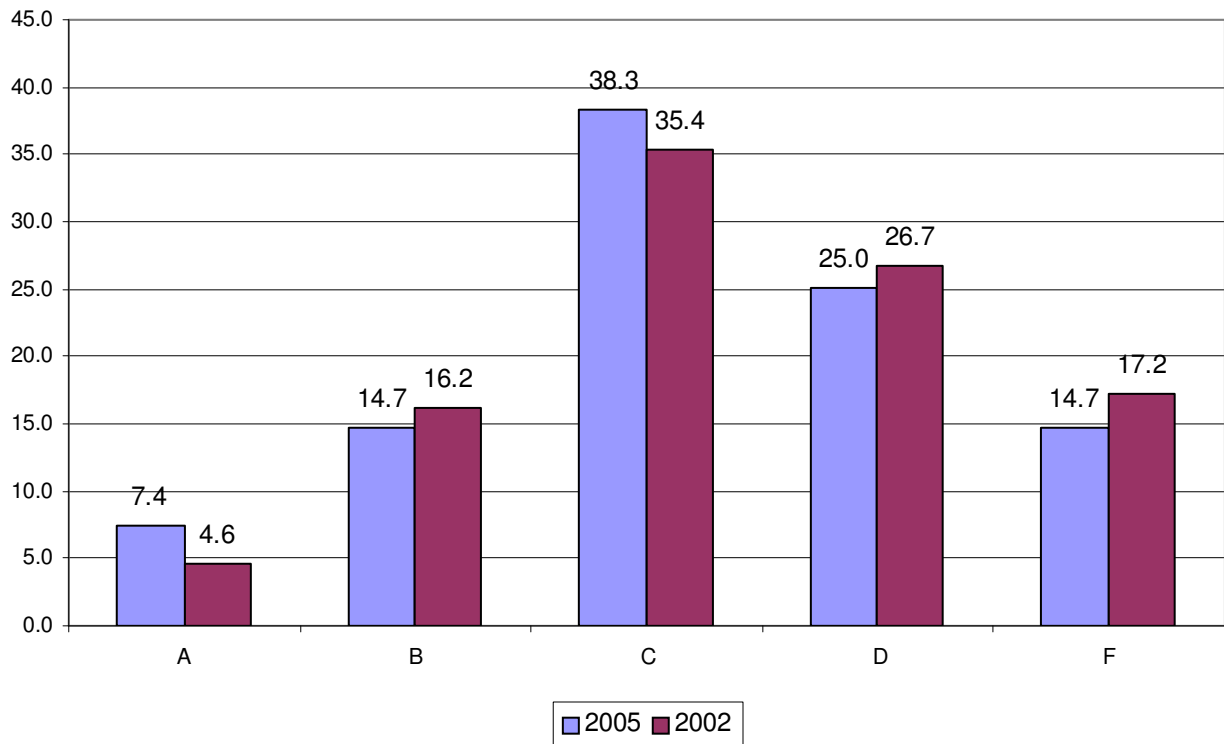
	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	17.9	30.7	32.6	13.0	5.8
Gender					
Male	16.0	33.2	29.5	17.1	4.2
Female	19.7	28.4	35.4	9.1	7.4
Race					
Caucasian	19.8	34.8	31.3	9.0	5.0
African-American	14.9	23.5	34.5	20.1	7.0
Education					
Less than H.S.	26.2	22.2	16.3	16.6	16.7
High School	22.9	33.2	29.7	9.8	4.4
Some College	8.7	31.6	38.5	16.9	4.3
College (4 year degree)	11.1	27.4	44.4	12.8	4.3
Graduate	14.5	32.7	38.2	12.7	1.8
Income					
Less than \$30,000	18.9	28.6	26.3	18.9	7.4
\$30,000 - \$75,000	15.7	36.1	31.1	12.0	5.0
More than \$75,000	8.3	40.7	35.2	12.0	3.7
Age					
18-34	14.2	28.8	37.9	15.9	3.2
35-54	16.6	30.1	31.9	14.0	7.4
55 and over	24.6	33.6	27.0	8.2	6.6
Region					
Acadiana	18.5	29.0	38.0	12.5	2.0
North Louisiana	18.0	38.3	28.0	9.2	6.5
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	20.0	25.0	33.6	18.6	2.9
New Orleans	15.0	24.6	35.3	13.5	11.6
Orleans Suburbs	19.2	33.1	28.5	14.6	4.8
Party					
Democrat	19.0	30.0	31.1	13.6	6.3
Independent	21.3	27.0	31.9	13.7	6.1
Republican	10.8	37.4	34.2	12.2	5.4

Table 13: Grading Your Neighborhood as a Place to Live

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	34.3	33.3	16.4	7.0	8.9
Gender					
Male	31.8	36.0	13.8	8.6	9.9
Female	36.4	31.1	18.7	5.7	8.1
Race					
Caucasian	44.0	33.4	13.1	5.5	4.1
African-American	17.1	33.5	22.3	10.1	17.1
Education					
Less than H.S.	37.3	10.3	13.5	7.1	31.7
High School	34.7	36.1	15.2	5.3	8.7
Some College	28.8	35.6	21.0	12.0	2.6
College (4 year degree)	36.4	37.3	19.5	5.9	0.8
Graduate	41.8	47.3	5.5	3.6	1.8
Income					
Less than \$30,000	33.2	27.2	17.1	7.0	15.4
\$30,000 - \$75,000	34.2	39.5	17.8	6.3	2.3
More than \$75,000	36.3	47.7	9.3	3.7	0.9
Age					
18-34	31.2	28.9	18.5	6.5	14.9
35-54	32.1	35.9	18.8	8.4	4.8
55 and over	41.2	34.7	10.3	5.7	8.0
Region					
Acadiana	32.5	37.9	13.8	9.4	6.4
North Louisiana	33.8	30.4	19.6	6.9	9.2
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	29.5	38.1	14.4	8.6	9.4
New Orleans	31.0	32.9	18.6	6.2	11.4
Orleans Suburbs	46.1	28.9	13.2	3.9	7.9
Party					
Democrat	30.0	36.0	18.0	10.2	5.8
Independent	36.2	27.9	14.0	4.5	17.4
Republican	41.3	34.7	15.7	7.2	9.1

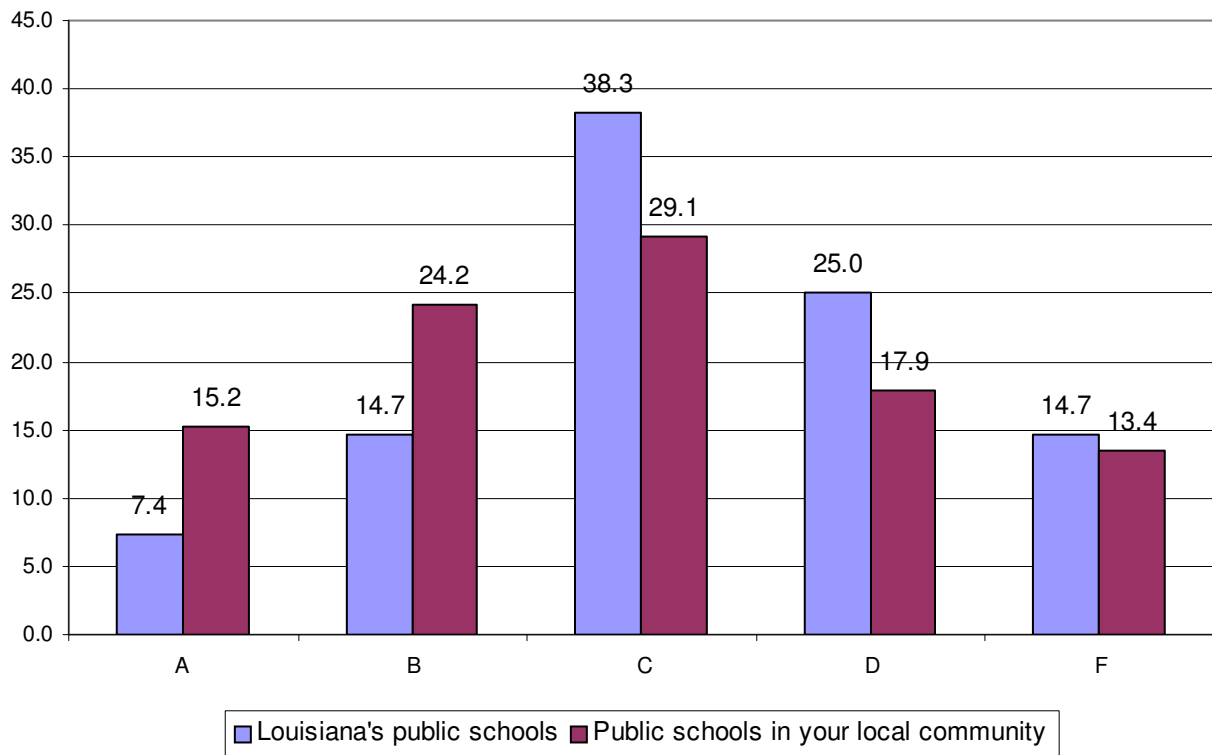
Louisiana's Public Schools: Louisiana's public schools continue to be graded relatively negatively by Louisiana residents. Only 7 percent of respondents gave the public schools an A and only 15 percent gave the schools a B. By comparison, 15 percent gave the public schools an F and 25 percent gave the schools a D. The good news amid the negative evaluations, however, is that public evaluations of the schools appear to have improved (albeit only slightly) since 2002. Looked at in terms of a standard GPA, the schools have improved from a 1.65 in 2002 to 1.75 in 2005.

**Figure 10: Comparison of Grades on Public Schools, 2002 and 2005**



Consistent with the public opinion literature, respondents were more positive about their local public schools than the school system more broadly defined. Thirty-nine percent of respondents gave the public schools in their local communities an A or B compared to only 22 percent who gave schools in general an A or B.

**Figure 11: Respondent Grading of Public Schools and Schools in Local Community**



Demographic differences in terms of evaluations of public schools largely reflect education, income, and region, but surprisingly not race. Less-educated, lower-income, and New Orleans residents all rate the public schools more negatively than other respondents. With respect to both income and education, there were consistent declines in the grades given to public schools as education and income increased. Thirty-eight percent of respondents with less than a high school education, for example, gave the public schools an A or B compared to 16 percent of respondents with a college degree. Likewise, 31 percent of respondents making \$30,000 or less per year gave the public schools an A or B compared to 10 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more.

We find similar patterns when we look at evaluations of public schools in the local community, illustrating an important difference in local public schools relative to local neighborhoods. With respect to neighborhoods, indicators of higher social economic status were related to more positive evaluations of the local context. With respect to the schools, the reverse was true: Less-wealthy and less-educated respondents were more positive about their local schools, while wealthier and better-educated respondents were more negative. Forty-five percent of respondents with less than a high school education gave their local school an A or B compared to 38 percent of respondents with a college degree. In a similar vein, 45 percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 gave their local schools an A or B compared to 30 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more.

In terms of regional differences, New Orleans residents were most negative in their evaluations of their local public schools: 47 percent of respondents gave the New Orleans public schools a D or an F. By comparison, 36 percent of Baton Rouge residents and 33 percent of north Louisiana residents gave the public schools a D or F. In Acadiana and the parishes surrounding New Orleans, evaluations were much more positive. In Acadiana, 20 percent gave the local public schools a D or F, while 47 percent gave the local schools an A or B. In the parishes surrounding New Orleans, these numbers were 19 percent for D's and F's and 56 percent for A's and B's.

One parallel to the neighborhood results is that Caucasian respondents were more positive about the schools in their local communities than African-Americans. Forty-six percent of Caucasian respondents gave their local public schools an A or B compared to 28 percent of African-Americans.



Table 14: Grading Louisiana's Public Schools

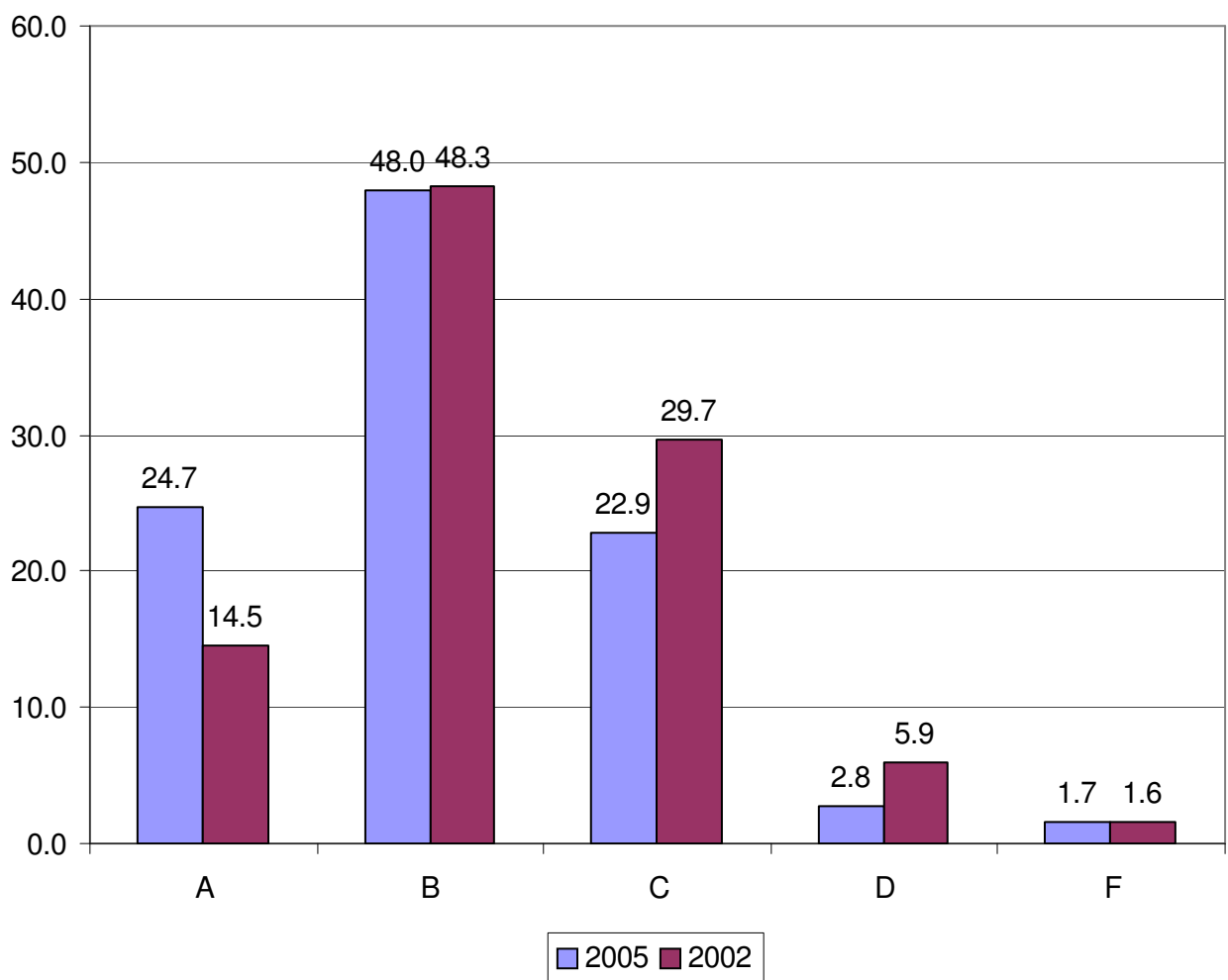
	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	7.4	14.7	38.3	25.0	14.7
Gender					
Male	6.9	12.6	38.6	29.3	12.6
Female	7.9	16.6	37.9	21.1	16.6
Race					
Caucasian	7.2	15.6	36.6	26.7	14.0
African-American	7.3	12.8	41.5	23.5	14.9
Education					
Less than H.S.	21.0	16.9	30.6	11.3	20.2
High School	6.3	15.3	44.4	23.3	10.7
Some College	4.4	14.7	36.0	29.8	15.1
College (4 year degree)	4.3	11.3	33.9	33.0	17.4
Graduate	5.7	11.3	24.5	32.1	26.4
Income					
Less than \$30,000	12.6	18.4	35.0	15.0	19.0
\$30,000 - \$75,000	4.1	17.3	41.0	26.4	11.2
More than \$75,000	4.8	4.8	28.8	41.3	20.2
Age					
18-34	9.4	12.4	41.0	26.7	10.4
35-54	6.7	13.4	35.0	27.2	17.7
55 and over	5.6	19.4	39.9	19.8	15.3
Region					
Acadiana	4.5	22.1	41.2	23.1	9.0
North Louisiana	10.3	14.3	45.2	17.1	13.1
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	7.2	8.0	39.9	34.8	10.1
New Orleans	5.9	11.7	22.0	30.7	29.8
Orleans Suburbs	8.8	15.5	43.2	24.3	8.1
Party					
Democrat	9.8	14.4	39.4	34.8	10.1
Independent	6.5	11.8	42.2	25.1	14.4
Republican	3.6	18.2	30.9	28.6	18.6

Table 15: Grading Public Schools in Local Communities

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	15.2	24.2	29.1	17.9	13.4
Gender					
Male	15.3	19.3	29.9	20.9	14.6
Female	15.2	28.7	28.3	15.2	12.5
Race					
Caucasian	16.2	29.9	28.3	14.6	11.0
African-American	13.1	14.7	30.6	24.5	17.1
Education					
Less than H.S.	21.6	23.2	20.8	15.2	19.2
High School	17.0	25.4	29.3	16.8	11.5
Some College	8.1	25.1	33.6	22.0	11.2
College (4 year degree)	16.7	21.1	30.7	15.8	15.8
Graduate	11.1	20.4	25.9	22.2	20.4
Income					
Less than \$30,000	22.3	23.0	23.7	14.6	16.4
\$30,000 - \$75,000	11.1	30.3	33.0	14.8	10.6
More than \$75,000	16.5	13.6	33.0	23.3	13.6
Age					
18-34	15.6	18.9	26.5	25.5	13.6
35-54	17.2	22.4	29.3	17.0	14.1
55 and over	11.6	33.9	32.2	10.3	12.0
Region					
Acadiana	17.2	29.3	33.8	14.6	5.1
North Louisiana	13.4	20.7	33.3	15.4	17.1
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	15.3	17.5	30.7	25.5	10.9
New Orleans	8.7	23.2	21.3	22.2	24.6
Orleans Suburbs	24.3	31.3	25.7	13.9	4.9
Party					
Democrat	15.9	22.3	32.1	18.0	11.6
Independent	13.5	26.3	23.9	18.1	18.1
Republican	15.0	28.2	27.2	16.9	12.7

Louisiana's Colleges & Universities: Louisiana's colleges and universities continue to be among the positively graded areas of state government with 73 percent of respondents giving an A or B grade. Equally important, evaluations of Louisiana's colleges and universities have increased by 10 percentage points since 2002 with the most notable change occurring among respondents giving an A grade. As can be seen in Figure 12, in 2002 15 percent of respondents gave colleges and universities an A grade compared to 25 percent in 2004.

**Figure 12: Comparison of Grades for Louisiana Colleges & Universities, 2002 and 2005**



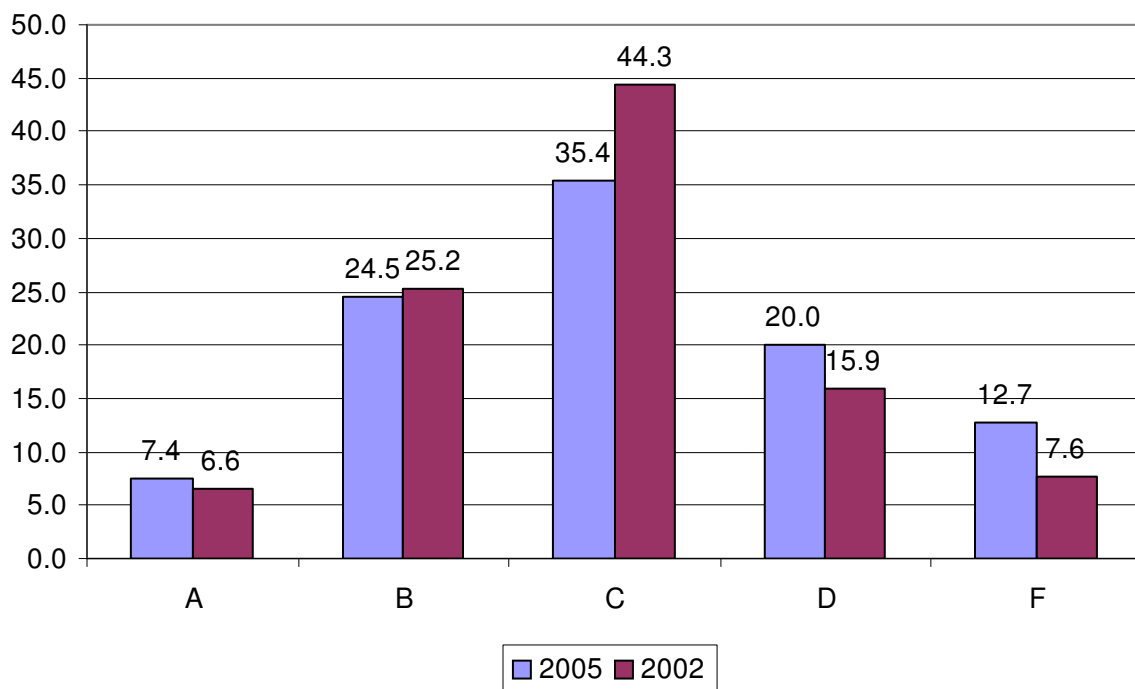
Evaluations of Louisiana's colleges and universities were strongest among the less-educated and less-wealthy segments of the population. Forty-eight percent of respondents with less than a high school education gave colleges and universities an A compared to 11 percent with a college degree. Likewise, 40 percent of respondents making \$30,000 or less gave Louisiana's colleges and universities an A compared to 8 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more.

Table 16: Grading Louisiana's Colleges and Universities

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	24.7	48.0	22.9	2.8	1.7
Gender					
Male	25.2	45.7	23.9	2.9	2.3
Female	24.3	50.1	21.8	2.7	1.0
Race					
Caucasian	24.6	49.2	21.8	2.8	1.9
African-American	23.7	47.4	24.9	3.1	0.9
Education					
Less than H.S.	47.9	19.8	25.8	2.5	4.1
High School	27.1	52.7	17.7	1.7	0.7
Some College	16.2	48.7	27.6	4.8	2.6
College (4 year degree)	10.6	62.8	23.0	2.7	0.9
Graduate	20.0	40.0	34.5	3.6	1.8
Income					
Less than \$30,000	39.5	35.2	21.7	2.1	1.4
\$30,000 - \$75,000	21.8	51.8	20.4	4.9	1.1
More than \$75,000	7.7	59.6	30.8	1.0	1.0
Age					
18-34	27.7	53.0	16.3	1.7	1.3
35-54	27.0	39.9	26.7	4.8	1.6
55 and over	18.0	53.9	24.9	1.2	2.0
Region					
Acadiana	25.1	46.7	24.1	1.5	2.6
North Louisiana	22.7	52.1	18.6	4.1	2.5
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	20.1	53.7	21.6	2.2	2.2
New Orleans	20.7	44.7	30.8	3.4	0.5
Orleans Suburbs	37.8	41.3	18.2	2.1	0.7
Party					
Democrat	27.4	45.2	22.7	2.6	2.1
Independent	26.7	46.3	23.1	2.0	2.0
Republican	17.7	54.0	23.3	4.2	0.9

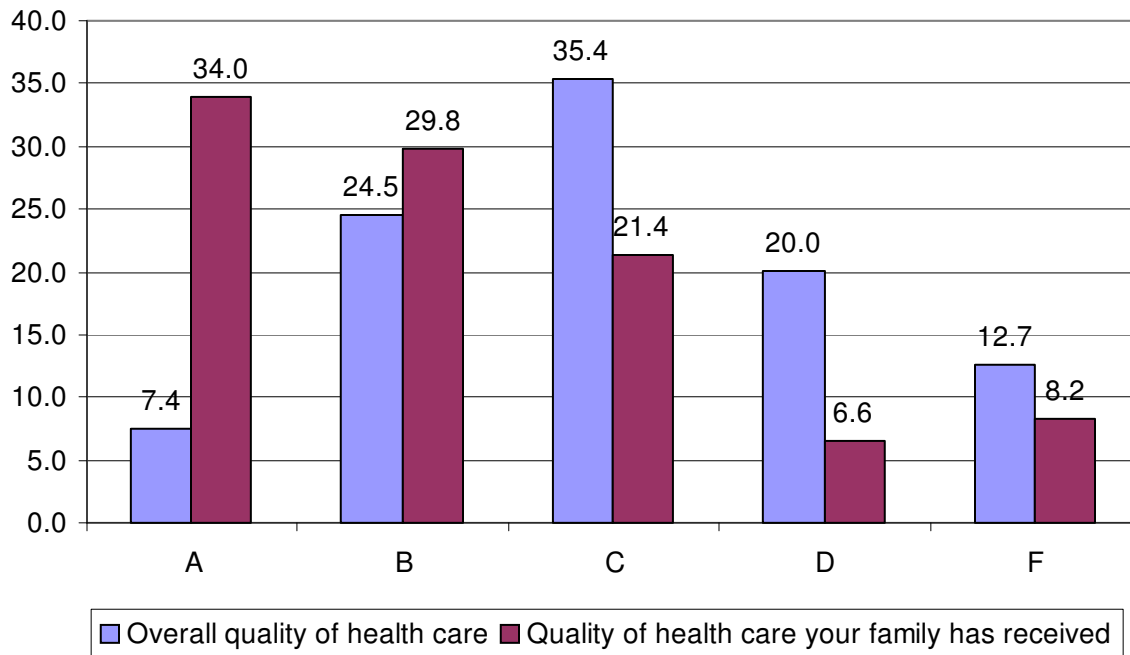
Health-care in Louisiana: Respondents were decidedly negative when it comes to evaluating health-care in Louisiana, and it appears that evaluations have become more negative over time. Interestingly, there is little change in the percent of respondents giving the quality of health-care in Louisiana an A or B compared to the 2002 results. However, there is a substantial decline in the percent giving health-care a C - dropping from 44 percent in 2002 to 35 percent in 2005 - and a substantial increase in the percent of respondents giving the quality of health-care a D or F. The percent of respondents giving health-care a D or F grade increased from 24 percent in 2002 to 33 percent in 2005.

**Figure 13: Comparison of Grades for Quality of Health Care, 2002 and 2005**



As is the case with local neighborhoods and local public schools, respondents were considerably more positive about the health-care either they or their families have received in the past year. Over a third of respondents (34 percent) rated the quality of care received as an A, and 74 percent rated the quality of care received as either an A or B. As with the public schools and neighborhoods, Louisiana residents see one reality at the aggregate but experience a much different reality personally.

**Figure 14: Comparison of Grades for Quality of Health Care Versus Quality of Care Received**



When it comes to grading the overall quality of health-care in Louisiana, perceptions were largely driven by demographic and political differences. Women, Caucasians, better-educated, middle-income, and older respondents were more likely to rate Louisiana health-care less positively, though it is worth noting that many of these differences reflect differences in the intensity of evaluations as opposed to direction. For example, women were less likely to give an A to overall quality of health-care (5 percent for women compared to 10 percent for men) but were slightly more likely to give a B (26 percent for women compared to 23 percent for men). At the other end of the scale, women were less likely to give a D but more likely to give an F.

Many of these patterns of demographic differences were altered in important ways when looking at the breakouts for the care received by the respondent or a member of his or her family. Across the board, respondents were more positive about the care they personally receive than about the overall health-care system, but there is an interesting disconnect between the quality of care the respondent received and the evaluation of Louisiana health-care. African-American respondents, for example, were significantly less positive than Caucasians about the care they have personally received - even though they were more positive about the overall quality of the health-care system. On age, education, and income, it is the middle categories - some college, earning \$30,000 - \$75,000 per year, and 35-54 age classifications - that were most negative about personal health-care. Notably, these were respondents who may be most marginalized by the health-care system because they likely do not qualify for public assistance and find private care expensive and perhaps unaffordable.

Table 17: Grading Overall Quality of Health Care

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	7.4	24.5	35.4	20.0	12.7
Gender					
Male	10.0	23.4	34.5	21.5	10.7
Female	5.1	25.5	36.2	18.6	14.6
Race					
Caucasian	6.0	26.1	34.0	21.1	12.7
African-American	10.5	20.0	39.1	18.5	12.0
Education					
Less than H.S.	19.5	22.8	27.6	13.0	17.1
High School	6.4	24.2	37.9	19.9	11.6
Some College	4.1	26.6	32.0	23.0	14.4
College (4 year degree)	6.8	20.5	40.2	23.9	8.5
Graduate	3.7	29.6	37.0	16.7	13.0
Income					
Less than \$30,000	10.6	20.8	37.2	15.7	15.7
\$30,000 - \$75,000	3.4	23.7	39.3	22.0	11.5
More than \$75,000	4.0	32.0	41.0	17.0	6.0
Age					
18-34	11.7	24.5	37.6	19.8	6.4
35-54	4.7	21.2	30.2	24.0	19.9
55 and over	6.3	29.6	40.7	14.2	9.1
Region					
Acadiana	4.7	17.1	38.3	23.3	16.6
North Louisiana	8.6	31.6	34.0	16.0	9.8
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	6.5	23.9	32.6	27.5	9.4
New Orleans	11.8	24.0	33.8	15.2	15.2
Orleans Suburbs	4.1	23.4	38.6	22.1	11.7
Party					
Democrat	6.8	22.8	35.2	21.0	14.2
Independent	9.7	15.2	36.2	24.5	14.4
Republican	7.1	35.4	36.3	13.7	7.5

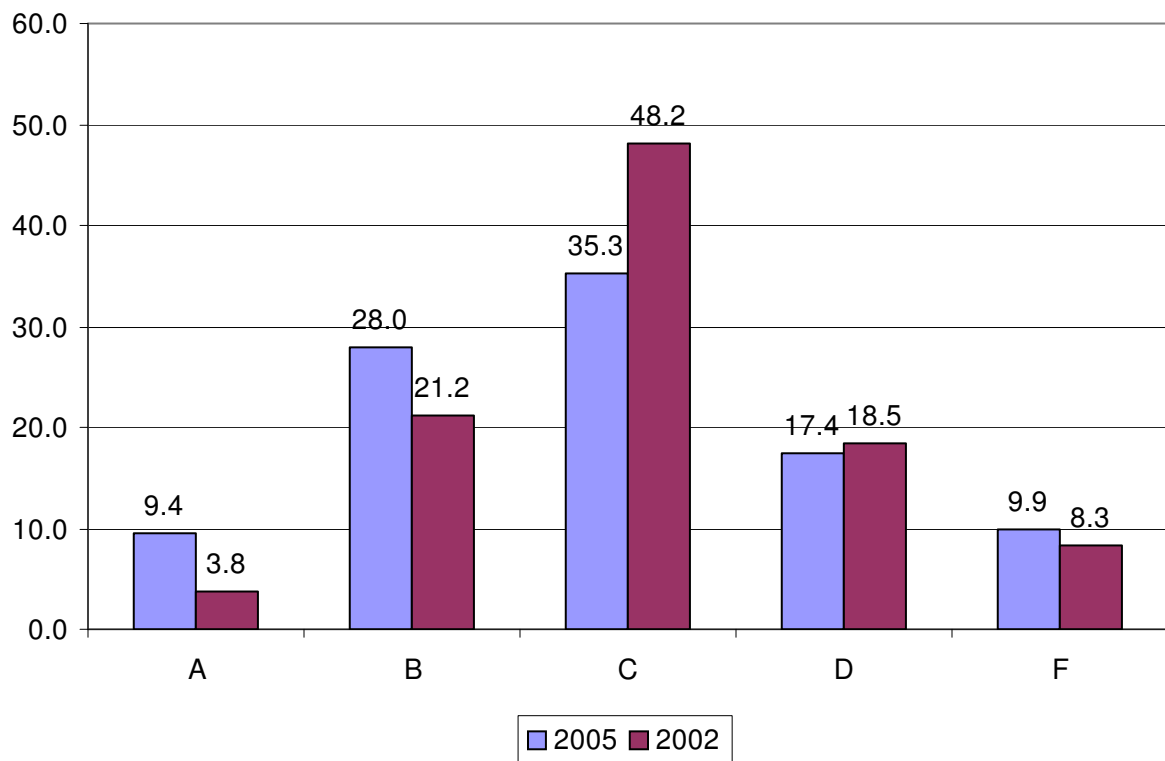
Table 18: Grading Quality of Health Care Your Family Has Received

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	34.0	29.8	21.4	6.6	8.2
Gender					
Male	39.2	27.6	18.8	3.8	10.5
Female	29.4	31.8	23.5	9.1	6.2
Race					
Caucasian	37.9	29.5	21.2	5.8	5.8
African-American	28.5	29.7	21.7	7.7	12.4
Education					
Less than H.S.	40.7	24.4	14.8	6.5	13.8
High School	33.4	30.4	22.9	6.8	6.8
Some College	27.6	30.2	23.1	7.1	12.0
College (4 year degree)	36.5	32.2	24.3	5.2	1.7
Graduate	48.1	32.7	11.5	3.8	3.8
Income					
Less than \$30,000	31.4	30.7	20.3	7.4	10.1
\$30,000 - \$75,000	28.2	31.3	27.6	7.5	5.4
More than \$75,000	57.1	29.5	9.5	1.0	2.9
Age					
18-34	35.5	33.8	19.7	5.9	5.3
35-54	29.5	25.6	23.3	8.3	13.2
55 and over	38.8	32.0	20.4	4.8	4.0
Region					
Acadiana	32.3	32.8	21.0	6.7	7.2
North Louisiana	37.4	27.2	23.6	6.3	5.5
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	35.7	31.4	15.0	4.3	13.6
New Orleans	35.3	29.0	17.4	8.2	10.1
Orleans Suburbs	27.4	29.5	29.5	6.8	6.8
Party					
Democrat	30.6	27.9	23.7	8.2	9.6
Independent	30.1	30.9	21.6	6.5	8.9
Republican	45.0	32.4	15.8	1.8	5.0



Grading the Environment: Evaluations of environmental quality have become more positive over the past 3 years. The percent of respondents giving Louisiana an A for environmental quality increased from 4 percent in 2002 to 9 percent in 2005 while the percent giving a B increased from 21 percent to 28 percent. Most of the movement appears to reflect a decrease in the percent of respondents giving the state a C grade, which dropped from 48 percent in 2002 to 35 percent in 2005. The percent of respondents giving Louisiana a D or F for environmental quality remained largely unchanged.

**Figure 15: Comparison of Grades for Environmental Quality, 2002 and 2005**



Perceptions of environmental quality were tied to race, education, income, age, and region with African-American, more-educated, higher-income, older, and Acadiana and Baton Rouge residents most negative in their evaluations. With the exception of race, most of these differences reflect differences in social economic status. While the data do not speak directly to this question, they do raise the concern of environmental racism since African-American and Caucasian respondents were likely to experience differences in environmental quality in their local settings.

Table 19: Grading Quality of Environment

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	9.4	28.0	35.3	17.4	9.9
Gender					
Male	12.3	26.9	34.4	15.7	10.7
Female	7.0	29.0	36.0	18.8	9.2
Race					
Caucasian	11.6	26.5	38.3	15.6	8.1
African-American	5.1	32.1	29.8	21.2	11.9
Education					
Less than H.S.	22.8	28.9	17.5	14.9	15.8
High School	9.8	29.4	33.8	16.6	10.5
Some College	6.2	26.2	40.0	19.6	8.0
College (4 year degree)	4.3	23.5	47.8	17.4	7.0
Graduate	1.8	32.1	39.3	19.6	7.1
Income					
Less than \$30,000	11.4	26.6	32.5	19.7	9.7
\$30,000 - \$75,000	7.4	23.2	38.7	21.5	9.1
More than \$75,000	3.7	36.4	38.3	13.1	8.4
Age					
18-34	16.7	29.3	29.9	14.6	9.5
35-54	5.7	24.8	38.0	20.2	11.4
55 and over	6.6	31.0	37.6	16.7	8.1
Region					
Acadiana	4.1	20.3	38.6	27.9	9.1
North Louisiana	12.5	39.7	25.3	14.0	8.6
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	5.9	28.7	36.0	19.1	10.3
New Orleans	10.3	23.0	40.7	13.7	12.3
Orleans Suburbs	13.7	24.0	40.4	13.0	8.9
Party					
Democrat	8.8	25.6	33.0	23.3	9.3
Independent	13.4	23.3	35.6	11.9	15.8
Republican	5.4	35.7	40.7	13.1	5.0

Louisiana State Parks: Louisiana's state parks were generally given positive marks: 20 percent of respondents gave state parks an A and 42 percent gave the parks a B. Males, Caucasians, and Baton Rouge respondents were more likely to evaluate the parks favorably. Lower-income respondents were more likely to give state parks an A but were also more inclined to give a D or an F. Twenty-two percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 gave the state parks an A compared to 18 percent making \$30,00 to \$75,000 and 12 percent making \$75,000 or more. On the other side of the grade distribution, 12 percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 per year gave state parks a D or F compared to 6 percent of respondents in the \$30,000-\$75,000 and \$75,000 and more categories, respectively.

Figure 16: Evaluation of Louisiana State Parks

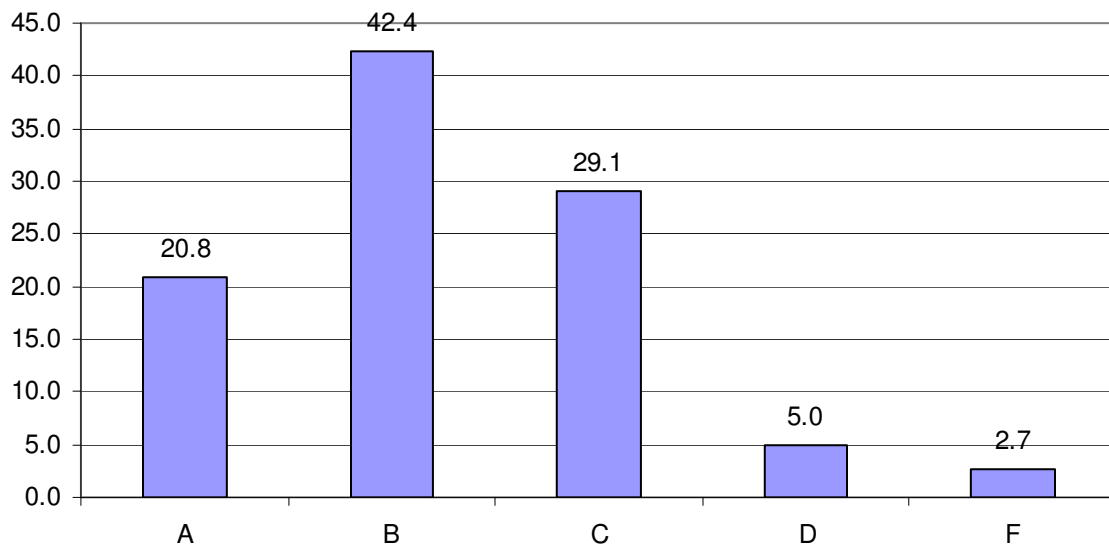


Table 20: Grading Louisiana State Parks

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	20.8	42.4	29.1	5.0	2.7
Gender					
Male	23.7	40.4	31.5	3.1	1.3
Female	18.2	44.1	27.0	6.6	4.1
Race					
Caucasian	24.2	43.9	27.3	3.7	1.0
African-American	15.0	40.0	32.5	7.1	5.4
Education					
Less than H.S.	29.2	30.0	32.5	4.2	4.2
High School	22.1	44.7	25.5	4.9	2.9
Some College	14.8	42.4	33.5	6.4	3.0
College (4 year degree)	16.8	45.8	31.8	3.7	1.9
Graduate	22.2	51.1	22.2	4.4	0.0
Income					
Less than \$30,000	21.5	34.9	32.0	8.0	3.6
\$30,000 - \$75,000	17.7	47.9	28.7	4.9	0.8
More than \$75,000	11.6	52.3	30.2	2.3	3.5
Age					
18-34	19.7	43.0	30.8	3.9	2.5
35-54	22.3	39.7	30.4	4.9	2.6
55 and over	19.8	46.0	24.3	6.4	3.5
Region					
Acadiana	20.3	43.4	32.4	1.6	2.2
North Louisiana	22.1	47.5	23.5	5.5	1.4
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	16.8	35.3	42.9	3.4	1.7
New Orleans	21.8	40.8	24.0	8.9	4.5
Orleans Suburbs	21.6	41.6	28.8	4.0	4.0
Party					
Democrat	20.6	40.5	29.5	5.7	3.8
Independent	22.5	37.0	33.9	5.3	1.3
Republican	20.6	48.0	26.0	3.4	2.0

Louisiana's Arts and Culture: No area receives more A grades from Louisiana residents than Louisiana's arts and culture. Thirty-one percent of respondents gave arts and culture an A, while an additional 40 percent gave arts and culture a B. This finding is consistent with last year's survey when arts and culture was rated as Louisiana's greatest asset relative to other states in the Southeast region.

In terms of demographic differences, Caucasian respondents were generally more positive than African-Americans, with Caucasian respondents more likely to give an A or B grade and African-American respondents more likely to give a C. More-educated respondents were generally less positive in their evaluations as well. Nearly 40 percent of respondents with less than a high school education gave Louisiana's arts and culture an A compared to 26 percent of respondents with a college degree. Not surprisingly, respondents in the regions most often identified as culturally unique - Acadiana and New Orleans - also rate Louisiana's arts and culture most favorably. Thirty-eight percent of respondents in Acadiana and 36 percent in New Orleans gave the state an A for its arts and culture compared to 28 percent in the Baton Rouge area and 26 percent in north Louisiana.

Figure 17: Evaluation of Louisiana Arts and Culture

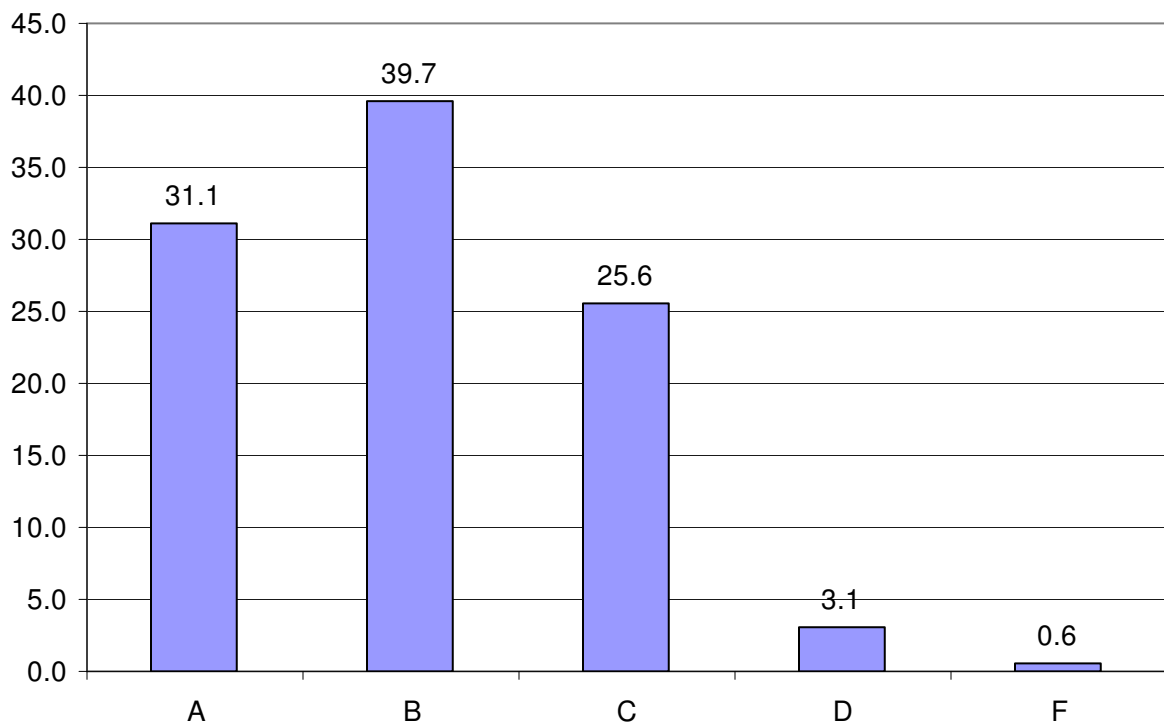


Table 21: Grading Louisiana Arts &amp; Culture

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	31.1	39.7	25.6	3.1	0.6
Gender					
Male	34.3	37.6	24.4	3.0	0.7
Female	28.1	41.7	26.8	3.0	0.4
Race					
Caucasian	32.6	42.5	21.4	3.0	0.5
African-American	29.0	34.5	32.9	3.3	0.3
Education					
Less than H.S.	39.7	32.2	26.4	0.0	1.7
High School	33.0	41.4	22.5	3.1	0.0
Some College	27.5	37.6	30.7	3.2	0.9
College (4 year degree)	25.9	45.7	24.1	3.4	0.9
Graduate	24.5	37.7	28.3	9.4	0.0
Income					
Less than \$30,000	35.3	27.2	33.2	3.5	0.7
\$30,000 - \$75,000	25.0	45.8	26.8	1.8	0.7
More than \$75,000	32.0	41.7	21.4	3.9	1.0
Age					
18-34	41.9	33.1	20.9	4.1	0.0
35-54	30.4	38.4	27.5	2.7	1.1
55 and over	18.3	50.0	28.3	2.6	0.9
Region					
Acadiana	38.0	39.0	21.4	1.6	0.0
North Louisiana	26.1	44.3	26.1	2.2	1.3
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	28.9	29.6	30.4	10.4	0.7
New Orleans	35.8	39.2	22.1	2.5	0.5
Orleans Suburbs	25.2	42.7	31.5	0.7	0.0
Party					
Democrat	35.0	33.5	28.6	2.7	0.2
Independent	24.7	46.6	23.5	3.6	1.6
Republican	33.0	42.5	20.6	3.8	0.0

Louisiana's Roads and Highways: If respondents were most positive about arts and culture, they were most negative about Louisiana's roads and highways. Only 5 percent of respondents gave Louisiana's roads and highways an A and only 10 percent gave a B. Compared to 2002 there has been slight increase in the percent of respondents giving Louisiana's roads and highways an A (6 percent in 2005 compared to 3 percent in 2002). Overall, however, there is remarkable consistency from 2002 to 2005.

Evaluations of Louisiana's roads differ consistently across demographic and political lines. Wealthier, more-educated, older, Republican, and Caucasian respondents were all more negative in their evaluations of Louisiana's highways and roads. There were regional differences as well, though the primary difference was that Baton Rouge residents were most negative in grading the roads. Only 7 percent of Baton Rouge residents gave the roads an A or B compared to 17 percent in north Louisiana, 16 percent in Acadiana and the New Orleans suburban parishes, and 18 percent in New Orleans.

**Figure 18: Comparison of Grades for Louisiana's Roads and Highways, 2002 and 2005**

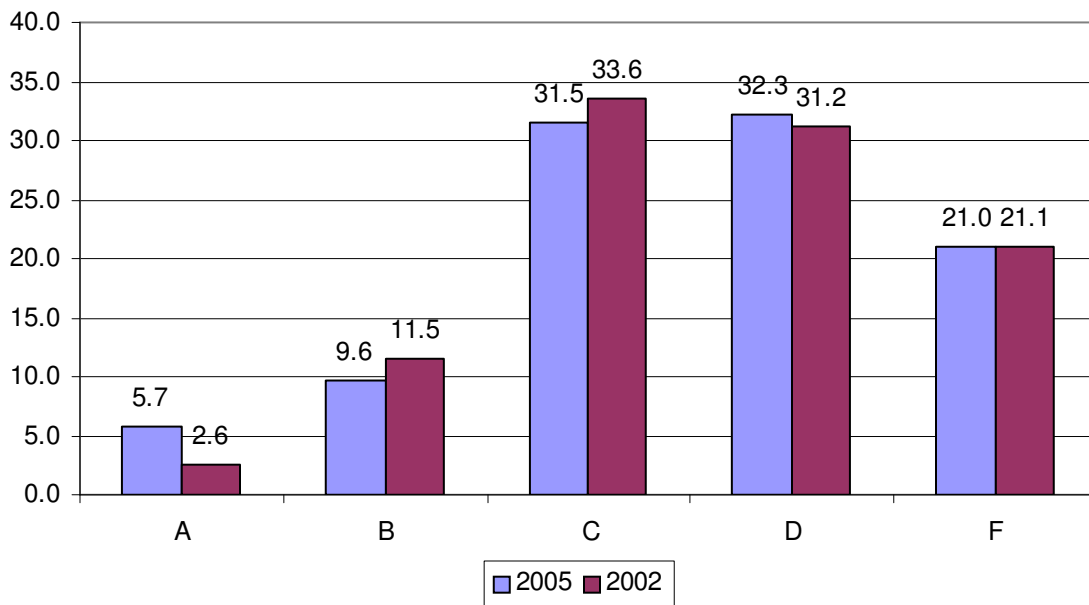


Table 22: Grading Louisiana's Roads &amp; Highways

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	5.7	9.6	31.5	32.3	21.0
Gender					
Male	8.2	8.7	32.3	31.8	18.9
Female	3.4	10.4	30.8	32.6	22.8
Race					
Caucasian	4.5	8.4	30.6	33.1	23.4
African-American	8.4	11.1	32.2	32.8	15.5
Education					
Less than H.S.	15.9	10.3	31.0	23.0	19.8
High School	7.1	10.1	31.1	30.4	21.4
Some College	0.4	8.4	28.2	41.4	21.6
College (4 year degree)	2.6	8.5	33.3	34.2	21.4
Graduate	0.0	10.9	45.5	25.5	18.2
Income					
Less than \$30,000	13.0	12.0	24.1	32.4	18.4
\$30,000 - \$75,000	2.0	7.7	33.3	31.3	20.0
More than \$75,000	0.0	4.8	37.1	38.1	20.0
Age					
18-34	10.9	13.6	29.5	30.1	15.9
35-54	3.6	7.5	29.1	34.0	25.8
55 and over	2.7	8.5	36.9	32.3	19.6
Region					
Acadiana	6.8	8.9	26.0	32.3	26.0
North Louisiana	3.1	13.8	33.1	29.6	20.6
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	4.3	2.9	32.9	44.3	15.7
New Orleans	7.7	10.0	32.5	27.8	22.0
Orleans Suburbs	7.3	9.3	32.5	31.8	19.8
Party					
Democrat	8.5	8.2	34.1	32.3	16.9
Independent	5.3	8.3	28.8	34.1	23.5
Republican	0.0	12.0	30.2	31.1	26.7



Opportunities for Minorities: Respondents were also asked to grade the opportunities available for minorities in the state. Forty-four percent of respondents gave the state an A or B for the opportunities provided minorities, while 21 percent of respondents gave the state a D or F. The grading scale for opportunities available to minorities differs depending on race, education, income, region, and party. Nearly 55 percent of Caucasian respondents gave the state an A or B for the opportunities available to minorities compared to only 28 percent of African-Americans. At the other end of the scale, only 11 percent of Caucasians gave the state a D or F compared to 38 percent of African-Americans. Clearly, one's perceptions regarding equality of opportunity depend very much on race. With respect to education, 28 percent of respondents with less than a high school education gave the state an A compared to 10 percent with a college degree. In terms of region, Acadiana residents gave the state the highest marks for the opportunities available to minorities, while respondents gave the lowest grades in Baton Rouge. Respondents in New Orleans gave the most mixed assessment, giving the highest percent of A's but also the highest percent of D's and F's.

Figure 19: Opportunities Available to African-Americans

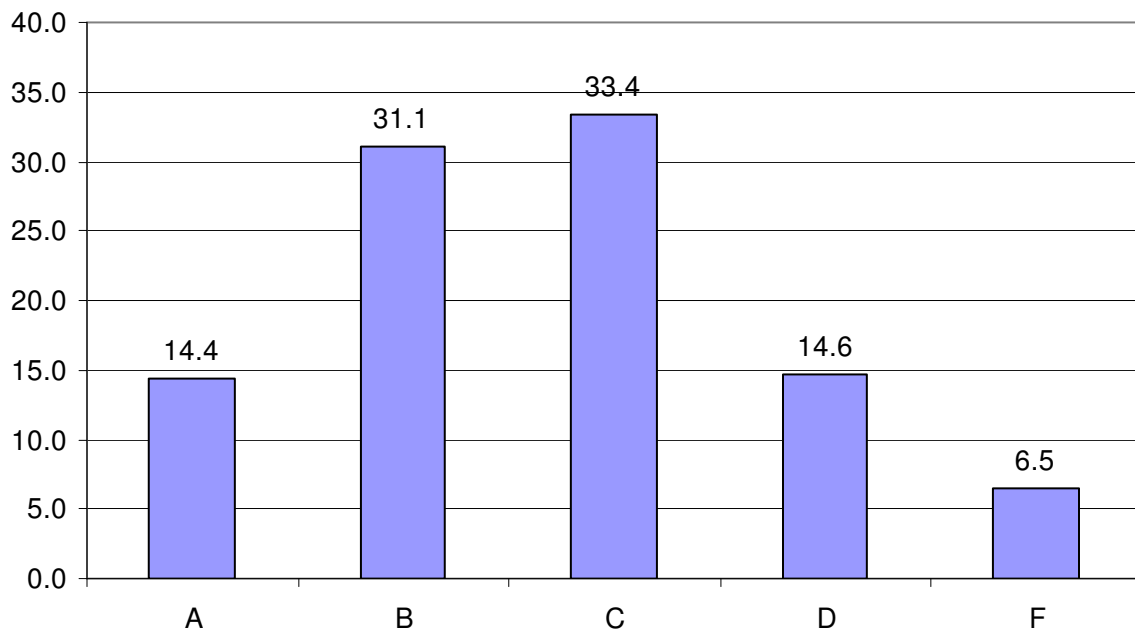


Table 23: Grading Opportunities Available to Minorities

	A	B	C	D	F
All Respondents	14.4	31.1	33.4	14.6	6.5
Gender					
Male	14.2	30.9	31.8	16.7	6.4
Female	14.7	31.2	34.8	12.8	6.5
Race					
Caucasian	17.4	37.2	33.8	9.0	2.6
African-American	8.0	20.2	33.0	25.6	13.1
Education					
Less than H.S.	26.7	23.3	19.2	24.2	6.7
High School	15.5	37.4	32.1	8.4	6.6
Some College	9.7	25.5	38.0	19.9	6.9
College (4 year degree)	9.5	27.6	40.0	16.2	6.7
Graduate	7.8	29.4	45.1	15.7	2.0
Income					
Less than \$30,000	19.5	22.0	30.7	19.2	8.7
\$30,000 - \$75,000	10.8	33.1	34.2	16.2	5.8
More than \$75,000	7.9	43.6	38.6	9.9	0.0
Age					
18-34	15.5	33.3	27.1	18.9	5.2
35-54	13.5	26.4	35.4	15.7	9.0
55 and over	14.3	35.7	38.2	7.6	4.2
Region					
Acadiana	17.6	31.3	39.6	8.8	2.7
North Louisiana	11.4	34.7	32.6	13.1	8.1
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	9.6	32.8	34.8	14.8	8.1
New Orleans	19.0	24.9	28.0	18.0	10.1
Orleans Suburbs	13.5	31.2	32.6	19.9	2.8
Party					
Democrat	11.8	25.2	36.3	17.4	9.3
Independent	18.3	31.3	33.0	12.2	5.2
Republican	15.9	43.8	26.9	11.9	1.5

Corruption: The good news on corruption is that more than a third of respondents (34 percent) said the state was less corrupt. Thirty-eight percent of respondents, however, said the state was just as corrupt while 28 percent of respondents believe the state was more corrupt than in the past. If a cursory glance suggests not much has changed in perceptions, there were important signs in the demographic breakouts. More-educated respondents were more likely to believe that the state is less corrupt. Forty-four percent of respondents with a college degree said the state was less corrupt compared to 19 percent of respondents with a high school education or less. Likewise, 51 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more believe the state is less corrupt compared to 24 percent making less than \$30,000. Perceptions of corruption were also related to race and party with African-Americans and Democrats more likely to say the state has become more corrupt. More importantly, perceptions of corruption have dropped dramatically over the past two years. In 2003, 47 percent of respondents said the state was more corrupt compared to 28 percent in 2005. Perhaps even more striking, in 2003 only 8 percent said the state was less corrupt. This number jumped to 34 percent in the 2005 survey.

Figure 20: Perceptions Regarding the Change in Corruption Over Time

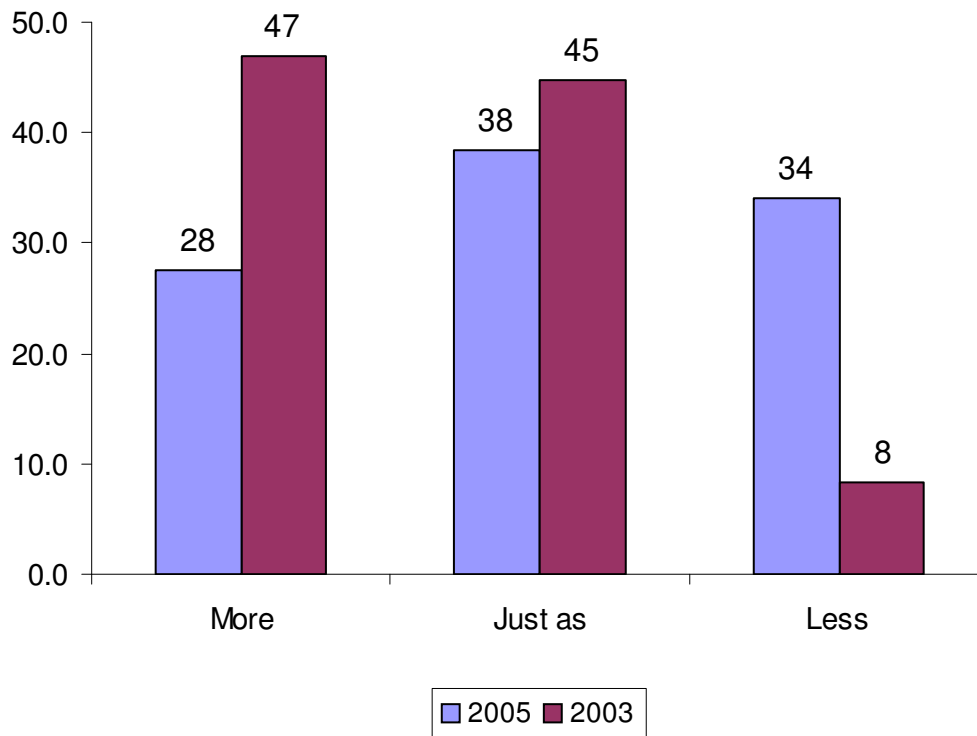


Table 24: Evaluations of Corruption

	More Corrupt	Just as Corrupt	Less Corrupt
All Respondents	26.7	38.4	34.1
Gender			
Male	25.5	39.1	35.5
Female	29.4	37.8	32.8
Race			
Caucasian	23.8	38.4	37.7
African-American	33.9	36.7	29.4
Education			
Less than H.S.	38.9	42.1	19.0
High School	31.4	35.7	32.9
Some College	24.2	40.8	35.0
College (4 year degree)	15.7	40.9	43.5
Graduate	10.9	34.5	54.5
Income			
Less than \$30,000	33.8	42.0	24.2
\$30,000 - \$75,000	25.9	35.4	38.7
More than \$75,000	13.5	35.6	51.0
Age			
18-34	27.4	41.9	30.7
35-54	29.1	39.8	31.2
55 and over	25.6	32.4	42.0
Region			
Acadiana	24.2	44.3	31.4
North Louisiana	24.1	39.5	36.4
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	27.9	37.1	35.0
New Orleans	29.2	39.7	31.1
Orleans Suburbs	35.4	27.1	37.5
Party			
Democrat	34.6	33.7	31.7
Independent	23.8	46.8	29.4
Republican	17.5	37.7	44.8

**Public Safety:** A majority of respondents (53 percent) believe Louisiana is just as safe, while 38 percent believe the state is less safe and only 9 percent believe the state is safer. Perceptions of safety were directly tied to the state's demographics, with females, African-Americans, less-educated, and lower-income respondents believing the state is less safe. Interestingly with respect to education and income, lower-income and less-educated respondents show greater variance in their responses, meaning that they were more likely to say the state is either less safe or more safe (and less likely than other respondents to say the state is just as safe). Twenty-one percent of respondents with less than a high school education, for example, said the state was safer compared to 7 percent of respondents with a college degree. However, 51 percent of respondents with less than a high school education said the state was less safe compared to 38 percent of respondents with a college degree. In terms of regional differences, New Orleans residents were most likely to say that state has become less safe (59 percent) followed by Baton Rouge (41 percent) in a distant second.

Figure 21: Perceptions of Changes in Public Safety Over Time

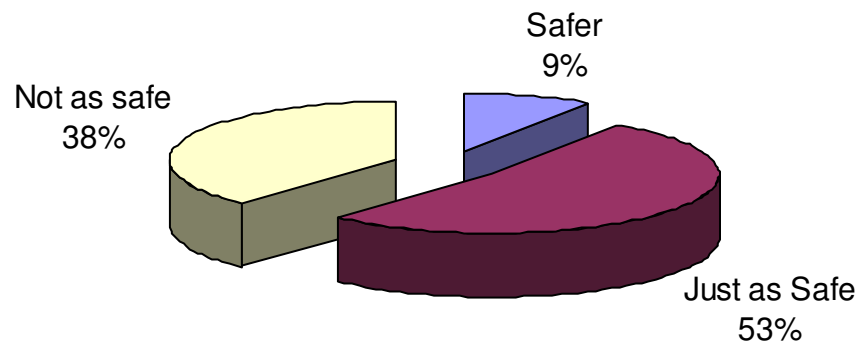


Table 25: Evaluations of Public Safety

	More Safe	Just as Safe	Less Safe
All Respondents	9.1	52.8	38.1
Gender			
Male	10.6	56.0	33.5
Female	7.6	50.1	42.3
Race			
Caucasian	9.1	60.1	30.8
African-American	9.1	41.5	49.4
Education			
Less than H.S.	22.1	26.4	51.2
High School	6.9	57.9	35.2
Some College	6.6	55.5	37.9
College (4 year degree)	9.4	51.3	39.3
Graduate	5.5	65.5	29.1
Income			
Less than \$30,000	15.2	40.2	44.6
\$30,000 - \$75,000	7.7	64.9	27.4
More than \$75,000	8.6	54.1	37.1
Age			
18-34	15.1	51.7	33.2
35-54	6.2	53.9	39.9
55 and over	6.6	52.5	40.9
Region			
Acadiana	11.1	60.3	28.6
North Louisiana	9.9	60.9	29.2
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	8.6	50.0	41.4
New Orleans	5.3	36.4	58.4
Orleans Suburbs	11.8	54.2	34.0
Party			
Democrat	6.6	47.2	44.2
Independent	12.3	57.5	30.2
Republican	7.2	57.2	35.6

## ***VI. Taxes and Spending:***

**Spending Priorities:** To gauge respondent preferences on taxes and spending, participants were first asked whether spending on 10 areas of state government service should be increased, decreased, or kept the same. This question was followed by separate questions asking respondents to identify the area of service that they would most want to increase and the one area that they would be most willing to cut. As is typically the case in public opinion surveys in which no economic constraints were imposed, respondents displayed broad support for spending increases. A majority of respondents opted to increase spending in 8 of 10 areas, and in 4 of 10 areas more than 75 percent supported an increase in spending. The only areas a majority of respondents did not want to increase spending were arts and culture and state parks and tourism. Thirty-seven percent of respondents wanted to increase spending on state parks and tourism, while thirty percent of respondents wanted to increase spending on arts and culture. Even in these areas, however, the lack of support for increased spending does not necessarily translate into support for spending cuts. A majority of respondents in both areas (55 percent for state parks and 59 percent for arts and culture) preferred keeping spending the same, while only 11 percent of respondents wanted to cut spending on the arts and only 8 percent wanted to cut spending on state parks and tourism.

One area of government that consistently generates strong and broad support for increased spending is public education. A near consensus (88 percent) of respondents support increased spending on public education. While demographic and political differences emerge in Table 26, support for increased spending on public education never falls below 84 percent for any of the subgroups included in the analysis. In terms of spending priorities, public education is followed by roads and transportation (80 percent), public health and hospitals (79 percent), and higher education (77 percent). The second tier of spending priorities begins with economic development (69 percent), public safety (66 percent), coastal restoration (64 percent), and the environment (61 percent).

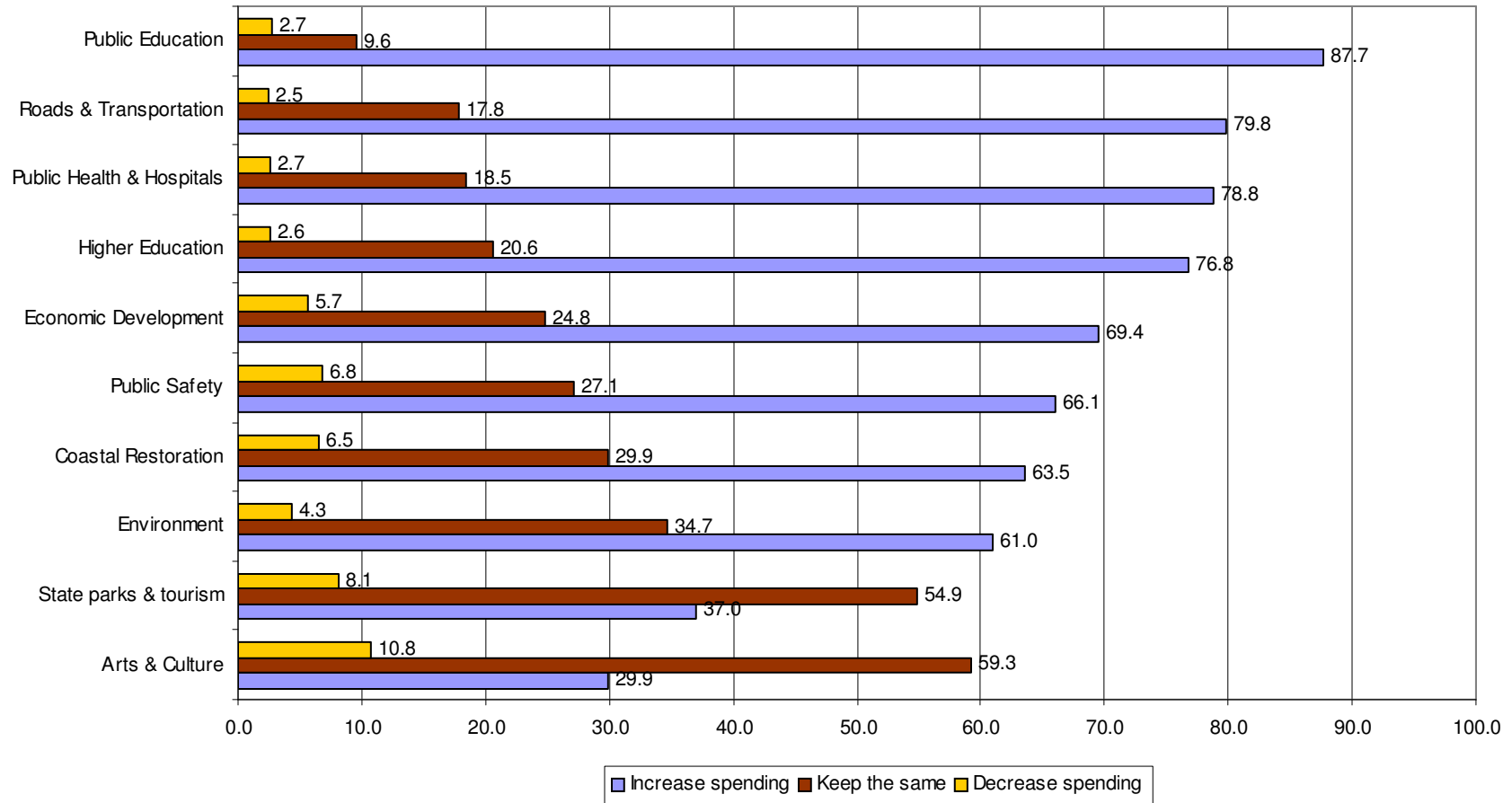
**Figure 22: Spending Preferences by Area of State Government Service, 2005**



Table 26: Support for Increased Spending by Issue Area

	Public Ed	Higher Ed	Public Health	Roads	Environment	Public Safety	Economic Development	Arts & Culture	State Parks	Coastal Restoration
All Respondents	87.7	76.8	78.8	79.8	61.0	66.1	69.4	29.9	37.0	63.6
Gender										
Male	84.8	74.7	72.8	76.7	55.4	57.6	68.4	25.8	40.2	67.8
Female	90.3	78.7	84.4	82.5	66.1	74.0	70.2	33.8	34.0	59.6
Race										
Caucasian	85.4	73.3	76.1	83.6	57.2	62.0	71.1	28.2	33.0	66.8
African-American	92.8	82.7	84.3	73.3	67.5	74.2	69.2	38.4	43.8	57.8
Education										
Less than H.S.	81.8	71.5	81.7	69.8	66.7	56.1	50.6	26.8	36.0	58.5
High School	88.8	79.9	80.6	78.3	59.2	68.4	73.1	30.9	38.0	63.9
Some College	90.1	77.3	76.2	87.0	62.4	68.1	69.6	27.7	37.8	62.3
College (4 year degree)	87.9	73.3	69.2	81.0	64.1	66.7	75.2	29.3	32.2	69.8
Graduate	85.2	70.4	80.0	80.0	50.0	61.8	70.9	38.9	37.0	60.7
Income										
Less than \$30,000	89.8	82.2	84.6	78.6	75.0	66.8	69.0	41.3	46.3	64.1
\$30,000 - \$75,000	86.9	78.9	82.9	87.5	55.9	70.2	67.6	28.0	37.7	64.7
More than \$75,000	86.8	75.2	61.9	68.6	41.5	52.4	72.4	23.8	24.8	74.0
Age										
18-34	92.3	79.3	81.9	67.4	62.9	57.8	65.2	31.1	39.0	56.5
35-54	86.7	76.2	79.3	83.9	58.6	68.8	69.2	28.9	37.1	64.7
55 and over	84.1	74.6	74.3	87.5	62.4	72.3	74.9	29.9	34.5	69.9
Region										
Acadiana	88.8	77.0	82.1	83.2	65.8	63.4	71.4	28.9	33.2	68.2
North Louisiana	85.1	77.5	76.8	75.4	52.8	67.2	69.6	28.8	40.9	50.4
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	84.3	72.9	75.2	80.0	60.0	61.2	61.4	28.6	33.8	67.4
New Orleans	89.7	82.2	77.4	83.7	68.4	74.9	72.9	35.1	39.4	68.6
Orleans Suburbs	91.4	70.9	82.8	77.5	59.3	60.7	69.7	27.0	35.3	68.7
Party										
Democrat	92.3	82.0	83.5	82.0	68.7	74.1	72.3	40.3	43.8	66.2
Independent	86.7	68.1	76.8	75.1	63.3	54.4	61.6	16.7	29.7	60.0
Republican	84.1	76.1	68.2	81.7	45.7	61.1	72.0	25.3	33.5	65.5

Single Most Important Spending Priority: When respondents were forced to select a single area for spending increases, a substantial plurality of respondents (44 percent) selected education. Public health and hospitals finished second at 20 percent followed by higher education and public safety at roughly 7 percent each. As can be seen in Figure 22, there is remarkable stability across years in terms of spending priorities. The largest change over the two years is just a bit more than two percentage points. Several important demographic differences emerge in the findings, though education is supplanted as the top spending priority for only one subgroup. Respondents with less than a high school education were more likely to select public health and hospitals as their top spending priority.

- Education: Less-educated, lower-income, and older respondents were less likely to select education as the single most important spending priority. Respondents from the Baton Rouge area were more likely to select education as the top spending priority.
- Public Health: Spending on public health was more likely to be selected as the top spending priority by women, lower-income, less-educated, and older respondents.
- Public Safety: Spending on public safety was more important to women, African-Americans, and residents of New Orleans.
- Coastal Restoration: Spending to save Louisiana's wetlands was most important to New Orleans residents and residents of the Orleans suburban parishes.

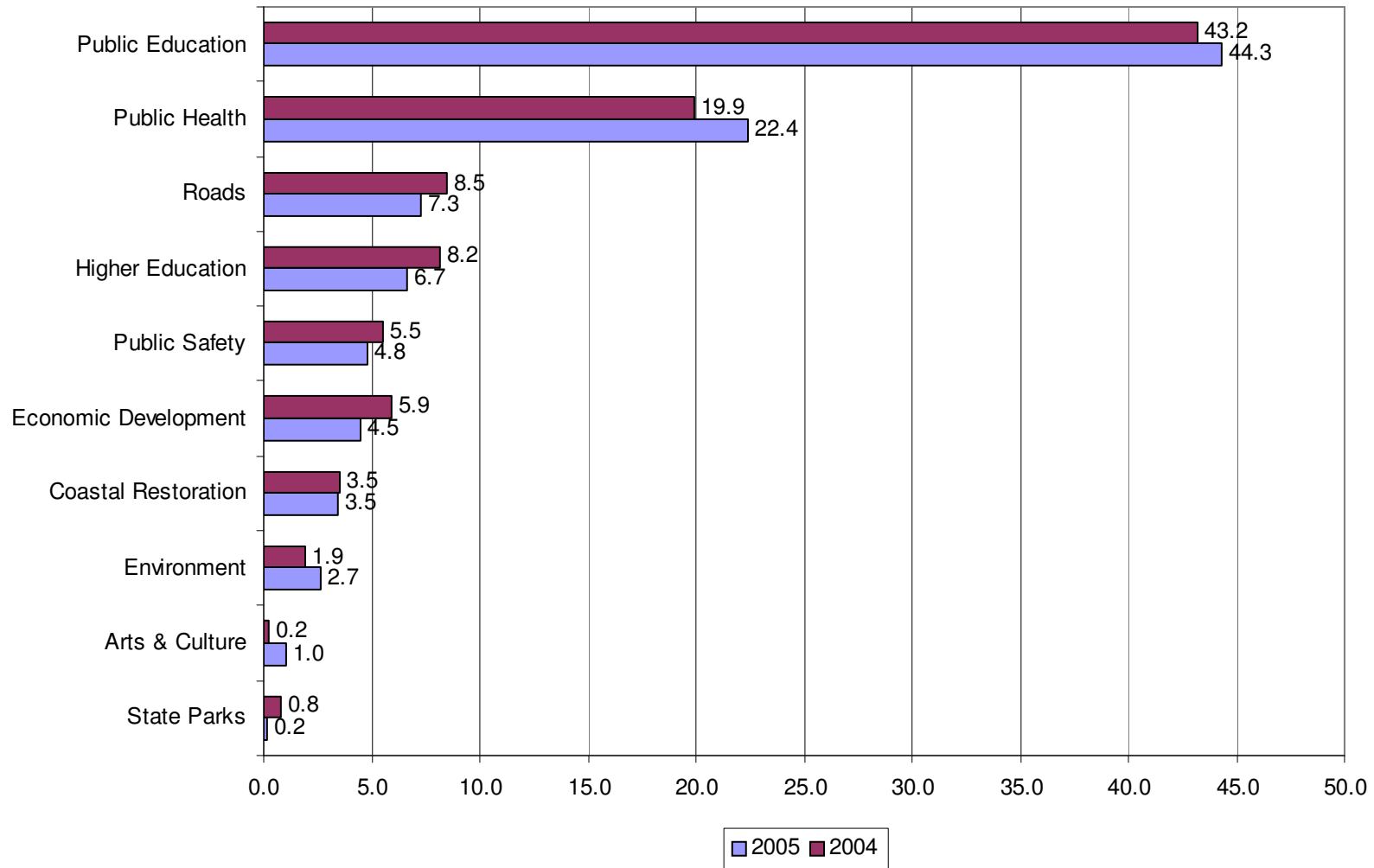
**Figure 23: Preferences for Spending Increases in Most Important Area, 2004-2005**

Table 27: Support for Increased Spending in Most Important Issue Area

	Public Ed	Higher Ed	Public Health	Roads	Public Safety	Economic Development	Coastal Restoration
All Respondents	44.3	6.7	22.4	7.3	4.8	4.5	3.5
Gender							
Male	45.7	5.9	18.4	7.7	2.8	7.2	3.1
Female	43.2	7.2	25.8	6.6	6.7	2.1	3.9
Race							
Caucasian	42.9	5.6	22.1	8.9	3.5	5.9	5.1
African-American	47.3	8.8	21.5	4.8	7.3	2.1	0.6
Education							
Less than H.S.	21.9	9.4	34.4	7.8	10.2	0.8	4.7
High School	43.5	7.4	25.8	7.4	3.9	4.1	1.8
Some College	53.0	4.3	15.9	7.8	3.9	3.9	4.3
College (4 year degree)	51.7	6.8	10.2	6.8	5.9	8.5	5.9
Graduate	50.0	6.3	19.6	5.3	1.8	8.8	5.4
Income							
Less than \$30,000	39.6	7.7	23.1	6.7	6.4	3.4	4.7
\$30,000 - \$75,000	45.3	7.7	23.0	10.0	3.0	6.0	2.3
More than \$75,000	59.4	3.7	9.3	7.5	2.8	8.5	6.6
Age							
18-34	53.4	6.5	16.8	5.2	5.2	4.2	2.9
35-54	44.3	8.1	23.2	5.9	4.6	3.8	2.5
55 and over	34.1	4.9	27.4	12.0	4.9	5.6	5.6
Region							
Acadiana	44.3	5.9	19.3	8.4	2.5	0.7	2.0
North Louisiana	39.2	11.0	20.8	7.6	6.4	5.7	1.1
Baton Rouge and Florida Parishes	60.0	4.3	30.5	3.5	4.3	2.5	1.4
New Orleans	39.3	2.4	19.9	7.6	8.5	7.6	6.2
Orleans Suburbs	46.1	7.9	21.1	8.6	0.7	4.0	7.9
Party							
Democrat	44.4	5.5	24.5	5.3	5.1	3.5	3.5
Independent	43.6	9.1	21.1	8.3	4.9	4.5	2.6
Republican	44.2	4.9	20.7	9.3	4.8	6.6	4.8

Spending Cuts: When it comes to spending cuts, respondents turn first to items perceived as less essential to state government services: state parks and tourism and arts and culture. Thirty percent of respondents said they would cut arts and culture, while another 21 percent said they would cut state parks and tourism. No other area exceeded 10 percent, and roughly 12 percent of respondents said they did not know or refused to answer the question. The support for cutting the arts relative to other areas is consistent with findings from the 2004 survey in which respondents identified arts and culture as one of Louisiana's most positively rated assets but also the area respondents were most willing to cut.

**Figure 24: Respondent Preferences for Increasing and Cutting Spending, 2005**

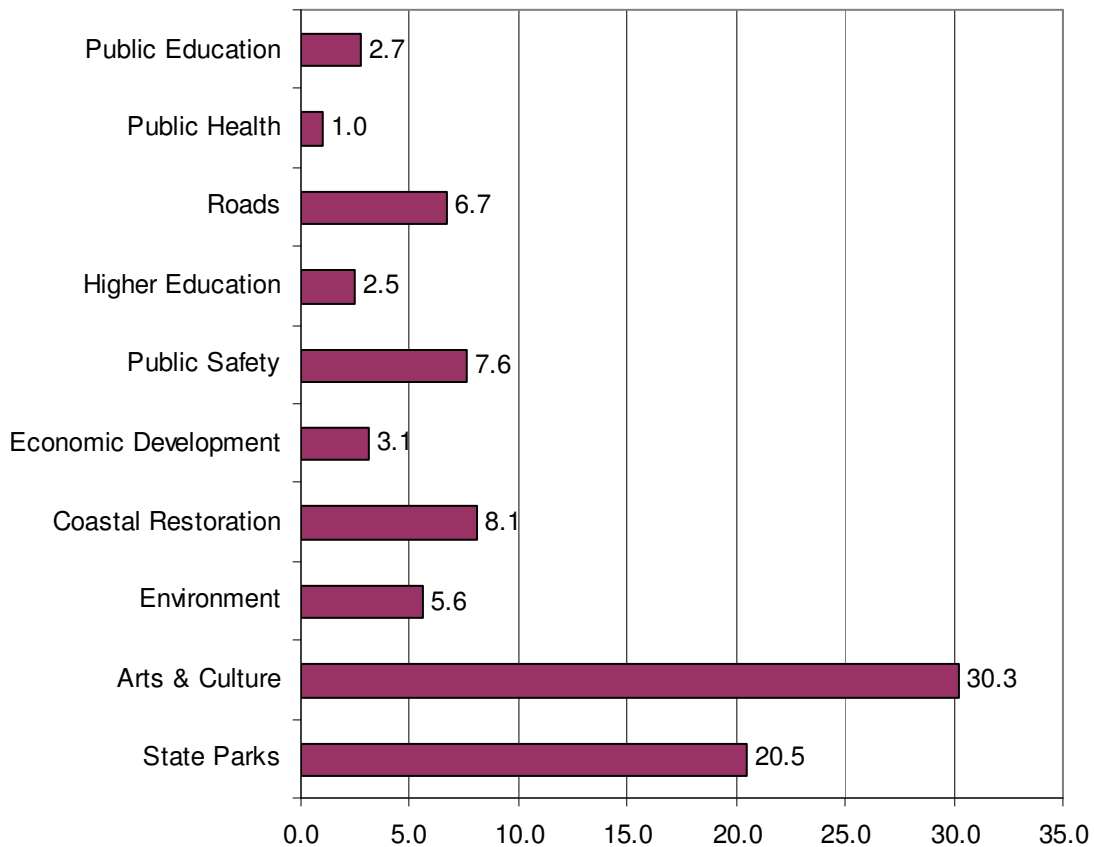


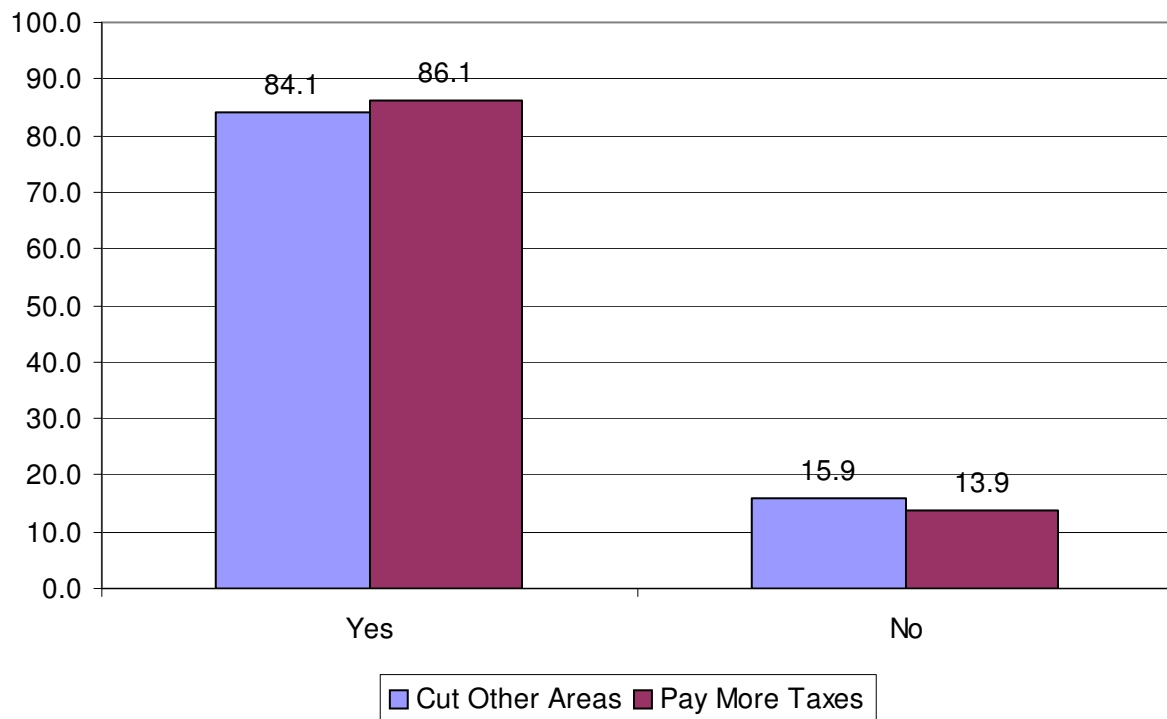
Table 28: Respondent Preferences for Spending Cuts

	Public Ed	Higher Ed	Health	Roads	Environment	Safety	Econ Dev	Arts	Parks	Coastal
All Respondents	2.7	2.5	1.0	6.7	5.6	7.6	3.1	30.3	20.5	8.1
Gender										
Male	3.4	1.4	1.4	6.6	5.0	11.8	3.4	27.9	17.7	9.1
Female	2.2	3.6	0.6	7.0	6.2	4.0	3.0	32.3	23.0	7.2
Race										
African-American	3.5	1.6	0.9	9.8	7.0	8.9	0.6	23.2	21.3	11.7
Caucasian	2.5	3.0	1.2	5.2	5.2	6.7	4.2	33.5	20.4	5.9
Education										
Less than HS	8.4		0.8	4.2	7.6	22.9	2.5	25.2	14.3	6.8
HS	1.6	1.6		7.5	5.9	5.9	1.4	33.3	18.8	8.7
Some College	0.9	3.5	1.8	6.2	4.8	7.0	5.3	26.0	26.4	9.7
College	4.3	2.6	3.4	7.8	5.2	3.4	6.0	31.3	21.6	6.1
Graduate Degree	3.6	8.9	1.8	7.1	3.6		3.6	32.7	21.8	3.6
Income										
Less than \$30,000	4.4	3.7	0.7	8.5	8.1	11.5	2.4	29.5	17.3	3.4
\$30,000-\$75,000	2.7	2.0	1.0	6.4	4.0	3.4	3.7	34.9	22.5	13.1
More than \$75,000	2.8	3.8	2.8	3.8	8.5	1.9	6.6	26.4	30.2	3.8
Age										
18-34	4.9	2.0	1.0	8.5	4.9	13.1	3.0	25.2	20.6	9.5
35-54	2.1	2.9	1.3	5.8	4.2	6.3	2.9	32.2	22.4	8.2
55 and over	1.2	2.3	0.8	5.8	8.1	3.1	3.5	33.6	17.4	6.6
Region										
Baton Rouge	0.7	2.2	0.0	5.9	5.9	15.6	5.9	14.8	24.4	5.2
North Louisiana	0.4	3.2	0.0	7.6	4.0	8.0	1.6	32.5	22.7	7.9
Acadiana	3.0	1.5	1.0	8.5	7.5	5.0	4.0	33.7	15.3	8.4
New Orleans	4.9	2.5	2.5	4.9	7.4	3.9	1.5	29.4	22.5	10.8

Orleans Suburbs	5.3	3.3	0.7	6.0	2.7	8.0	4.7	37.3	17.3	6.7
Partisan Affiliation										
Democrat	1.4	3.0	0.5	9.0	5.5	5.1	2.5	28.3	23.9	6.4
Independent	2.3	1.9	1.5	7.4	3.9	14.3	4.2	27.0	15.1	12.4
Republican	5.8	2.7	1.8	2.2	6.7	5.8	2.7	35.1	21.3	7.1

Support for Increased Spending Even If It Meant More Taxes or Cuts to Other Areas of Government Service: To gauge support for increased spending even it meant the respondent had to pay more taxes or cut other areas of spending, we asked respondents if they would continue to support spending on their top spending priority even if it meant they personally had to pay more in taxes or if substantial cuts had to be made to other programs. As can be seen in Figure 24, substantial majorities support increased spending even in light of increased taxes or spending cuts. Eighty-four percent supported increased spending in light of spending cuts, while 86 percent supported increased spending even in light of tax increases. Because these questions allow respondents to select their top spending priority, these results should be interpreted with considerable caution. Given different spending priorities, these data provide no evidence to support a tax increase or spending cuts for a particular area of government service.

**Figure 24: Support for Increased Spending by Paying More Taxes or Cutting Other Areas of Government**



If respondents were willing to support a tax increase, which taxes would they increase? Respondents who said they would support a tax increase were asked whether they would increase sales, property, or income taxes. As can be seen in Figure 25, a substantial plurality of respondents (49 percent) indicated they were willing to increase sales taxes to pay for their top spending priority, while 22 percent identified property taxes, and 18 percent identified income taxes. Overall, support for a sales tax increase as opposed to an increase in other taxes was consistent across demographic classifications, though younger and less-educated respondents (less than a high school education) express greater relative support for a property tax increase.



**Figure 25: Support of Tax Increase to Support Spending Increase in Favorite Area**

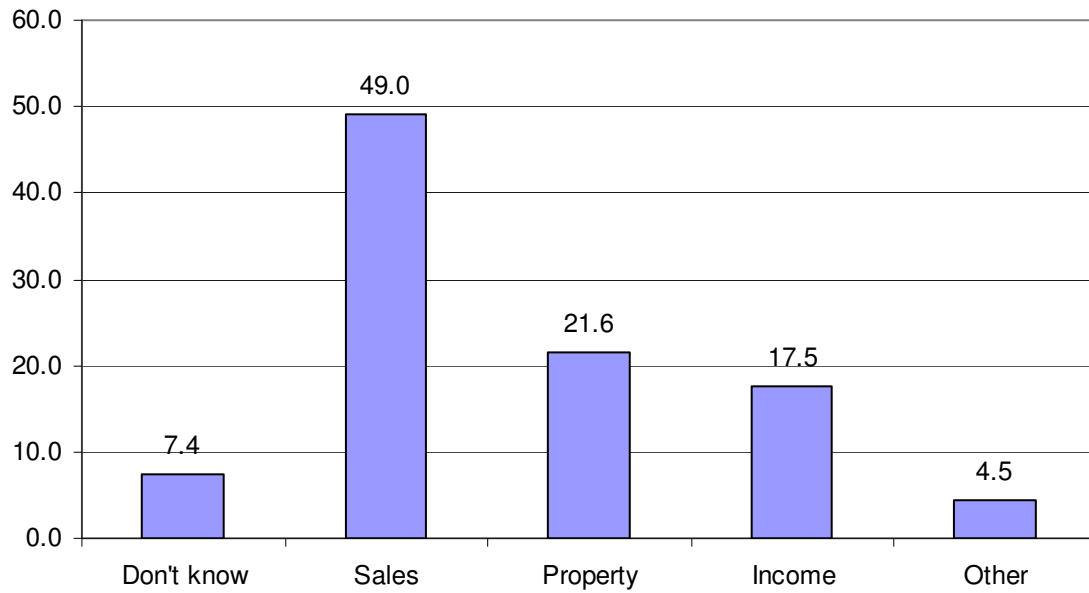


Table 28: Preference for Tax Increase to Increase Spending on Top Spending Priority

	Don't know	Sales	Property	Income	Other
All Respondents	7.4	49.0	21.6	17.5	4.5
Gender					
Male	5.4	46.8	22.5	19.6	5.7
Female	9.2	50.9	21.0	15.6	3.3
Race					
African-American	7.0	40.2	27.3	21.4	4.1
Caucasian	7.7	53.7	18.7	15.3	4.6
Education					
Less than HS	7.4	34.7	32.6	22.1	3.2
HS	7.1	56.4	15.5	15.5	5.4
Some College	6.5	46.5	23.5	19.5	4.0
College	9.0	43.0	29.0	16.0	3.0
Graduate Degree	11.5	42.3	21.2	19.2	5.8
Income					
Less than \$30,000	5.8	48.6	28.8	10.9	5.8
\$30,000-\$75,000	3.2	52.4	22.8	18.0	3.6
More than \$75,000	4.0	43.4	19.2	28.3	5.1
Age					
18-34	8.1	40.7	27.4	21.4	2.5
35-54	8.2	48.9	21.0	14.7	7.2
55 and over	5.3	60.6	14.9	16.3	2.9
Region					
Baton Rouge	7.2	40.5	29.7	20.7	1.8
North Louisiana	9.8	51.2	19.1	16.3	3.7
Acadiana	8.2	48.4	22.0	15.9	5.5
New Orleans	4.5	50.8	19.8	20.3	4.5
Orleans Suburbs	7.1	51.6	19.8	14.3	7.1
Party					
Democrat	6.3	52.0	21.0	16.8	3.9
Independent	9.2	40.6	22.3	22.3	5.7
Republican	6.6	51.4	23.2	14.4	4.4

Those respondents who said they were willing to cut other areas of government to support a spending increase for their top priority were likewise asked which areas of government they would cut to support this spending increase. As can be seen in Figure 26, respondents were most willing to cut arts and culture followed by state parks and tourism. They were least willing to cut public education and public health and hospitals.

**Figure 26: Support for Spending Cuts to Increase Spending on Favorite Area**

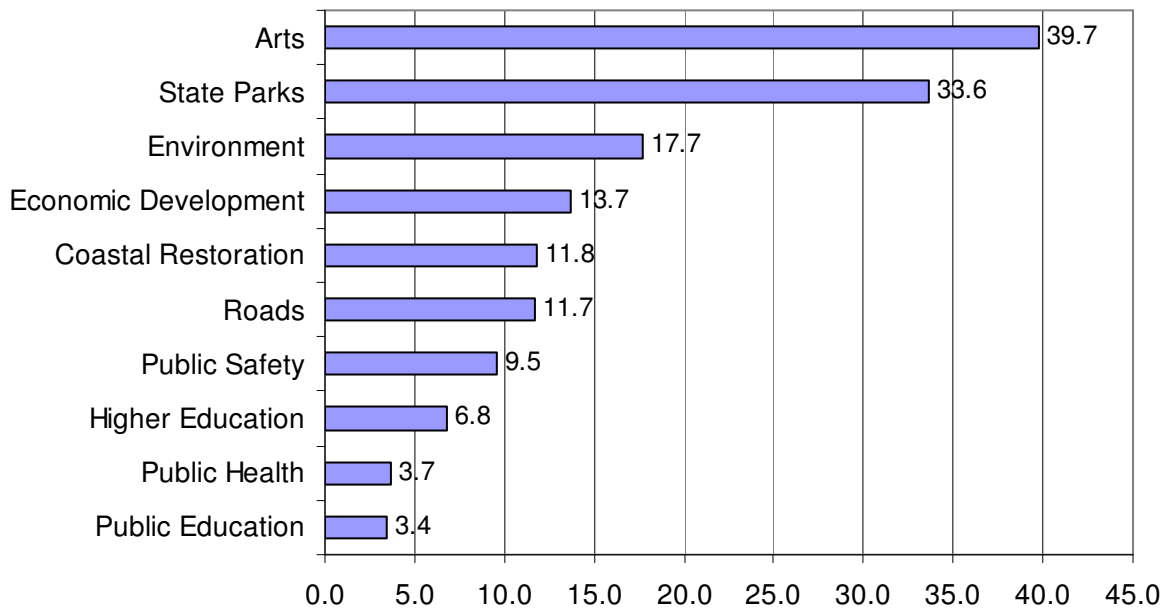


Table 29: Respondent Preferences for Cutting Spending to Support Spending Increase on Top Priority

	Public Ed	Higher Ed	Health	Roads	Environment	Safety	Development	Arts	Parks
All Respondents	3.4	6.8	3.7	11.7	17.7	9.5	13.7	39.7	33.6
Gender									
Male	5.1	6.5	4.8	13.4	23.7	13.7	13.2	39.5	32.0
Female	2.1	7.3	2.8	10.3	12.6	6.0	14.2	39.9	35.0
Race									
African-American	6.2	5.8	1.2	15.1	16.7	10.1	11.2	32.9	34.1
Caucasian	2.1	7.4	5.2	9.9	17.9	9.7	15.3	42.7	33.2
Education									
Less than HS	10.1	2.0	2.0	25.3	33.3	12.1	12.1	31.3	24.2
HS	2.6	4.6	1.4	5.7	14.8	10.3	14.8	40.7	31.0
Some College	1.5	10.9	6.4	12.3	14.9	7.9	12.4	38.1	38.6
College	4.8	10.5	7.7	16.2	20.0	6.7	13.5	45.2	39.0
Graduate Degree	2.0	7.8	5.9	17.6	15.7	10.0	15.7	44.0	38.0
Income									
Less than \$30,000	3.4	9.9	2.1	17.6	20.2	9.0	9.0	35.2	29.9
\$30,000-\$75,000	1.2	7.0	3.9	9.7	16.7	7.8	17.8	45.7	35.5
More than \$75,000	4.1	11.3	9.3	9.4	20.8	13.5	14.6	47.9	42.3
Age									
18-34	6.4	6.4	1.9	13.6	12.8	13.3	9.8	28.7	31.3
35-54	2.5	9.0	5.0	9.9	21.1	7.7	18.9	44.3	34.7
55 and over	1.4	4.5	4.1	12.3	18.6	7.7	10.9	46.4	34.5
Region									
Baton Rouge	4.7	1.6	12.6	22.0	18.1	14.2	33.9	43.3	
North Louisiana	6.0	3.7	4.2	9.3	16.7	11.1	9.7	39.4	31.9
Acadiana	0.6	5.8	2.6	6.5	14.8	6.5	16.0	42.6	25.8
New Orleans	5.6	8.5	4.0	17.5	20.9	8.5	14.7	46.3	33.3
Orleans Suburbs	2.3	12.8	6.8	13.5	14.3	4.5	16.4	33.8	36.1

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Party									
Democrat	0.3	5.7	0.8	12.5	16.3	10.6	14.8	39.9	35.4
Independent	7.0	8.4	4.0	11.5	10.1	9.7	15.9	34.5	33.5
Republican	5.6	7.6	9.1	9.6	30.3	8.1	10.1	42.4	31.8

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Because many respondents reported that they would support either a tax increase or spending cuts in other areas to increase spending for their top priority, we also asked which they preferred - increasing taxes or cutting spending. As can be seen in Figure 27, a majority of respondents (59 percent) prefer cutting spending, though - perhaps surprisingly - more than a third (35 percent) would prefer raising taxes. Not surprisingly, Democrats were more willing to raise taxes (40 percent) than Republicans (33 percent) or Independents (27 percent). More surprising, the strongest support for raising taxes to spend more on the top spending priority (among the income categories) was among the wealthiest segment of the population. Fifty-five percent of those making \$75,000 or more opted to raise taxes to increase spending on their top budgetary priority compared to 30 percent of those making between \$30,000 and \$75,000 and 33 percent of those making less than \$30,000.

**Figure 27: Preference for Cutting Spending or Raising Taxes to Increase Spending in Favorite Area**

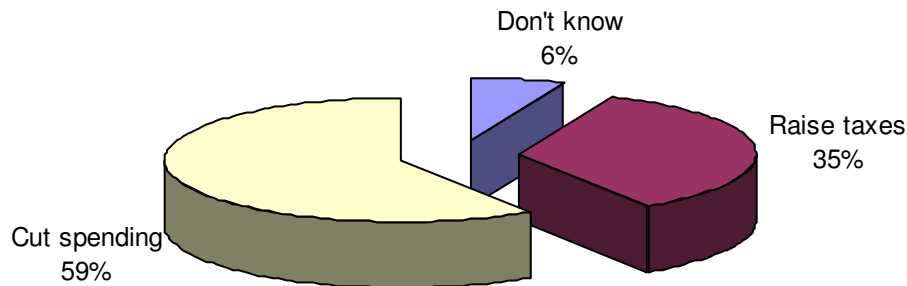


Table 30: Respondent Preference for Raising Taxing or Cutting Spending for Top Spending Priority

	Don't Know	Raise taxes	Cut spending
All Respondents	6.3	34.5	59.2
Gender			
Male	6.0	36.4	57.6
Female	6.3	33.1	60.7
Race			
African-American	7.6	35.2	57.2
Caucasian	5.5	34.7	59.9
Education			
Less than HS	9.9	28.6	61.5
HS	5.0	37.2	57.9
Some College	6.6	30.4	63.0
College	7.6	33.7	58.7
Graduate Degree	4.2	43.8	52.1
Income			
Less than \$30,000	6.9	33.0	60.1
\$30,000-\$75,000	5.0	30.7	64.2
More than \$75,000	2.2	55.6	42.2
Age			
18-34	4.7	37.3	58.0
35-54	7.3	30.4	62.2
55 and over	6.7	37.1	56.2
Region			
Baton Rouge	3.7	40.4	56.0
North Louisiana	5.2	29.9	64.9
Acadiana	10.3	39.3	50.3
New Orleans	6.0	30.7	63.3
Orleans Suburbs	5.0	37.0	58.0
Party			
Democrat	7.1	40.0	52.9
Independent	7.1	27.0	65.9
Republican	4.1	33.3	62.6

Tax Preferences: Looking more specifically at attitudes toward state income taxes, we find an increase in the percent of respondents saying that income taxes were too low and need to be increased and a corresponding decrease in the percent of respondents saying that income taxes were too high and need to be reduced. The percent of respondents saying income taxes were too low and needed to be increased jumped from 10 percent in 2004 to 15 percent in 2005, while the percent saying income taxes were too high dropped from 34 percent in 2004 to 28 percent in 2005. Despite these shifts, the majority of respondents (57 percent) said income taxes were about right. Democrats, African-Americans, and wealthier respondents were more likely to say that taxes were too low and needed to be increased, but overall respondents across categories said income taxes were just about right.

**Figure 28: Attitudes Toward State Income Tax, 2003-2005**

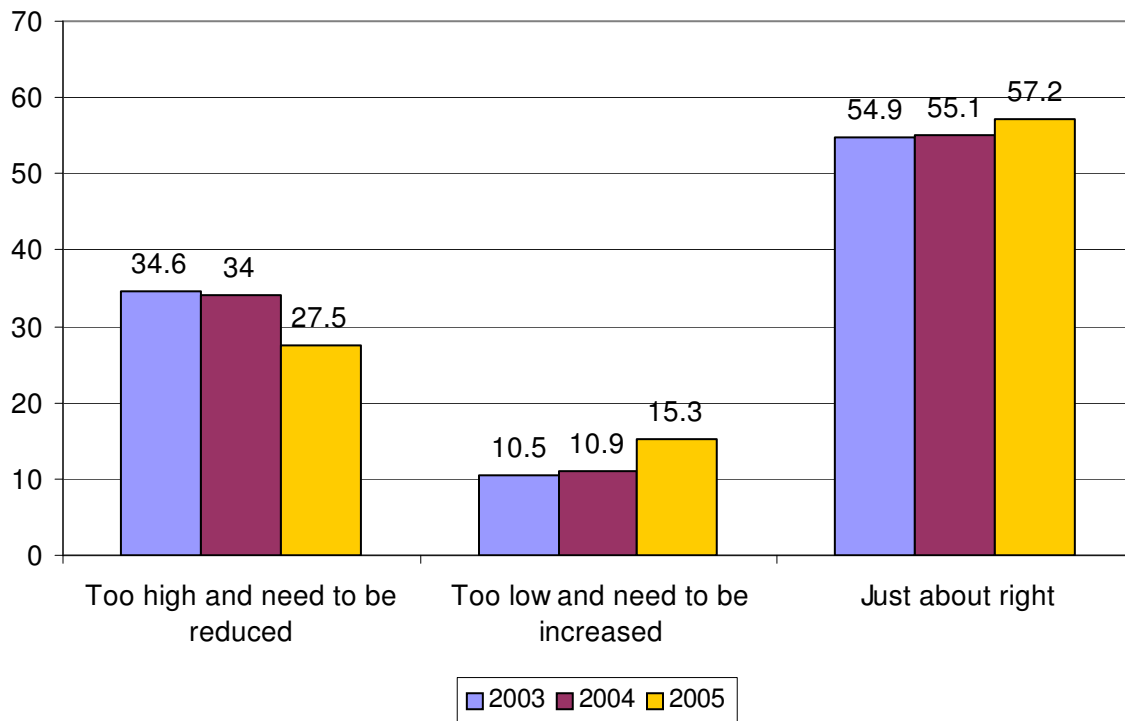




Table 30: Attitudes Toward State Income Taxes

	Too high and need to be reduced	Too low and need to be increased	Just about right
All Respondents	27.5	15.3	57.2
Gender			
Male	25.2	18.6	56.2
Female	29.5	12.3	58.2
Race			
African-American	24.0	25.0	51.0
Caucasian	29.1	9.9	61.0
Education			
Less than HS	21.8	21.8	56.3
HS	27.7	12.3	60.0
Some College	31.1	19.8	49.1
College	23.4	11.7	64.9
Graduate Degree	32.0	12.0	56.0
Income			
Less than \$30,000	25.1	18.4	56.5
\$30,000-\$75,000	26.9	13.3	59.9
More than \$75,000	23.1	30.8	46.2
Age			
18-34	19.9	20.3	59.8
35-54	31.7	15.2	53.1
55 and over	29.9	9.5	60.6
Region			
Baton Rouge	34.5	19.4	46.0
North Louisiana	22.4	16.3	61.4
Acadiana	21.8	17.6	60.6
New Orleans	31.3	11.3	57.4
Orleans Suburbs	31.9	12.8	55.3
Party			
Democrat	28.9	20.7	50.5
Independent	25.4	9.4	65.2
Republican	26.6	11.7	61.7

We see a similar decline in the percent of respondents who believe state sales taxes were too high and need to be reduced. Starting in 2003, there has been a 12-point drop in the percent of respondents saying sales taxes were too high and need to be reduced with most of the change reflecting an increase in the percent of respondents saying state sales taxes were just about right. In 2003, 46 percent of respondents said state sales taxes were about right compared to 56 percent in 2005.

Looking at the demographic breakouts, one sees considerably more variance in attitudes about sales taxes. African-Americans, lower-income, and less-educated respondents were more likely to believe that sales taxes were too high. Presumably, these perceptions reflect the regressive nature of the sales tax and the fact that lower social economic groups bear a larger burden (as a percent of income) of state sales taxes.

**Figure 29: Attitudes Toward State Sales Tax, 2004-2005**

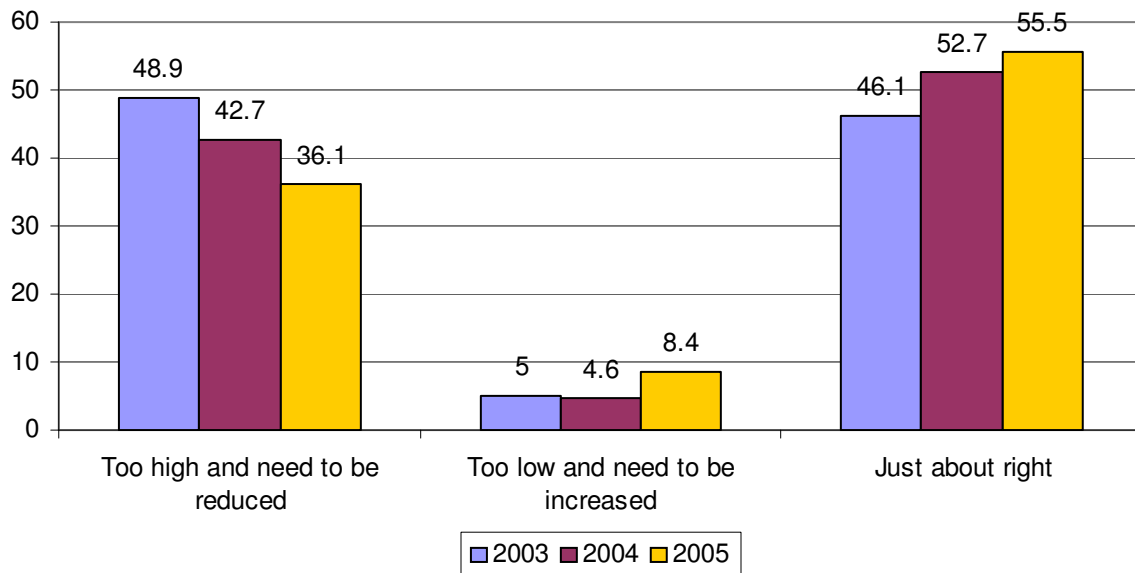


Table 31: Attitudes Toward Sales Tax

	Too high and need to be reduced	Too low and need to be increased	Just about right
All Respondents	36.1	8.4	55.5
Gender			
Male	33.0	10.5	56.6
Female	39.0	6.6	54.3
Race			
African-American	43.8	6.7	49.5
Caucasian	32.1	8.7	59.1
Education			
Less than HS	47.2	13.0	39.8
HS	35.9	7.0	57.1
Some College	34.1	8.2	57.7
College	28.3	10.6	61.1
Graduate Degree	34.5	7.3	58.2
Income			
Less than \$30,000	44.4	8.3	47.2
\$30,000-\$75,000	33.0	6.8	60.2
More than \$75,000	21.7	16.0	62.3
Age			
18-34	36.6	8.1	55.3
35-54	36.7	8.7	54.6
55 and over	34.8	8.0	57.2
Region			
Baton Rouge	38.6	5.7	55.7
North Louisiana	36.8	7.7	55.5
Acadiana	34.4	11.8	53.8
New Orleans	37.1	7.9	55.0
Orleans Suburbs	33.3	8.7	58.0
Party			
Democrat	39.6	8.4	52.0
Independent	32.3	6.0	61.8
Republican	33.5	11.6	54.9

For property taxes, the pattern is reversed as an increasing number of respondents said property taxes were too high and need to be reduced. In 2005, 38 percent of respondents said property taxes were too high compared to 32 percent in 2004. The percent of respondents saying property taxes were too low stayed roughly the same, while the percent of respondents saying property taxes were just about right increased from 53 percent in 2004 to 57 percent in 2005. African-American, less-educated, and lower-income respondents were more likely to say that property taxes were too high, as were residents of New Orleans and Orleans suburban parishes. Interestingly, homeowners were more likely to say property taxes were about right than respondents who rent their residences. Fifty-six percent of homeowners said property taxes were about right compared to 40 percent of renters.

**Figure 30: Attitudes Toward Property Taxes, 2004-2005**

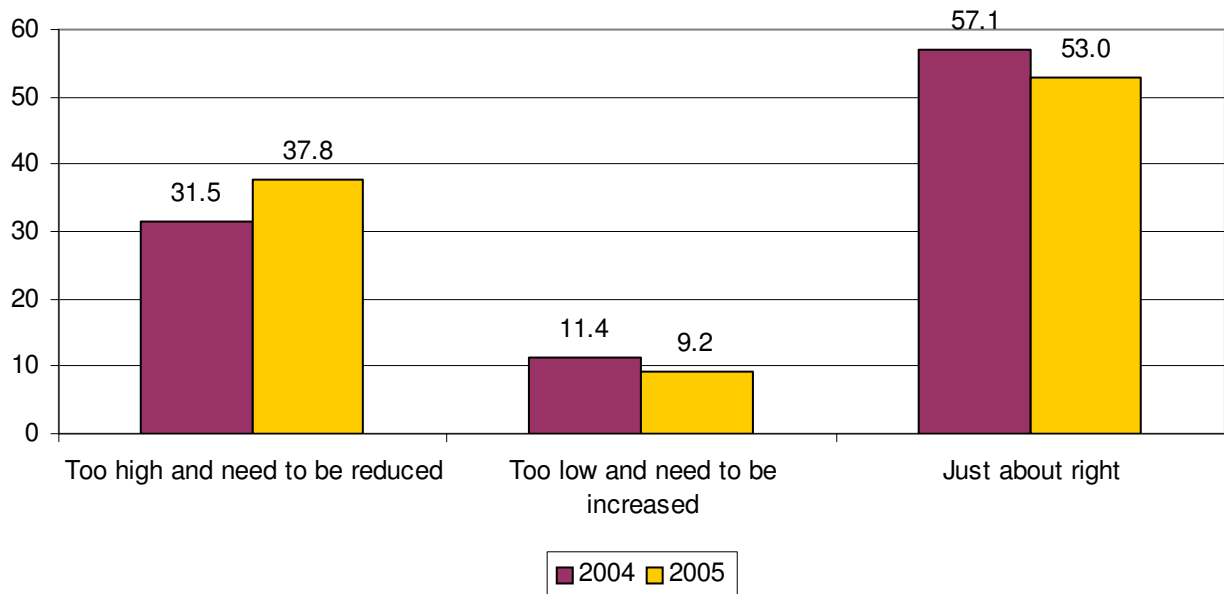
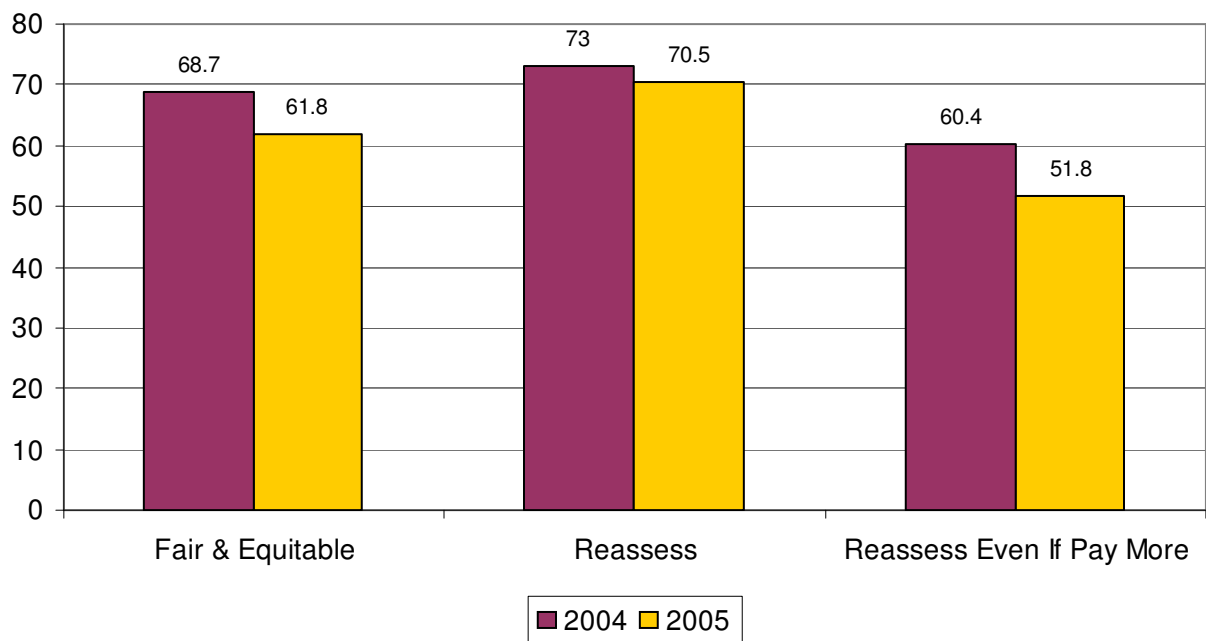


Table 32: Attitudes Toward Property Taxes

	Too high and need to be reduced	Too low and need to be increased	Just about right
All Respondents	37.8	9.2	53.0
Gender			
Male	36.7	10.2	53.1
Female	38.9	8.3	52.8
Race			
African-American	42.8	5.9	51.3
Caucasian	35.2	11.0	53.8
Education			
Less than HS	53.3	5.0	41.7
HS	38.0	5.1	57.0
Some College	36.1	11.9	52.0
College	27.8	17.6	54.6
Graduate Degree	29.6	22.2	48.1
Income			
Less than \$30,000	49.6	4.7	45.6
\$30,000-\$75,000	34.7	9.7	55.6
More than \$75,000	24.5	20.6	54.9
Age			
18-34	37.4	8.3	54.3
35-54	40.1	9.4	50.5
55 and over	34.7	9.9	55.4
Region			
Baton Rouge	28.1	10.9	60.9
North Louisiana	38.0	9.6	52.4
Acadiana	30.9	8.3	60.8
New Orleans	47.2	8.1	44.7
Orleans Suburbs	42.7	8.4	49.0
Party			
Democrat	38.5	8.6	52.9
Independent	36.2	9.8	54.0
Republican	36.5	10.8	52.7

Increases in the percent of respondents believing property taxes were too high and need to be reduced were reflected in the percent of respondents believing that property tax assessments were fair and equitable, the percent willing to have their property reassessed, and the percent willing to have their property reassessed even if it meant they would have to pay more in taxes. The percent of respondents believing their assessments were fair and equitable dropped from 69 percent in 2004 to 62 percent in 2005, while the percent saying they would reassess even if they had to pay more dropped from 60 percent in 2004 to 52 percent in 2005.

**Figure 31: Comparison of Attitudes on Property Taxes, 2004 and 2005**



When one looks at the demographic breakouts, there were few differences on attitudes about the fairness of property taxes or willingness to reassess provided others were reassessed as well. The differences emerge when reassessment is combined with paying more. Caucasians, better-educated, higher-income, and older respondents said they would be willing to be reassessed even it meant they had to pay more in taxes.

Table 33: Perception That Property Taxes Were Fair and Equitable, Willingness to Have Property Reassessed, and Willingness to Reassess Even If It Means Paying More in Taxes

	Fair & Equitable	Reassess	Reassess Even If Pay More
All Respondents	61.8	70.5	51.8
Gender			
Male	61.6	67.1	51.3
Female	62.1	73.7	52.4
Race			
African-American	62.8	69.5	42.6
Caucasian	62.6	72.1	58.1
Education			
Less than HS	59.4	72.8	48.0
HS	62.9	65.0	44.9
Some College	61.0	72.6	55.0
College	62.7	79.3	64.7
Graduate Degree	60.7	82.1	73.7
Income			
Less than \$30,000	62.1	72.2	46.6
\$30,000-\$75,000	67.2	79.2	66.1
More than \$75,000	57.3	80.0	71.7
Age			
18-34	58.0	66.4	47.6
35-54	62.8	68.5	49.7
55 and over	64.8	78.2	59.8
Region			
Baton Rouge	65.0	69.1	52.2
North Louisiana	57.4	71.2	53.3
Acadiana	66.2	66.8	49.0
New Orleans	57.3	71.9	51.4
Orleans Suburbs	67.5	73.3	53.0
Party			
Democrat	67.0	70.5	54.6
Independent	54.1	68.9	41.5
Republican	62.1	71.4	58.1

To gauge the impact of the Stelly Plan on perceived tax burdens, respondents were asked if they were paying more in state taxes as a result of the plan, less in state taxes, or whether they had noticed a difference. A majority of respondents (53 percent) said they had not noticed much of difference, while roughly a third said they were paying more in taxes, 4 percent said they were paying less, and 10 percent said they did not know. The primary differences in the perceived impact of the Stelly Plan reflected income with higher-income respondents more likely to report an increase in taxes. Interestingly, self-identified Independents were less likely to say they paid more in taxes and more likely to say they didn't notice much of a difference.

**Figure 32: Impact of Stelly Plan on State Tax Burden**

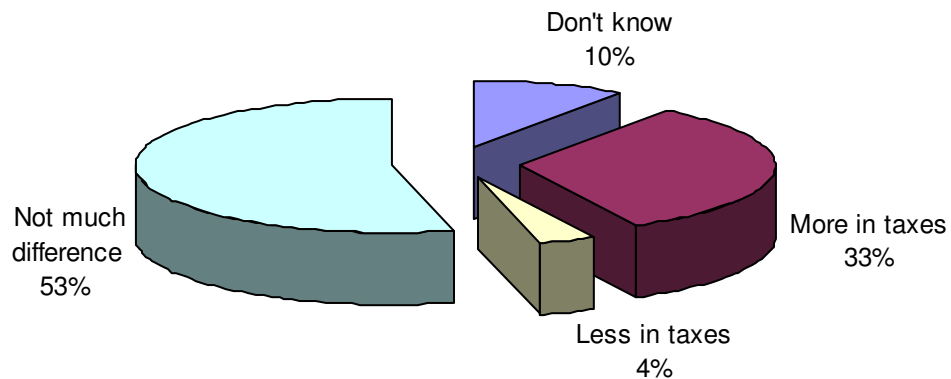


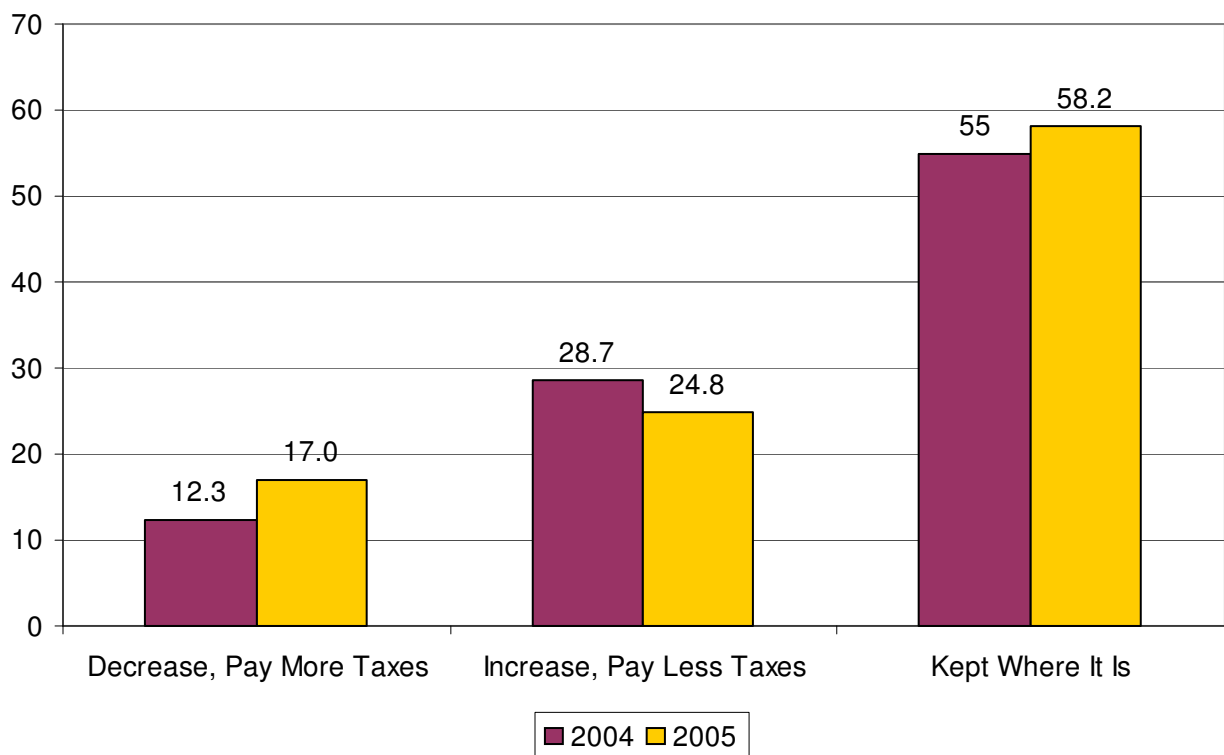


Table 34: Respondent Perceptions Regarding Whether the Stelly Plan Made a Difference in their State Tax Burden

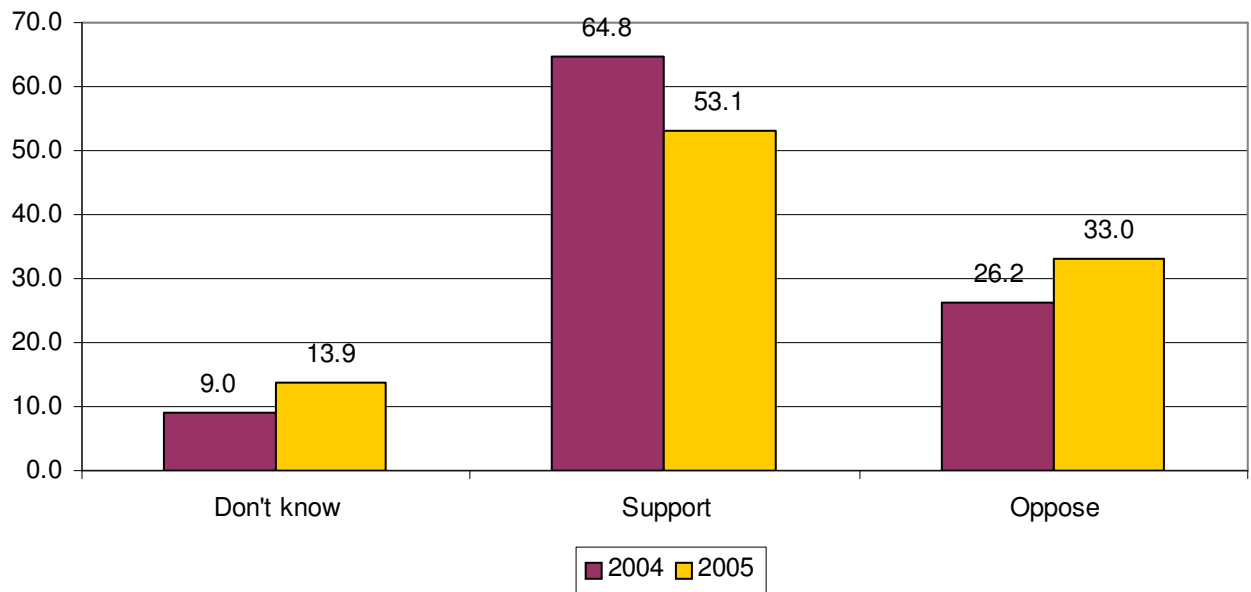
	Don't know	More in taxes	Less in taxes	Not much difference
All Respondents	9.6	32.8	3.8	53.8
Gender				
Male	8.6	34.9	4.4	52.2
Female	10.5	30.9	3.3	55.3
Race				
African-American	8.8	32.0	4.5	54.7
Caucasian	9.6	33.6	3.3	53.5
Education				
Less than HS	12.6	29.9	0.8	56.7
HS	7.6	31.6	4.2	56.6
Some College	11.7	33.8	4.3	50.2
College	8.5	39.0	5.1	47.5
Graduate Degree	10.5	31.6	1.8	56.1
Income				
Less than \$30,000	4.7	34.4	6.4	54.5
\$30,000-\$75,000	4.7	34.8	3.0	57.5
More than \$75,000	7.5	43.0	2.8	46.7
Age				
18-34	8.7	26.5	2.3	62.5
35-54	9.9	36.4	3.1	50.6
55 and over	10.2	35.0	6.4	48.5
Region				
Baton Rouge	9.9	39.7	3.5	46.8
North Louisiana	9.5	27.3	1.9	61.4
Acadiana	11.3	36.5	2.5	49.8
New Orleans	9.4	31.6	5.7	53.3
Orleans Suburbs	7.9	32.5	6.6	53.0
Party				
Democrat	8.9	35.9	5.5	49.7
Independent	9.1	23.8	2.3	64.9
Republican	11.9	37.6	2.2	48.2

Homestead Exemption: As in the other areas of tax preferences, respondents largely want to keep the homestead exemption where it is. Fifty-eight percent of respondents said they wanted to keep the homestead exemption where it is - a 3-point increase relative to 2004. The percent of respondents wanting to decrease the homestead exemption increased from 12 to 17 percent, while the percent wanting to increase the homestead exemption dropped from 29 percent to 25 percent. As we have found in previous years, a majority of respondents were willing to consider reducing the homestead exemption if any additional revenues went to local public schools. At first glance, it would appear that there has been a 12-point decline in willingness to support a reduction in the homestead exemption for local public schools. In 2004, 65 percent of respondents said they would consider a reduction in the homestead exemption if additional revenues went to local public schools. In 2005, this number dropped to 53 percent. While some of the drop may reflect changing property tax attitudes, this change may also reflect changes in question wording. In the 2005 Louisiana Survey, when respondents were asked if they would support a reduction in the homestead exemption, they were specifically told such a reduction would mean homeowners would have to pay more in taxes.

**Figure 33: Attitudes Toward the Homestead Exemption**



**Figure 34: Support for Reduction in Homestead Exemption If Additional Revenues Went to Local Public Schools**



Somewhat surprisingly, wealthier individuals were more likely to support a reduction in the homestead exemption both in general terms and when the reduction was tied directly to funding for local public schools. Thirty-seven percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more per year said they would support a reduction in the homestead exemption compared to 20 percent making less than \$30,000 per year and 14 percent making between \$30,000 and \$75,000. Likewise, 65 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more would support a reduction in the homestead exemption if additional revenue went to the local public schools compared to 55 percent making less than \$30,000 per year. More-educated respondents were also more likely to support a reduction in the homestead exemption if additional revenue goes to the public schools - though they were no more likely to believe the homestead exemption should be reduced when asked the more general question.

Table 35: Attitudes Toward Homestead Exemption and Willingness to Reduce Homestead Exemption If Additional Revenue Went to Local Public Schools

	Reduce	Increase	Keep Where It Is	Reduce Homestead Exemption for Public Schools
All Respondents	17.0	24.8	58.2	53.1
Gender				
Male	19.8	22.6	57.6	48.6
Female	14.4	26.9	58.7	57.2
Race				
African-American	15.5	28.1	56.4	59.3
Caucasian	17.8	23.5	58.7	50.2
Education				
Less than HS	19.5	18.6	61.9	43.8
HS	15.3	25.5	59.2	48.8
Some College	15.2	26.5	58.3	58.6
College	19.1	27.3	53.6	61.9
Graduate Degree	25.0	21.2	53.8	66.1
Income				
Less than \$30,000	20.6	25.6	53.7	55.0
\$30,000-\$75,000	14.6	29.9	55.6	58.6
More than \$75,000	37.1	24.7	38.1	64.5
Age				
18-34	22.1	22.1	55.8	60.2
35-54	13.8	29.0	57.2	52.9
55 and over	16.3	21.3	62.5	45.3
Region				
Baton Rouge	17.2	18.0	64.8	58.6
North Louisiana	17.7	24.9	57.4	51.7
Acadiana	14.9	29.3	55.8	49.8
New Orleans	17.3	28.8	53.9	55.9
Orleans Suburbs	17.6	19.7	62.7	51.3
Party				
Democrat	17.2	21.3	61.5	59.0
Independent	14.5	27.4	58.1	48.9
Republican	22.0	26.3	51.7	46.5

### ***VII. Government Waste***

Public opinion research routinely documents spending preferences that outstrip public tolerance for taxes. One reason respondents often fail to reconcile these contradictory preferences resides in perceptions of government waste (at the federal, state, or local level). Louisiana is no different in this regard: 57 percent of respondents believe state government wastes a lot of taxpayer money, 35 percent believe it wastes some, and only 8 percent believe state government doesn't wastes much. In terms of demographic differences, most were fairly small, but wealthier respondents do perceive less waste while older respondents and Independents perceive more waste. When asked to estimate the percent state government spending that could be reduced by eliminating waste, the average response was 23.9 percent, up slightly from 22 percent in 2004.

**Figure 39: Perceptions of Waste in State Government**

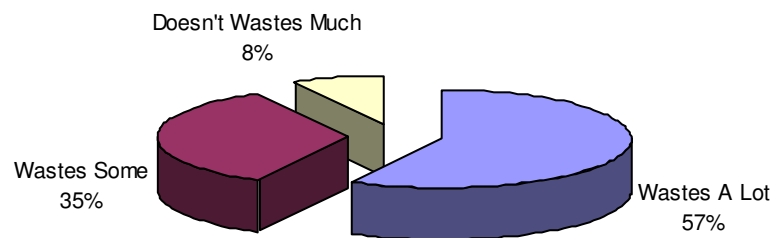
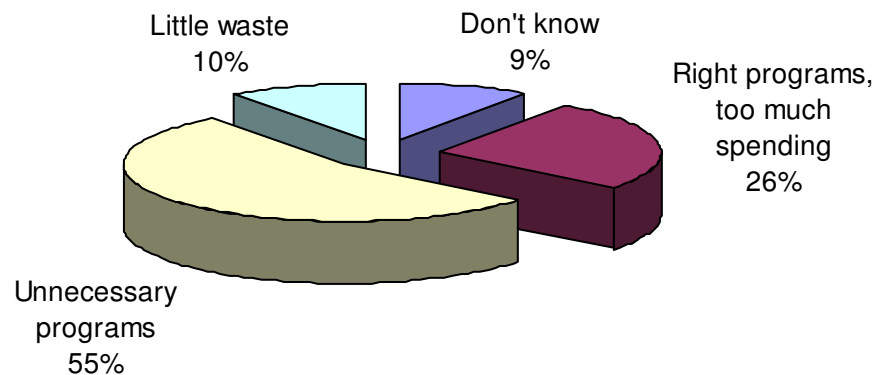


Table 36: Respondent Perceptions of Government Waste and Estimate of Waste as a Percent of State Government Spending

	Wastes a lot	Wastes some	Doesn't Wastes Much	Estimated Percent Waste
All Respondents	57.6	34.6	7.7	23.9
Gender				
Male	58.0	33.8	8.2	24.0
Female	57.3	35.2	7.4	23.9
Race				
African-American	58.5	30.3	11.1	25.4
Caucasian	57.5	36.8	5.7	22.9
Education				
Less than HS	62.7	29.4	7.9	24.0
HS	56.6	34.5	8.9	25.1
Some College	54.3	39.0	6.7	22.5
College	59.6	34.2	6.1	23.3
Graduate Degree	63.6	30.9	5.5	21.5
Income				
Less than \$30,000	57.2	35.4	7.4	25.9
\$30,000-\$75,000	58.5	37.4	4.1	24.8
More than \$75,000	42.5	44.3	13.2	17.9
Age				
18-34	53.6	34.2	12.2	21.9
35-54	58.2	34.3	7.5	26.5
55 and over	61.5	35.4	3.1	22.3
Region				
Baton Rouge	62.9	30.0	7.1	24.3
North Louisiana	51.0	38.4	10.6	21.9
Acadiana	60.2	30.6	9.2	24.3
New Orleans	58.5	37.7	3.9	24.8
Orleans Suburbs	60.0	33.3	6.7	25.1
Party				
Democrat	55.7	36.6	7.7	24.9
Independent	63.4	27.5	9.2	23.0
Republican	56.1	38.5	5.4	23.1

To shed further light on perceptions of government waste, respondents were asked what they meant by waste - spending on unnecessary programs or spending too much on the right programs. As can be seen in Figure 40, a majority of respondents (55 percent) perceived waste as money spent on unnecessary programs, while roughly a quarter of respondents (26 percent) saw waste as too much spending on the right programs, and 19 percent either perceived little waste or said they did not know. Perhaps the most interesting difference in terms of how respondents perceived waste is a political difference - Democrats were more likely to see waste as too much spending on the right programs, while Republicans were more likely to see waste as spending on unnecessary programs. Thirty-three percent of Democrats perceived waste as too much spending on the right programs compared to 23 percent of Republicans. On the other side of the scale, 62 percent of Republicans perceived waste as spending on unnecessary programs compared to 49 percent of Democrats.

**Figure 40: Perception of Waste as Too Much Spending or Unnecessary Spending**



	Don't know	Right programs, too much spending	Unnecessary programs	Little waste
All Respondents	9.4	26.2	54.2	10.2
Gender				
Male	9.0	23.1	54.8	13.0
Female	9.8	28.8	53.7	7.6
Race				
African-American	6.9	19.9	53.5	19.6
Caucasian	10.6	29.4	54.7	5.3
Education				
Less than HS	5.4	26.4	48.8	19.4
HS	9.9	22.6	57.6	9.9
Some College	11.4	27.9	50.2	10.5
College	9.4	26.5	59.8	4.3
Graduate Degree	7.0	43.9	43.9	5.3
Income				
Less than \$30,000	3.7	27.9	53.4	15.1
\$30,000-\$75,000	5.4	30.0	56.2	8.4
More than \$75,000	8.5	26.4	63.2	1.9
Age				
18-34	11.0	23.3	51.1	14.6
35-54	5.4	26.3	57.8	10.5
55 and over	13.6	29.4	52.1	4.9
Region				
Baton Rouge	3.6	31.4	55.0	10.0
North Louisiana	13.3	21.2	53.8	11.7
Acadiana	10.4	22.3	59.4	7.9
New Orleans	7.1	28.6	54.3	10.0
Orleans Suburbs	10.0	32.7	46.7	10.7
Party				
Democrat	7.8	33.0	48.8	10.5
Independent	11.7	18.1	56.6	13.6
Republican	10.6	22.5	61.7	5.3



### ***VIII. Economic Development***

This past year, the Public Policy Research Lab conducted two separate but related business surveys. The first survey conducted on behalf of the Council for a Better Louisiana looked at perceptions of Louisiana businesses regarding work force and economic development. The second survey sponsored by the Committee of 100 for Economic Development in cooperation with the Governor's Office examined the importance of factors affecting business location decisions and evaluations of Louisiana as a potential location by non-Louisiana businesses. As part of this year's Louisiana Survey, we sought to examine public attitudes on a similar set of issues. It is important to keep in mind that the results that follow are based on roughly half of the total sample (N=464) and, as such, are subject to a +/- 4.6 percent margin of error.

Louisiana's Image and the Focus of Economic Development Efforts: We began by considering how Louisiana residents perceived the state's image. Respondents were asked whether they thought the image of the state was generally positive or negative. As can be seen in Figure 41, a majority of respondents (53 percent) reported that they believed the image others had of Louisiana was generally negative. Notably, however, 47 percent of respondents reported that they believed the image was neutral (11 percent) or positive (36 percent).

In terms of demographic differences, males, Caucasians, respondents with higher education and higher-incomes, Republicans, and Baton Rouge residents were more likely to believe that Louisiana's image was negative. For example, 39 percent of respondents with less than a high school education perceived Louisiana's image as very positive compared to only 11 percent of respondents with college degrees. Similarly, 26 percent of males compared to 14 percent of females perceived Louisiana's image as very positive. Interestingly with respect to race, Caucasian respondents were more negative in their evaluations but not necessarily less positive: Twenty-nine percent of Caucasians compared to 13 percent of African-Americans said Louisiana's image was very negative. African-Americans, in contrast, were more likely to say Louisiana's image is neither positive nor negative. One notable regional difference also emerges: Residents of Acadiana were more likely than residents in other regions to say Louisiana's image was very positive, while residents of Baton Rouge were more likely to perceive Louisiana's image as negative. Thirty percent of Acadiana residents said Louisiana's image was very positive compared to 20 percent in north Louisiana, 17 percent in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and 15 percent in the Orleans suburban parishes. Sixty percent of Baton Rouge residents perceived the state's image as either negative (45 percent) or very negative (25 percent).

Figure 41: Louisiana Residents' Perception of Louisiana's Image

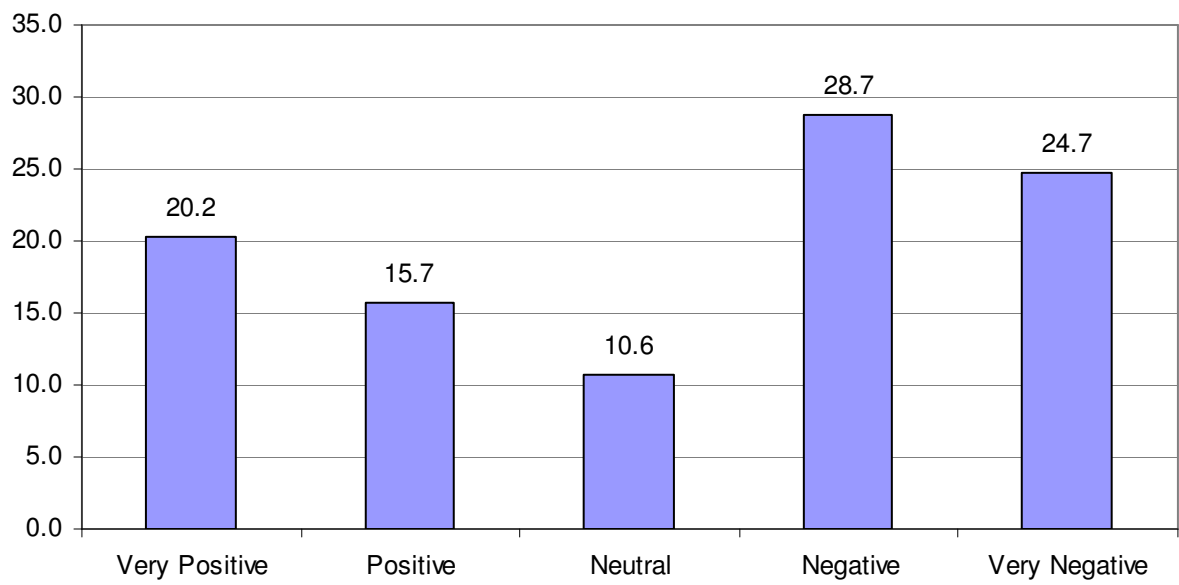


Table 38: Louisiana Residents' Perceptions of Louisiana's Image

	Very Positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very Negative
All Respondents	20.2	15.7	10.6	28.7	24.7
Gender					
Male	13.7	14.2	12.0	32.8	27.3
Female	25.6	17.0	9.4	25.6	22.4
Race					
African-American	20.5	16.1	21.4	28.6	13.4
Caucasian	20.1	16.5	5.8	28.4	29.1
Education					
Less than HS	38.7	19.4	19.4	17.7	4.8
HS	25.8	15.2	10.6	19.2	29.1
Some College	11.1	15.7	6.5	42.6	24.1
College	10.5	14.0	14.0	31.6	29.8
Graduate Degree	6.9	10.3	0.0	48.3	34.5
Income					
Less than \$30,000	25.0	12.0	14.8	29.6	18.5
\$30,000-\$75,000	20.1	18.9	3.1	33.3	24.5
More than \$75,000	15.4	7.7	7.7	35.9	33.3
Age					
18-34	21.6	16.8	11.2	30.4	20.0
35-54	21.5	12.7	12.7	30.4	22.8
55 and over	17.1	17.9	7.3	25.2	32.5
Region					
Baton Rouge	17.2	6.3	6.3	45.3	25.0
North Louisiana	20.0	16.0	16.0	24.0	24.0
Acadiana	30.9	17.6	4.4	22.1	25.0
New Orleans	17.6	16.5	14.3	23.1	28.6
Orleans Suburbs	15.5	20.7	6.9	37.9	19.0
Party					
Democrat	22.4	16.8	11.2	26.5	23.0
Independent	24.5	11.2	13.3	28.6	22.4
Republican	13.9	15.8	4.0	35.6	30.7

Regardless of whether respondents believed Louisiana's image is generally positive or negative, a majority of respondents (53 percent) said the image hurts when it comes to attracting business to the state. Just over a quarter of respondents believed Louisiana's image helped attract business, 15 percent said it didn't matter, and 5 percent said they didn't know. There were consistent and large demographic differences with better-educated, wealthier, older, and Caucasian respondents more likely to see Louisiana's image as damaging. For example, only 23 percent of respondents with less than a high school education said Louisiana's image hurt economic development compared to 73 percent of college graduates. In terms of region, residents of New Orleans were most likely to see the image as hurting business-recruitment efforts.

Figure 42: Perceived Impact of Louisiana's Image on Economic Development

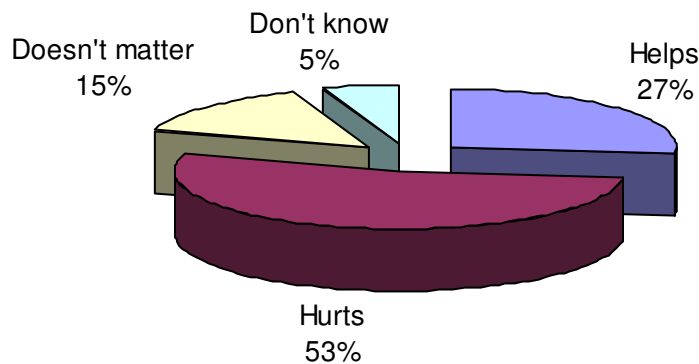
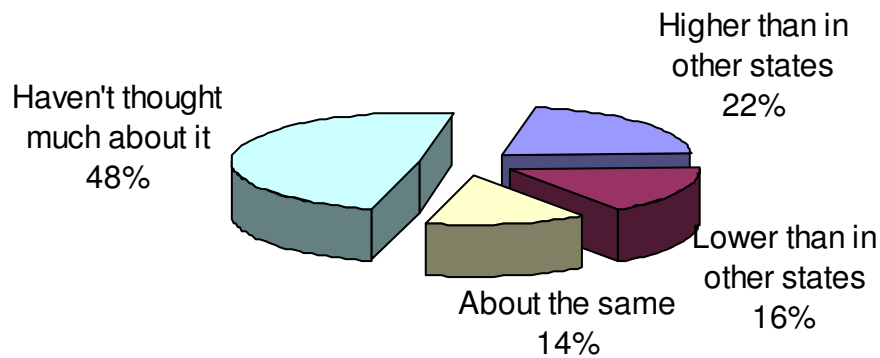


Table 39: Impact of Louisiana Image on Economic Development

	Helps	Hurts	Doesn't matter	Don't Know
All Respondents	26.6	53.2	14.8	5.4
Gender				
Male	23.2	57.6	13.6	5.6
Female	29.3	49.8	15.9	5.0
Race				
African-American	33.1	33.8	21.5	11.5
Caucasian	23.4	62.2	12.0	2.4
Education				
Less than HS	43.1	23.1	27.7	6.2
HS	29.3	46.7	14.4	9.6
Some College	22.4	62.9	12.9	1.7
College	18.6	72.9	6.8	1.7
Graduate Degree	6.7	80.0	10.0	3.3
Income				
Less than \$30,000	30.4	47.3	21.4	0.9
\$30,000-\$75,000	23.8	60.1	11.3	4.8
More than \$75,000	17.9	76.9	5.1	
Age				
18-34	28.7	45.0	26.4	
35-54	29.3	49.2	13.3	8.3
55 and over	20.6	68.3	4.8	6.3
Region				
Baton Rouge	23.1	56.9	16.9	3.1
North Louisiana	24.1	50.4	14.9	10.6
Lake Charles/Lafayette	29.7	47.3	21.6	1.4
New Orleans	32.3	53.1	9.4	5.2
Orleans Suburbs	23.3	63.3	13.3	0.0
Party				
Democrat	32.5	45.3	14.2	8.0
Independent	27.3	49.1	18.2	5.5
Republican	14.4	75.0	9.6	1.0

To get a sense of how Louisiana residents perceived the tax climate in Louisiana relative to other states, respondents were asked whether Louisiana's taxes were higher than in other states, lower than in other states, or about the same. The plurality response (48 percent) was that respondents had not thought much about it. Among respondents who had thought about it, the most frequent response (22 percent) was to say Louisiana's business taxes were higher than in other states.

Figure 43: Louisiana Business Taxes Compared With Other States



As one might expect given the uncertainty of how business taxes compare to other states, respondents were more likely to say they did not know or that business taxes did not matter when it comes to their effects on economic development. Twenty percent of respondents said they did not know what impact business taxes had on economic development and 26 percent said business taxes didn't matter. In addition, 35 percent of respondents said business taxes hurt economic development efforts, while 19 percent said they helped. Placed in the context of the findings on Louisiana's image, it is fairly clear that respondents see Louisiana's image as a greater problem for economic development than tax structure. As with image, better-educated and wealthier respondents were more likely to see business taxes as hurting economic development efforts.

Figure 44: Perceived Impact of Business Taxes on Economic Development

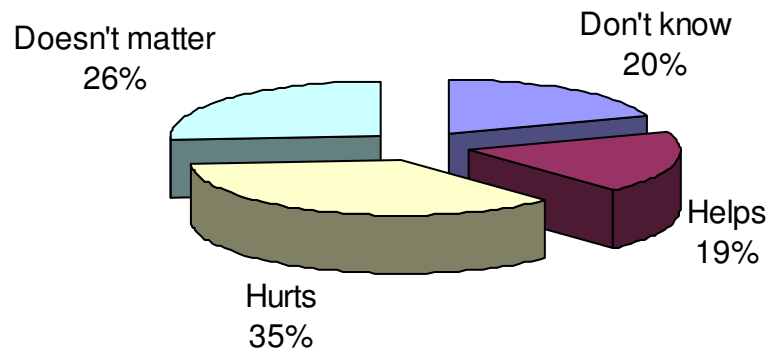


Table 40: Respondent Perceptions of Louisiana Business Taxes Compared to Other States

	Higher than in other states	Lower than in other states	About the same	Haven't thought much about it
All Respondents	21.6	16.0	13.7	48.7
Gender				
Male	24.9	19.3	13.2	42.6
Female	18.7	13.2	14.0	54.0
Race				
African-American	18.4	16.8	10.4	54.4
Caucasian	23.0	15.5	15.5	46.0
Education				
Less than HS	26.6	15.6	4.7	53.1
HS	18.4	9.2	14.7	57.7
Some College	18.1	23.3	19.0	39.7
College	23.7	23.7	13.6	39.0
Graduate Degree	40.0	10.0	6.7	43.3
Income				
Less than \$30,000	29.7	17.1	14.4	38.7
\$30,000-\$75,000	20.0	17.6	15.8	46.7
More than \$75,000	34.2	13.2	13.2	39.5
Age				
18-34	16.3	23.3	17.1	43.4
35-54	25.1	11.7	14.5	48.6
55 and over	22.2	15.1	8.7	54.0
Region				
Baton Rouge	31.8	13.6	10.6	43.9
North Louisiana	18.0	12.9	18.0	51.1
Acadiana	17.3	28.0	14.7	40.0
New Orleans	23.2	11.6	10.5	54.7
Orleans Suburbs	21.7	18.3	11.7	48.3
Party				
Democrat	21.2	16.0	12.3	50.5
Independent	22.1	14.4	10.6	52.9
Republican	22.9	18.1	17.1	41.9



Table 41: Respondent Perceptions of Perceived Effect of Business Taxes on Economic Development

	Don't know	Helps	Hurts	Doesn't matter
All Respondents	19.5	18.5	35.9	26.0
Gender				
Male	17.1	22.1	39.7	21.1
Female	21.8	15.5	32.6	30.1
Race				
African-American	13.8	13.8	33.1	39.2
Caucasian	22.9	19.9	37.0	20.2
Education				
Less than HS	10.9	14.1	35.9	39.1
HS	28.0	16.1	29.8	26.2
Some College	17.1	23.1	36.8	23.1
College	13.6	20.3	42.4	23.7
Graduate Degree	13.3	20.0	56.7	10.0
Income				
Less than \$30,000	11.7	18.9	27.9	41.4
\$30,000-\$75,000	19.5	17.2	42.0	21.3
More than \$75,000	12.8	23.1	46.2	17.9
Age				
18-34	10.1	15.5	32.6	41.9
35-54	23.6	22.5	33.5	20.3
55 and over	23.6	15.7	42.5	18.1
Region				
Baton Rouge	19.4	17.9	37.3	25.4
North Louisiana	22.1	17.9	30.0	30.0
Acadiana	18.9	28.4	27.0	25.7
New Orleans	14.4	15.5	46.4	23.7
Orleans Suburbs	23.3	13.3	41.7	21.7
Partisan Affiliation				
Democrat	18.3	18.8	38.0	24.9
Independent	21.8	9.1	29.1	40.0
Republican	19.0	29.5	41.0	10.5

One of the major findings of the business surveys was the importance of work force both to existing businesses and as a factor in location decisions. These surveys also raised business concerns about the quality of the Louisiana labor force. Consistent with the findings from the business surveys, a fairly substantial proportion of the public (43 percent) said Louisiana's work force was less skilled than in other states, while roughly a third said the work force was the same as in other states, and 10 percent said the Louisiana work force as more skilled. Females, more-educated, wealthier, and Republican respondents were more likely to see Louisiana's work force as less skilled than in other states. For example, 27 percent of respondents with less than a high school education said the work force was less skilled than in other states compared to 52 percent of respondents with a college degree.

Figure 45: Louisiana Residents' Perceptions of the Work Force Compared to Other States

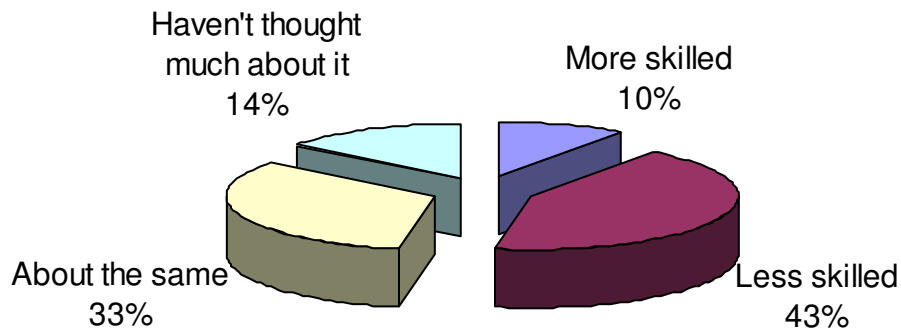


Table 42: Louisiana Residents' Percents of the Louisiana Work Force Compared to Other States

	More skilled	Less skilled	About the same	Haven't thought much about it
All Respondents	10.1	42.8	32.8	14.3
Gender				
Male	12.1	38.2	33.7	16.1
Female	8.3	46.7	32.1	12.9
Race				
African-American	11.6	47.3	20.2	20.9
Caucasian	9.6	41.6	38.1	10.7
Education				
Less than HS	18.8	26.6	25.0	29.7
HS	13.7	34.5	38.7	13.1
Some College	4.3	53.0	30.4	12.2
College	6.7	51.7	33.3	8.3
Graduate Degree	3.3	63.3	26.7	6.7
Income				
Less than \$30,000	10.7	48.2	27.7	13.4
\$30,000-\$75,000	6.5	42.3	43.5	7.7
More than \$75,000	7.7	64.1	23.1	5.1
Age				
18-34	15.6	45.3	35.2	3.9
35-54	6.6	48.9	25.3	19.2
55 and over	9.4	31.5	40.9	18.1
Region				
Baton Rouge	15.4	36.9	30.8	16.9
North Louisiana	12.8	31.9	39.7	15.6
Acadiana	10.8	54.1	25.7	9.5
New Orleans	7.2	49.5	26.8	16.5
Orleans Suburbs	3.3	48.3	36.7	11.7
Party				
Democrat	8.5	41.8	31.0	18.8
Independent	17.4	36.7	35.8	10.1
Republican	7.6	53.3	29.5	9.5

Because economic development efforts were often seen as recruiting competition for existing businesses, respondents were asked whether they saw economic development efforts as helping or hurting existing Louisiana businesses. Forty-nine percent of respondents said economic development efforts generally help existing businesses, while 25 percent said they hurt existing business and 26 percent said they had not thought much about it. Respondents were also asked whether they believed economic development efforts should focus on luring large businesses to the state or helping existing businesses grow and expand. Thirty percent of respondents preferred attracting large business, while 56 percent wanted to grow and expand existing business. Males, better-educated, and wealthier respondents were more likely to say the focus of economic development should be on luring large employers. For example, 45 percent of respondents with a college degree preferred focusing on luring big employers compared to 27 percent of respondents with a high school degree. Similarly, 45 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more per year preferred luring big employers compared to 19 percent of respondents making less than \$30,000.

Figure 46: Perceived Effect of Economic Development on Existing Louisiana Businesses

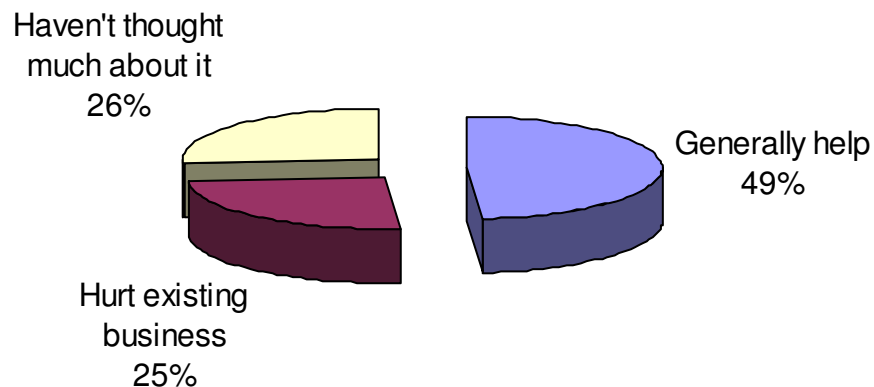


Figure 47: Focus of Economic Development

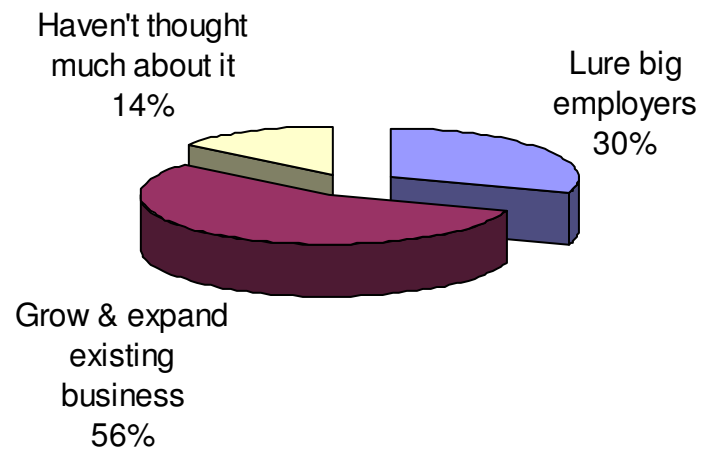


Table 43: Perceived Effect of Economic Development on Existing Louisiana Businesses

	Generally help	Hurt existing business	Haven't thought much about it
All Respondents	48.7	25.0	26.3
Gender			
Male	48.0	23.5	28.6
Female	49.4	26.4	24.3
Race			
African-American	51.6	25.0	23.4
Caucasian	48.5	25.1	26.5
Education			
Less than HS	65.6	15.6	18.8
HS	34.8	28.0	37.2
Some College	55.2	23.3	21.6
College	45.8	35.6	18.6
Graduate Degree	72.4	10.3	17.2
Income			
Less than \$30,000	56.8	27.0	16.2
\$30,000-\$75,000	53.0	25.6	21.4
More than \$75,000	56.8	24.3	18.9
Age			
18-34	44.4	32.3	23.4
35-54	53.0	20.8	26.2
55 and over	46.8	23.8	29.4
Region			
Baton Rouge	54.5	15.2	30.3
North Louisiana	45.4	19.9	34.8
Acadiana	56.8	23.0	20.3
New Orleans	45.1	33.0	22.0
Orleans Suburbs	45.0	40.0	15.0
Party			
Democrat	51.9	24.0	24.0
Independent	44.4	26.9	28.7
Republican	45.3	26.4	28.3

Table 44: Focus of Economic Development

	Lure big employers	Grow & expand existing business	Haven't thought much
All Respondents	30.4	55.8	13.8
Gender			
Male	39.7	51.3	9.0
Female	22.6	59.4	18.0
Race			
African-American	34.1	50.4	15.5
Caucasian	29.6	57.4	13.1
Education			
Less than HS	4.7	82.8	12.5
HS	27.2	55.0	17.8
Some College	37.1	50.9	12.1
College	45.0	43.3	11.7
Graduate Degree	50.0	43.3	6.7
Income			
Less than \$30,000	18.8	70.5	10.7
\$30,000-\$75,000	35.5	55.6	8.9
More than \$75,000	44.7	52.6	2.6
Age			
18-34	30.5	64.8	4.7
35-54	30.1	57.9	12.0
55 and over	31.0	43.7	25.4
Region			
Baton Rouge	33.8	56.9	9.2
North Louisiana	28.4	51.8	19.9
Lake Charles/Lafayette	28.4	63.5	8.1
New Orleans	31.3	58.3	10.4
Orleans Suburbs	31.7	50.0	18.3
Partisan Affiliation			
Democrat	32.5	53.3	14.2
Independent	24.8	63.3	11.9
Republican	34.3	52.4	13.3

Perceived Effectiveness of Economic Development Strategies: To gauge perceptions of the effectiveness of economic development strategies, respondents were asked to rate a number of economic development proposals on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 indicated the most negative effect possible, 5 indicated no effect, and 10 indicated the most positive effect possible. This was followed with a question asking respondents to identify the single most effective thing the state could do in the area of economic development. In Figure 48, we present the percent of respondents rating each item as having a positive effect on economic development (meaning that they rated the item from 6-10) and the percent identifying each item as the most effective economic development strategy. Looking first at the percent of respondents rating each item from 6-10, the top three items were improving public schools (90 percent), health-care (85 percent), and infrastructure (80 percent). The picture changes a bit when one looks at the single most important thing the state can do to attract business. The public schools remain at the top of the list (34 percent) but were followed by tax incentives (15 percent). Notably, there is remarkable consistency with the business surveys conducted on behalf of the Council for a Better Louisiana and the Committee of 100 for Economic Development in terms of policy prescriptions: Both Louisiana businesses and non-Louisiana businesses identified improving the public schools and work force training as an important element in economic development.



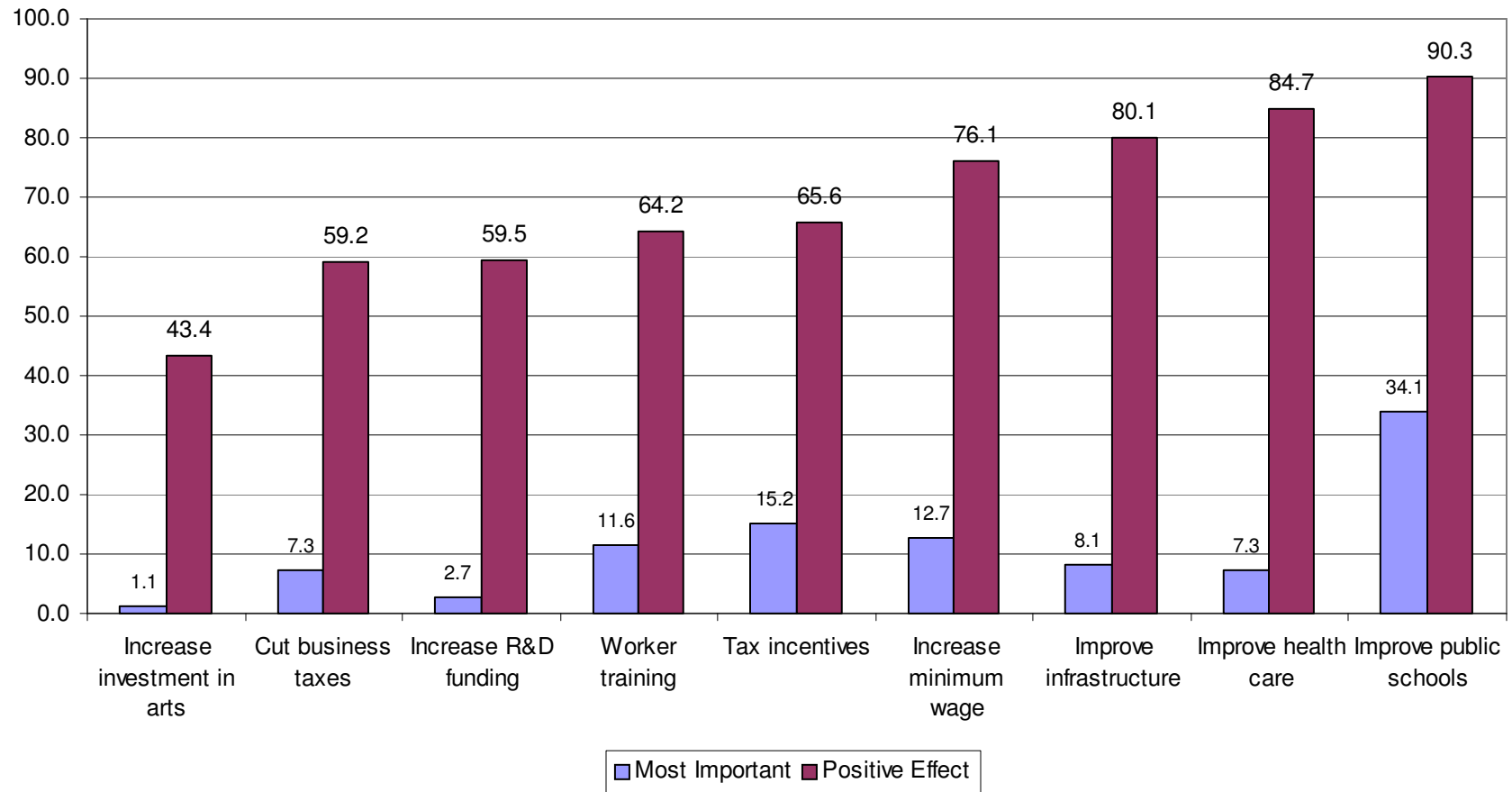
**Figure 48: Perceived Effects of Economic Development Strategies**

Table 45: Single Most Important Thing State Can Do to Attract Business

	Worker training	Tax incentives	Cut business taxes	Improve infrastructure	Increase minimum wage	Increase R&D funding	Improve public schools	Improve health-care	Increase investment in arts
All Respondents	11.6	15.2	7.3	8.1	12.7	2.7	34.1	7.3	1.1
Gender									
Male	14.8	21.6	7.4	11.4	11.4	3.4	23.3	5.1	1.7
Female	9.0	10.0	7.1	5.2	13.7	2.4	43.1	9.0	0.5
Race									
African-American	10.3	11.2	9.3	0.9	28.0	1.9	31.8	5.6	0.9
Caucasian	11.7	16.5	6.8	10.5	7.1	2.6	35.3	7.9	1.5
Education									
Less than HS	15.7	9.8	5.9	9.8	5.9		35.3	17.6	
HS	12.2	14.2	6.1	8.1	21.6	2.0	26.4	7.4	2.0
Some College	10.1	18.3	8.3	9.2	9.2	2.8	35.8	5.5	0.9
College	9.1	12.7	12.7	7.3	3.6	7.3	40.0	5.5	1.8
Graduate Degree	14.3	17.9	3.6	3.6	7.1	3.6	50.0		
Income									
Less than \$30,000	9.5	12.4	5.7	5.7	13.3	3.8	31.4	14.3	3.8
\$30,000-\$75,000	13.8	18.2	6.3	9.4	12.6	2.5	29.6	7.5	
More than \$75,000	10.5	15.8	10.5	7.9	7.9	5.3	42.1	0.0	
Age									
18-34	6.0	10.3	6.8	12.0	18.8	3.4	33.3	6.0	3.4
35-54	15.1	14.5	8.8	5.0	13.2	1.9	32.1	8.8	0.6
55 and over	12.7	20.9	5.5	9.1	5.5	2.7	38.2	5.5	
Region									
Baton Rouge	13.6	11.9	8.5	5.1	5.1	3.4	30.5	20.3	1.7
North Louisiana	8.5	17.8	3.4	10.2	22.0	0.8	28.8	5.9	2.5
Acadiana	15.2	10.6	7.6	12.1	12.1	3.0	33.3	4.5	1.5

New Orleans	12.8	15.1	10.5	4.7	7.0	1.2	46.5	2.3	
Orleans Suburbs	12.5	16.1	7.1	8.9	8.9	7.1	30.4	8.9	
Party									
Democrat	17.1	13.0	6.2	4.1	16.1	1.6	32.6	8.8	0.5
Independent	4.4	10.0	5.6	13.3	16.7	2.2	40.0	6.7	1.1
Republican	6.3	25.0	11.5	12.5	2.1	5.2	29.2	5.2	3.1

### ***IX. Health-care***

To assess trends in health-care, we ask respondents several questions as indicators of the overall health-care environment: (1) Whether anyone in the household is covered by insurance; (2) Whether anyone is covered by Medicaid; (3) Whether the respondent put off medical care because of the costs; and (4) Whether the respondent failed to fill a prescription because of costs. As can be seen in Figure 49, the percent of respondents reporting that someone in the household did not have insurance and put off medical care increased slightly over the past year. The percent reporting that someone in the household was not covered by insurance increased from 27 percent in 2004 to 31 percent in 2005. Likewise, the percent saying they had put off medical care because of the costs increased from 35 percent to 38 percent. The percent reporting that someone in the household was on Medicaid was 41 percent, while the percent of respondents who went without filling a prescription was 39 percent. As one would expect these indicators were largely reflective of social economic status - with African-Americans, less-educated and lower-income respondents more likely to report someone in the household was uninsured, someone in the household was on Medicaid, and/or having had to go without medical care or prescription drugs because of the costs.

**Figure 49: Health-Care Indicators**

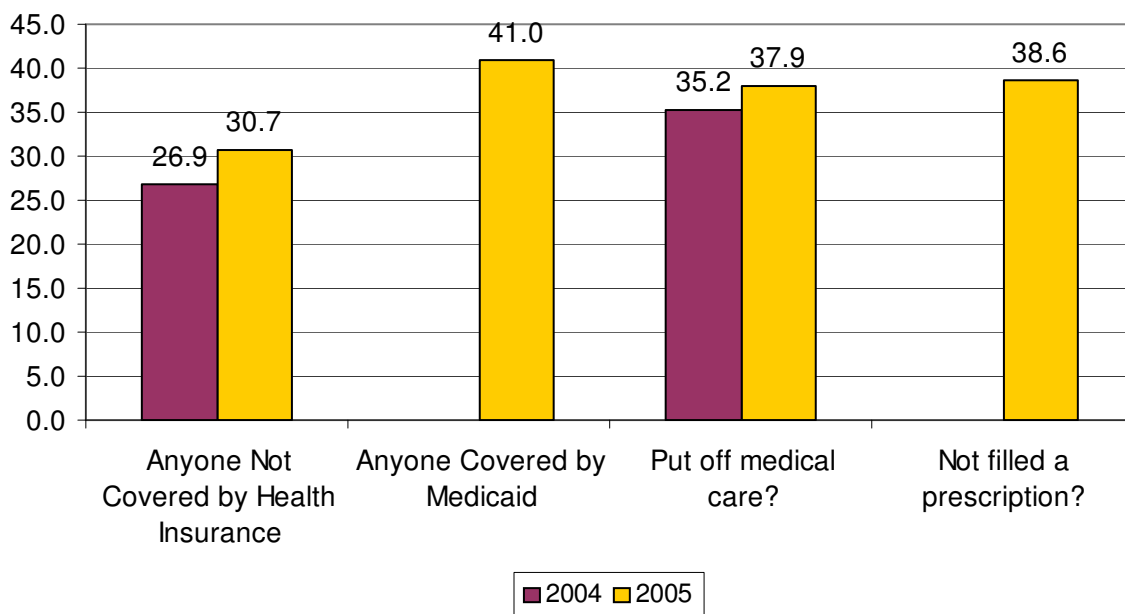


Table 46: Louisiana Health Indicators

	Uninsured Household	Medicaid Household	Put Off Care	Put Off Prescription
All Respondents	30.7	41.0	37.9	38.6
Gender				
Male	30.6	37.8	35.7	37.1
Female	30.6	43.9	40.1	39.8
Race				
African-American	39.9	49.2	48.0	39.9
Caucasian	24.9	35.8	30.9	37.5
Education				
Less than HS	60.9	74.6	57.8	56.9
HS	30.8	42.9	36.2	38.5
Some College	26.3	30.4	38.4	38.4
College	10.7	25.5	30.4	33.9
Graduate Degree	19.2	24.0	23.1	11.5
Income				
Less than \$30,000	51.3	66.5	48.4	44.3
\$30,000-\$75,000	22.1	27.7	37.2	42.7
More than \$75,000	9.0	11.9	17.9	16.4
Age				
18-34	32.2	41.8	36.6	42.6
35-54	36.7	32.5	47.6	46.4
55 and over	19.4	52.9	24.6	22.5
Region				
Baton Rouge	33.3	24.7	40.5	39.1
North Louisiana	29.7	49.6	38.1	46.6
Acadiana	25.2	35.4	29.8	30.3
New Orleans	28.7	34.9	40.0	35.1
Orleans Suburbs	40.0	58.2	44.0	43.5
Party				
Democrat	35.7	43.0	46.4	37.4
Independent	36.8	43.9	36.1	47.9
Republican	16.4	33.0	24.0	30.3

When it comes to public health-care spending, Louisiana's system of charity hospitals is not cheap. Yet, as is indicated by Figure 50, Louisiana residents do not recognize that Louisiana spends - relatively speaking - more than other states on health-care. Nineteen percent of respondents said Louisiana spent more than other states, 27 percent said Louisiana spent less, 35 percent said Louisiana spent about the same, and 19 percent said they didn't know. Lower-income, less-educated, and younger respondents were more likely to say Louisiana spent about the same as in other states.

**Figure 50: Perception of Health-Care Spending Compared to Other States**

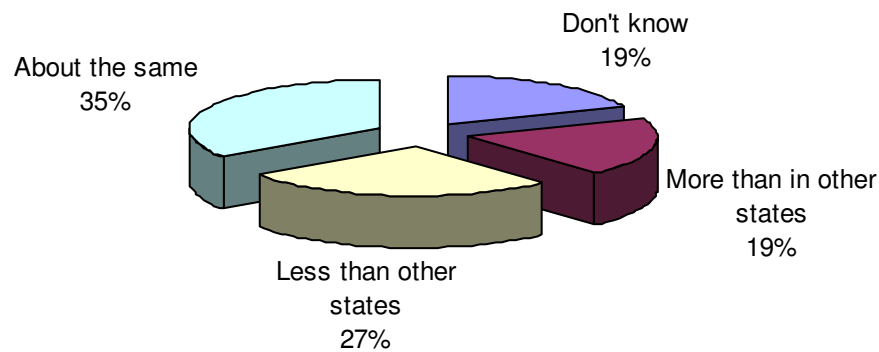


Table 47: Respondent Perceptions of Louisiana Health-Care Spending Compared to Other States

	Don't Know	More than in other states	Less than other states	About the same
All Respondents	19.1	19.2	27.0	34.7
Gender				
Male	16.7	17.1	28.3	38.0
Female	21.3	21.3	25.7	31.6
Race				
African-American	6.0	22.9	26.9	44.3
Caucasian	27.8	17.3	25.9	29.1
Education				
Less than HS	6.3	15.6	31.3	46.9
HS	21.8	20.3	19.9	38.0
Some College	17.2	17.2	37.1	28.4
College	17.2	19.0	36.2	27.6
Graduate Degree	33.3	25.9	22.2	18.5
Income				
Less than \$30,000	7.5	22.5	24.6	45.5
\$30,000-\$75,000	16.0	20.6	29.8	33.6
More than \$75,000	20.9	14.9	29.9	34.3
Age				
18-34	9.9	18.2	25.4	46.4
35-54	15.8	24.4	29.7	30.1
55 and over	36.0	12.2	25.2	26.6
Region				
Baton Rouge	8.1	29.7	28.4	33.8
North Louisiana	16.4	13.9	36.1	33.6
Acadiana	29.7	15.6	18.8	35.9
New Orleans	17.5	13.2	33.3	36.0
Orleans Suburbs	17.6	30.8	17.6	34.1
Party				
Democrat	15.1	20.9	25.1	38.9
Independent	18.6	19.9	23.7	37.8
Republican	26.4	16.5	33.1	24.0

Moving toward policy implications, respondents appear to prefer maintaining the charity hospital system over providing insurance coverage to the uninsured. Support for both options decreased from 2004 to 2005 by roughly 2 percentage points as the number of respondents saying they had not thought much about it jumped from 11 percent in 2004 to 17 percent in 2005. Interestingly, among the less-educated, there is a sharp difference among respondents with less than a high school education who want insurance coverage and respondents with a high school degree who want to maintain the charity hospital system. Among those with less than a high school education, 52 percent want to provide insurance coverage compared to 31 percent who want to maintain the charity system. Among respondents with a high school degree, 51 percent want to maintain the charity system and 34 percent want insurance coverage. In addition, younger respondents were more likely to want insurance coverage, while residents of New Orleans were most supportive of charity hospitals.

**Figure 51: Preference for Maintaining Charity Hospitals or Providing Insurance**

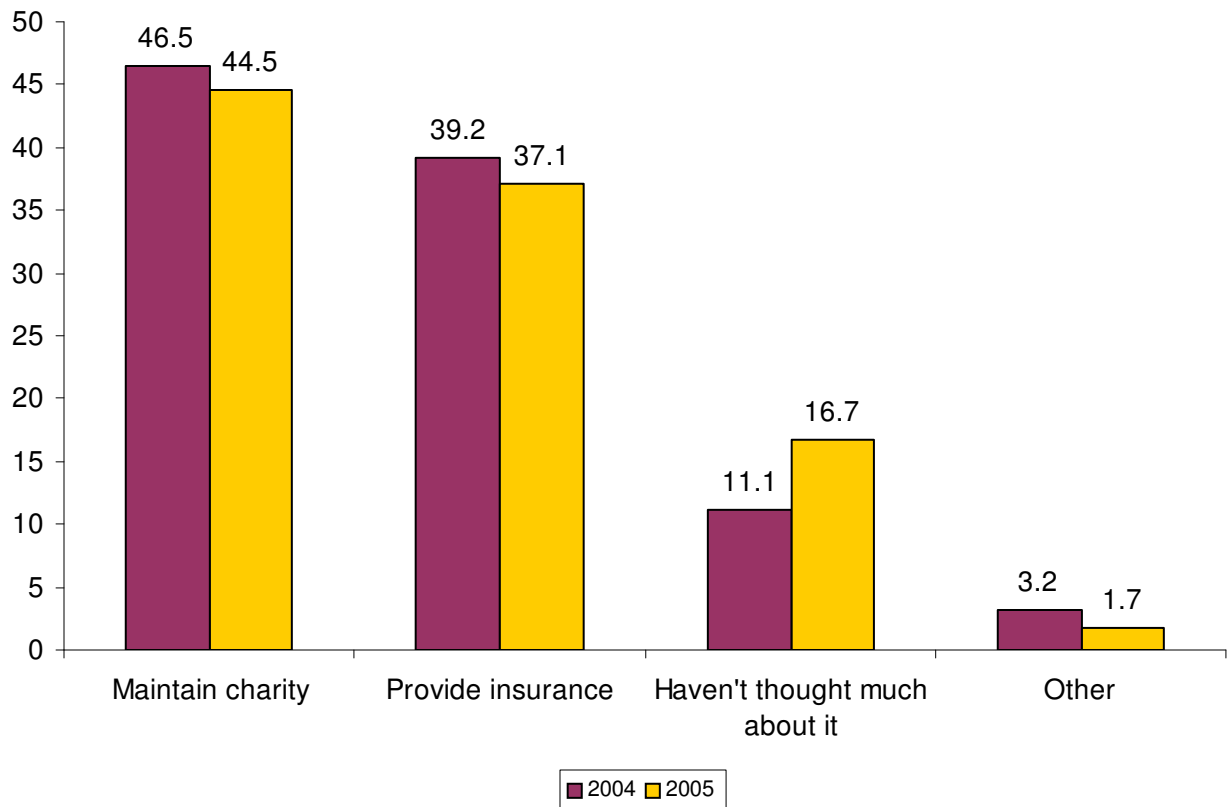




Table 48: Preference for Maintaining Charity Hospital System or Providing Insurance

	Maintain charity	Provide insurance	Haven't thought much about it	Other
All Respondents	44.5	37.1	16.7	1.7
Gender				
Male	44.2	42.2	12.4	1.2
Female	44.9	32.4	20.6	2.2
Race				
African-American	46.8	41.3	10.4	1.5
Caucasian	43.6	34.4	20.1	1.9
Education				
Less than HS	31.3	51.6	15.6	1.6
HS	50.8	33.8	15.4	
Some College	38.8	34.5	22.4	4.3
College	42.1	42.1	10.5	5.3
Graduate Degree	44.0	36.0	20.0	
Income				
Less than \$30,000	44.7	45.2	9.6	0.5
\$30,000-\$75,000	50.0	32.3	15.4	2.3
More than \$75,000	32.4	48.5	17.6	1.5
Age				
18-34	29.4	52.8	16.1	1.7
35-54	52.4	31.9	14.3	1.4
55 and over	52.1	25.0	20.7	2.1
Region				
Baton Rouge	40.5	44.6	10.8	4.1
North Louisiana	41.5	35.0	22.8	0.8
Acadiana	40.6	39.8	19.5	
New Orleans	52.6	34.2	10.5	2.6
Orleans Suburbs	47.3	34.1	16.5	2.2
Party				
Democrat	44.0	36.5	17.4	2.1
Independent	47.8	39.5	10.2	2.5
Republican	42.6	32.0	24.6	0.8

Support for tying economic development incentives to health-care benefits provides additional policy-related insights. Fifty-six percent of respondents believe such a proposal is a good idea, while 35 percent say they don't know, and 9 percent say it is a bad idea. Almost no matter how one cuts the demographic breakouts, a majority of respondents said linking health-care benefits and economic development was a good idea. The one exception is respondents with less than a high school education - 47 percent said this was a good idea, while 40 percent said they were not sure or did not know.

**Figure 52: Support for Linking Tax Exemptions to Health-Care Benefits**

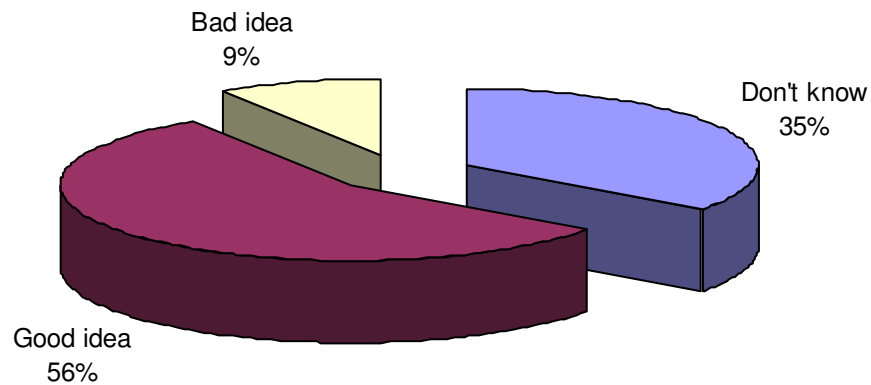


Table 49: Support for Linking Tax Exemptions to Health-care Benefits

	Don't know	Good idea	Bad idea
All Respondents	35.1	55.7	9.2
Gender			
Male	32.3	58.8	8.9
Female	37.6	52.8	9.6
Race			
African-American	42.3	53.2	4.5
Caucasian	30.4	57.4	12.2
Education			
Less than HS	40.6	46.9	12.5
HS	34.8	58.4	6.7
Some College	37.7	54.4	7.9
College	28.1	54.4	17.5
Graduate Degree	29.6	55.6	14.8
Income			
Less than \$30,000	40.1	54.0	5.9
\$30,000-\$75,000	29.5	58.9	11.6
More than \$75,000	19.7	66.7	13.6
Age			
18-34	38.3	58.3	3.3
35-54	33.2	52.4	14.4
55 and over	33.8	57.6	8.6
Region			
Baton Rouge	41.9	50.0	8.1
North Louisiana	30.3	61.5	8.2
Acadiana	38.8	52.7	8.5
New Orleans	33.6	56.6	9.7
Orleans Suburbs	33.0	54.9	12.1
Party			
Democrat	35.6	57.3	7.1
Independent	35.3	55.8	9.0
Republican	36.1	52.1	11.8

***The 2005 Louisiana Survey  
Questionnaire***

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

Right Direction  
Wrong Direction  
Not sure/No opinion

2. What do you think were the **three** most important problems facing the state of Louisiana? <Do not read the list>

Education (Quality, funding, facilities)  
Unemployment/jobs  
Health-care (insurance, availability)  
Taxes (Too high, too low, unfair, need reform)  
Crime (violence)  
Economic Issues  
Corruption/Government Waste  
Environment  
Coastal Erosion /Wetlands loss  
Young people leaving the state  
Not enough to do - Quality of Life issues  
Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_  
Dk, RF

3. Probe: Of these problems, which do you think is the **single** most important problem facing the state of Louisiana? <Ask only if the person mentioned more than one problem>.

Education (Quality, funding, facilities)  
Unemployment/jobs  
Health-care (insurance, availability)  
Taxes (Too high, too low, unfair, need reform)  
Crime (violence)  
Economic Issues  
Corruption/Government Waste  
Environment  
Coastal Erosion/Wetlands Loss  
People leaving the state  
Not enough to do - Quality of life issues  
Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

4. Thinking about the problem you just mentioned, over the last year would you say that this problem has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

Better  
About the same  
Worse

5. Looking ahead, by this time next year do you think the problem will have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?  
Better  
About the same  
Worse
6. How much confidence would you say you have in state government to effectively address this problem? Would you say you were very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?  
Very Confident  
Somewhat Confident  
Not Very Confident  
Not at all Confident
7. Are you currently registered to vote?  
Yes  
No  
Not Sure, Can't Recall
8. IF YES TO Q10: And did you vote in the most recent presidential election?  
Yes  
No  
Not Sure, Can't Recall
9. How involved would you say that you were in local community organizations? Would you say you were very involved, somewhat involved, not very involved, or not at all involved?  
Very Involved  
Somewhat Involved  
Not very involved  
Not at all involved  
No Opinion/Refused
10. How much of a difference do you believe your personal involvement and participation makes in your local community - a great deal, quite a bit, some, very little, or none?  
A great deal  
Quite bit  
Some difference  
Very little  
None  
No opinion/refused
11. How much of a difference do you think nonprofit charitable organizations make in your local community - would you say they make a big difference, somewhat of a difference, not much of a difference, or that they make no difference at all?  
  
Big difference

Somewhat of a difference  
Not much of a difference  
No difference at all  
Don' Know/Refused to answer

12. On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 means you have absolutely no trust in nonprofit charitable organizations to spend money wisely and 10 means you have complete trust, what number between 0 and 10 describes how much trust you have in nonprofit charitable organizations for spending money wisely to make a difference in local communities?

[Enter # 0-10]

13. On a scale of 0 to 10, how much trust do you have in the federal government for spending money wisely to make a difference in local communities?

[Enter # 0-10]

14. On a scale of 0 to 10, how much trust do you have in state and local government for spending money wisely to make a difference in local communities?

[Enter # 0 -10]

15. On a scale of 0 to 10, how much trust do you have in private business for spending money wisely to make a difference in local communities? [Repeat as necessary where 0 indicates you have absolutely no trust in the private business and 10 means you have complete trust].

[Enter # 0 -10]

16. How much attention do you pay to news about Louisiana public affairs and politics—a great deal, quite a bit, some, very little, or none?

A great deal  
Quite a bit  
Some  
Very little  
None

DK, RF

17. Do you get most of your news about Louisiana public affairs and politics from television, newspapers, radio, or the Internet?

Television  
Newspapers  
Radio

Internet  
Other

18. In the past week, how many days did you read a newspaper?  
[Enter # of days 0-7]
19. In the past week, how many days did you watch a local television news program?  
[Enter # of days 0-7]
20. In the past week, how many days did you watch a national network news program?  
[Enter # of days 0-7]
21. In the past week, how many days did you watch a news program on one of the cable news networks?  
[Enter # of days 0-7]
22. In the past week, how many days did you listen to a news program on radio?  
[Enter # of days 0-7]
23. In the past week, how many days did you go online to get news about public affairs and politics?  
[Enter # of days 0-7]
24. On a 10 point scale where 0 indicates no effect and 10 indicates the strongest possible effect, how much do you think the media effects your opinion?  
[Enter #]
25. Using the same scale, how much do you think the media effect other people in the United States?  
[Enter #]
26. We were also interested in how people were 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?  
Better  
Same  
Worse
27. 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?  
Better  
Same  
Worse

28. 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?

Better

Same

Worse

29. About the big things people buy for their homes -- such as furniture, a refrigerator, stove, television, and things like that. Generally speaking do you think now is a good time or a bad time for people to buy major household items?

Good

Neither Good nor Bad

Bad

30. 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?

A

B

C

D

F

31. And how would grade your local neighborhood as a place to live?

A

B

C

D

F

32. How would you grade Louisiana's public schools?

A

B

C

D

F

33. And how would you grade the public schools in your local community?

A

B

C

D

F

34. How would you grade Louisiana's colleges and universities?

A

B

C

D



F

35. How would you grade the overall quality of health-care in Louisiana?

A  
B  
C  
D  
F

36. And how would you grade the quality of health-care you and your family have personally received over the past 12 months?

A  
B  
C  
D  
F

37. How would you grade the overall quality of Louisiana's environment, including clean air and drinking water?

A  
B  
C  
D  
F

38. How would you grade Louisiana's state parks?

A  
B  
C  
D  
F

39. How would you grade Louisiana in terms of its arts and culture?

A  
B  
C  
D  
F

40. How would you grade Louisiana's roads and highways?

A  
B  
C  
D  
F

41. Finally, how would you grade Louisiana in terms of the opportunities available to African-Americans and other minorities?

A

B  
C  
D  
F

42. 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 that corruption hasn't changed much?

More corrupt  
Just as corrupt  
Less corrupt  
R doesn't know enough to evaluate

43. And thinking about crime and public safety, would you say Louisiana has become more safe or less safe over the last several years?

Safer  
Just as safe  
Not as safe

44. 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?

*Note: The responses listed below were randomly presented to respondents.*

Public Education (Primary and Secondary)  
Higher Education  
Public Health and Hospitals  
Roads and Transportation  
Environmental Protection  
Public Safety/ Criminal justice  
Economic Development  
Arts and cultural institutions  
State parks and tourism  
Coastal Restoration

45. Now, if you could increase spending in only one of these areas, which area would you choose?

Public Education (Primary and Secondary)  
Higher Education  
Public Health and Hospitals  
Roads and Transportation  
Environment Protection  
Public Safety/ Criminal justice  
Economic Development  
Arts and cultural development  
State parks and tourism  
Coastal Restoration

46. And if you had to cut spending in at least one of these areas, which area would you choose?

Public Education (Primary and Secondary)  
 Higher Education  
 Public Health and Hospitals  
 Roads and Transportation  
 Environment Protection  
 Public Safety/ Criminal justice  
 Economic Development  
 Arts and cultural development  
 State parks and tourism  
 Coastal Restoration

47. You said that you would increase spending on <ENTER TOP SPENDING PRIORITY>, would you support an increase in this area even it you meant you personally had to pay more in taxes?

Yes  
 No  
 DK, Not Sure

48. IF YES Q39: And specifically what taxes would you increase? Would you increase state sales taxes, state income taxes, or state property taxes?

Increase Sales Taxes  
 Increase Property Taxes  
 Increase Income Taxes  
 Other (Volunteered Only: Gasoline Taxes, Increase Fees, Etc.).  
 DK, Not Sure

49. ALL RESPONDENTS: Would you increase spending on <ENTER TOP SPENDING PRIORITY> even if it meant cutting other areas of state government service?

Yes  
 No  
 DK, Not Sure

50. IF YES: I am going to read through the areas of state government spending. Please tell me which areas of state government you would be willing to cut in order to increase spending on <ENTER AREA>:

NOTE; AREA SELECTED WILL NOT BE INCLUDED.

Public Education (Primary and Secondary)  
 Higher Education  
 Public Health and Hospitals  
 Roads and Transportation  
 Environment Protection  
 Public Safety/ Criminal justice  
 Economic Development  
 Arts and cultural development  
 State parks and tourism  
 Coastal Restoration

51. IF NO TO Q39 AND Q41: You said you supported an increase in spending on <ENTER AREA> but not if you personally had to pay more taxes or cut spending in other areas. Would you still say you support an increase in spending in this area?

Yes  
No  
DK, Not Sure

52. IF YES TO Q43: How would you pay for an increase in spending in this area? [DO NOT READ OPTIONS LET RESPONDENT ANSWER AND CODE RESPONSE]

Raise taxes  
Cut spending  
Cut waste  
State lottery, gambling revenues  
Other, enter response \_\_\_\_\_

46. IF YES TO Q39 AND Q41: You said you supported an increase in spending on <ENTER AREA> and would you support a tax increase or cuts in other areas of spending to pay for it. Given a choice, would you prefer raising taxes or cutting spending in other areas to pay for an increase in spending in this area?

Raise taxes  
Cut spending

53. Some people believe state government should spend money in areas where there is the greatest immediate need, while others believe state government should spend in areas where spending may provide some future benefit. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view:

- State government should spend on greatest immediate need
- State government should spend in areas where spending may yield some future benefit.
- Neither

54. Overall, do you think state government wastes a lot of the money we pay in taxes, wastes some of it, or doesn't waste much of it?

Waste a lot  
Waste some  
Doesn't waste much

55. When you think about waste in state government, which of the following do you mean?

- State government is offering the right kinds of programs but is spending more than it needs to.
- State government is offering programs that were unnecessary and should be eliminated
- The state government has little, if any, waste.

56. Approximately how much - as a percentage of the state budget - would you estimate could be cut from state government simply by eliminating wasteful government spending? Your best guess is fine. NOTE: INTERVIEWERS SHOULD ENCOURAGE RESPONDENTS TO GIVE THEIR BEST GUESS HERE.

Enter Amount # [0 - 100]

57. Now thinking about all the areas in which state government spends money, in which area would you say state government wastes the most money?

Public Education (Primary and Secondary)

Higher Education

Public Health and Hospitals

Roads and Transportation

Environment Protection

Public Safety/ Criminal justice

Economic Development

Arts and cultural development

State parks and tourism

Coastal Restoration

Other \_\_\_\_\_

58. Now 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?

Too high and need to be reduced

Too low and need to be increased

Just about right

59. 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?

Too high and need to be reduced

Too low and need to be increased

Just about right

60. And what about local property taxes, would you say local property taxes were too high and need to be reduced, too low and need to be increased, or just about right?

Too high and need to be reduced

Too low and need to be increased

Just about right

61. Overall, would you say that property tax assessments in your parish are fair and equitable?

Yes

No

62. Would you be willing to have your property reassessed at fair market value as long as all other property in the parish was reassessed as well?

Yes

No

63. And would you be willing to have your property reassessed at fair market value even if you personally had to pay more in property taxes?

Yes

No

64. As you may recall, the Stelly Plan restructured state taxes in an effort to create a more fair tax system. Critics of the plan argued that it would increase taxes for most Louisiana residents. We were interested in how the plan has personally affected you. Would you say you were paying more or less in state taxes, or haven't you noticed much of a difference?
- More in taxes
  - Less in taxes
  - Haven't noticed much of a difference
65. The current value of the homestead exemption is \$75,000. This means that homeowners do not have to pay property taxes on the first \$75,000 of their homes' market value. In your opinion, should the homestead exemption be reduced so that homeowners pay more taxes, increased so homeowners pay less taxes, or kept where it is?
- Reduced
  - Increased
  - Kept where it is
66. Would you support a reduction of the homestead exemption - meaning that homeowners would have to pay more in property taxes - if additional revenues went to local public schools? Or would you oppose a reduction of the homestead exemption to keep property taxes low?
- Support
  - Oppose
  - DK/ Not Sure

Split Ballot A: Now I would like to ask a few questions about issues related to economic development:

67. First, there has been a lot talk lately about Louisiana's image, particularly in terms of how outsiders view the state. On the whole, do you think Louisiana's image is positive or negative?
- Positive
  - Negative
  - Neither
- 60a. IF POSITIVE: And would you say that is very positive or not very positive?
- Very positive
  - Not very positive
- 60b. IF NEGATIVE: And would you say that is very negative or not very negative?
68. And do you think Louisiana's image helps or hurts when it comes to attracting new business to the state, or don't you think it matters?
- Helps
  - Hurts
  - Doesn't Matter
69. Overall, how do you think business taxes in Louisiana compare to business taxes in other surrounding states? Would you say that Louisiana's business taxes were higher than in

other states, lower than in other states, about the same, or haven't you thought much about this?

- Higher than in other states
- Lower than in other states
- About the same
- Haven't thought much about it

70. And do you think Louisiana's business taxes help or hurt when it comes to attracting new business to Louisiana, or would you say it doesn't matter?

- Helps
- Hurts
- Doesn't Matter

71. Overall, how do you think Louisiana's work force compares to the work force in other surrounding states in terms of technical and professional skills? Would you say that Louisiana's work force is more skilled than in other states, less skilled, about the same, or haven't you thought much about this?

- More skilled than in other states
- Less skilled than in other states
- About the same
- Haven't thought much about it

72. When you think about state government efforts designed to attract new businesses to Louisiana, do you think these efforts generally help existing Louisiana businesses grow and expand, or do these efforts generally hurt existing Louisiana businesses by bringing in new companies to compete for existing customers?

- Generally help Louisiana businesses grow and expand
- Hurt existing businesses by bringing in competition
- Haven't thought much about this

73. And when it comes to the focus of state economic development efforts, do you think the state should generally focus on trying to lure large employers to Louisiana or trying to grow and expand existing Louisiana businesses?

- Lure big employers
- Grow & expand existing businesses
- Haven't thought much about this/Neither

I am going to read a list of proposals aimed at strengthening Louisiana's economy. Please rate each proposal on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 indicates that you believe the proposal would have a substantial negative impact on Louisiana's economy, 5 indicates that you believe it will make no difference or have very little impact, and 10 indicates a substantial positive impact. First,

74. Increase funding on worker training programs

Enter # 1 to 10

75. Provide tax incentives to attract new businesses to Louisiana

Enter # 1 to 10

76. Cut business taxes

Enter # 1 to 10

77. Improve Louisiana's roads, highways, ports, and other infrastructure  
Enter # 1 to 10
78. Increase the minimum wage  
Enter # 1 to 10
79. Increase funding on research and development  
Enter # 1 to 10
80. Increase funding for universities and colleges  
Enter # 1 to 10
81. Improve the public school system  
Enter # 1 to 10
82. Improve the health-care system  
Enter # 1 to 10
83. Increase investment in arts and culture activities  
Enter # 1 to 10
84. Of these proposals, which do you believe is the single most important thing Louisiana can do to improve its state economy?

Increase funding on worker training programs  
Provide tax incentives to attract new businesses to Louisiana  
Cut business taxes on existing Louisiana businesses  
Improve Louisiana's roads, highways, ports, and other infrastructure  
Increase the minimum wage  
Increase funding on research and development  
Improve the public school system  
Improve the health-care system  
Increase investment in arts and culture activities

Split Ballot Form B: Miscellaneous

85. Are you or anyone in your household currently NOT covered by health insurance?  
Yes  
No
86. Are you or anyone in your household covered by Medicaid, LaChip or some other government sponsored health insurance program?  
Yes  
No
87. Within the past 12 months has your family put off any medical care because of the costs you would have to pay?  
Yes  
No



88. Within the past 12 months, have you decided not to fill a prescription because of the costs of you would have to pay?  
     Yes  
     No
89. Overall, how do you think spending on health-care in Louisiana compares to spending in other states? Would you say Louisiana spends more on health-care, less on health-care, or about the same on health-care as in other states?  
     More of health-care  
     Less on health-care  
     About the same
90. Some people believe that the best way to provide medical care for low-income Louisiana residents is through the charity hospital system. Other people believe that state funds would be better spent providing insurance coverage to low-income residents who were currently uninsured. What about you? Should the state focus on maintaining the charity hospital system or providing insurance coverage for the uninsured, or haven't you thought much about this?  
     Maintaining the charity hospital system  
     Working to provide insurance coverage for uninsured Louisiana residents  
     Haven't thought much about this  
     Other
91. Governor Blanco has proposed requiring businesses that receive state tax exemptions to provide health insurance benefits to their employees. Overall, do you think tying state tax exemptions to business-provided health benefits is a good idea, bad idea, or haven't you given it much thought?  
     Support  
     Oppose  
     Not Sure/Don't Know
92. LSU's success in college athletics makes for a better academic university.  
     Strongly agree  
     Agree  
     Neither agree nor disagree  
     Disagree  
     Strongly disagree
93. LSU's success in college athletics is good for the state economy.  
     Strongly agree  
     Agree  
     Neither agree nor disagree  
     Disagree  
     Strongly disagree
91. Do you think same sex couples should or should not be allowed to form legally recognized civil unions, giving them legal rights in areas such as health insurance, inheritance, and pension coverage?  
     Should  
     Should not

Demographics:

Just a few more questions:

94. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or what?
- Democrat
  - Independent
  - Republican
  - Other
  - Not sure, don't know
95. When it comes to politics, do you consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative?
- Liberal
  - Moderate
  - Conservative
  - Not sure, don't know
96. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
97. Which of the following categories best describes your level of education? Please stop me when I get to that category.
- Less than 9<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - High school diploma
  - Some college or vocational school
  - A 4-year college degree
  - Some graduate work
  - Advanced degree (M.A., M.S., J.D., Ph.D., M.D., ect.)
98. Which of the following best describes you? Are you Caucasian, Hispanic, African-American, Asian, or something else?
- Caucasian
  - Hispanic
  - African-American
  - Asian
  - Other
99. Is your religious preference Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, none, or something else?
- Protestant
  - Catholic
  - Jewish
  - Muslim
  - Other
  - None

100. Besides weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?  
Would you say more than once a week, at least once a week, a few times a month, several times a year, once a year, or never?  
More than once a week  
At least once a week  
A few times a month  
Several times a year  
Once a year  
Never
101. How much guidance do you get from religion in your daily life - a great deal, quite bit, some, not very much, or none at all?  
A great deal  
Quite a bit  
Some  
Not Very Much  
None at all
102. And would you call yourself a born-again Christian? [IF RESPONDENT INDICATES PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC, OR OTHER IN IDENTIFICATION QUESTION].  
Yes  
No
103. Do you or does your family own your home, pay rent, or what?  
Own home  
Pay rent  
Other
104. Do you have any children in your house under the age of 18?  
Yes  
No  
RF
105. Approximately how many hours a day do you spend online when not at work?  
None  
Less than 1  
1-2  
3-4  
5-10  
More than 10
106. How long have you lived in the community in which you currently reside?  
Less than 1 year  
1-5 years  
6-10 years  
11-20 years  
More than 20 years
107. Are you currently single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated?  
Single

Married  
Widowed  
Divorced  
Separated

108. Are you currently employed full time, employed part time, retired, unemployed and looking for work, or not employed and not looking for work?
- Employed full time
  - Employed part time
  - Retired
  - Unemployed and looking for work
  - Not employed and not looking for work

109. We would like to know what your family income was last year before taxes. I will read several income categories. Please stop me when I get to the category that includes your family income.

Under \$10,000  
\$10,000 - \$19,999  
\$20,000 - \$29,999  
\$30,000 - \$39,999  
\$40,000- \$49,999  
\$50,000 - \$74,999  
\$75,000 - \$99,999  
\$100,000 or more

110. Record Gender [DO NOT ASK]
- Male
  - Female