

2008

Louisiana Survey 2008

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The Public Policy Research Lab

The 2008 Louisiana Survey

Dedicated to Joe D. Smith (April 6, 1922 – March 20, 2008),
a champion of good government initiatives.



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

www.survey.lsu.edu

April 6, 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 2002, the Louisiana Survey has attempted to serve as a barometer of public attitudes. The 2008 Louisiana Survey shows the value of such an approach as it captures the optimism that comes with new, potentially transformative, leadership. There can be little doubt that Bobby Jindal's election has inspired considerable optimism among Louisianans. The percent of Louisianans saying the state is headed in the right direction has increased by 18 points, and the percent believing state government can effectively address the most important problem has increased by 20 points. More broadly, across a range of issues, respondents see the possibility for significant improvements.

Great expectations, however, do not come without costs, and the challenge for the Jindal Administration will be managing expectations as public hopes meet with the reality of governance. Our needs continue to outweigh our resources and difficult choices lie ahead as the Administration moves beyond ethics and taxes to the challenges of health care, public schools, higher education, and workforce training.

The mission of the Louisiana Survey is to establish benchmarks and assess progress and regressions in residents' assessments of state government services. The Survey has been conducted annually since 2002, and was conducted twice in 2005 and 2006. Each survey includes core items designed to serve as barometers of public opinion including whether the state is moving in the right direction, identification of the most important issues, grades for various areas of government service, evaluations of state taxes, and identification of spending priorities. Each survey also includes items designed to better understand contemporary issues. The 2008 Louisiana Survey includes additional questions on perceptions of how much progress Louisiana can make across a range of issues, perceptions of the national economy, and experience with and attitudes toward immigration. As part of an effort to assure that the Louisiana Survey fulfills its public service mission, input was solicited from a fifteen-member Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee provided invaluable insight into the design of the questionnaire and in identifying the issues that most need to be addressed by the survey. While we are greatly indebted to the committee members for their time and contributions, they bear no responsibility for any mistakes in the questionnaire, analysis, or interpretation presented in this report. Six years out, we again offer them our thanks for endorsing the value of this project.

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Public Policy Research Lab (PPRL)

The Public Policy Research Lab is dedicated to quality research through state-of-the-art survey technologies and trained surveyors. It strives to help advance scholarly and practical research and analysis while playing a leadership role in public policy development. The PPRL is committed to servicing the LSU community and the state of Louisiana. The lab works with other units on campus, government agencies, non-profit organizations, business and industry.

The PPRL, located on the Flagship University's campus, offers 35 computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) workstations, mail survey and web survey capability in addition to analytical services. The lab is dedicated to meeting the unique goals and objectives of each project by working closely with those seeking data, research expertise and analysis. The lab's projects benefit from the multiple disciplines and intellectual assets found at LSU.

The PPRL's mission is to enhance public discourse and inform public policy through greater understanding of public opinion.

Goals and Objectives:

- To become a leader in survey research
- To promote research and make LSU more competitive for external grants
- To provide students with hands-on experience in survey research
- To advance policy and initiatives through partnerships with government, non-profit and business and industry



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METHOD

The Public Policy Research Lab conducted the survey between January 31 and March 3, 2008. Calls were conducted from noon until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Telephone numbers were selected using random digit dialing. Numbers where callers received no answer were called 10 times before being removed from the pool of eligible numbers. When possible, a message was left briefly describing the survey along with a toll free number for the Public Policy Research Lab. Three attempts at refusal conversion were made no sooner than 72 hours after the initial refusal.

The statewide survey has a sampling error of +/- 2.8 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. This means that if we replicated the survey twenty times, only once will the answers differ by more than 2.8 percentage points over the answers in this report. The margin of error will be larger for subgroups, including the split ballot samples. The approximate margin of error for the split ballot samples is +/- 4.0 percentage points. Other types of errors can also affect survey results, including question wording, question order, and errors in the interviewing process. The response rate for the survey is 31 percent, meaning that 31 percent of calls to eligible households resulted in a completed interview. The cooperation rate is 40 percent, meaning that 40 percent of calls in which a potential respondent was contacted yielded a completed interview. Differences in response rates among different segments of the population may result in biased estimates of public opinion. To account for these differences, data are often weighted by demographic characteristics where sample estimates do not closely mirror census-based population estimates. The results presented in this report are weighted to provide the most accurate estimate of population preferences possible.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

Increased Optimism and the Jindal Administration: The election of Bobby Jindal marks a substantial increase in optimism regarding the direction of the state. This optimism is found in several areas of the survey. First, there is an 18-point increase in the percent of Louisiana residents saying the state is heading in the right direction. According to the 2008 Louisiana Survey, 51 percent of Louisianans now say the state is headed in the right direction. Second, confidence that state government will address the most important problem has increased substantially over the 2007 results. Sixty-one percent of respondents in the 2008 Survey said they were very (15 percent) or somewhat confident (46 percent) that state government would effectively address their self-identified most important problem. This is up 22 points over 2007 when 39 percent of respondents said they were very or somewhat confident state government would effectively address the most important problem.

Great Expectations and the Jindal Administration: Substantial majorities believe that at least some change is possible across a wide range of issues. Respondents see the greatest possibilities for change in improving roads and infrastructure (where 54 percent said major improvement was possible) followed by increasing workforce training (50 percent), reducing waste in state government (49 percent) and attracting business to the state (49 percent). When asked in an open-ended question what the single most important thing the Jindal Administration can accomplish, respondents said reduce corruption (21 percent), bring jobs to the state or improve the economy (18 percent), and improve access to and quality of health care (14 percent).

The Strength of Louisiana Business Conditions Amidst Fears of Recession: Louisianans express increased concern about the national business conditions, even as they continue to express confidence in state business conditions. Forty-one percent of Louisianans say national business conditions have gotten worse over the past year, an increase of 11 points over 2007. Moreover, 58 percent of Louisianans say the national economy is now in recession. This is substantially below national polls which report that nearly three-quarters of Americans (74 percent) say we are now in a recession. At the same time, concerns about the state economy have declined slightly. Twenty-six percent of Louisianans say state business conditions have gotten worse compared to 30 percent in the 2007 survey.

Broad Support for Pre-K: When asked what should be a greater priority, cutting spending and reducing taxes or making sure there is sufficient funding for the needs of young children, two-thirds of Louisianans (67 percent) opt for making sure there is adequate funding for the needs of young children. There is even broader support for expanding funding of Pre-K programs: 70 percent of Louisianans strongly favor expanding funding of Pre-K programs and an additional 17 percent somewhat favor expanding funding. While there are differences in support across partisan affiliation and political ideology, there is strong support among Republicans and Conservatives for expanded funding. Fifty-nine percent of Republicans strongly favor expanding funding of Pre-K programs and an additional 17 percent of Republicans somewhat favor expanding Pre-K programs. Similarly, 61 percent of self-described conservatives strongly favor expanding Pre-K programs and an additional 18 percent somewhat favor expanding these programs.

Tax-Credits for Parents with Children in Private and Religious Schools: During the most recent special session, the legislature passed a bill giving tax credits to parents with children in religious and private schools. The bill won overwhelming support from legislators, but hardly seems to have been something Louisianans were demanding. A plurality of Louisianans (40 percent) thought the legislation was a good idea, but nearly a

third (32 percent) said the legislation was a bad idea and more than a quarter said they did not know or had not given it much thought. The strongest support for the legislation comes, not surprisingly, from parents with children in religious or private schools. Nearly two-thirds (67 percent) of private school parents said the legislation was a good idea compared to just 35 percent of parents with children in public schools. If the question is rephrased as a choice between supporting existing public schools or providing tax credits for public schools, Louisianans overwhelmingly favor improving existing public schools. Eighty percent of respondents said that we should improve existing public schools, including 85 percent of parents with a child in public schools and 67 percent of parents with a child in private or religious schools. Read as such, it would appear that support for the tax credits is contingent on the assumption that they do not hurt existing public schools.

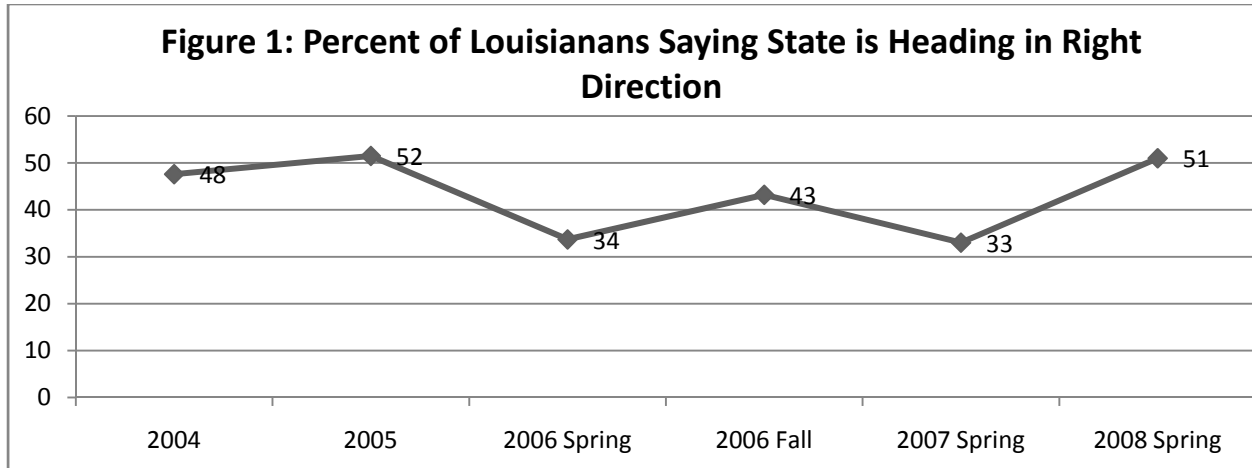
Perceptions of Corruption Decline: While it is not clear what the long-term impact ethics reform may have on Louisiana politics, it did appear to have a short term effect on the percent of Louisianans saying the state is less corrupt. Relative to 2007, there has been a five-point increase in the percent of Louisianans saying the state is less corrupt. In the 2008 Louisiana Survey, 23 percent of Louisianans said the state was less corrupt compared to 18 percent in 2007.

Concern About Taxes Continue to Rise: Public concern over taxes has increased over time with Louisianans increasingly likely to say that their taxes are too high and need to be reduced. The most notable shift over the past year is a 12-point increase in the percent of respondents saying that state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced. In 2007, 33 percent of respondents said state income taxes were too high and needed to be reduced. This jumped to 45 percent in 2008. Perceptions that state sales and property taxes were too high increased as well. At least some of the increased concern can likely be traced to the fact that since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita state government has been running a surplus. With state government running in the black over the past several years, it is hardly surprising that people would begin to question whether they are being overtaxed. The increase, particularly with state income taxes, is also likely connected to the passage of the Stelly Plan in 2002.

Attitudes Toward Immigration: Louisianans see immigration as an important but not critical issue and are split on whether immigration has helped or hurt their local community. Just over a quarter of respondents (27 percent) see immigration as one of the most important issues confronting the state, but a more substantial – 40 percent – see immigration as an important issue but not one of the most important issues. Nearly a third of respondents (32 percent) say immigration is not all that important or not important at all. Only 22 percent of respondents say that immigration has had a great deal of impact on their local community, and a majority of respondents (55 percent) say that immigrants are mostly taking jobs Louisianans do not want. Louisianans are almost evenly split about whether immigration has helped or hurt their local communities. Forty-two percent of respondents say immigration has hurt their local community, while 44 percent say immigration has helped the community. New Orleans residents are more likely to report that immigration has impacted their community, but are also more likely to say that, on balance, immigration has helped more than hurt.

Louisianans Largely Unaware of Changes in Primary System: As Louisiana moves to closed primaries for federal elections, Louisianans are largely unaware of such changes. Just under half of Louisianans (49 percent) said they were aware of such changes. Among those who are aware of such changes, a majority (55 percent) say the change is a bad idea.

I. Great Expectations and the Jindal Administration

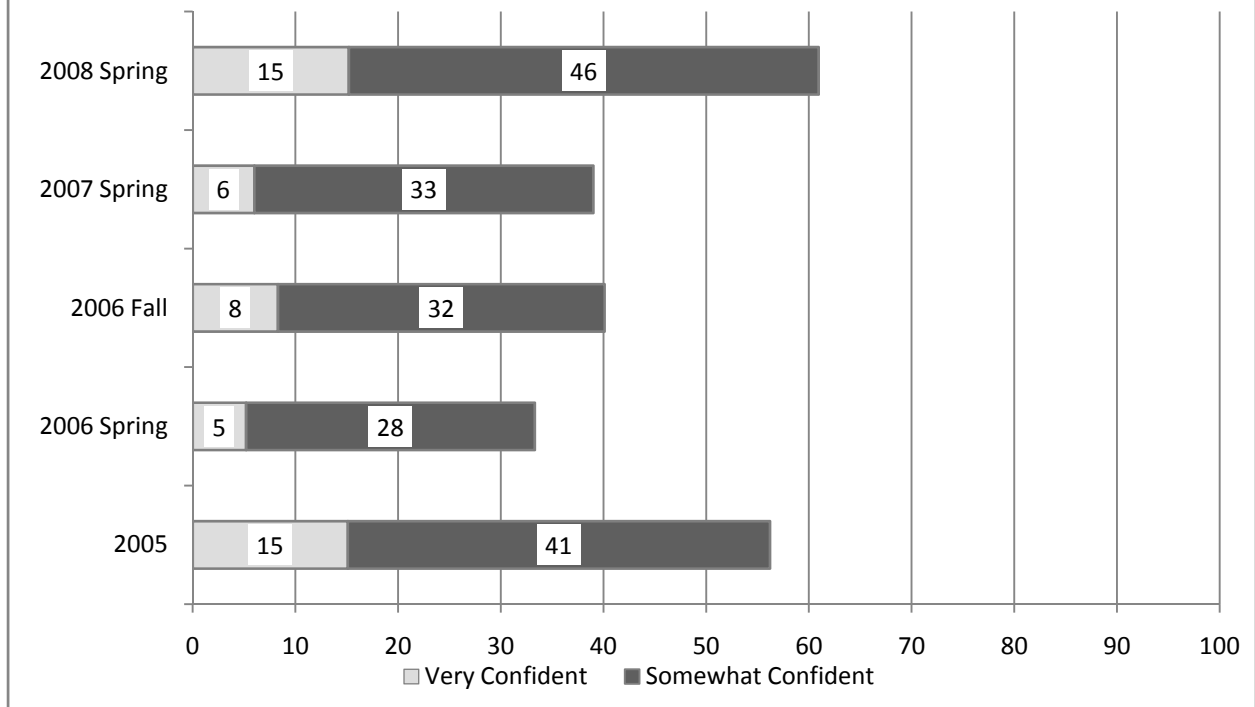


The election of Bobby Jindal marks a substantial increase in optimism regarding the direction of the state. This optimism is found in several areas of the survey. First, there is a substantial increase in the percent of Louisiana residents saying the state is heading in the right direction. According to the 2008 Louisiana Survey, 51 percent of Louisianans now say the state is headed in the right direction, 33 percent say that state is headed in the wrong direction, and 16 percent did not know or were unsure. This is a reversal of the results from the 2007 survey and marks the most positive assessments about the direction of the state since Hurricane Katrina made landfall. As can be seen in Table 1, however, optimism is not equally distributed among the population. Republicans, wealthier, better educated, males and Baton Rouge area residents were more likely to say the state was headed in the right direction.

Table 2: Percent of Louisianans Saying State is Headed in the Right Direction by Selected Demographic and Political Characterizations

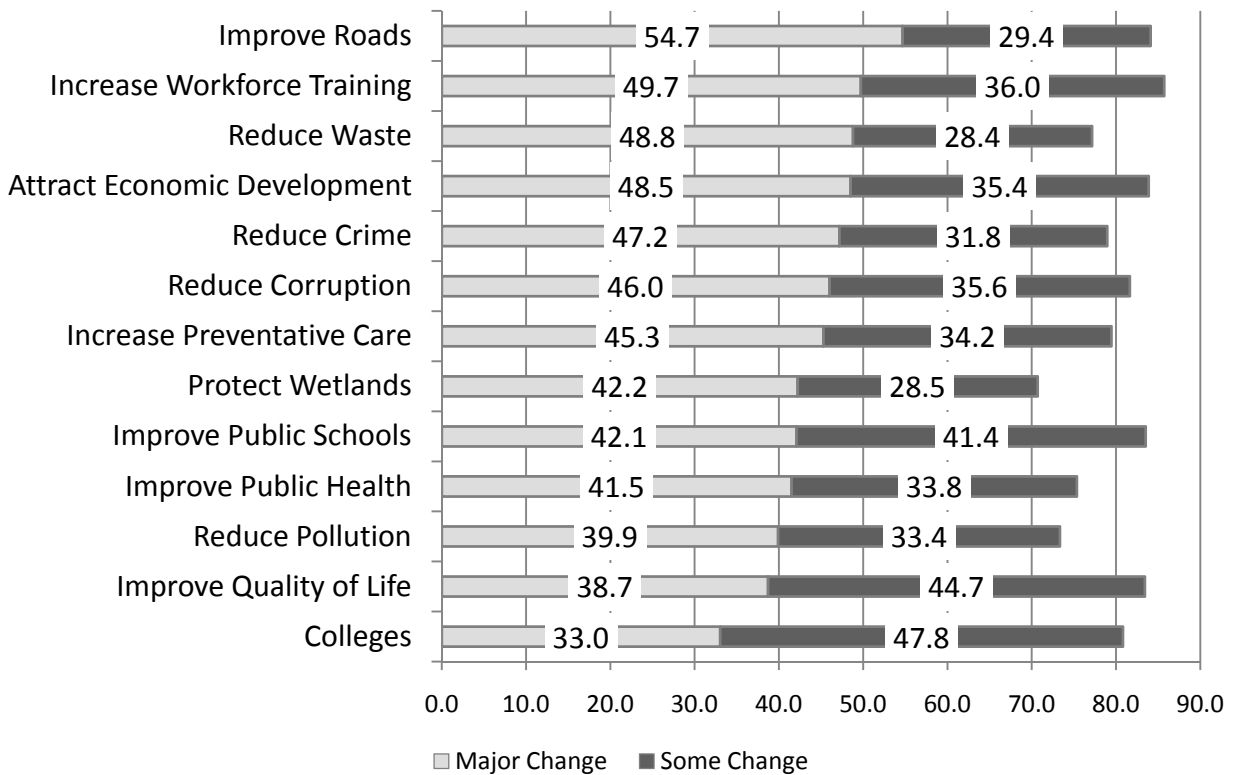
	Right Direction
Gender	
Men	55%
Women	46%
Party Identification	
Republican	64%
Democrat	46%
Independent	45%
Income	
Less than \$30,000	41%
More than \$50,000	58%
Education	
Less than High School	43%
College Education	61%
Region	
Baton Rouge (225)	63%
New Orleans (504)	54%
North Louisiana (318)	48%
Southwestern Louisiana (337)	47%
Northshore (985)	46%

Figure 2: Percent of Respondents Very or Somewhat Confident State Government Will Effectively Address Most Important Problem



Second, confidence that state government will address the most important problem has increased substantially over the 2007 results. Sixty-one percent of respondents in the 2008 survey said they were very (15 percent) or somewhat confident (46 percent) that state government would effectively address their self-identified most important problem. This is up 20 points over 2007 when 39 percent of respondents said they were very or somewhat confident state government would effectively address the most important problem. Seventy percent of Republicans said they were very (20 percent) or somewhat confident (50 percent) state government would effectively address their self-identified most important problem.

Figure 3: Attitudes About the Possibility of Making Major Improvements Across Policy Areas



Third, substantial majorities believe that at least some change is possible across a wide range of issues. Respondents see the greatest possibilities for change in improving roads and infrastructure (54 percent) followed by increasing workforce training (50 percent), reducing waste in state government (49 percent) and attracting business to the state (49 percent). Respondents were least optimistic about improving the rank of Louisiana’s colleges and universities. Thirty-two percent said they believe the state can make major improvements, however, as noted below (see pg. 20) this is also the area of state government which receives the most positive evaluations. Respondents are also less optimistic about the potential for major improvements in the public schools, public health, and improving the overall quality of life within the state. Important differences emerge across region and partisan affiliation in terms of perceptions that major changes are possible with Republicans often expressing less optimism that major change is possible. While this may seem counterintuitive given the current political context, it is consistent with the Republican preference for limited government. With a few exceptions, Baton Rouge and Southwestern Louisiana tend to be least optimistic as to the possibilities for major policy improvements.

- Reducing Corruption:* Baton Rouge and Southwestern Louisiana residents are least likely to believe that major changes can be made in reducing corruption. Thirty-six percent of Baton Rouge and Southwestern Louisiana residents, respectively, said major improvements were possible compared to 48 percent in New Orleans, 51 percent in North Louisiana, and 58 percent in the Northshore and suburban New Orleans parishes.

- *Improving Public Schools:* African Americans, Democrats, and residents of the Northshore and suburban New Orleans parishes were most optimistic that public schools could be improved.
 - Forty-nine percent of African Americans compared to 39 percent of Caucasians said Louisiana can make major improvements in public schools.
 - Fifty-one percent of Democrats compared to 34 percent of Republicans said major improvements were possible.
 - Across the regions, the percent saying major improvements in improving public schools were possible are as follows: 53 percent in the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes, 49 percent in North Louisiana, 45 percent in New Orleans, 37 percent in Baton Rouge, and 25 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.
- *Improving National Rank of State Universities and Colleges:* Regional differences in the percent saying major improvements are possible are listed as follows: 43 percent in New Orleans, 39 percent in Northshore and suburban New Orleans, 33 percent in North Louisiana, and approximately 29 percent in Baton Rouge and 26 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.
- *Improving Public Health:* When it comes to improving public health, Democrats and New Orleans residents are most optimistic.
 - Fifty-one percent of Democrats compared to 30 percent of Republicans said major changes were possible.
 - Fifty percent of New Orleans residents compared to 30 percent in Baton Rouge and roughly 40 percent in the other regions of the state said major improvements in public health were possible.
- *Increasing Access to Preventative Care:* When it comes to increasing access to preventative care, partisan and regional differences emerge.
 - Fifty-five percent of Democrats compared to 35 percent of Republicans believe major improvements can be made in increasing access to preventative care.
 - We also see strong differences across education levels: 61 percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 35 percent with a college degree said major improvements were possible.
 - Across regions, 54 percent in the Northshore and suburban New Orleans parishes said major changes were possible compared to 39 percent in Baton Rouge. The other regions ranged from 42-48 percent.
- *Improving Roads:* Improving roads is the only area of state government where a majority of Republicans expressed optimism that major improvements were possible. Fifty-one percent of Republicans said major improvements were possible compared to 62 percent of Democrats.
 - Improving roads is also one of few areas where men were more optimistic than women: 57 percent of men compared to 53 percent of women said major improvements were possible.
 - Other differences also emerge. Sixty-two percent of respondents with less than a high school education said major improvements were possible compared to 45 percent with a college degree.
 - There are some regional differences though most regions are between 50 – 60 percent in terms of believing major improvements are possible. The gap comes in the percent who believe it will be hard to make any real improvement. Twenty-two percent in the Northshore and suburban New Orleans parishes say it will be hard to make any real improvements compared to nine percent in Baton Rouge, 10 percent in North Louisiana, 17 percent in New Orleans and 19 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.

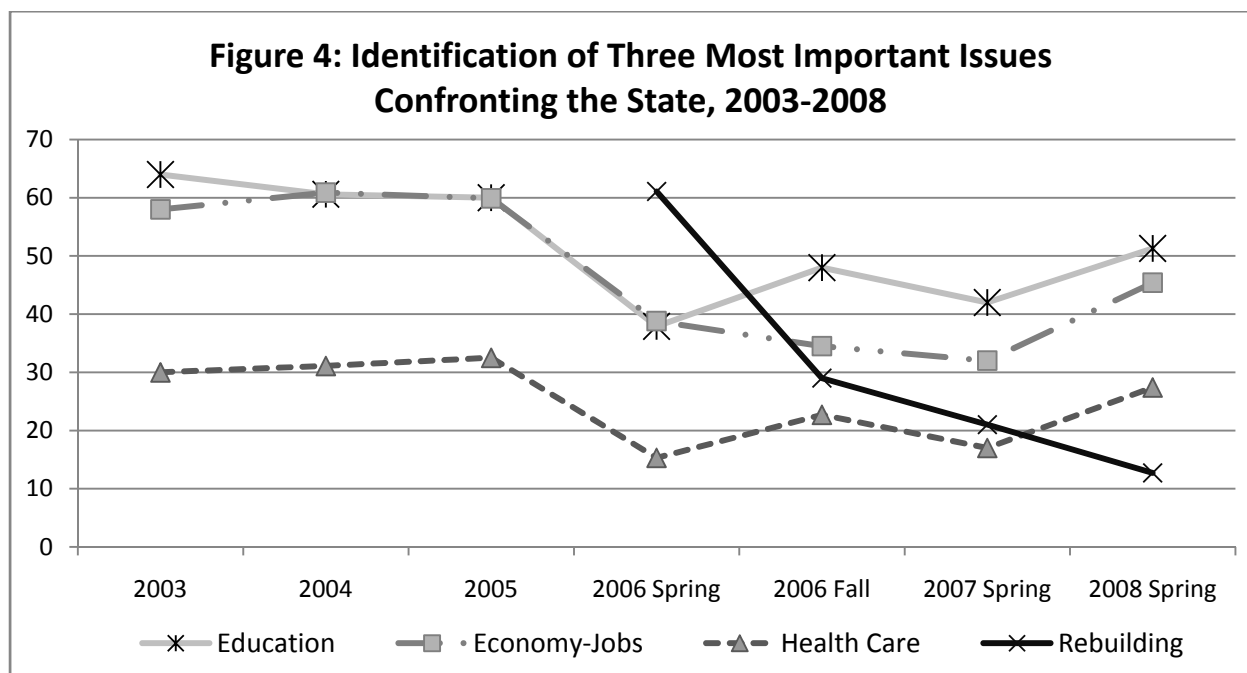
- *Improving the Overall Quality of Life:* Less educated respondents and New Orleans residents were most optimistic that major differences could be made in improving the overall quality of life in Louisiana.
 - Forty seven percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 33 percent with a college degree said major improvements could be made in improving the quality of life.
 - In terms of region, forty-two percent of New Orleans residents compared to 35 percent of Southwestern Louisiana residents said that major improvements in quality of life were possible.
- *Reducing Crime:* Important partisan differences emerge in terms of the ability of the state to reduce crime.
 - Fifty-six percent of Democrats said major improvements in reducing crime were possible compared to 40 percent of Republicans.
 - Less educated respondents were also more optimistic about making major improvements in public safety: 58 percent of respondents with less than a high school education said major improvements were possible compared to 43 percent with a college degree.
 - In terms of region, respondents were most optimistic in the Northshore and New Orleans and suburban parishes where 53 and 54 percent of respondents, respectively, said major improvements were possible and least optimistic in Baton Rouge where 37 percent said major improvements were possible.
- *Restoring Wetlands:* When it comes to restoring and protecting Louisiana’s wetlands, women, Democrats, less educated, older respondents, and residents in the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes are generally most optimistic.
 - Forty-five percent of females compared with 40 percent of males believe major improvements are possible. Notably, twenty-nine percent of males (30 percent) believe it will be hard to make any real improvements compared to 18 percent of females.
 - Fifty-two percent of Democrats compared to 31 percent of Republicans said major improvements can be made in restoring and protecting Louisiana’s wetlands.
 - Fifty percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 38 percent with a college degree said major improvements were possible.
 - Thirty-five percent of respondents between 18-34 said it will hard to make any real improvements when it comes to protecting and restoring the wetlands compared to 15 percent 55 and over.
 - Sixty-one percent of respondents in the Northshore and surrounding New Orleans parishes and 46 percent of respondents in New Orleans said major improvements could be made in restoring and protecting Louisiana’s wetlands. Thirty-five percent in Baton Rouge, 39 percent in North Louisiana, and 39 percent in Southwestern Louisiana said major improvements were possible.
- *Reducing Pollution:* We see similar patterns in terms of differences in perceptions that major improvements can be made in reducing pollution. Women, Democrats, less educated, lower income, and Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes are most optimistic that major changes can be made.
 - Forty-four percent of females compared to 36 percent of males said major change could be made in reducing pollution.
 - Fifty percent of Democrats compared to 26 percent of Republicans said major improvements could be made.
 - Fifty-five percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 33 percent with a college education said major improvements in reducing pollution were possible.
 - Forty-six percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 compared to 31 percent making more than \$50,000 said major improvements were possible.

- Fifty-one percent in the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes said major improvement was possible compared to 33 percent in Baton Rouge, 35 percent in New Orleans, 40 percent in North Louisiana, and 40 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.
- *Reducing Waste in State Government:*
 - Fifty-six percent of Democrats compared to 35 percent of Republicans believe major improvements can be made in reducing the amount of waste in state government spending.
 - Sixty-one percent of residents in the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes and approximately 53 percent of New Orleans and North Louisiana residents, respectively, believe the state can make major improvements cutting waste out of state government. Baton Rouge and Southwestern Louisiana residents were less optimistic: 37 percent of Baton Rouge residents and 40 percent of Southwestern Louisiana residents said major improvements were possible.

Louisianans are also optimistic that term limits will make the legislature more responsive. Seventy-two percent of respondents said they believed that term limits would make the legislature more responsive, while only 16 percent of respondents said term limits would weaken the legislative branch. An additional six percent said they did not know or were unsure.

II. The Most Important Problem

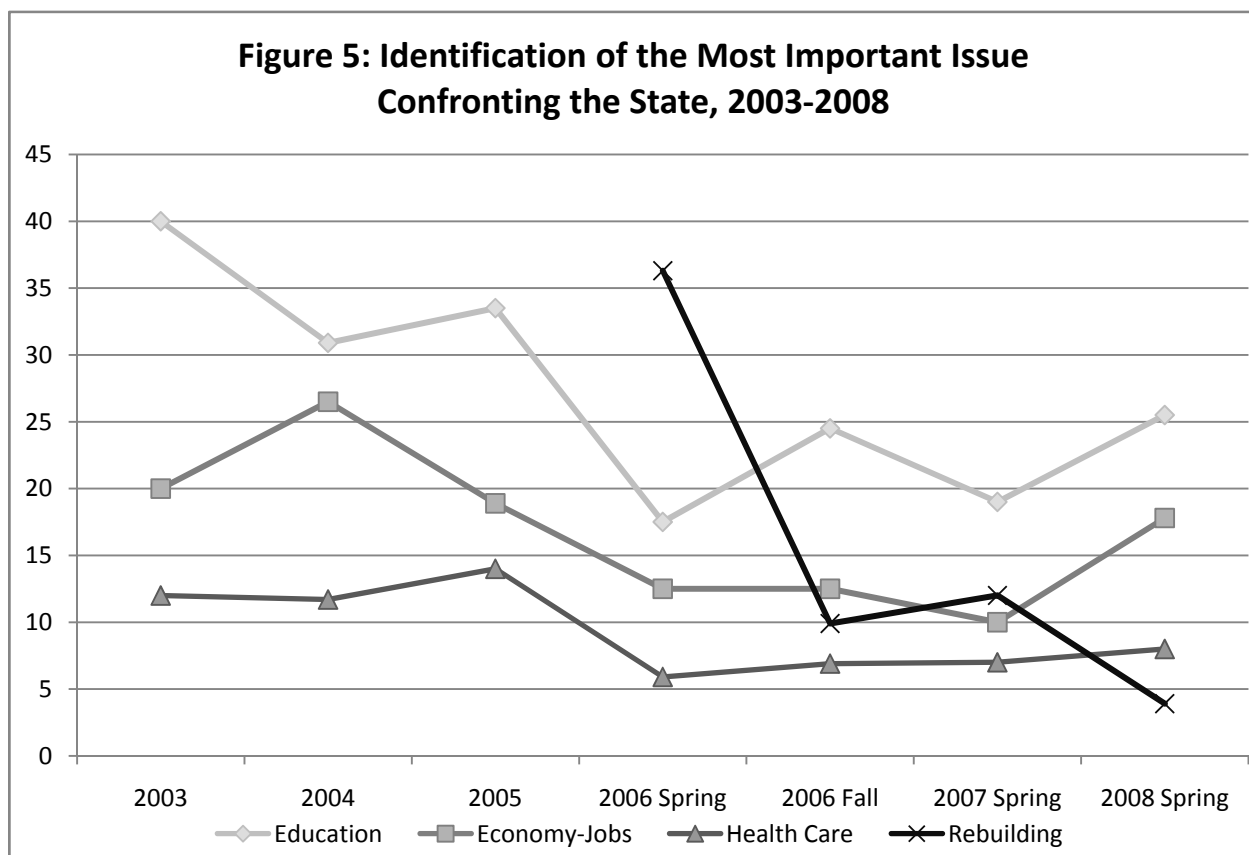
The high hopes created by the election of Bobby Jindal afford the administration considerable opportunity, but also come with considerable risk. The challenge comes in balancing state government performance with the realities of governance, and the array of challenges that confront Louisiana. These challenges are perhaps best illustrated by considering the issues Louisianans identify as the most important confronting the state as well as responses to an open ended question asking respondents about the single most important thing the Jindal Administration could accomplish during its first term.



Top Three Most Important Issues. In the 2008 Louisiana Survey, we continue to see movement away from rebuilding and toward other issues, such as education, the economy, and health care. In the 2008 Louisiana Survey only 13 percent of respondents identified rebuilding as one of three most important issues confronting the state.

- Respondents in New Orleans and the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes were most likely to select rebuilding as one of three most important issues. Twenty-three percent of respondents in the Northshore and 17 percent of respondents in New Orleans selected rebuilding as one of the three most important issues compared to 12 percent in Southwestern Louisiana and 7 percent in Baton Rouge and North Louisiana, respectively.
- Fifty-one percent of respondents cited education as one of three most important problems in 2008 compared to 42 percent in 2007. Women, college educated respondents, and Baton Rouge residents were most likely to select education.
 - Fifty-five percent of females compared to 46 percent of males selected education as one of the three most important problems confronting the state.
 - Sixty percent of respondents with a college degree compared to 44 percent with less than a high school education selected education as one of three most important problems confronting the state.
 - Sixty percent of respondents in Baton Rouge selected education as one of three most important problems compared to roughly 50 percent in the other regions of the state (ranging from 48 percent in North Louisiana to 51 percent in the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes).
- Forty-five percent of respondents selected the economy or jobs compared to 32 percent in 2007. The economy continues to be of greater concern in North Louisiana than in other regions of the state. Fifty-one percent of respondents in North Louisiana selected the economy as one of the three most important issues compared to 37 percent in the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes, 43 percent in Baton Rouge, 42 percent in New Orleans and 45 percent in Southwestern Louisiana. Twenty-eight percent of respondents in North Louisiana select the economy and jobs as the single most important issue compared to roughly 12-15 percent in the other regions of the state.
- Twenty-seven percent of respondents selected health care compared to 17 percent in 2007.
 - Thirty-four percent of females compared to 19 percent of males selected health care as one of the three most important problems.
 - Thirty-three percent of Democrats compared to 22 percent of Republicans selected health care as one of three most important problems.
 - Thirty-one percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 compared to 21 percent of respondents making \$50,000 or more.
 - Thirty-one percent in North Louisiana and 28 percent in the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes and Southwestern Louisiana, respectively, selected health care as one of their top concerns compared to 22 percent in New Orleans and 21 percent in Baton Rouge.
- The number of respondents selecting crime stayed at roughly the same level, as 27 percent of respondents selected crime as one of three most important issues. Other differences are listed as follows:
 - Thirty-eight percent of African Americans compared to 22 percent of Caucasians.
 - Thirty-two percent of Democrats compared to 21 percent of Republicans.
 - Thirty-three percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 compared to 22 percent making \$50,000 or more.

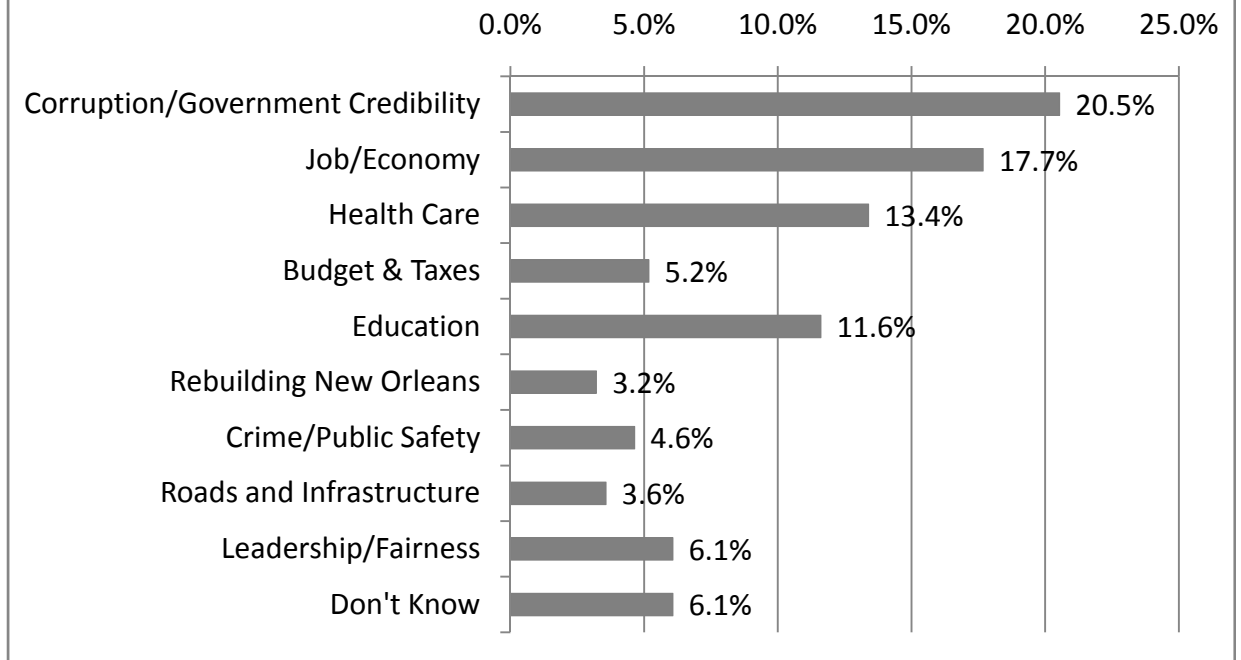
- Thirty-nine percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 22 percent of respondents with a college degree.
- Thirty-seven percent in Baton Rouge compared to 28 percent in North Louisiana, 27 percent in New Orleans, 26 percent in the Northshore and New Orleans suburban parishes and 21 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.
- Despite the attention given to the state’s roads and highways, 17 percent of respondents said roads and highways were one of three most important problems which is identical to the 2007 results.



We see similar patterns when respondents were asked to identify the most important problem confronting the state. Respondents are less likely to identify rebuilding and more likely to identify education and the economy as the most important issue.

- In the 2008 Louisiana Survey, only four percent of respondents identified rebuilding as the single most important issue confronting the state, down from 12 percent in 2007.
- Twenty-six percent of respondents identified education as the most important issue, up from 19 percent in 2007.
- Eighteen percent of respondents identified the economy or jobs as the most important issue, up from 10 percent in 2007.

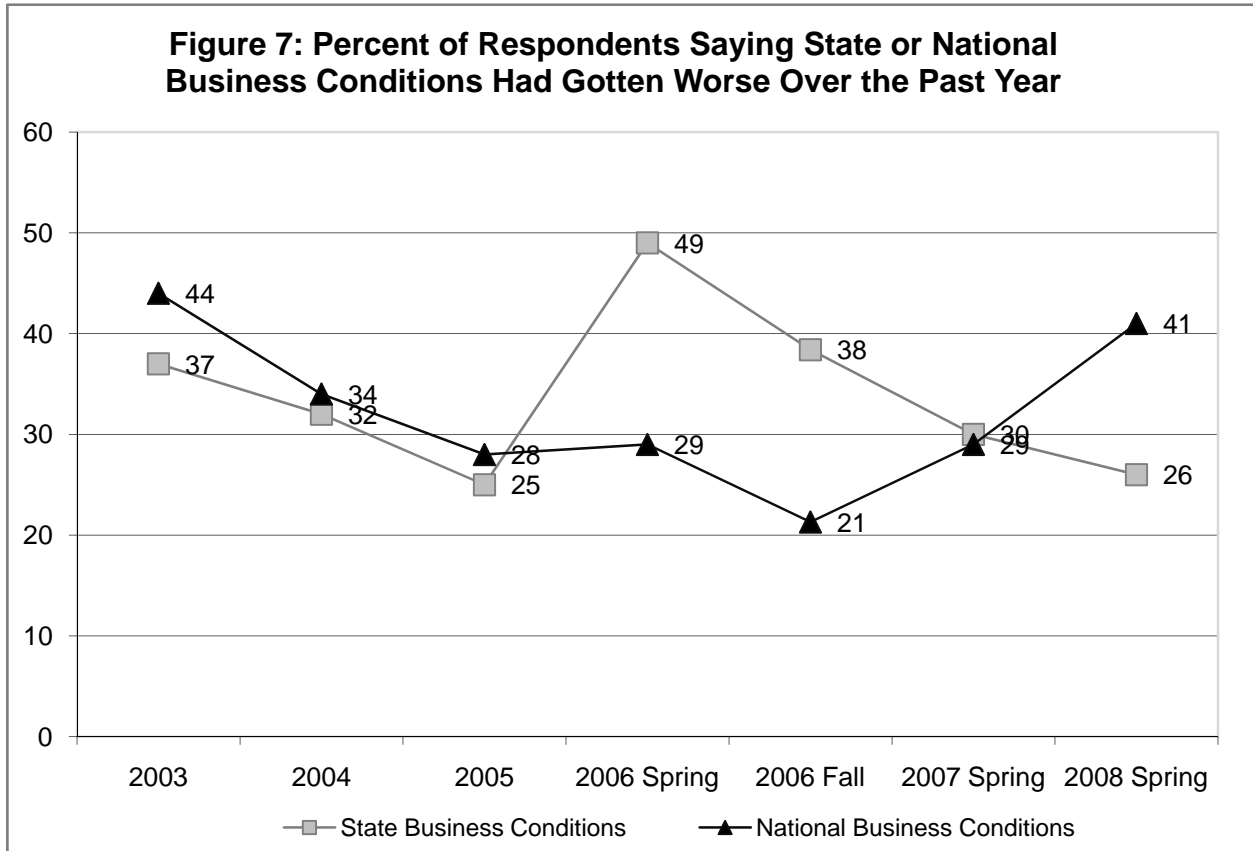
Figure 6: Single Most Important Thing Governor Jindal Can Accomplish During His First Term



As an additional question on the 2008 Louisiana Survey, we also asked respondents what the single most important thing was that Governor Jindal could accomplish during his first term. We coded the responses into categories indentifying corruption, jobs and the economy, health care, budget and taxes, education, rebuilding, crime and public safety, roads and infrastructure, and leadership. The latter category is probably the most ambiguous but it includes responses such as “do what he said he was going to do,” “do what he promised,” and “listen to the people.” As can be seen in Figure 6, addressing corruption emerged as the most common response followed by economic concerns primarily attracting business and jobs, and health care. Given the importance of education as “the most important problem,” it is interesting to note that it finishes fourth when we ask specifically about what Louisianans hope Governor Jindal can accomplish during his first term.

III. Economic Evaluations

Perceptions of personal finances improved slightly over the past year, while perceptions of the state economy remained largely unchanged and perceptions of the national economy took a decided downturn. The percent of respondents saying the national economy had improved declined from 27 percent in 2007 to 16 percent in 2008, while the percent saying the economy had gotten worse increased from 29 percent to 41 percent. Further evidence of economic downturn at the national level can be found in the 58 percent of respondents who say the economy is now in recession.

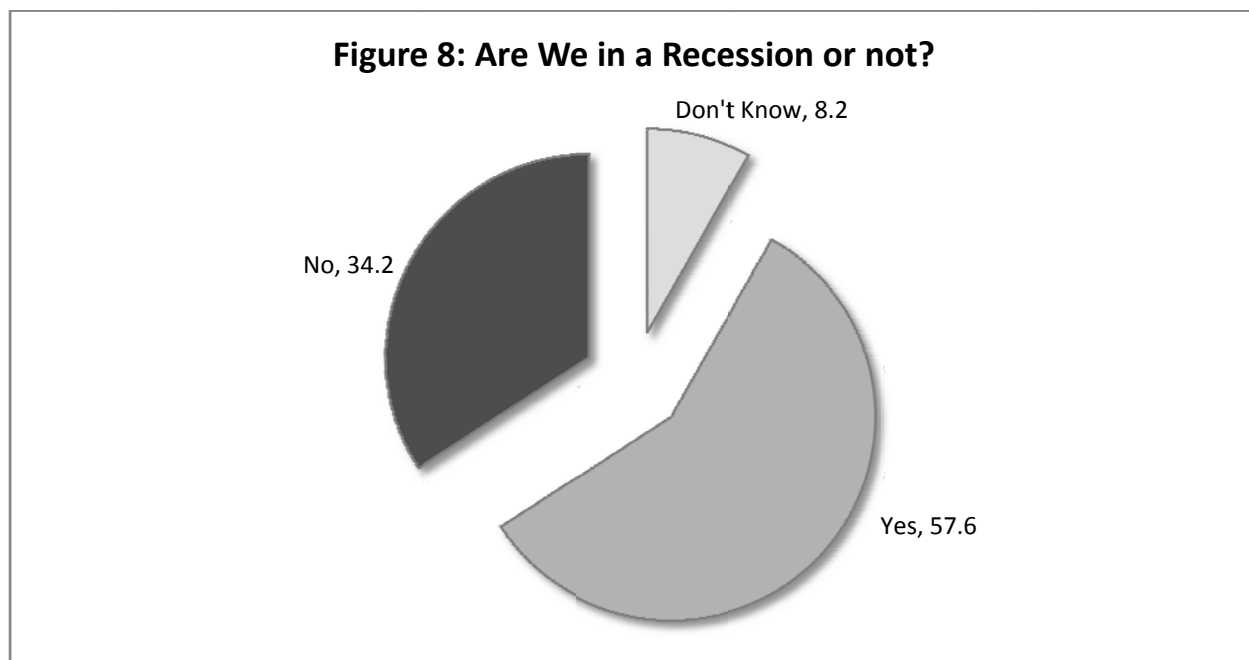


Despite the downturn in perceptions of national business conditions, the percent of Louisianans saying their personal finances had gotten better increased from 25 percent in 2007 to 29 percent in 2008. When it came to state finances, fewer Louisianans said state business conditions had gotten worse, but respondents were more likely to say conditions had remained the same (instead of gotten better).

- *Personal Finances:* Differences in personal financial evaluations emerge in terms of partisan affiliation, income, education, and age.
 - Thirty-nine percent of Republicans compared to 23 percent of Democrats said they were personally better off. On the other side of the coin, 32 percent of Democrats said they were worse off compared to 17 percent of Republicans.
 - Thirty-six percent of respondents making more than \$50,000 said they were better off compared to 21 percent of those making \$30,000 or less.

- Thirty-eight percent of respondents with a college degree said they were better off compared to 24 percent with less than a high school education.
- Thirty-two percent of respondents in Baton Rouge compared to 26 percent in North Louisiana said they were better off. The remaining regions were around 30 percent.
- Thirty-nine percent of respondents between 18-34 said they were better off compared to 19 percent of respondents 55 and over.
- *State Business Conditions:* Perceptions of state business conditions differ according to partisan affiliation and age.
 - Thirty-six percent of Republicans compared to 27 percent of Democrats say state business conditions have improved. On the other side, 29 percent of Democrats say conditions have gotten worse to 16 percent of Republicans.
 - Thirty-seven percent of respondents between 18-34 compared to 24 percent of respondents 55 and over say state business conditions have improved.
- *National Business Conditions:* In a departure from recent surveys, no real partisan differences emerge in evaluations of the national economy. In recent surveys, Democrats have tended to see the national economy as in worse condition than Republicans. Perhaps surprisingly, wealthier respondents are more likely to say national conditions are worse. Forty-nine percent of respondents making \$50,000 or more said national conditions were worse compared to 34 percent making less than \$30,000.

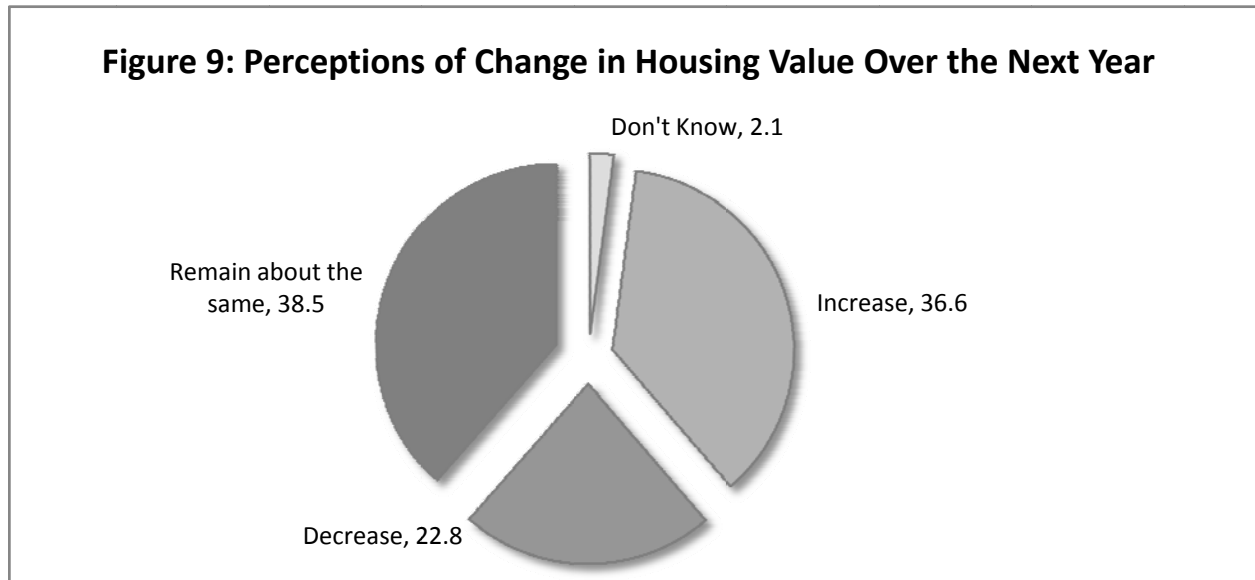
As a further indicator of economic perceptions, we also asked respondents whether they thought we are in recession. According to a CNN poll conducted in March 2008, nearly three-quarters of Americans (74 percent) believe we are now in a recession. As can be seen in Figure 8, Louisianans are slightly more positive about the state of the national economy, presumably because the state economy continues to do well. Fifty-eight percent of Louisianans say we are now in recession, 35 percent say we are not in a recession and eight percent say they are not sure or do not know.



One's view of whether we are in a recession largely depends upon where one sits.

- Sixty-two percent of African Americans compared to 55 percent of Caucasians believe we are now in a recession.
- Sixty-one percent of women compared to 54 percent of men believe we are now in a recession.
- Sixty-three percent of Democrats compared to 48 percent of Republicans believe we are now in a recession.
- Sixty-three percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 compared to 49 percent making \$50,000 or more believe we are now in a recession.
- Sixty-two percent of respondents over 55 compared to 52 percent of respondents between 18-34 believe we are now in a recession.

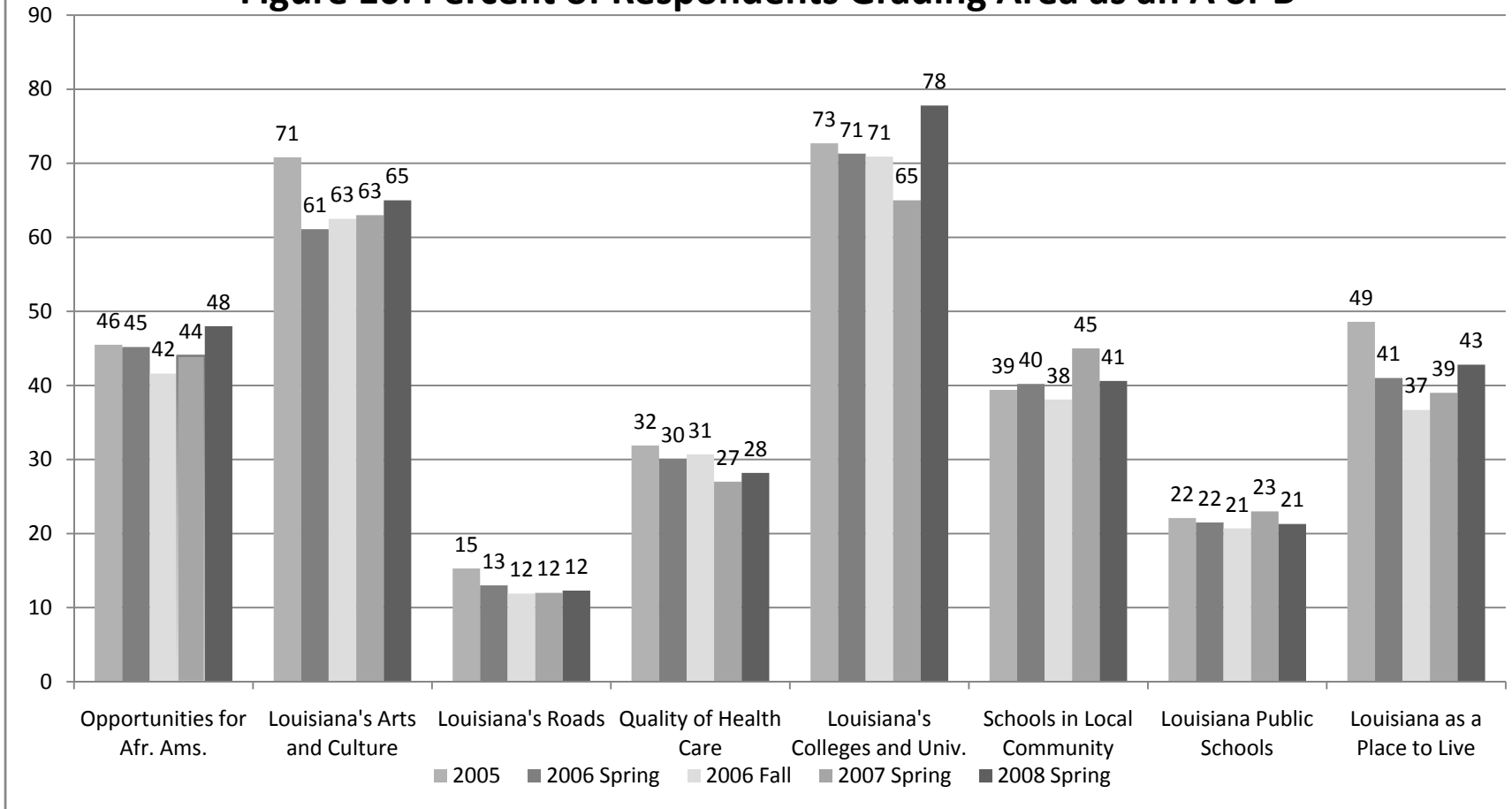
To gauge the effects of the subprime lending crisis, we also asked respondents if they thought that the housing values would increase, decrease, or stay about the same, and whether they had friends or family likely to lose their home because of a mortgage foreclosure. Most Louisianans thought their housing value would increase (37 percent) or stay the same (39 percent); however, a substantial minority (23 percent) thought their housing value would decrease. Moreover, 18 percent of Louisianans reported they had a friend or family member who would likely lose their home to mortgage foreclosure.



As with most economic issues, the mortgage issues affect lower income, less educated and African American populations most directly.

- Twenty-four percent of African Americans compared to 14 percent of Caucasians said they had a friend or family member who might lose their home because of a mortgage foreclosure.
- Twenty-four percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 12 percent with a college degree said a family member or friend might lose their home due to mortgage foreclosure.
- Twenty-four percent making less than \$30,000 compared to less than 10 percent making \$75,000 or more said a family member or friend might lose their home due to mortgage foreclosure.

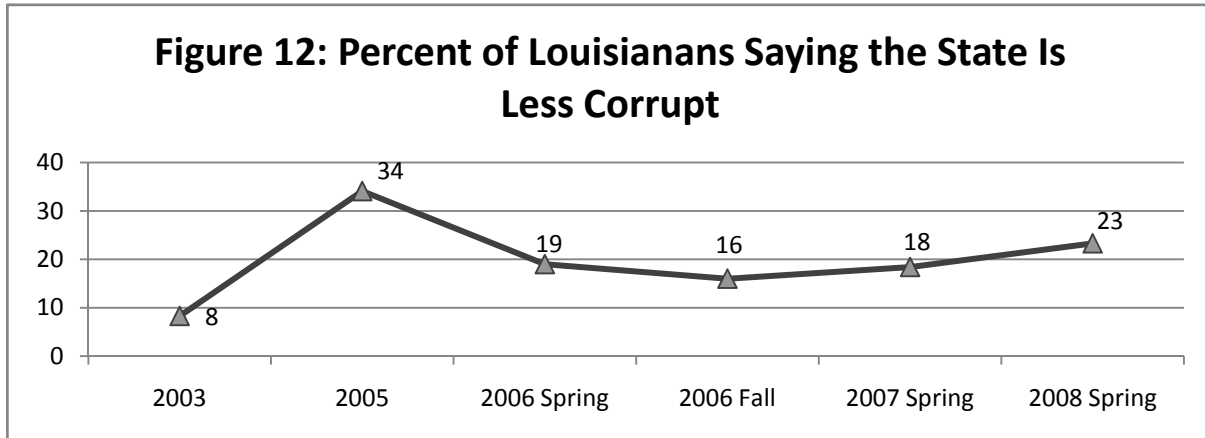
Figure 10: Percent of Respondents Grading Area as an A or B



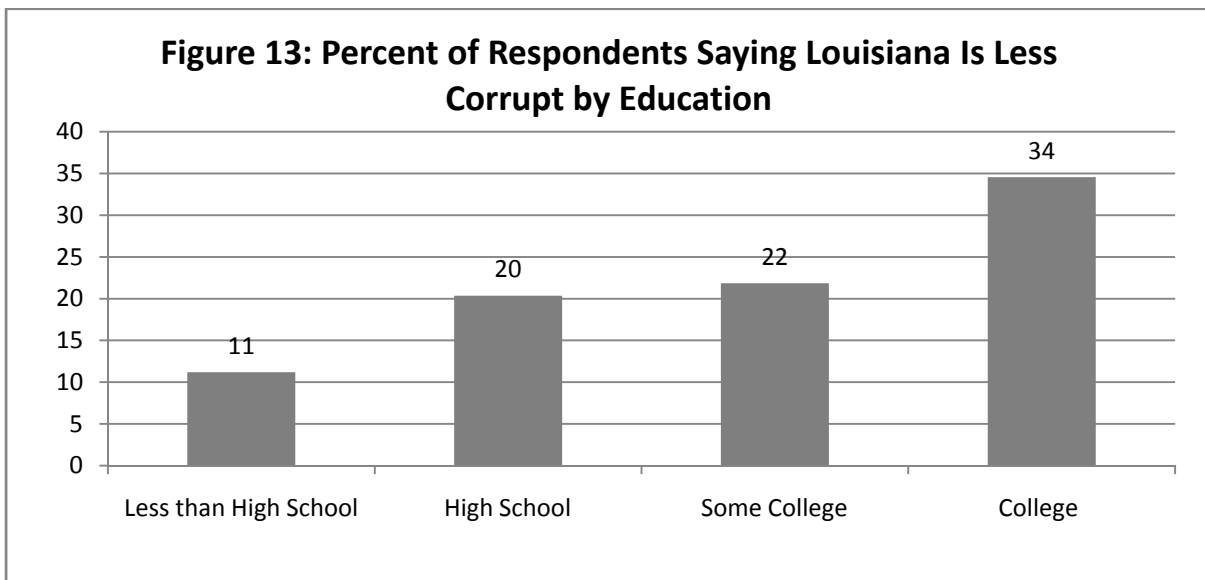
IV. Grading Louisiana

Over the years the Louisiana Survey has been measuring the grades for various areas they have remained remarkably consistent. Most of the variations across years are within the range of the margin of error. Louisianans give the state highest marks for its colleges and universities and arts and culture, and give the lowest marks for roads and highways and public schools. The only area that showed a substantial increase over the past year was the evaluation for the state's universities and colleges. The percent of Louisianans giving the state's universities an A or B increased from 65 percent in the Spring 2007 Louisiana Survey to 78 percent in the 2008 Louisiana Survey. This jump is made more notable by the fact that the Spring 2007 witnessed a low mark in evaluations of colleges and universities. While these evaluations are positive, they also present something of a problem for Louisiana's universities and college: The positive rankings within the state make respondents less inclined to say that the state can make major improvements in the national rankings (as noted earlier).

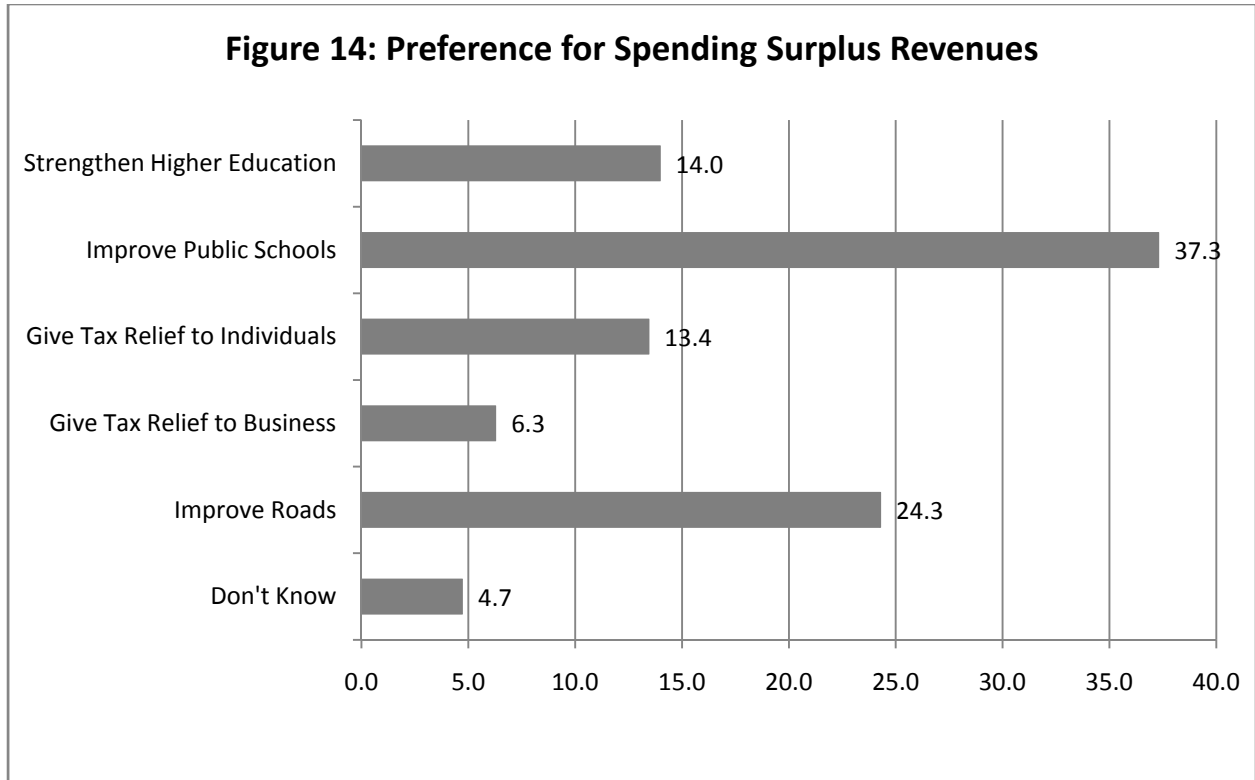
While it is not clear what the long-term impact ethics reform may have on Louisiana politics, it did appear to have a short term effect on the percent of Louisianans saying the state is less corrupt. Relative to 2007, there has been a five-point increase in the percent of Louisianans saying the state is less corrupt. The number of Louisianans saying the state is more corrupt has dropped by only two points, and the number saying Louisiana was just as corrupt declined by three points.



Republicans, better educated and higher income respondents were more likely to say the state was less corrupt. Thirty-two percent of Republicans compared to 20 percent of Democrats said the state was less corrupt. Thirty-one percent of respondents earning less than \$30,000 compared to 14 percent making \$50,000 or more said the state has become less corrupt. Perhaps most pronounced are the effects of education (presented in Figure 13).



V. Attitudes Toward State Government Spending



To gauge public spending priorities we first asked respondents how the state should spend the windfall of tax revenues. As can be seen in Figure 14, a plurality (37 percent) selects improving public schools while 24 percent select improving roads and infrastructure. Strengthening higher education and providing tax relief to individuals or business are less commonly selected.

This reflects more generally spending priorities as reflected in Figures 15 and 16. Respondents tend to prefer additional government spending across a range of issues, but express stronger preferences for spending on public education, roads, and public health. When forced to select among spending priorities, public education comes out at the top of the list.

Figure 15: Percent of Respondents Who Want To Increase State Government Spending

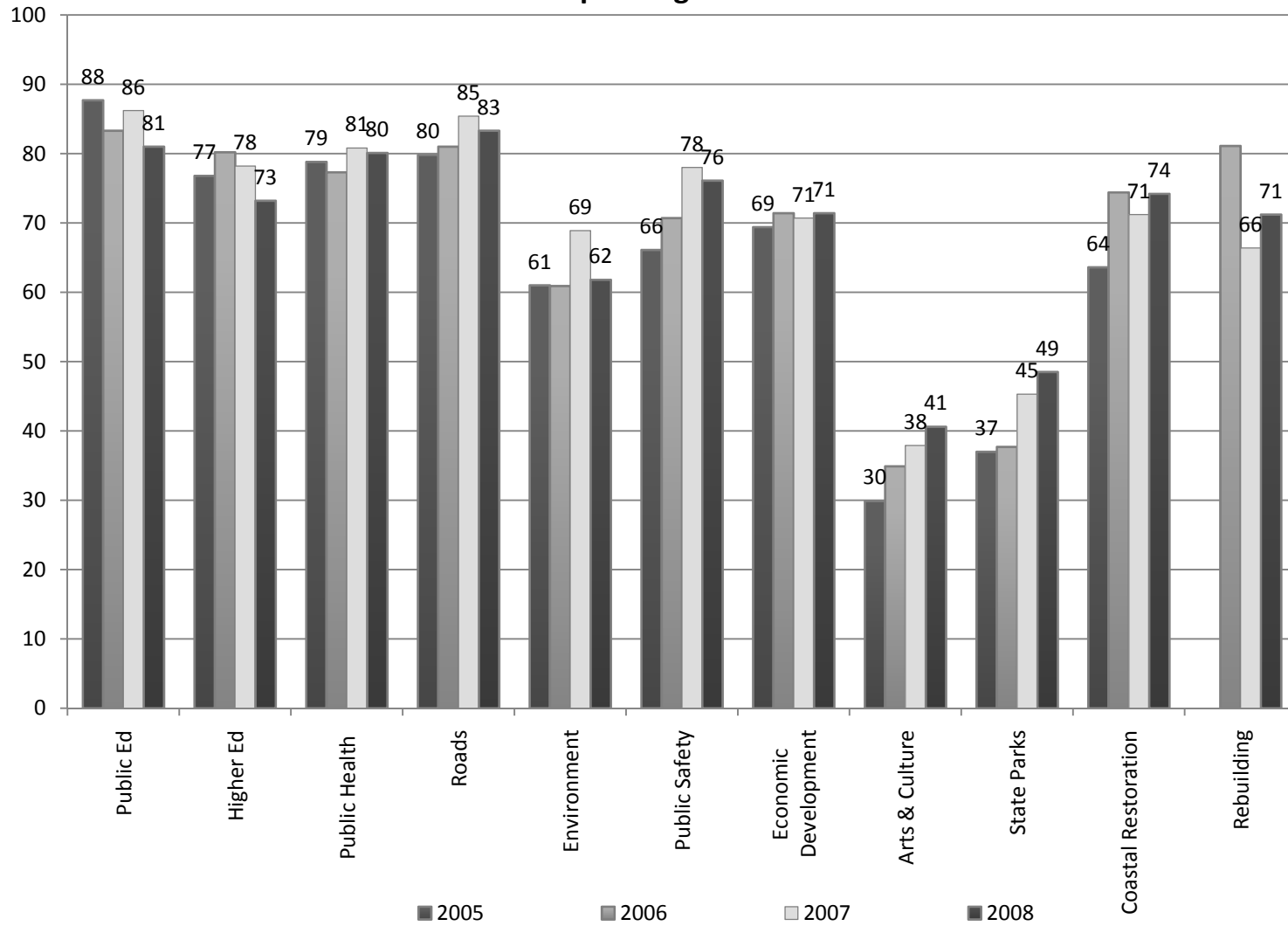
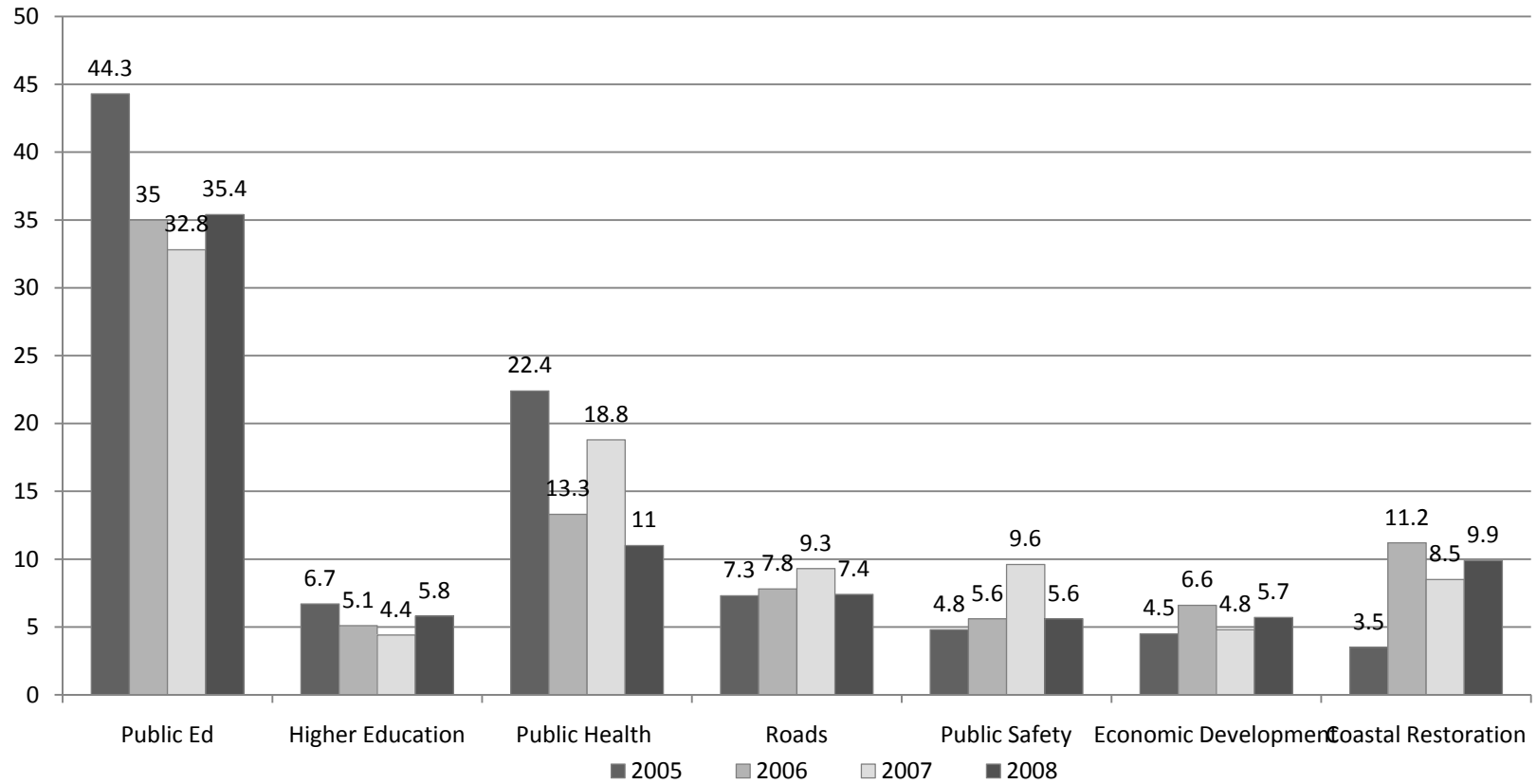
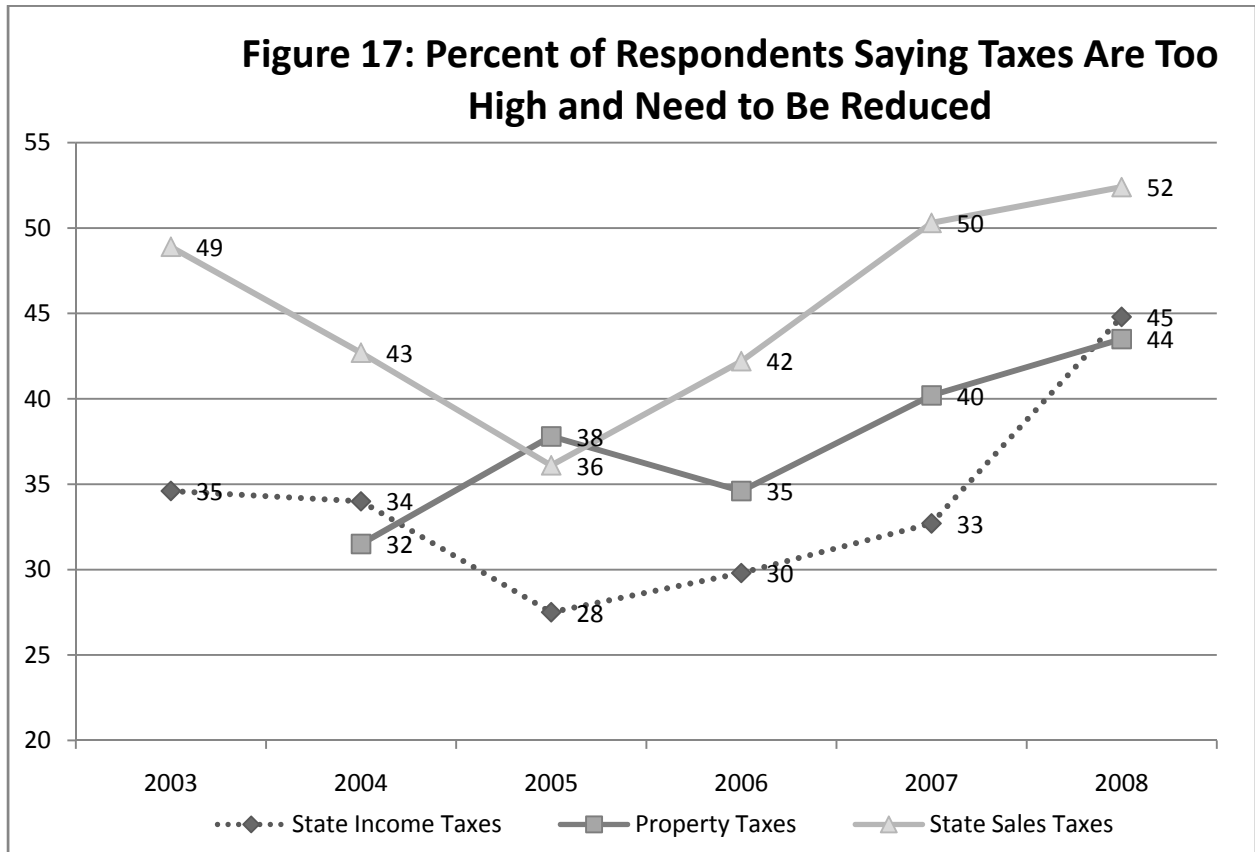


Figure 16: Percent of Respondents Selecting Category as Top Spending Priority



VI. Attitudes Toward Taxes



Public concern over taxes has clearly increased over time with Louisianans increasingly likely to say that their taxes are too high and need to be reduced. The most notable shift over the past year is a 12-point increase in the percent of respondents saying that state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced. In 2007, 33 percent of respondents said state income taxes were too high and needed to be reduced. This jumped to 45 percent in 2008. Perceptions that state sales and property taxes were too high increased as well. Though both the changes are much smaller, they continue a trend in which Louisianans increasingly express concerns about taxes. At least some of the increased concern can likely be traced to the fact that since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita state government has been running a surplus. With state government running in the black over the past several years, it is hardly surprising that people would begin to question whether they are being overtaxed. The increase, particularly with state income taxes, is also likely connected to the passage of the Stelly Plan in 2002. Under the provisions of the plan, the plan “swapped” taxes on state sales taxes on food and utilities for an increase in state income taxes. Since 2004, there has been a steady rise in concern about state income taxes.

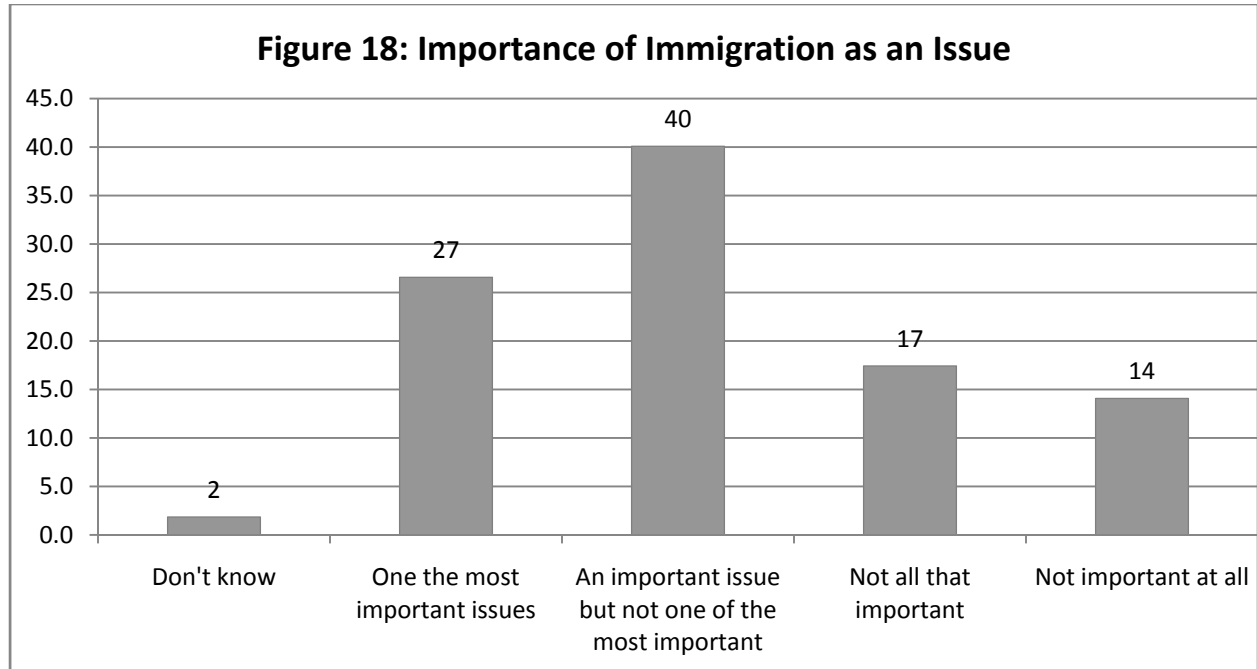
State Income Tax: Higher income respondents and Republicans are more likely to say state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced.

- 38 percent of respondents making less than \$30,000 said taxes were too high and needed to be reduced compared to 51 percent making \$50,000 or more.
- 47 percent of Republicans compared to 41 percent of Democrats say state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced.

State Sales Tax: Concern about state sales taxes are expressed by women, African-Americans, less educated, older respondents, and Democrats.

- 58 percent of females compared to 47 percent of males say state sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced.
- 55 percent of African Americans compared to 50 percent of Caucasians say sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced.
- 65 percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 48 percent with a college degree say sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced.
- 54 percent of respondents 55 and over and 58 percent between 35-54 compared to 44 percent of respondents between 18-34 say sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced.
- 52 percent of Democrats compared to 47 percent of Republicans and 60 percent of Independents say sales taxes are too high and need to be reduced.

VII. Attitudes Toward Immigration



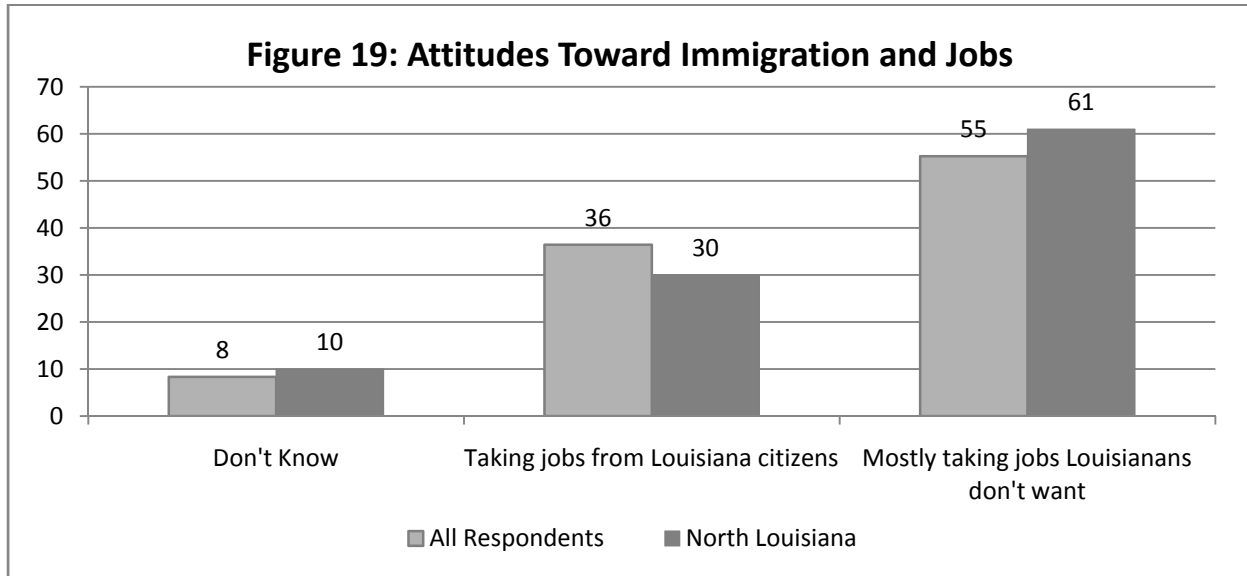
Several questions were included on the 2008 Louisiana Survey asking respondents about their attitudes about immigration. The first of these questions attempts to gauge how important respondents see the immigration issue relative to other issues. Just over a quarter of respondents (27 percent) see immigration as one of the most important issues confronting the state, but a more substantial – 40 percent – see immigration as an important issue but not one of the most important issues. Moreover, nearly a third of respondents (32 percent) say immigration is not all that important or not important at all.

As would be expected we see some differences across various groups in the population.

- 31 percent of Caucasian voters compared to 16 percent of African Americans see immigration as one of the most important issues confronting the state.
- 34 percent of Republicans compared to 22 percent of Democrats see immigration as one of the most important issues.
- Differences across regions are listed as follows: 15 percent in North Louisiana, 35 percent in Southwestern Louisiana, 32 percent in New Orleans, 31 percent in Baton Rouge, 27 percent in Northshore and the suburban New Orleans parishes see immigration as one of the most important issues confronting the state.

In terms of experiences with immigrant populations, 45 percent of respondents reported that “many” immigrants have moved into their local community, 40 percent report “often” coming in contact with someone who speaks Spanish speaking, and 40 percent of respondents who report at least occasionally coming into contact with someone who speaks Spanish report being bothered by it. In terms of direct experience, we also see substantial differences across region, 62 percent of New Orleans residents said many immigrants had moved into their community since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and 59 percent say they often come into contact with people speaking Spanish. This is in sharp contrast to North Louisiana where 31

percent of respondents say many immigrants have moved into the local community and 32 percent say they often come into contact with people speaking Spanish.



One might suspect that concern about immigration is correlated with the perceptions regarding the number of immigrants who have moved into a local community. This does not appear to be the case. New Orleans residents, who have experienced the largest increase of post-Katrina immigration and have the most direct contact with immigration, are also most likely to say that, on balance, immigration has done more to help than hurt the community. In North Louisiana, in contrast, where respondents have less direct contact with immigrant populations, respondents are more likely to say that immigrants are mostly taking jobs Louisianans do not want. Presumably, these differences reflect agricultural needs in North Louisiana and the need for labor in the New Orleans community. More broadly, it means that attitudes about immigration are not monolithic.

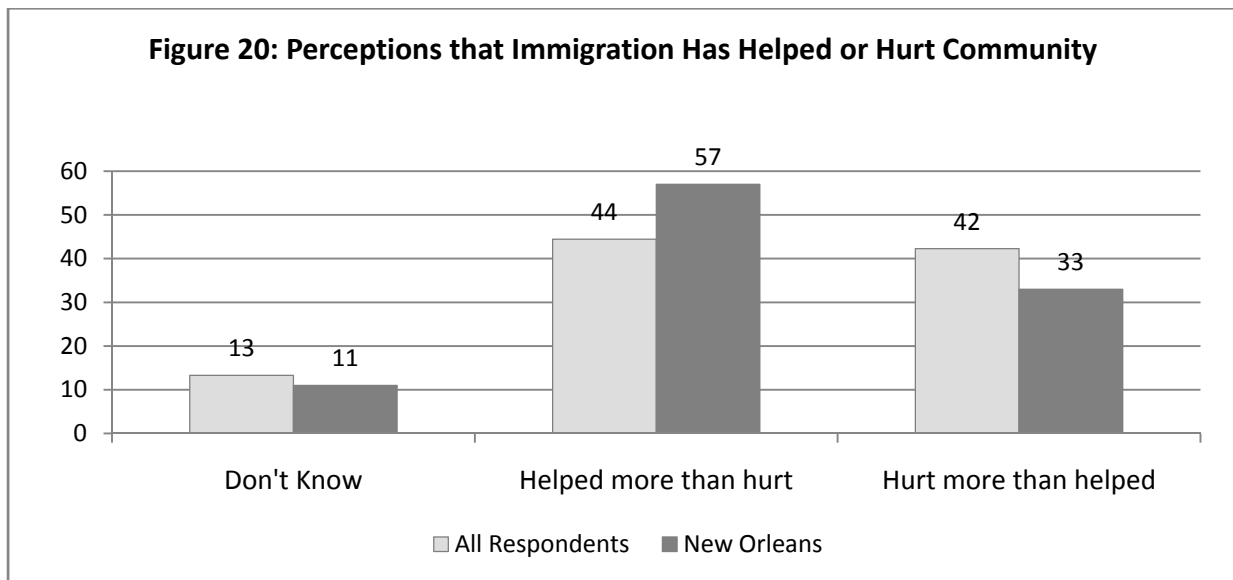
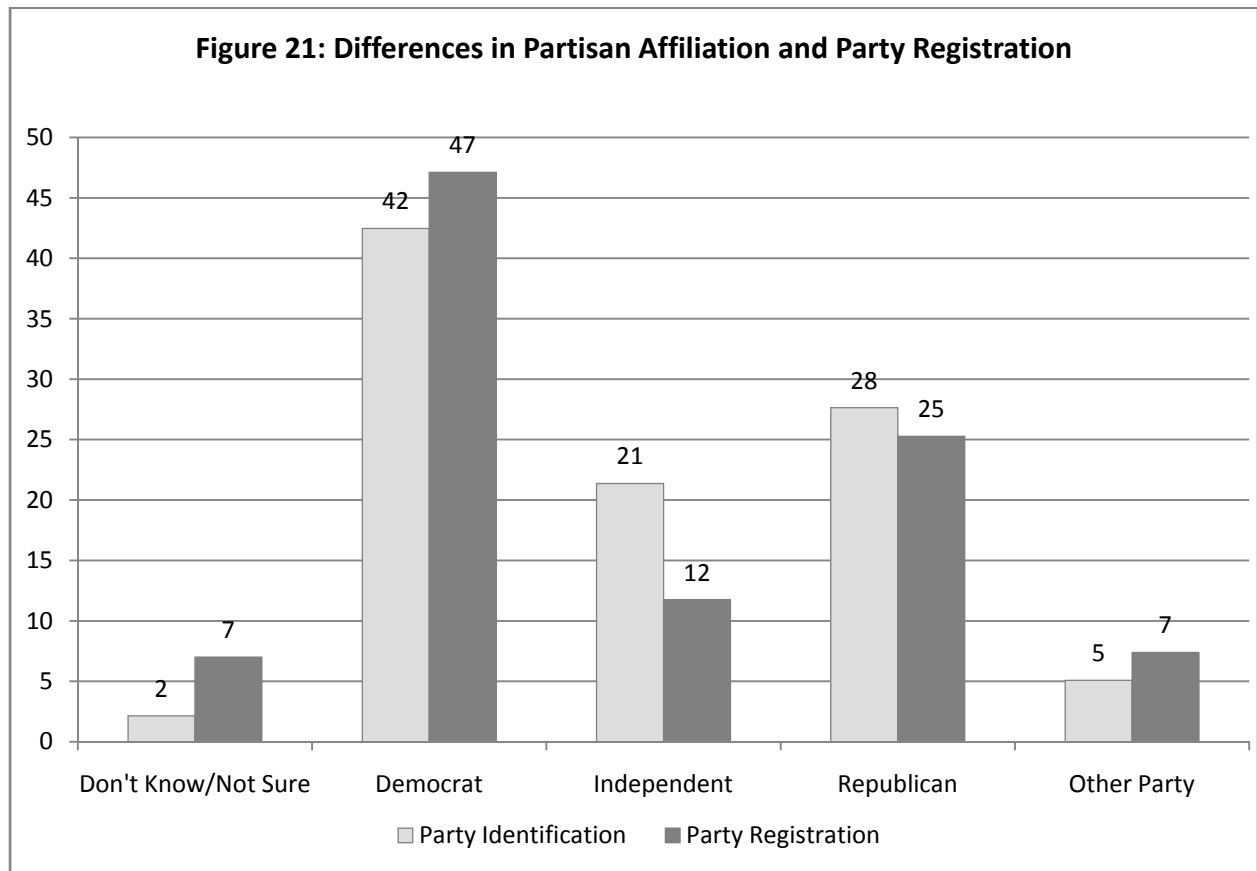


Table 3: Self-Reported Experience with Immigrants and Perceptions of the Effects of Immigration on Local Community by Party, Education, and Region

	Percent Saying Many Immigrants Have Moved Into Community	Percent Saying They Often Come Into Contact With Spanish Speaking People	Percent Saying They are Bothered by Spanish Speaking	Percent Saying Most Immigrants are Here Illegally	Percent Saying Immigration Has a Great Deal of Impact on Community	Percent Saying Immigrants are Taking Jobs From Louisianans	Percent Saying Immigration Has Hurt Community
Statewide							
Party							
Democrat	45	40	40	57	22	36	42
Independent	41	42	35	63	22	35	40
Republican	53	36	39	53	24	36	43
Education	50	42	43	56	23	37	44
Less than High School							
High School Degree	41	26	48	63	29	41	43
Some College	50	47	32	58	25	44	42
College Degree	47	45	43	61	21	37	52
Region	37	34	46	50	19	23	32
Baton Rouge							
North Louisiana	39	40	41	69	23	42	42
Southwestern Louisiana	31	32	36	50	15	30	43
New Orleans							
Northshore	55	27	34	46	28	41	46
	62	59	43	65	33	37	33
	46	49	49	67	22	37	45

VIII. Campaigns and Elections

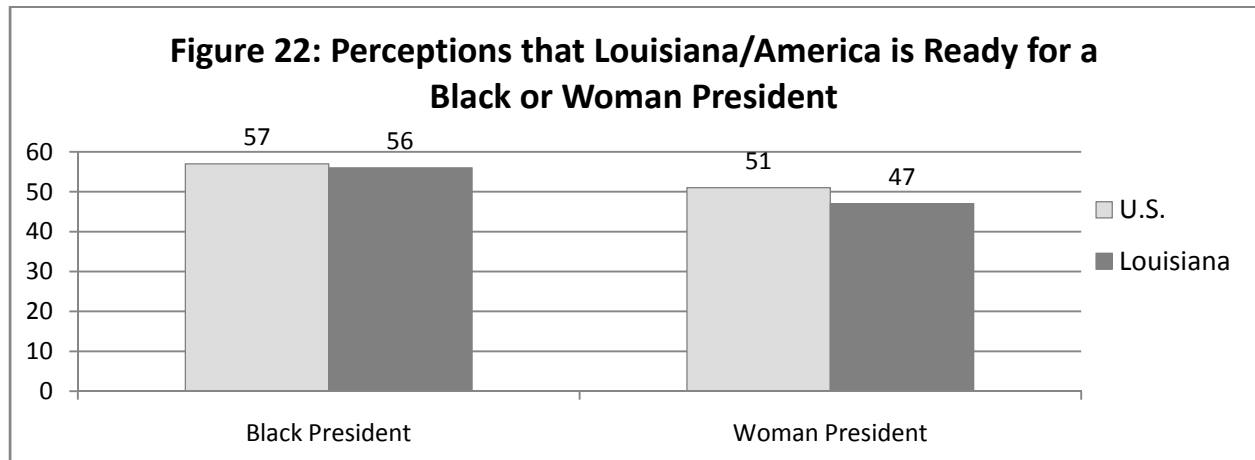


In Figure 21, we provide a comparison of self-reported party identification and party registration. As can be seen, there are more registered Democrats in the state than Democratic identifiers. Presumably, many of these registered Democrats are Independents, though they may also be unsure of their identification. According to the Secretary of State's office, 52.7 percent of Louisiana voters are registered as Democrats, 24.8 percent as Republican, and 22.5 percent as other party. According to the survey results, 47 percent are Democrats, 25 percent are Republican, 12 percent said they were Independent, seven percent said they registered as another party, and seven percent said they did not know or were unsure how they were registered.

These differences become increasingly important and bear watching as Louisiana has moved to a closed primary system for federal elections. Under the new rules, Republicans can only vote in Republican primaries, but Democrats and Independents can vote in the Democratic Primaries. Approximately half of Louisiana adults (48.9 percent) are aware such changes have taking place.

Since most Louisiana adults were not aware of the change, they had not given much thought to whether the change was a good or a bad idea. Among those aware of the change and had given it some thought, a majority (55 percent) thought it was a bad idea. Among self-reported registered Independents, 29 percent said they would likely vote in Democratic primaries, 24 percent said they would change their

registration to vote in Republican primaries, and 40 percent said they would not vote. The remainder said they did not know or were unsure.



Given the historic nature of the Clinton and Obama campaigns, we also asked respondents if they thought America was ready for a black or woman president, and then asked if they thought Louisiana was ready for a black or woman president. According to a January CNN poll, 72 percent of American adults said America was ready for a black president while 65 percent said America was ready for a woman president. In both cases, the national averages are higher than what we find in Louisiana.

Like America as a whole, Louisianans think America is more ready for a black than a woman president. When asked if Louisiana was ready for a black president, there was virtually no difference with the question focusing on America. In both cases, approximately 57 percent of respondents said Louisiana (or America) was ready. When asked if Louisiana was ready for a woman president, however, there was 5-point gap with Louisianans saying Louisiana is less ready for a woman president than America.

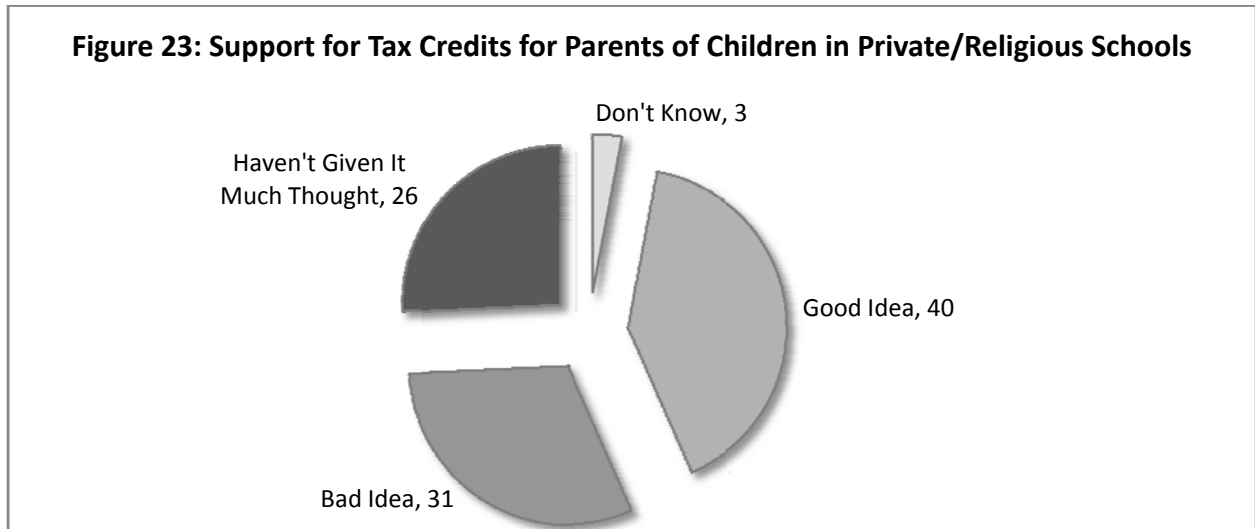
Table 4: Perceptions of Whether Louisiana and America are Ready for a Black or Woman President by Race and Gender

	Black President		Woman President	
	Louisiana	America	Louisiana	America
White	50%	56%	41%	48%
Black	70%	58%	59%	58%
Male	52%	56%	47%	52%
Female	60%	58%	47%	50%
Republican	50%	56%	36%	46%
Democrat	59%	60%	55%	56%

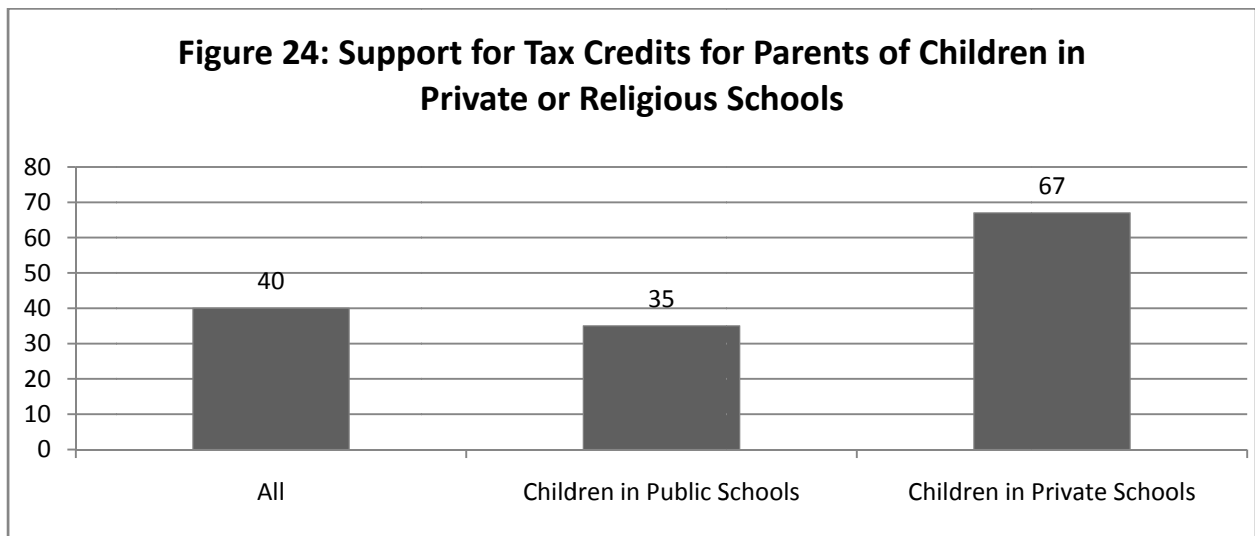
When it comes to a black president, there are large gaps among African American and Caucasian respondents as to whether Louisiana is ready than whether America is ready. Interestingly, African American respondents were more likely to say Louisiana was ready but were less likely to say America was ready. White respondents were exactly the opposite and were more likely to say America was ready for a black president but Louisiana was not. When it comes to a woman president, African Americans were more likely to say that

both America and Louisiana are ready. The gap narrows when the question moves to a national focus, primarily because white respondents were more likely to say that America (but not Louisiana) was ready for a woman president. There is little difference among men and women in terms of whether they think a woman is ready to be president.

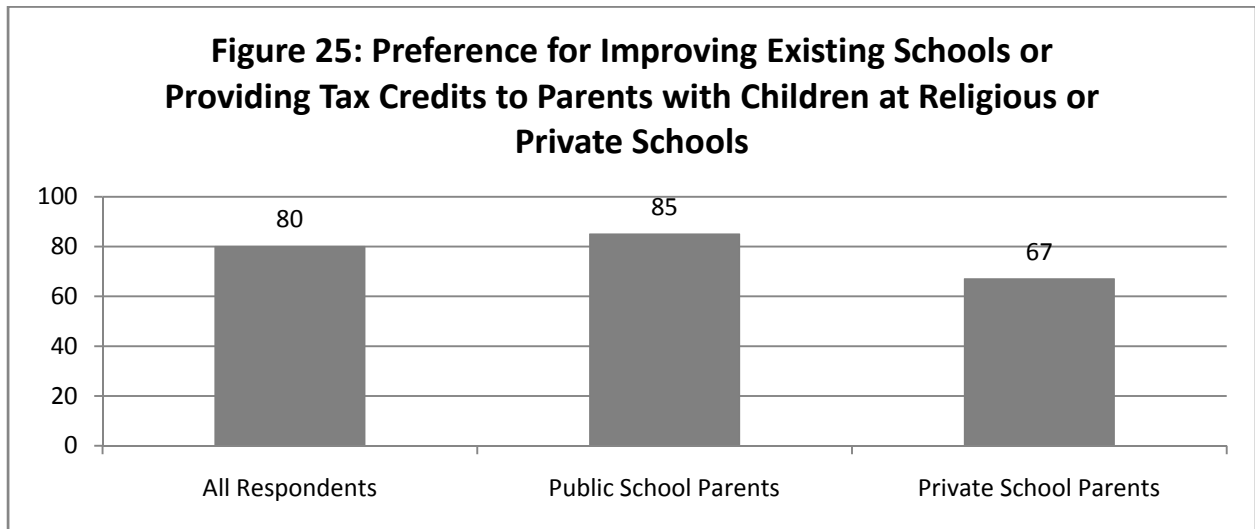
IX. Attitudes About Public Schools: Tax Credits, Pre-K, and Accountability



During the most recent special session, the legislature passed a bill giving tax credits to parents with children in religious and private schools. The bill won overwhelming support from legislators, but hardly seems to have been something Louisianans were demanding. A plurality of Louisianans (40 percent) thought the legislation was a good idea, but nearly a third (32 percent) said the legislation was a bad idea and more than a quarter said they did not know or had not given it much thought. The strongest support for the legislation comes, not surprisingly, from parents with children in religious or private schools. Nearly two-thirds (67 percent) of private school parents said the legislation was a good idea compared to just 35 percent of parents with children in public schools.



However, if the question is rephrased as a choice between supporting existing public schools or providing tax credits for public schools, Louisianans overwhelmingly favor supporting existing public schools. Eighty percent of respondents said that we should improve existing public schools, including 85 percent of parents with a child in public schools and 67 percent of parents with a child in private or religious schools. Read as such, it would appear that support for the tax credits is contingent on the assumption that it will not hurt existing public schools.



Equally important, Louisianans believe that if parents of children in private or religious schools receive tax credits they should be required to take the same standardized tests and report the results as required by public schools. Nearly a consensus of Louisianans (87 percent), private school parents (87 percent) and public school parents (89 percent) believe that tax credits should come with the same accountability measures that apply to public schools.

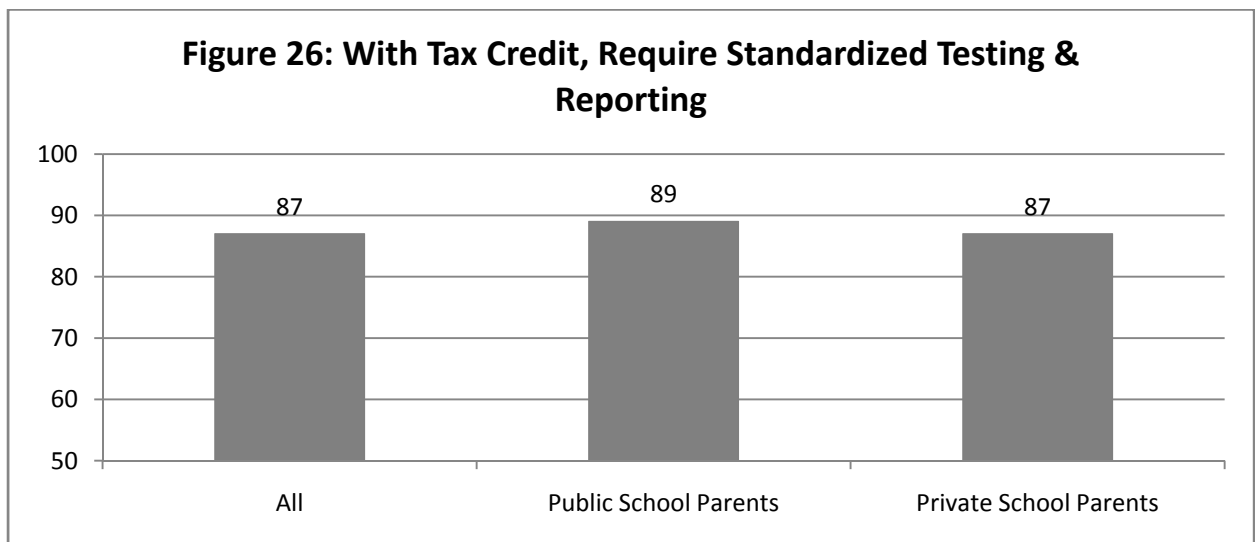
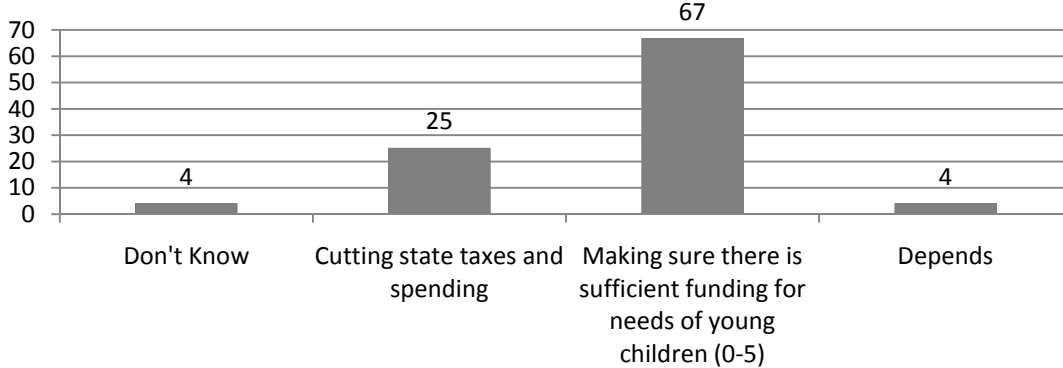
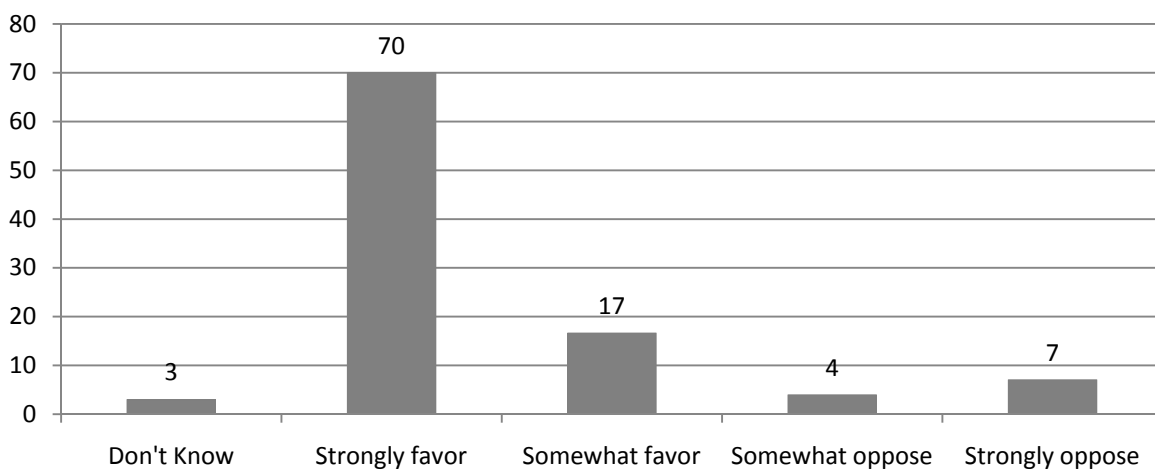


Figure 27: Greater Priority for Louisiana Cutting Taxes or Funding Needs of Young Children



To gauge public support for Pre-K programs, we first asked respondents about the importance of providing for the needs of young children (0-5) relative to cutting state taxes and spending. As can be seen, two-thirds of Louisianans (67 percent) say that greater priority should be placed on making sure there is sufficient funding for the needs of young people. Only 25 percent said that the greater priority should be on cutting state taxes and spending. There is equally strong support for expanding state funding of Pre-K programs. Sixty-nine percent of Louisianans strongly favor expanding Pre-K programs and an additional 17 percent somewhat favor expanding Pre-K programs. Only 11 percent oppose such an expansion. Support for Pre-K programs also crosses party and ideological lines. While Republicans are generally less supportive than Democrats, 59 percent of Republicans strongly favor expanding funding of Pre-K programs and an additional 17 percent of Republicans somewhat favor expanding Pre-K programs. Similarly, 61 percent of self-described conservatives strongly favor expanding Pre-K programs and an additional 18 percent somewhat favor their expansion.

Figure 28: Expand State Funding of Pre-K programs



2008 Louisiana Survey
 Topline Questionnaire

Note: Final results are based on 1,228 randomly selected Louisiana adults. The survey has a margin of error of +/-2.8 percentage points. To increase the number of questions we can ask, we also include a split-ballot design in which half of the respondents are asked specific sets of questions. The margin of error for the split ballot design is +/- 4 percentage points.

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	202	16.4	16.4	16.4
	Right Direction	622	50.7	50.7	67.1
	Wrong Direction	404	32.9	32.9	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

2. What do you think are the THREE most important problems facing the state of Louisiana?

	Frequency	Percent
Education	623	50.7
Economy/Jobs	553	45
Health Care	330	26.9
Taxes	117	9.5
Crime	337	27.5
Corruption	201	16.1
Environment/Coastal	102	8.3
Roads	209	17
Politics/Government	139	11.3
Rebuilding	154	12.3
Other	329	26.8

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

	Frequency	Percent
Education	317	25.8
Economy/Jobs	217	17.7
Health Care	99	8
Taxes	24	1.9
Crime	155	12.6
Corruption	70	5.7
Environment/Coastal	8	0.7
Roads	38	3.1
Politics/Government	46	3.8
Rebuilding	45	3.7
Other	151	12.2
Don't Know	58	4.7

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	75	6.1	6.1	6.1
	Better	478	38.9	38.9	45.0
	Same	447	36.4	36.4	81.4
	Worse	229	18.6	18.6	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	55	4.5	4.5	4.5
	Very Confident	178	14.5	14.5	19.0
	Somewhat Confident	539	43.9	43.9	62.8
	Not Very Confident	258	21.0	21.0	83.8
	Not at all Confident	199	16.2	16.2	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

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

Personally better off financially

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Better	353	28.7	29.0	29.0
	Same	552	45.0	45.3	74.3
	Worse	314	25.5	25.7	100.0
	Total	1219	99.2	100.0	
Missing	Refused	0	.0		
	Don't Know	9	.7		
	Total	9	.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Better	339	27.6	28.7	28.7
	Same	531	43.3	44.9	73.6
	Worse	313	25.5	26.4	100.0
	Total	1183	96.4	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
	Don't Know	44	3.5		
	Total	45	3.6		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Better	176	14.3	15.6	15.6
	Same	490	39.9	43.5	59.2
	Worse	460	37.4	40.8	100.0
	Total	1126	91.7	100.0	
Missing	Don't Know	102	8.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

9. Do you think the economy is now in a recession or not?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	101	8.2	8.2	8.2
	Yes	706	57.5	57.5	65.7
	No	422	34.3	34.3	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

10. Over the next year, do you expect housing values to increase in your neighborhood, to decrease, or to stay about the same?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	26	2.1	2.1	2.1
	Increase	448	36.5	36.5	38.5
	Decrease	280	22.8	22.8	61.3
	Remain about the same	475	38.7	38.7	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

11. Do you have any close friends or family members who are likely to lose their homes because of mortgage foreclosures?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	14	1.2	1.2	1.2
	Yes	214	17.4	17.5	18.6
	No	998	81.3	81.4	100.0
	Total	1226	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

a. First, using the grading scale, how would you grade Louisiana as a place to live?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	231	18.8	19.0	19.0
	B	287	23.4	23.6	42.6
	C	459	37.4	37.8	80.4
	D	149	12.1	12.3	92.7
	F	89	7.3	7.3	100.0
	Total	1216	99.0	100.0	
Missing	Don't Know	12	1.0		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	70	5.7	6.0	6.0
	B	177	14.4	15.1	21.0
	C	378	30.7	32.2	53.2
	D	286	23.3	24.4	77.6
	F	263	21.4	22.4	100.0
	Total	1173	95.5	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.2		
	Don't Know	54	4.4		
	Total	55	4.5		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	177	14.4	15.1	15.1
	B	305	24.8	26.0	41.1
	C	296	24.1	25.2	66.3
	D	189	15.4	16.1	82.4
	F	206	16.8	17.6	100.0
	Total	1173	95.5	100.0	
Missing	Don't Know	55	4.5		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	336	27.3	29.6	29.6
	B	546	44.5	48.2	77.7
	C	208	16.9	18.3	96.1
	D	34	2.8	3.0	99.1
	F	11	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	1134	92.4	100.0	
Missing	Refused	0	.0		
	Don't Know	93	7.6		
	Total	94	7.6		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	86	7.0	7.2	7.2
	B	251	20.4	20.9	28.1
	C	400	32.6	33.4	61.5
	D	264	21.5	22.0	83.5
	F	198	16.1	16.5	100.0
	Total	1199	97.6	100.0	
Missing	Don't Know	29	2.4		
Total		1228	100.0		

f. How would you grade Louisiana's arts and culture?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	306	24.9	27.2	27.2
	B	425	34.6	37.8	65.0
	C	300	24.5	26.7	91.7
	D	63	5.1	5.6	97.2
	F	31	2.5	2.8	100.0
	Total	1126	91.6	100.0	
Missing	Refused	0	.0		
	Don't Know	102	8.3		
	Total	103	8.4		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	33	2.7	2.7	2.7
	B	116	9.4	9.5	12.2
	C	269	21.9	22.1	34.3
	D	352	28.7	28.9	63.1
	F	450	36.6	36.9	100.0
	Total	1220	99.3	100.0	
Missing	Don't Know	8	.7		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A	167	13.6	14.6	14.6
	B	382	31.1	33.4	47.9
	C	353	28.7	30.8	78.7
	D	155	12.6	13.5	92.2
	F	89	7.3	7.8	100.0
	Total	1146	93.3	100.0	
Missing	Refused	4	.3		
	Don't Know	79	6.4		
	Total	83	6.7		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	More corrupt	431	35.1	36.3	36.3
	Just as corrupt	488	39.8	41.1	77.4
	Less corrupt	269	21.9	22.6	100.0
	Total	1188	96.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused	0	.0		
	Don't Know	39	3.2		
	Total	40	3.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	more safe	277	22.6	22.7	22.7
	less safe	581	47.3	47.6	70.3
	no difference	363	29.6	29.7	100.0
	Total	1221	99.4	100.0	
Missing	Don't Know	7	.6		
Total		1228	100.0		

SPLIT BALLOT QUESTION

Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement -

15. LSU's success in college athletics makes for a better academic university

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	47	3.9	8.0	8.0
	Strongly Agree	163	13.3	27.6	35.6
	Agree	227	18.5	38.4	74.0
	Neither Agree or Disagree	34	2.8	5.7	79.7
	Disagree	99	8.1	16.8	96.5
	Strongly Disagree	21	1.7	3.5	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

16. We are also interested in how effectively you think state government can address some of the most pressing problems facing the state of Louisiana. As I read through the following list, please tell me whether you think the state can make major improvements over the next four years, whether the state can make some improvements but that major improvements will be difficult, or whether you think that no matter what the state does it will be hard to make any real improvements, First...

a. Reducing the level of corruption in state and local politics.

La. gov't reducing corruption at state/local

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	16	1.3	2.7	2.7
	Major Improvements	272	22.2	46.0	48.6
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	212	17.3	35.8	84.4
	Hard to make any real improvements	92	7.5	15.6	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

b. Improving the quality of primary and secondary public schools.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	14	1.2	2.4	2.4
	Major Improvements	249	20.2	42.0	44.4
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	246	20.0	41.6	86.0
	Hard to make any real improvements	83	6.8	14.0	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

c. Improving the national rankings of Louisiana's colleges and universities.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	45	3.7	7.6	7.6
	Major Improvements	195	15.9	33.0	40.6
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	284	23.1	48.0	88.6
	Hard to make any real improvements	68	5.5	11.4	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

d. Improving public health outcomes.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	18	1.4	3.0	3.0
	Major Improvements	245	20.0	41.4	44.3
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	201	16.4	33.9	78.3
	Hard to make any real improvements	129	10.5	21.7	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

e. Increasing access to preventative health care throughout the state.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	16	1.3	2.8	2.8
	Major Improvements	266	21.7	44.9	47.7
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	203	16.5	34.3	82.0
	Hard to make any real improvements	107	8.7	18.0	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

f. Improving public roads and infrastructure.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	8	.7	1.4	1.4
	Major Improvements	323	26.3	54.5	55.9
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	176	14.3	29.7	85.6
	Hard to make any real improvements	85	7.0	14.4	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

g. Attracting new business and economic development opportunities to the state.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	19	1.5	3.1	3.1
	Major Improvements	287	23.4	48.5	51.7
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	210	17.1	35.4	87.1
	Hard to make any real improvements	77	6.2	12.9	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

h. Improving the overall quality of life in Louisiana

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	23	1.9	3.9	3.9
	Major Improvements	229	18.6	38.6	42.5
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	266	21.7	44.9	87.4
	Hard to make any real improvements	75	6.1	12.6	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

i. Reducing crime and improving public safety

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	7	.6	1.1	1.1
	Major Improvements	278	22.6	46.9	48.1
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	190	15.5	32.1	80.1
	Hard to make any real improvements	118	9.6	19.9	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

j. Improving the quality of the workforce through education and worker training programs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	15	1.3	2.6	2.6
	Major Improvements	294	24.0	49.7	52.3
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	214	17.4	36.1	88.4
	Hard to make any real improvements	68	5.6	11.6	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

k. Restoring Louisiana's vanishing wetlands.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	35	2.8	5.9	5.9
	Major Improvements	249	20.3	42.1	48.0
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	169	13.8	28.6	76.6
	Hard to make any real improvements	139	11.3	23.4	100.0
	Total	591	48.2	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
	System	636	51.8		
	Total	637	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

l. Improving air and water quality by reducing pollution

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	26	2.1	4.4	4.4
	Major Improvements	234	19.0	39.6	44.1
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	198	16.1	33.6	77.7
	Hard to make any real improvements	132	10.7	22.3	100.0
	Total	590	48.1	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.2		
	System	636	51.8		
	Total	638	51.9		
Total		1228	100.0		

m. Reducing the amount of waste in state government

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	18	1.4	3.0	3.0
	Major Improvements	288	23.5	48.6	51.6
	Some improvements but major improvements will be difficult	169	13.7	28.5	80.1
	Hard to make any real improvements	118	9.6	19.9	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	System	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

17. In your opinion, what is the single most important thing Governor Jindal can accomplish during his first term in office?

<Open Ended Question Coded>

	Frequencies	Valid Percent
Corruption/Government Credibility	115	20.5%
Job/Economy	99	17.7%
Health Care	75	13.4%
Budget & Taxes	29	5.2%
Education	65	11.6%
Rebuilding New Orleans	18	3.2%
Crime/Public Safety	26	4.6%
Roads and Infrastructure	20	3.6%
Leadership/Fairness	34	6.1%
Don't Know	34	6.1%

18. As you may be aware, term limits went into effect for the state legislature during the 2007 elections. Some people think term limits are a good idea that keeps public officials from staying in office for too long and losing touch with the concerns of the average voter. Others think terms limits are a bad idea that put inexperienced people in office and weaken the legislature relative to the executive branch and special interest groups. What about you? Do you think term limits will serve primarily to make the Louisiana legislature more responsive to voters, or do you think term limits will serve primarily to weaken the legislative branch?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	71	5.8	12.0	12.0
	Make legislature more responsive	427	34.8	72.2	84.3
	Weaken legislative branch	93	7.6	15.7	100.0
	Total	591	48.1	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
	System	636	51.8		
	Total	637	51.9		
Total		1228	100.0		

19. Louisiana state government has received a windfall of tax revenue as a result of high oil and gas prices and economic activity associated with rebuilding from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Would you rather see those extra dollars spent improving roads and bridges, giving tax relief to businesses, giving tax relief to individuals, improving public schools, or strengthening higher education.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	29	2.4	4.9	4.9
	Improve Roads	155	12.6	26.2	31.2
	Giving Tax Relief to Business	36	2.9	6.1	37.2
	Giving Tax Relief to Individuals	73	5.9	12.3	49.5
	Improve Public Schools	212	17.3	35.9	85.4
	Strengthen Higher Education	86	7.0	14.6	100.0
	Total	591	48.1	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
	System	636	51.8		
	Total	637	51.9		
Total		1228	100.0		

20. 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?

a. Public Education (Primary and Secondary)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	14	1.1	1.1	1.1
	increase spending	991	80.7	80.7	81.8
	decrease spending	39	3.2	3.2	84.9
	stay the same	185	15.1	15.1	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

b. Higher Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	17	1.4	1.4	1.4
	increase spending	901	73.4	73.4	74.8
	decrease spending	38	3.1	3.1	77.9
	stay the same	272	22.1	22.1	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

c. Public Health and Hospitals

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	8	.7	.7	.7
	increase spending	985	80.2	80.2	80.8
	decrease spending	48	3.9	3.9	84.7
	stay the same	188	15.3	15.3	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

d. Roads and Transportation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	6	.5	.5	.5
	increase spending	1024	83.4	83.4	83.9
	decrease spending	24	2.0	2.0	85.8
	stay the same	174	14.2	14.2	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

e. Environmental Protection

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	30	2.4	2.4	2.4
	increase spending	756	61.6	61.6	64.0
	decrease spending	75	6.1	6.1	70.1
	stay the same	367	29.9	29.9	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

f. Public Safety/ Criminal justice

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	14	1.1	1.1	1.1
	increase spending	932	75.9	75.9	77.0
	decrease spending	31	2.5	2.5	79.5
	stay the same	251	20.5	20.5	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

g. Economic Development

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	33	2.7	2.7	2.7
	increase spending	876	71.4	71.4	74.0
	decrease spending	42	3.4	3.4	77.4
	stay the same	277	22.6	22.6	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

h. Arts and cultural institutions

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Don't Know	70	5.7	5.7	5.7
	increase spending	497	40.5	40.5	46.2
	decrease spending	115	9.4	9.4	55.5
	stay the same	546	44.5	44.5	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

i. State parks and tourism

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	24	2.0	2.0	2.0
	increase spending	592	48.2	48.2	50.2
	decrease spending	95	7.7	7.7	57.9
	stay the same	517	42.1	42.1	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

j. Coastal Restoration

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Don't Know	31	2.5	2.5	2.5
increase spending	912	74.2	74.2	76.8
decrease spending	54	4.4	4.4	81.2
stay the same	231	18.8	18.8	100.0
Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

k. Rebuilding New Orleans&theGulfCoast

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Don't Know	21	1.7	1.7	1.8
increase spending	871	70.9	70.9	72.7
decrease spending	95	7.7	7.7	80.4
stay the same	241	19.6	19.6	100.0
Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

21. If you could increase spending in only one of these areas, which area would you choose?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Public Education	440	35.8	35.8	38.2
Higher Education	71	5.8	5.8	44.0
Public Health & Hospitals	135	11.0	11.0	55.0
Roads & Transportation	91	7.4	7.4	62.4
Environmental Protection	12	1.0	1.0	63.4
Public Safety/ Criminal Justice	68	5.5	5.5	68.9
Economic Development	70	5.7	5.7	74.7
Art & Cultural Institutions	4	.3	.3	75.0
State Parks & Tourism	4	.3	.3	75.3
Coastal Restoration	122	10.0	10.0	85.3
Don't Know	43	3.5	1.1	86.4
Refused	9	.8	.8	87.1
Rebuilding	158	12.9	12.9	100.0
Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

SPLIT BALLOT

22. Compared to other issues facing LOUISIANA, how big of an issue is illegal immigration for you personally? Would you say it is one of the most important problems, or is it an important problem but not one of the most important, or is it not all that important, or is it not important at all?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't know	12	.9	1.8	1.8
	One the most important issues	169	13.7	26.6	28.4
	An important problem but not one of the most issues	254	20.7	40.0	68.4
	Not all that important	111	9.0	17.5	85.9
	Not important at all	90	7.3	14.1	100.0
	Total	635	51.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.0		
	System	592	48.2		
	Total	593	48.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

23. How many recent immigrants would you say have moved into your local community since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the state?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	28	2.3	4.5	4.5
	Many	284	23.2	44.7	49.2
	Some	132	10.8	20.8	70.0
	Only a few	130	10.6	20.5	90.5
	None	61	4.9	9.5	100.0
	Total	636	51.8	100.0	
Missing	System	592	48.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

24. How often do you personally come in contact with someone who speaks little or no English?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	7	.6	1.1	1.1
	Often	253	20.6	39.8	40.8
	Sometimes	142	11.6	22.4	63.2
	Rarely	173	14.1	27.2	90.4
	Never	61	5.0	9.6	100.0
	Total	636	51.8	100.0	
Missing	System	592	48.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

25. And when this happens does it bother you, or not bother you?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	11	.9	2.8	2.8
	Yes	160	13.0	40.5	43.4
	No	224	18.2	56.6	100.0
	Total	395	32.2	100.0	
Missing	System	833	67.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

26. And do you think most of the immigrants who are in Louisiana now are here legally, or do you think they are here illegally?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	129	10.5	20.4	20.4
	Here Legally	141	11.4	22.2	42.6
	Here Illegally	364	29.6	57.4	100.0
	Total	633	51.5	100.0	
Missing	Refused	3	.2		
	System	592	48.2		
	Total	595	48.5		
Total		1228	100.0		

27. How much of an impact has immigration had on your own community where you live - a great deal of impact, quite a bit of impact, just a little impact, or no impact at all?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	14	1.1	2.2	2.2
	Great deal of impact	145	11.8	22.9	25.0
	Quite a bit of impact	104	8.5	16.4	41.4
	Just a little impact	230	18.8	36.2	77.7
	No impact at all	142	11.6	22.3	100.0
	Total	636	51.8	100.0	
Missing	System	592	48.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

28. Do you think illegal immigrants coming to Louisiana since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have primarily taken away jobs from Louisiana citizens OR have they mostly taken jobs Louisianans don't want?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	53	4.3	8.3	8.3
	Taking jobs from Louisiana citizens	231	18.8	36.4	44.8
	Mostly taking jobs Louisianans don't want	351	28.5	55.2	100.0
	Total	635	51.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
	System	592	48.2		
	Total	593	48.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

29. Would you say that the recent immigration to the state since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has helped the state more than it has hurt or would you say it has hurt the state more than it has helped?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	84	6.9	13.3	13.3
	Helped more than hurt	281	22.9	44.4	57.7
	Hurt more than helped	268	21.8	42.3	100.0
	Total	633	51.6	100.0	
Missing	Refused	3	.2		
	System	592	48.2		
	Total	595	48.4		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	53	4.4	4.4	4.4
	Needs stronger ethics	913	74.4	74.4	78.8
	Have strong enough ethics	261	21.2	21.2	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	0	.0		
Total		1228	100.0		

31. When it comes to ethics reform, would you personally support or oppose: Personal financial disclosure by elected officials and their families

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	125	10.2	10.2	10.2
	Support	814	66.3	66.5	76.7
	Oppose	286	23.3	23.3	100.0
	Total	1225	99.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused	3	.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	45	3.6	3.6	3.6
	Too high and need to be reduced	550	44.8	44.9	48.6
	Too low and need to be raised	121	9.9	9.9	58.5
	Just right	508	41.4	41.5	100.0
	Total	1225	99.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused	3	.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

33. 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?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	21	1.7	1.7	1.7
	Too high and need to be reduced	643	52.4	52.4	54.1
	Too low and need to be raised	53	4.3	4.4	58.5
	Just right	510	41.5	41.5	100.0
	Total	1227	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	101	8.2	8.2	8.2
	Too high and need to be reduced	534	43.5	43.5	51.7
	Too low and need to be raised	75	6.1	6.1	57.8
	Just right	517	42.1	42.2	100.0
	Total	1227	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

35. In the past week, how many days did you read a newspaper?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	2	.2	.2	.2
	0	222	18.1	18.1	18.3
	1	107	8.7	8.7	27.0
	2	128	10.4	10.4	37.4
	3	124	10.1	10.1	47.5
	4	86	7.0	7.0	54.5
	5	72	5.8	5.8	60.3
	6	18	1.5	1.5	61.8
	7	469	38.2	38.2	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

36. In the past week, how many days did you watch a local television news program?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	1	.1	.1	.1
	0	101	8.2	8.2	8.3
	1	54	4.4	4.4	12.7
	2	53	4.3	4.3	17.0
	3	64	5.2	5.2	22.2
	4	54	4.4	4.4	26.5
	5	68	5.5	5.5	32.0
	6	20	1.6	1.6	33.6
	7	815	66.4	66.4	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

37. In the past week, how many days did you watch a national network news program?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	1	.1	.1	.1
	0	194	15.8	15.8	15.9
	1	97	7.9	7.9	23.8
	2	101	8.2	8.2	32.0
	3	98	7.9	7.9	40.0
	4	51	4.1	4.1	44.1
	5	87	7.1	7.1	51.1
	6	19	1.6	1.6	52.7
	7	581	47.3	47.3	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

38. In the past week, how many days did you watch a news program on one of the cable news networks?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	3	.2	.2	.2
	0	299	24.4	24.4	24.6
	1	89	7.3	7.3	31.9
	2	89	7.2	7.3	39.1
	3	95	7.7	7.7	46.9
	4	47	3.9	3.9	50.7
	5	70	5.7	5.7	56.4
	6	11	.9	.9	57.3
	7	523	42.6	42.7	100.0
	Total	1227	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	2	.2	.2	.2
	0	571	46.5	46.5	46.7
	1	90	7.3	7.3	54.0
	2	85	6.9	6.9	60.9
	3	77	6.3	6.3	67.2
	4	26	2.1	2.1	69.3
	5	71	5.8	5.8	75.1
	6	11	.9	.9	76.0
	7	295	24.0	24.0	100.0
	Total	1227	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

40. In the past week, how many days did you go online to get news about public affairs and politics?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	1	.1	.1	.1
	0	691	56.2	56.3	56.3
	1	73	5.9	5.9	62.3
	2	111	9.0	9.0	71.3
	3	77	6.2	6.2	77.6
	4	32	2.6	2.6	80.2
	5	26	2.1	2.1	82.3
	6	7	.5	.5	82.8
	7	211	17.1	17.2	100.0
	Total	1227	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

41. In the past week, how many days did you visit a social networking site such as Facebook or MySpace?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	2	.1	.1	.1
	0	924	75.2	75.4	75.5
	1	63	5.1	5.1	80.7
	2	41	3.3	3.3	84.0
	3	41	3.3	3.3	87.3
	4	15	1.2	1.2	88.5
	5	16	1.3	1.3	89.8
	6	6	.5	.5	90.3
	7	119	9.7	9.7	100.0
	Total	1226	99.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

42. Have you ever watched video clips about political candidates or elections that are available online?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	1	.0	.0	.0
	Yes	378	30.8	30.8	30.8
	No	849	69.1	69.2	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	0	.0		
Total		1228	100.0		

43. Have you ever visited a social network site like Facebook or MySpace to get information about a candidate, or to sign up as a friend of a candidate or group?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	3	.2	.2	.2
	Yes	116	9.5	9.5	9.7
	No	1109	90.3	90.3	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	
Missing	Refused	0	.0		
Total		1228	100.0		

44. Generally speaking do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or what?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	26	2.1	2.2	2.2
	Democrat	522	42.5	43.0	45.2
	Independent	262	21.4	21.6	66.8
	Republican	340	27.6	28.0	94.9
	other	62	5.1	5.1	100.0
	Total	1212	98.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused	16	1.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

45. Regardless of what you consider yourself, are you registered to vote as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	86	7.0	7.1	7.1
	Democrat	579	47.1	47.8	54.9
	Independent	144	11.8	11.9	66.9
	Republican	310	25.3	25.6	92.5
	other	91	7.4	7.5	100.0
	Total	1210	98.5	100.0	
Missing	Refused	18	1.5		
Total		1228	100.0		

46. Louisiana will be moving to a closed primary for federal elections this year in which registered Democratic voters will select the Democratic nominee and registered Republican voters will select the Republican nominee. First, were you aware that primary elections for federal office would be run under a different set of rules this year?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	30	2.4	2.4	2.4
	Yes	601	48.9	48.9	51.3
	No	598	48.7	48.7	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

47. Overall, do you think changing the primary system is a good idea, a bad idea, or haven't you given it much thought?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	65	5.3	5.3	5.3
	Good Idea	255	20.8	20.8	26.1
	Bad Idea	314	25.6	25.6	51.7
	Haven't given it much thought	592	48.2	48.3	100.0
	Total	1227	99.9	100.0	
Missing	-9	1	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

48. As part of the change, registered Independent voters can participate in the Democratic primary but not in the Republican primary. Are you personally likely to remain an Independent and vote in the Democratic primary, change your partisan affiliation, or just not vote during the primaries?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	10	.8	6.8	6.8
	Vote in Democratic primary	41	3.3	29.0	35.8
	Change partisan affiliation to vote in Republican primary	34	2.8	24.1	59.9
	Not vote	57	4.6	40.1	100.0
	Total	142	11.5	100.0	
Missing	Refused	3	.2		
	System	1084	88.2		
	Total	1086	88.5		
Total		1228	100.0		

49. Now thinking about the presidential election, do you think Louisiana is ready to support a black president or not?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	81	6.6	7.1	7.1
	Yes, ready to support black president	633	51.5	55.6	62.7
	No, not ready	332	27.0	29.1	91.8
	It depends	93	7.6	8.2	100.0
	Total	1139	92.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused	7	.5		
	System	83	6.7		
	Total	89	7.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

50. Do you think Louisiana is ready to support a woman president or not?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	65	5.3	5.7	5.7
	Yes, ready to support woman president	531	43.2	46.5	52.2
	No, not ready	430	35.0	37.7	89.9
	It depends	115	9.4	10.1	100.0
	Total	1141	92.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	5	.4		
	System	83	6.7		
	Total	87	7.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

51. Now thinking about the presidential election, do you think America is ready to support a black president or not?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	98	8.0	8.1	8.1
	Yes, ready to support black president	679	55.3	55.6	63.6
	No, not ready	328	26.7	26.9	90.5
	It depends	116	9.5	9.5	100.0
	Total	1221	99.4	100.0	
Missing	Refused	7	.6		
Total		1228	100.0		

52. Do you think American is ready to support a woman president or not?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	76	6.2	6.2	6.2
	Yes, ready to support woman president	617	50.2	50.4	56.6
	No, not ready	419	34.1	34.3	90.9
	It depends	112	9.1	9.1	100.0
	Total	1223	99.6	100.0	
Missing	Refused	5	.4		
Total		1228	100.0		

53. When it comes to politics, do you consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	98	8.0	8.0	8.0
	Liberal	226	18.4	18.5	26.6
	Moderate	352	28.7	28.8	55.4
	Conservative	545	44.4	44.6	100.0
	Total	1222	99.5	100.0	
Missing	Refused	7	.5		
Total		1228	100.0		

54. In what year were you born?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-24	168	13.7	13.7	13.7
	25-34	212	17.3	17.3	31.0
	35-44	223	18.1	18.1	49.1
	45-54	243	19.8	19.8	68.9
	55-64	180	14.7	14.7	83.6
	65>	202	16.4	16.4	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

55. ARE THERE ANY CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE CURRENTLY LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	493	40.2	40.2	40.2
	no	734	59.8	59.8	100.0
	Total	1227	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

56. DO ANY OF THESE CHILDREN ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	362	29.5	72.9	72.9
	No	135	11.0	27.1	100.0
	Total	496	40.4	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
	System	731	59.5		
	Total	732	59.6		
Total		1228	100.0		

57. ANY OF THESE CHILDREN ATTEND PRIVATE SCHOOLS?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	101	8.2	20.3	20.3
	No	396	32.2	79.7	100.0
	Total	496	40.4	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
	System	731	59.5		
	Total	732	59.6		
Total		1228	100.0		

58. Some people have proposed providing tax credits for parents to send their children to private or religious schools. In general, do you think this is a good idea, a bad idea, or haven't you given it much thought?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	17	1.4	3.0	3.0
	Good Idea	240	19.5	40.4	43.4
	Bad Idea	183	14.9	30.9	74.3
	Haven't Given It Much Thought	153	12.4	25.7	100.0
	Total	592	48.2	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
	System	635	51.7		
	Total	636	51.8		
Total		1228	100.0		

59. Which of the following would you prefer: improving existing public schools or providing tax credits for parents to send their children to private or religious schools?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	21	1.7	3.5	3.5
	Improve existing schools	472	38.4	79.8	83.4
	Provide tax credits	98	8.0	16.6	100.0
	Total	591	48.1	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.2		
	System	635	51.7		
	Total	637	51.9		
Total		1228	100.0		

60. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: If the state provides tax credits for parents to send their children to private and religious schools, students in those schools should be required to take standardized tests - including the LEAP test - and the schools should be required to report the results.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	41	3.4	7.0	7.0
	Agree	492	40.1	83.2	90.2
	Disagree	58	4.7	9.8	100.0
	Total	591	48.1	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.2		
	System	635	51.7		
	Total	637	51.9		
Total		1228	100.0		

61. Which of the following do you think is a greater priority for Louisiana right now--cutting taxes and spending, or making sure that there is sufficient funding for addressing the needs of young children (0-5)?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	8	.7	1.3	1.3
	Cutting state taxes and spending	156	12.7	24.6	25.9
	Making sure there is sufficient funding for needs of young children (0-5)	423	34.5	66.8	92.6
	Depends	23	1.9	3.7	96.3
	Not Sure	23	1.9	3.7	100.0
	Total	634	51.7	100.0	
	Missing	Refused	3	.2	
	System	591	48.1		
	Total	594	48.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

62. Do you favor or oppose expanding funding for state funded pre-kindergarten programs so that ALL young children can attend these programs if their parents want to send them?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	7	.6	1.2	1.2
	Strongly favor	444	36.1	69.9	71.0
	Somewhat favor	108	8.8	17.1	88.1
	Somewhat oppose	24	2.0	3.8	91.9
	Strongly oppose	41	3.4	6.5	98.4
	Not Sure	10	.8	1.6	100.0
	Total	635	51.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.2		
	System	591	48.1		
	Total	593	48.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than High School	217	17.7	17.7	17.7
	High School	377	30.7	30.7	48.3
	Some College	332	27.1	27.1	75.4
	College Degree	302	24.6	24.6	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

64. And did you receive your highest level of education in Louisiana?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1028	83.7	83.7	83.7
	no	200	16.3	16.3	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

65. Did you graduate from a Louisiana university?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	214	17.5	71.5	71.5
	No	86	7.0	28.5	100.0
	Total	300	24.4	100.0	
Missing	System	928	75.6		
Total		1228	100.0		

66. Which of the following best describes you? Are you White, Hispanic, African American, Asian, or something else?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	white	801	65.2	65.2	65.2
	Hispanic	13	1.1	1.1	66.3
	African American	352	28.7	28.7	95.0
	Asian	17	1.4	1.4	96.3
	Other	45	3.7	3.7	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

67. Is your religious preference Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, none, or something else?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	1	.0	.0	.0
	protestant	388	31.6	31.6	31.6
	Catholic	405	33.0	33.0	64.6
	Jewish	4	.3	.3	65.0
	Other	341	27.8	27.8	92.8
	None	88	7.2	7.2	100.0
	Total	1227	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	1	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

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

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	4	.3	.3	.3
	employed full time	630	51.3	51.5	51.8
	employed part time	116	9.5	9.5	61.3
	retired	244	19.9	19.9	81.2
	unemployed and looking for work	76	6.2	6.2	87.4
	not employed not looking	87	7.1	7.1	94.5
	Disability (Volunteered)	68	5.5	5.5	100.0
	Total	1225	99.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused	3	.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

69. Does your employer offer health insurance benefits?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	4	.4	.6	.6
	yes	533	43.4	70.2	70.8
	no	222	18.1	29.2	100.0
	Total	759	61.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.1		
	System	467	38.1		
	Total	469	38.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

70. Do you participate in your employer-sponsored health insurance?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	418	34.0	78.4	78.4
	No	115	9.4	21.6	100.0
	Total	533	43.4	100.0	
Missing	System	695	56.6		
Total		1228	100.0		

71. Does your employer offer any type of employer sponsored retirement plan?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	9	.7	1.2	1.2
	yes	483	39.3	63.6	64.8
	no	267	21.7	35.2	100.0
	Total	759	61.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.1		
	System	467	38.1		
	Total	469	38.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

72. Do you participate in an employer sponsored retirement plan?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	10	.9	1.4	1.4
	yes	427	34.8	56.3	57.6
	no	322	26.2	42.4	100.0
	Total	759	61.8	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.1		
	System	467	38.1		
	Total	469	38.2		
Total		1228	100.0		

73. How satisfied are you with your current job or employment situation - would you say you are very, somewhat, not very, or not at all satisfied?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	6	.5	.8	.8
	Very satisfied	407	33.1	53.6	54.5
	Somewhat satisfied	236	19.2	31.2	85.6
	Not very satisfied	52	4.3	6.9	92.5
	Not at all satisfied	57	4.6	7.5	100.0
	Total	758	61.7	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.2		
	System	467	38.1		
	Total	470	38.3		
Total		1228	100.0		

74. What is your current marital status?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Don't Know	8	.6	.6	.6
	single	376	30.6	30.7	31.3
	married	615	50.1	50.2	81.4
	widowed	105	8.5	8.5	90.0
	divorced	17	1.4	1.4	91.3
	separated	106	8.6	8.7	100.0
	Total	1226	99.9	100.0	
Missing	Refused	2	.1		
Total		1228	100.0		

75. 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.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	under 10,000	147	12.0	12.0	12.0
	10,000-19,999	181	14.7	14.7	26.7
	20,000-29,999	155	12.6	12.6	39.3
	30,000-39,999	141	11.5	11.5	50.8
	40,000-49,000	112	9.1	9.1	59.9
	50,000-74,000	214	17.4	17.4	77.3
	75000Refused9,999	125	10.2	10.2	87.5
	100,000 or more	154	12.5	12.5	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	

76. Record Gender [DO NOT ASK]

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	male	589	48.0	48.0	48.0
	female	639	52.0	52.0	100.0
	Total	1228	100.0	100.0	