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### Louisiana Survey 2007

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# The Public Policy Research Lab

[www.survey.lsu.edu](http://www.survey.lsu.edu)

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

## The Spring 2007 Louisiana Survey Final Report



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The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs  
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&



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## *INTRODUCTION*

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

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

As part of an effort to assure that the Louisiana Survey fulfills its public service mission, input was solicited from a statewide Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee provided invaluable insight into the design of the questionnaire and in identifying the issues that most need to be addressed by the survey. While we are greatly indebted to the committee members for their time and contributions, they bear no responsibility for any mistakes in the questionnaire, analysis, or interpretation presented in this report. Five years out, we offer them a special thank you for seeing the value in this project. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Irene W. and Clark B. Pennington Foundation for its support of the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Louisiana Surveys.

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

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For more information on previous surveys or to download the full report, please visit:  
[www.survey.lsu.edu](http://www.survey.lsu.edu).

## METHOD

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

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

Table 1: Selected Sample Demographics in Final Weighted Samples

Statewide Sample (N=870)

**Gender**

|        |      |
|--------|------|
| Male   | 47.4 |
| Female | 52.6 |

**Race**

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| White            | 64.7 |
| Hispanic         | 0.3  |
| African-American | 32.5 |
| Asian            | 0.2  |
| Other            | 2.3  |

**Education**

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Less than High School             | 19.6 |
| High School                       | 32.4 |
| Some College                      | 25.5 |
| College (4 Year Degree and Above) | 22.5 |

**Income**

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Less than 20,000 | 28.4 |
| 20,000-49,999    | 33.1 |
| 50,000-99,999    | 26.0 |
| 100,000 or more  | 12.4 |

**Region**

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Baton Rouge (225)                  | 17.2 |
| New Orleans (504)                  | 15.2 |
| Orleans Surrounding Parishes (985) | 18.2 |
| Southwest Louisiana (337)          | 20.1 |
| North Louisiana (318)              | 29.3 |

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

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

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

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

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

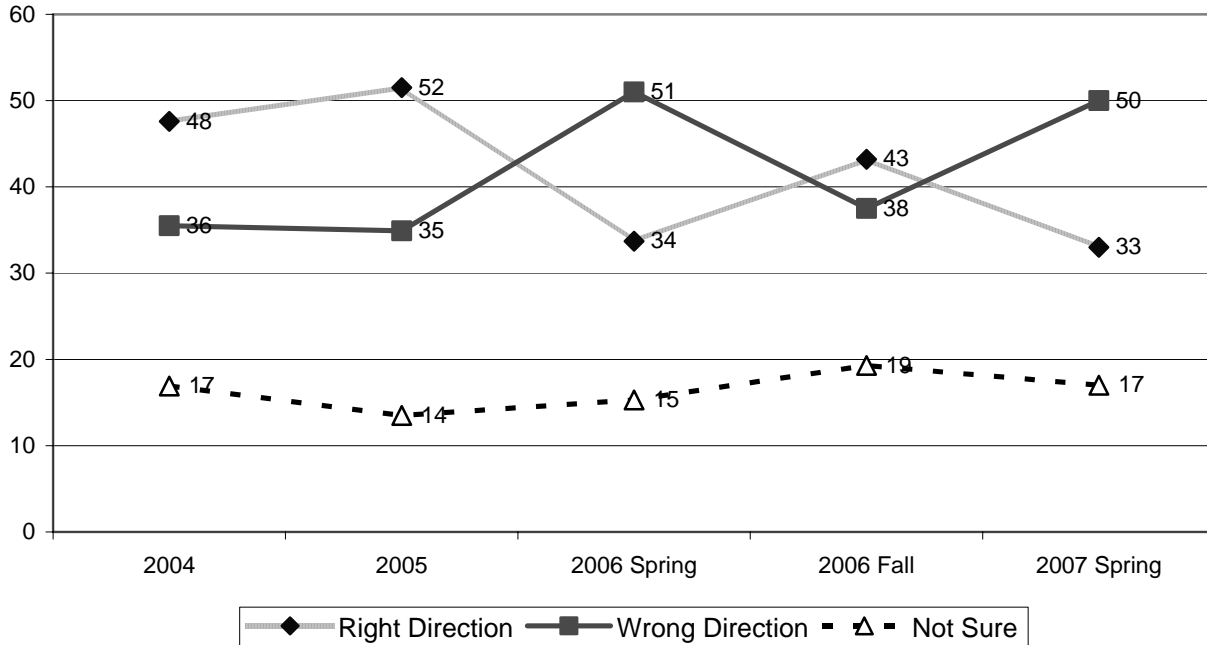
*Attitudes Toward Insurance Companies and Insurance Reform:* Forty-two percent of Louisianans with homeowners insurance have filed a claim in the past two years. Of these respondents, 37 percent

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

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

# Grading the State

## Direction of the State

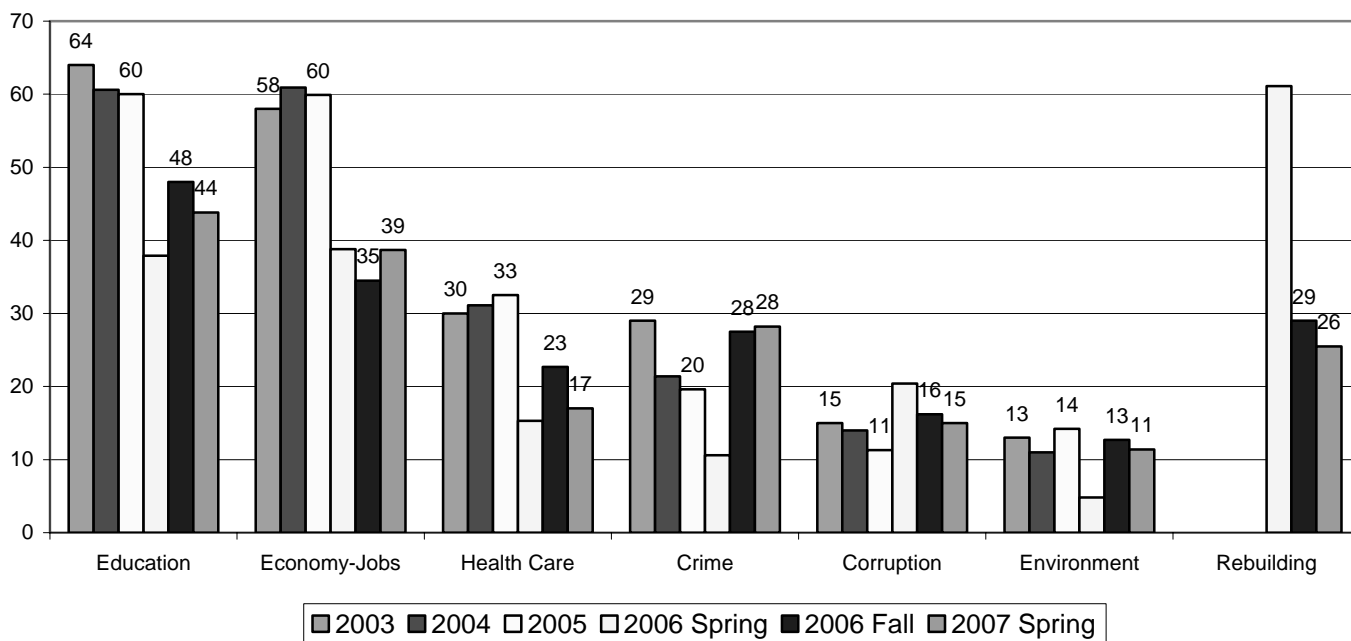


*Right Direction on the Decline:* Since the Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey, there has been a substantial decline in the percent of Louisiana residents saying the state is headed in the right direction. In the current survey, only 33 percent of residents said the state is heading in the right direction, while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

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



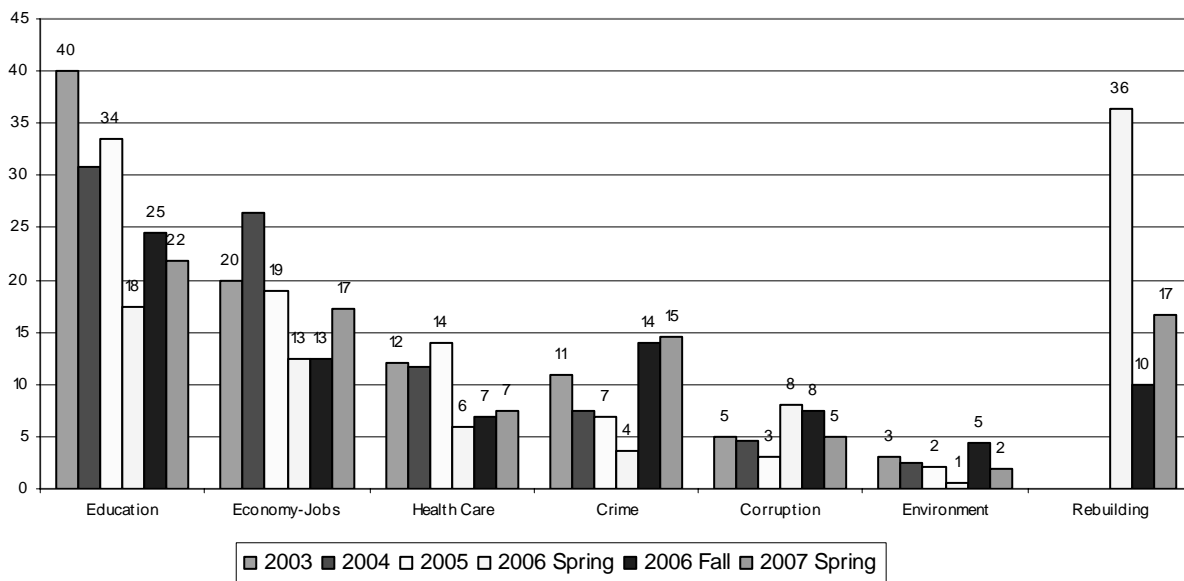
### Top Three Most Important Problems, 2003-2007



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

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

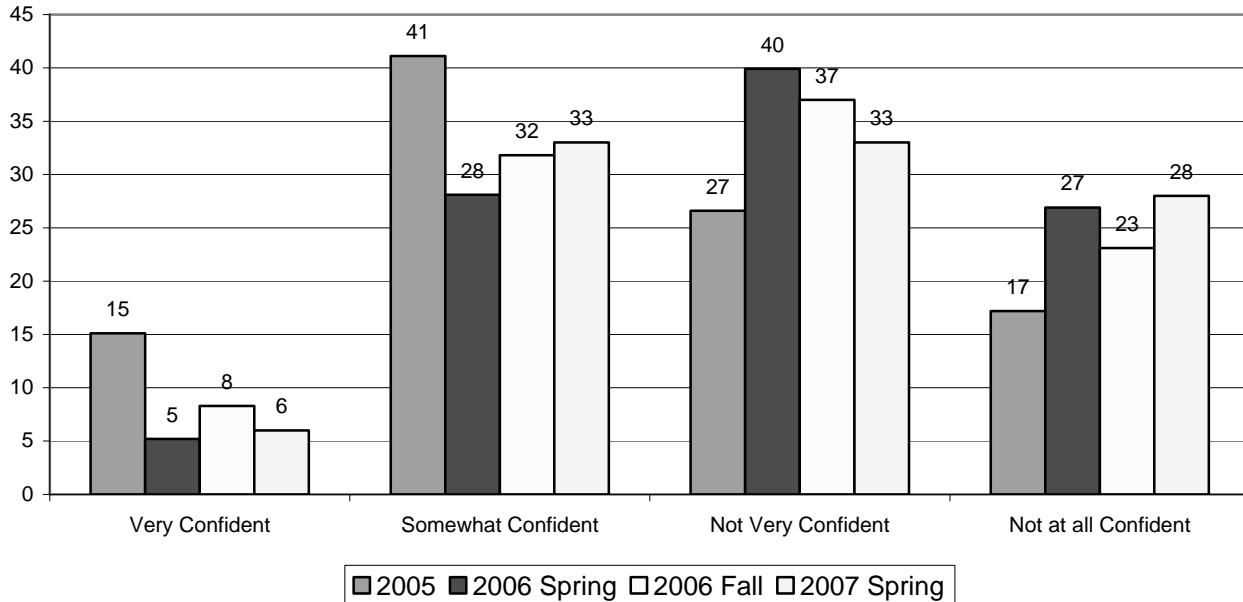
### The Most Important Problem, 2003-2007



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

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

## Confidence State Government Will Address Most Important Problem

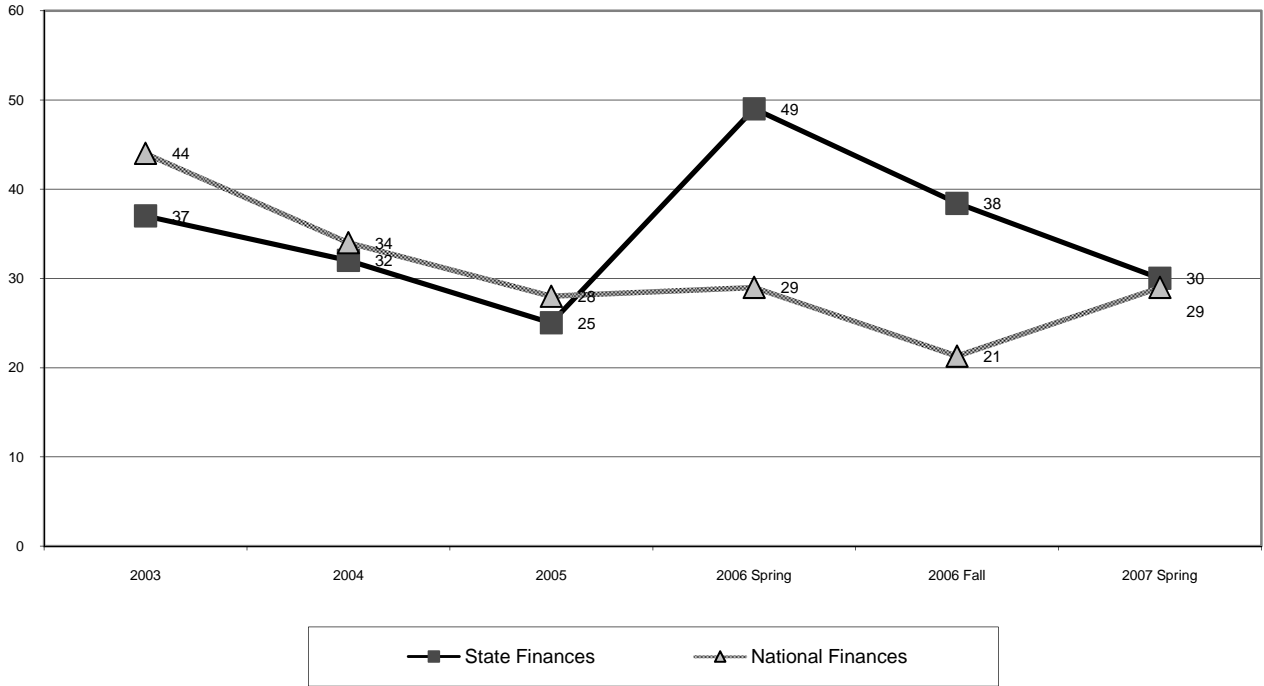


*Confidence in Public Officials:* Confidence that state government will effectively address respondents self-identified most important problem remains low. Confidence, however, has not declined noticeably since the Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey and remains higher than in Spring 2006. Thirty-nine percent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

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

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

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

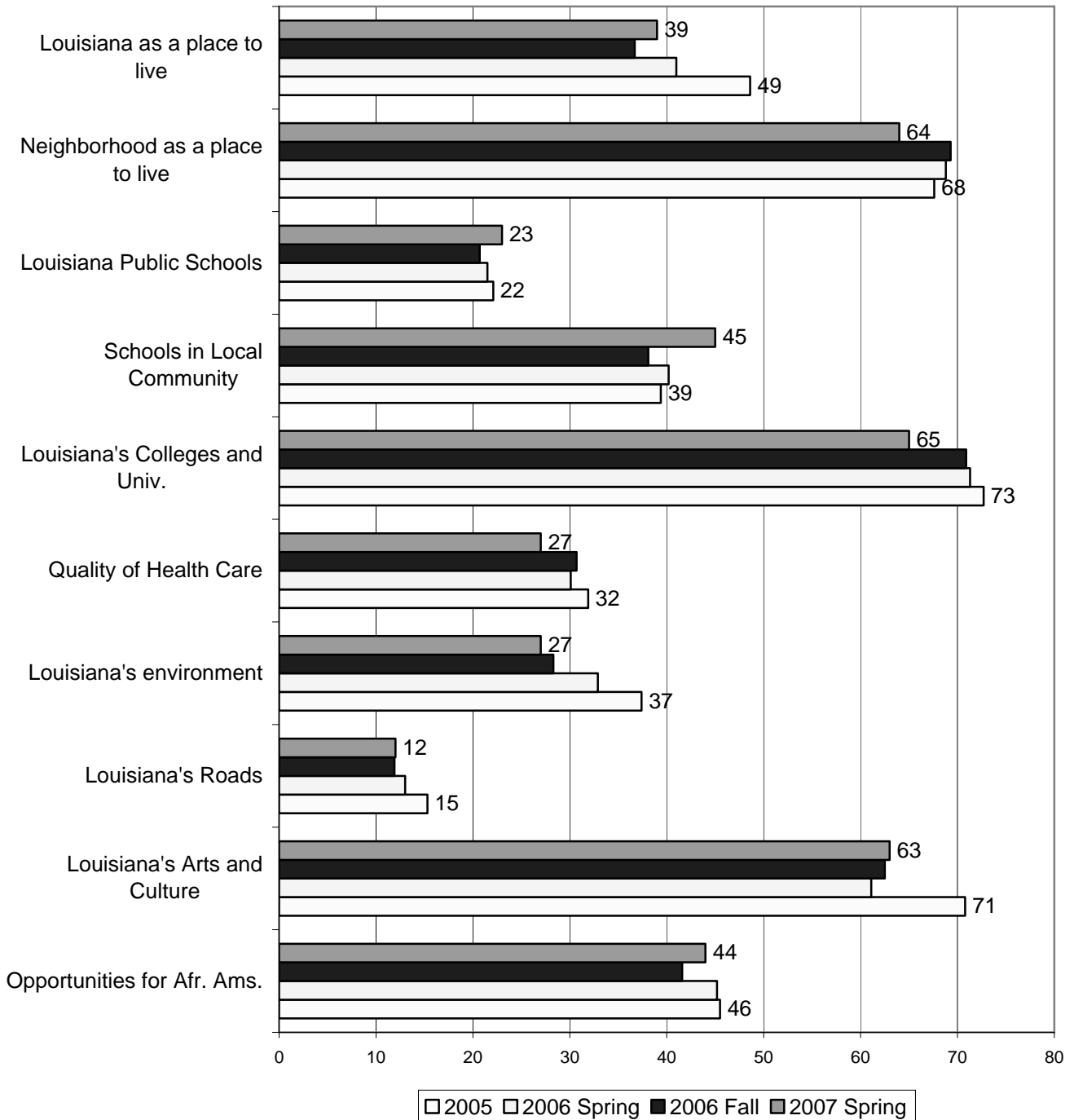


*Economic Evaluations:* Over the past six months, evaluations of state business conditions have improved significantly, presumably reflecting a relatively healthy state budget. Since the fall, there has been an 8-point decline in the percent of respondents saying the state economy has gotten worse. Notably,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

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

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

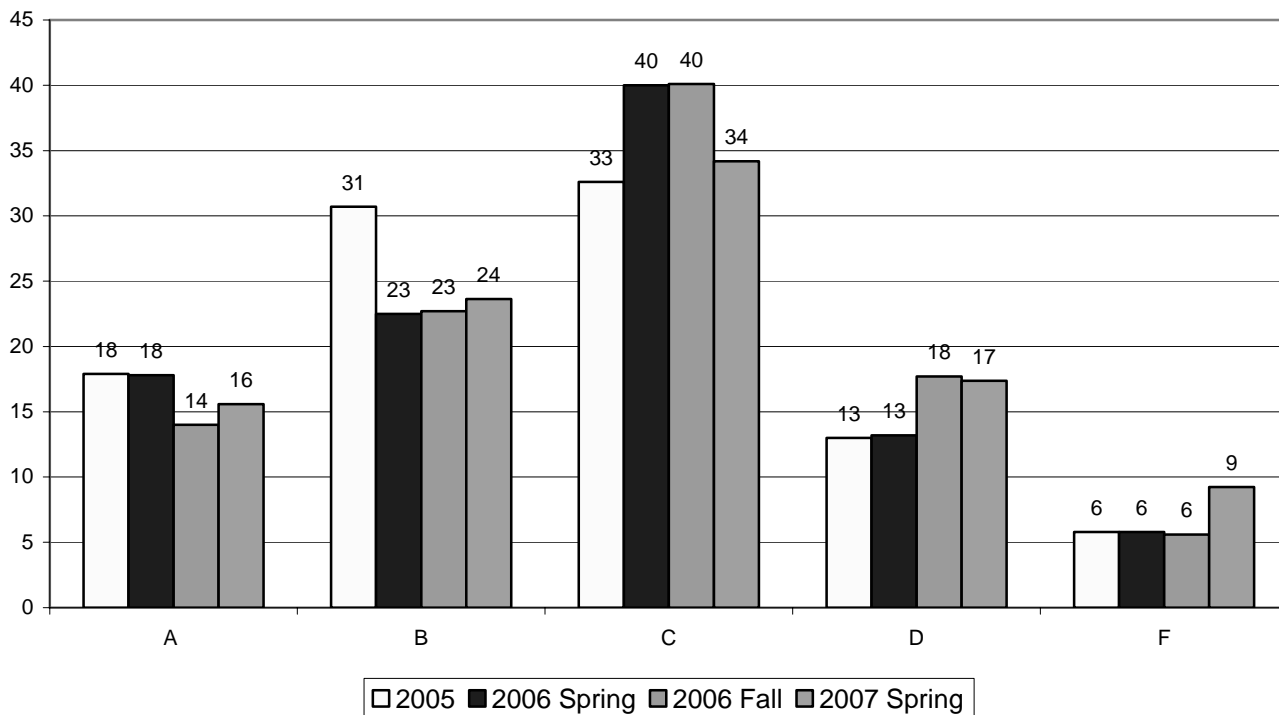
### Grading Louisiana: Percent Giving a Grade "A" or "B"



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

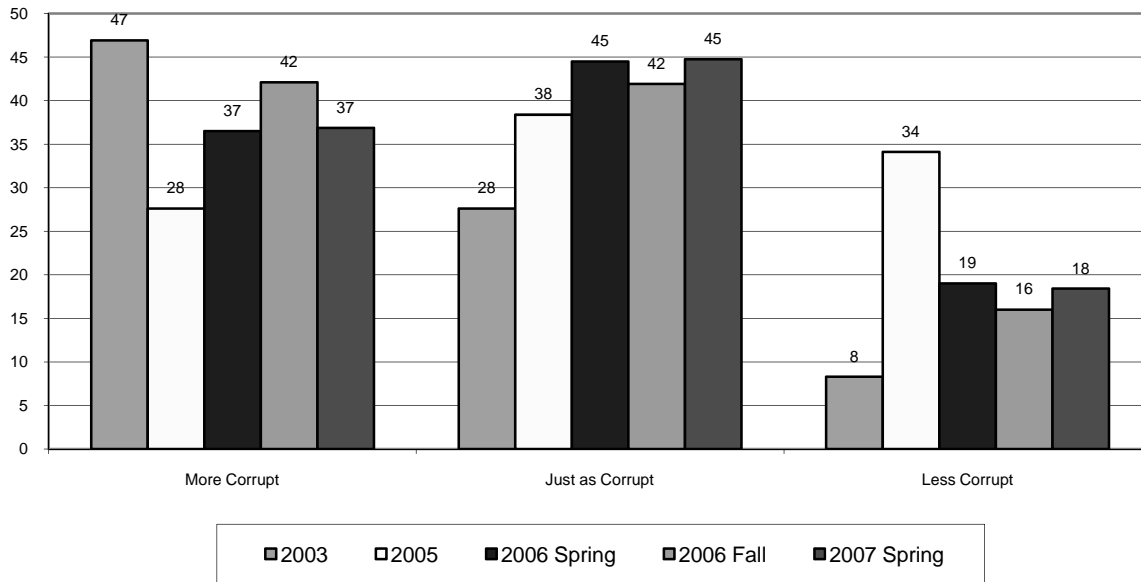
to 65 percent in the spring. Despite the decline, colleges and universities remain the top-rated item in terms of government services. Third, evaluations for the quality of health care declined from 31 percent in the fall to 27 percent in the spring.

### Louisiana as a Place to Live



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

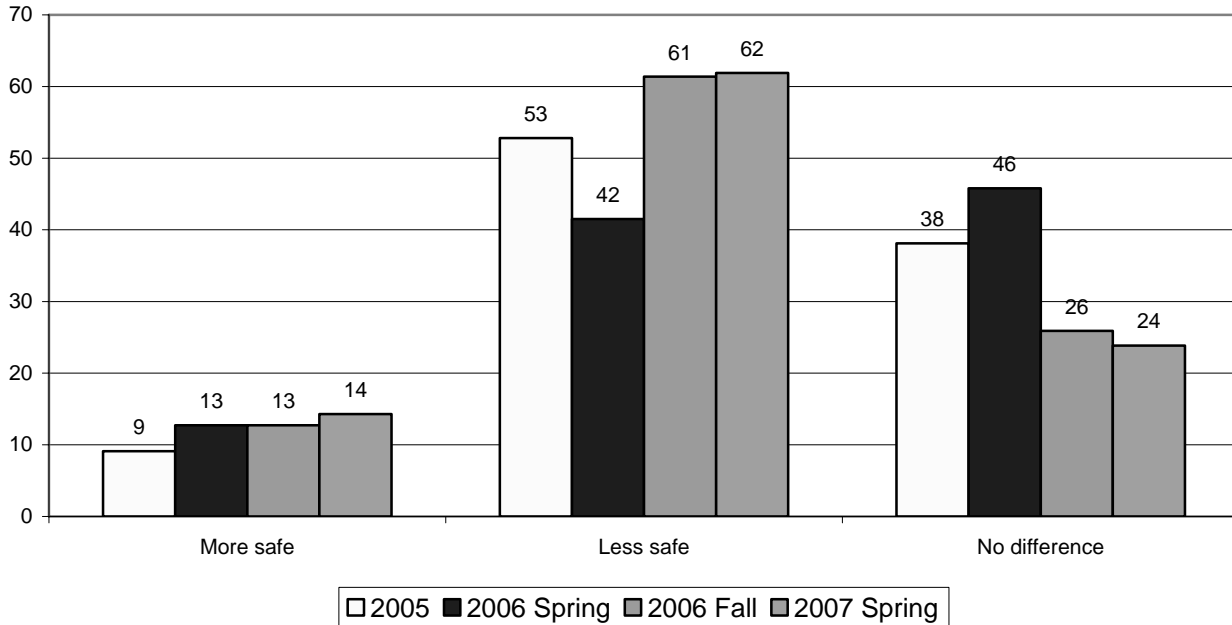
## Perceptions of Corruption



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

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

## Perceptions of Public Safety



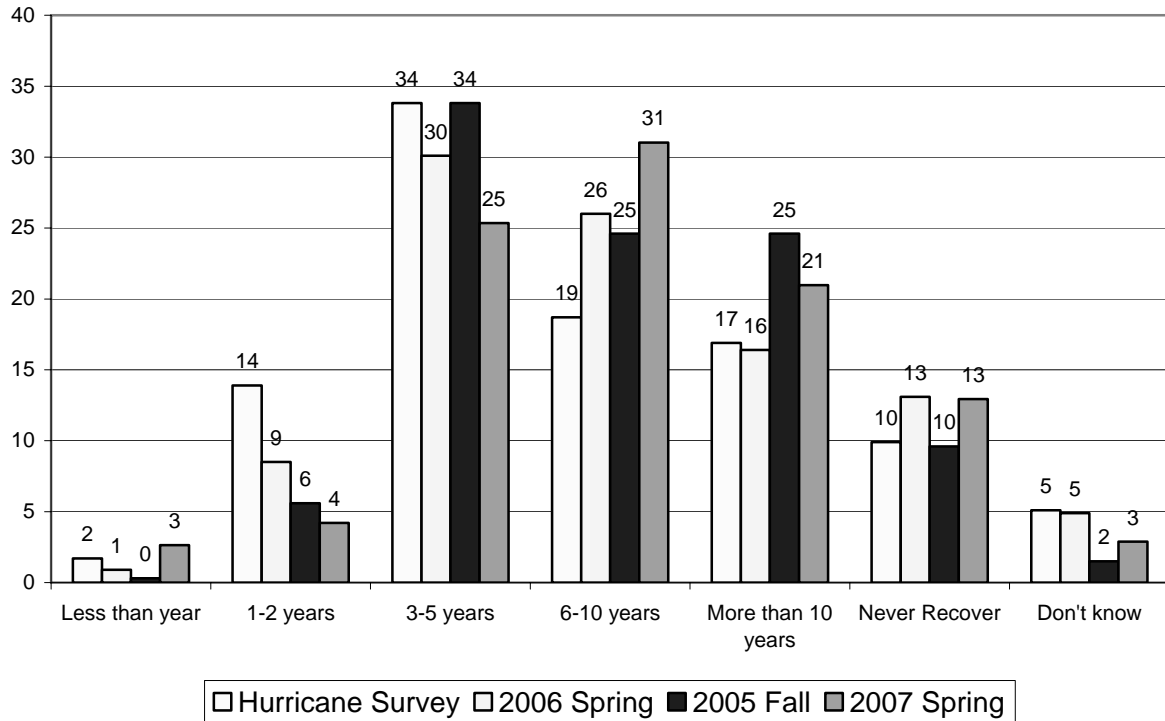
*Public Safety:* One of the most noteworthy findings in the Fall 2006 Survey was the sharp increase in concerns about public safety. While such concerns have not increased over the past six months, neither have they abated. In all, 62 percent of Louisianans believe the state has become less safe, while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

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



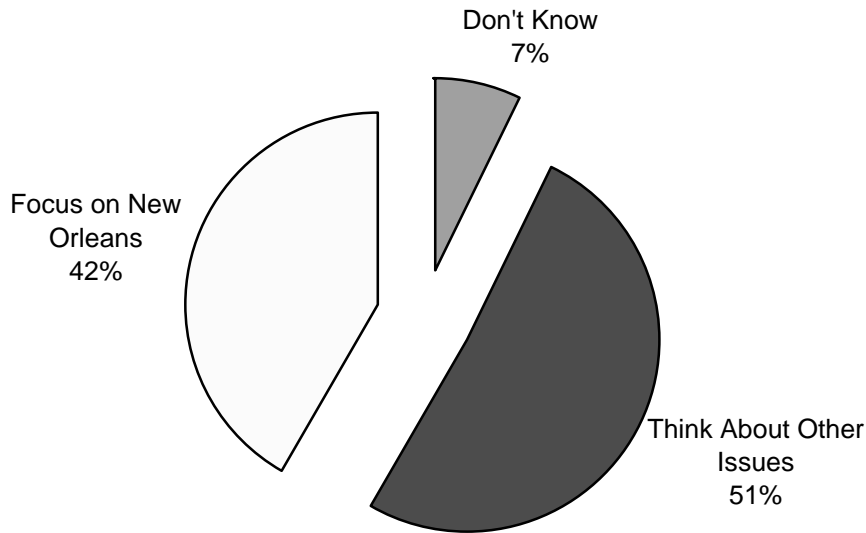
# Assessment of Recovery Efforts

## Recovery Time



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

### Continue to Focus on New Orleans or Think About Other Issues



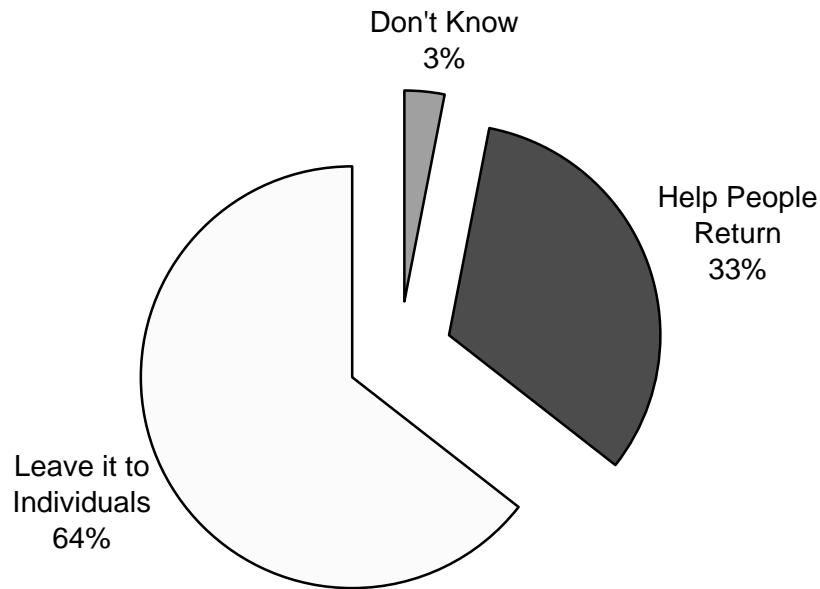
*Attention to Rebuilding:* As part of our effort to understand attitudes toward rebuilding, respondents were asked to identify which of the following statements comes closest to their view:

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

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

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

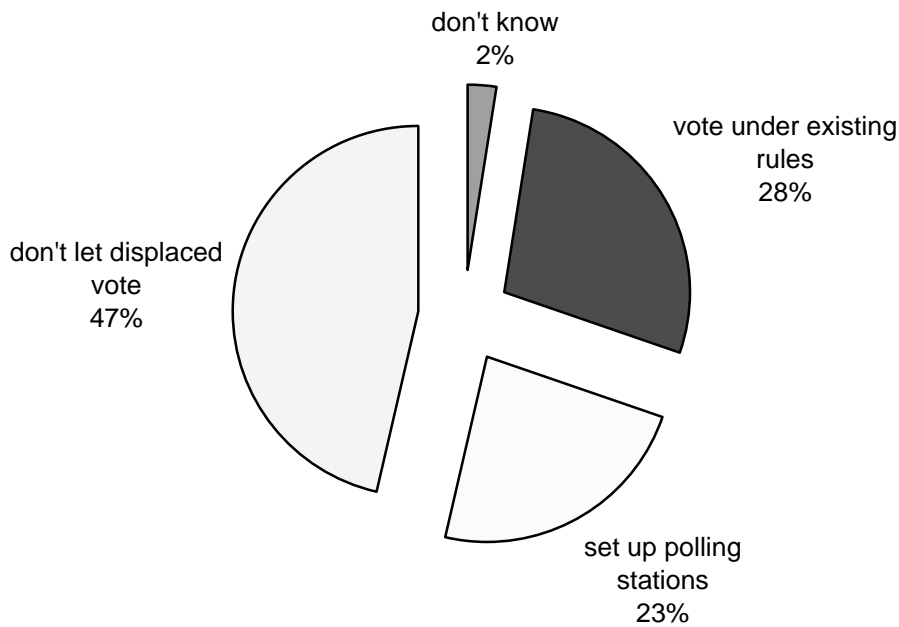
## Should State Help People Return or Leave It To Individuals?



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

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

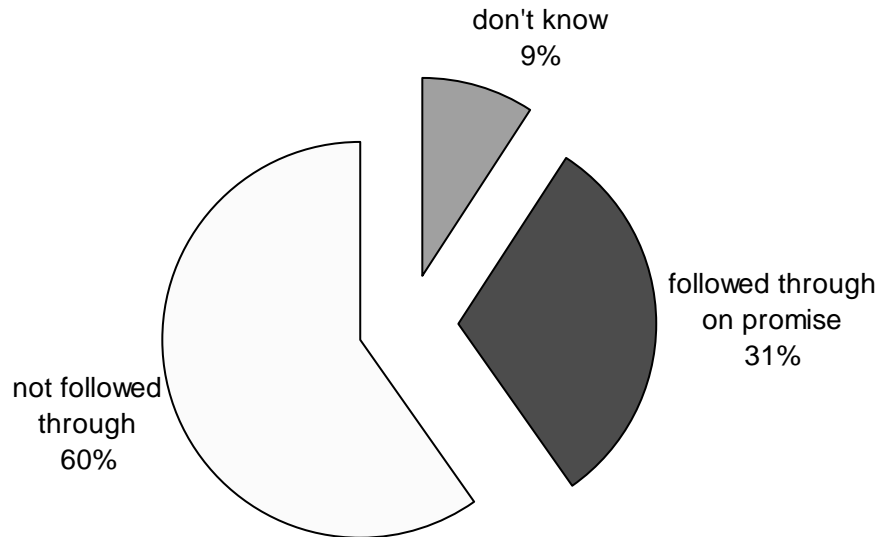
## Should State Encourage Displaced Voting?



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

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

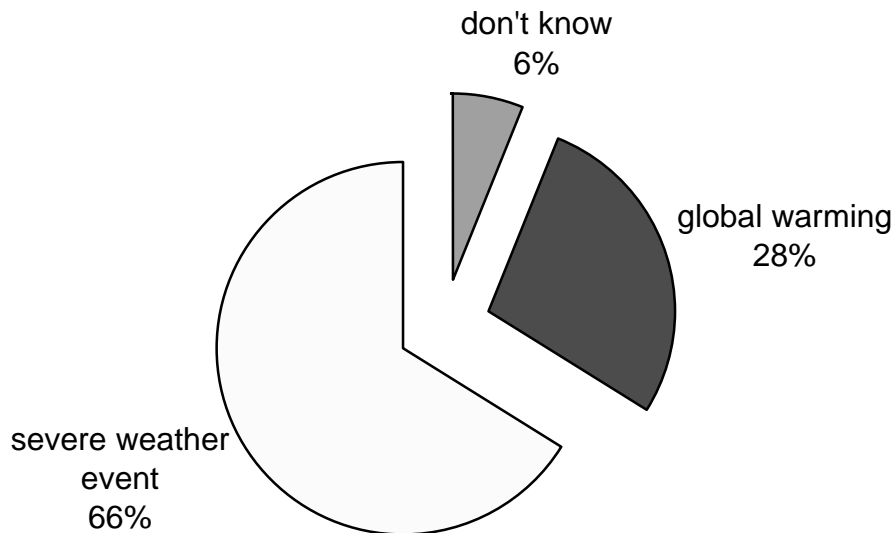
## Has President Bush Followed Through on Promise to Rebuild Gulf Coast?



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

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

## Are Hurricanes Due To Global Warming?

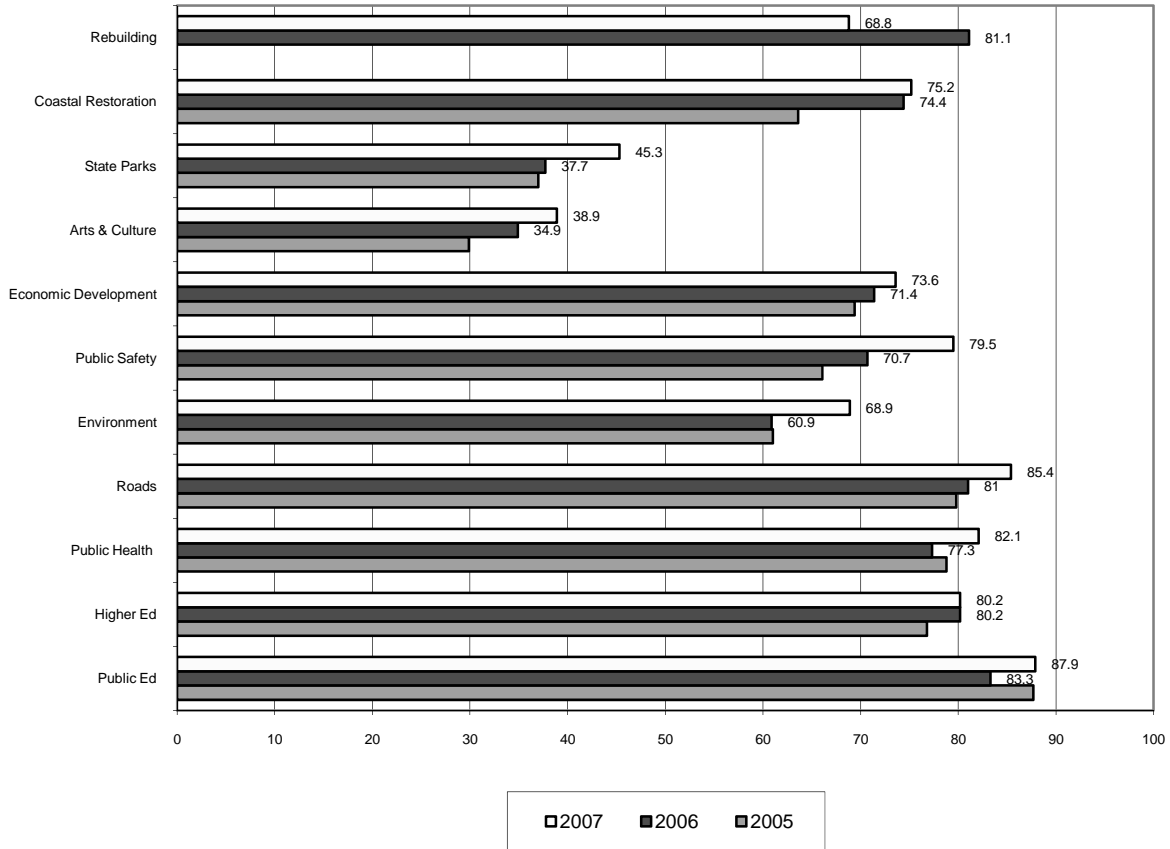


*Severity of Recent Hurricanes and Global Climate Change:* Louisiana residents do not connect the severity of recent hurricanes to global climate change. Twenty-eight percent of respondents said the severity of recent hurricanes is most likely the result of global climate change, while 66 percent said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

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

# Spending Priorities

Preferences for State Spending

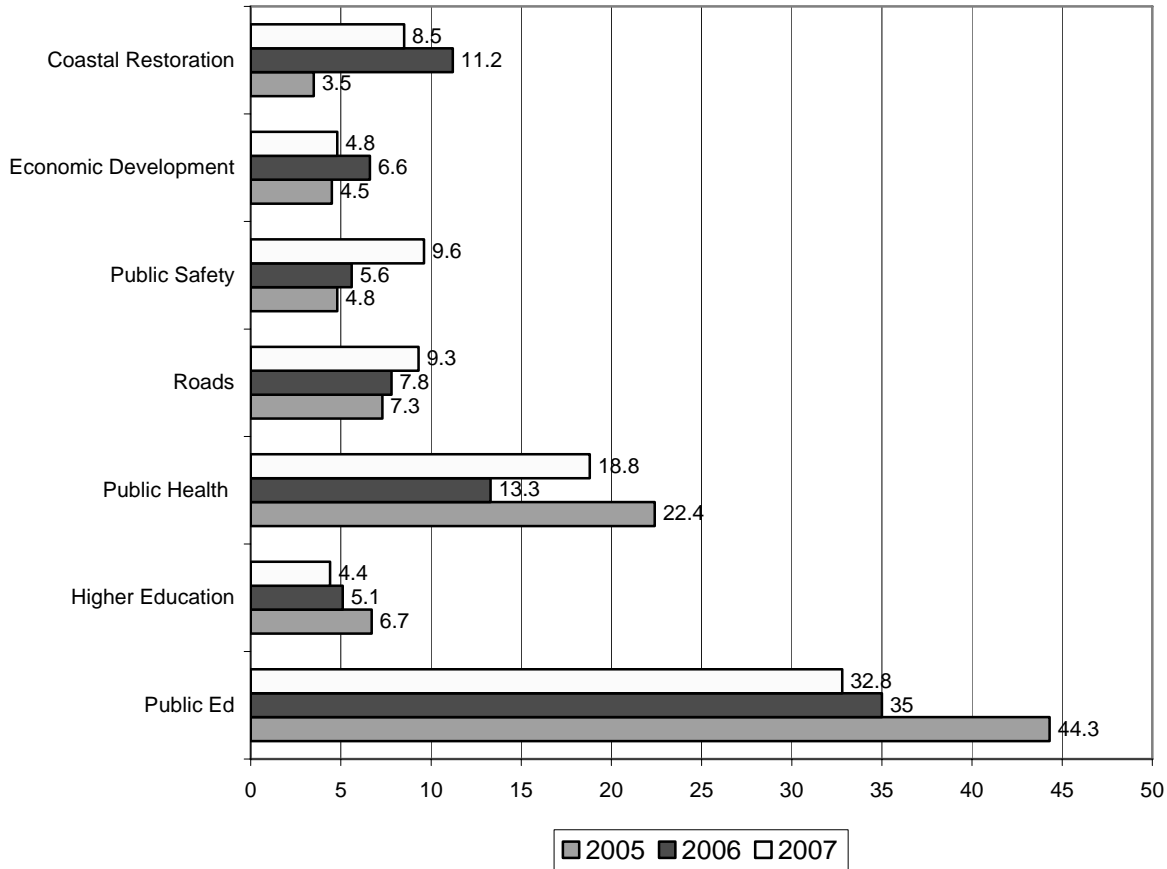


*Spending Preferences:* As part of the core items in the Louisiana Survey, respondents are asked whether they would increase, decrease, or keep spending about the same across a number of areas of government service. To better gauge priorities, respondents are then asked to identify a single area of government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

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

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

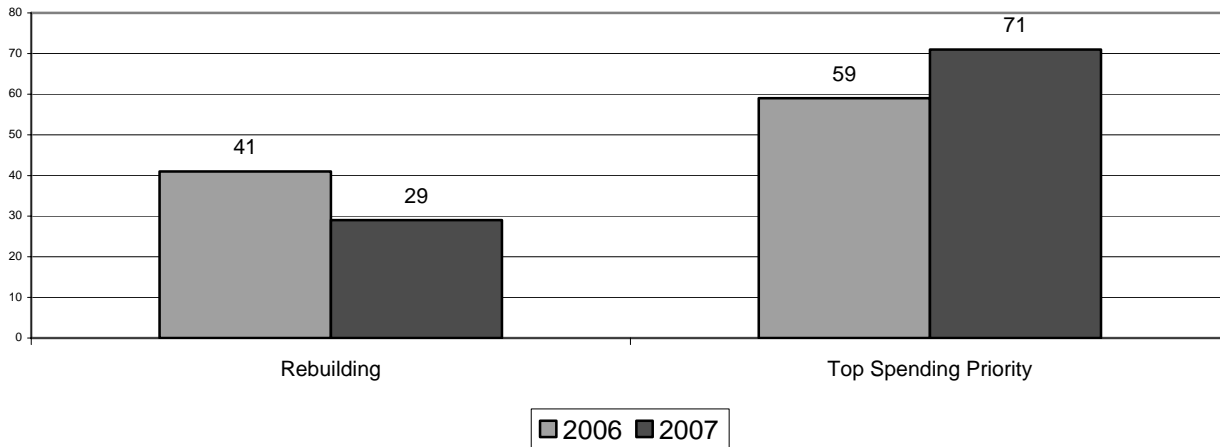
### The Top Spending Priority



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



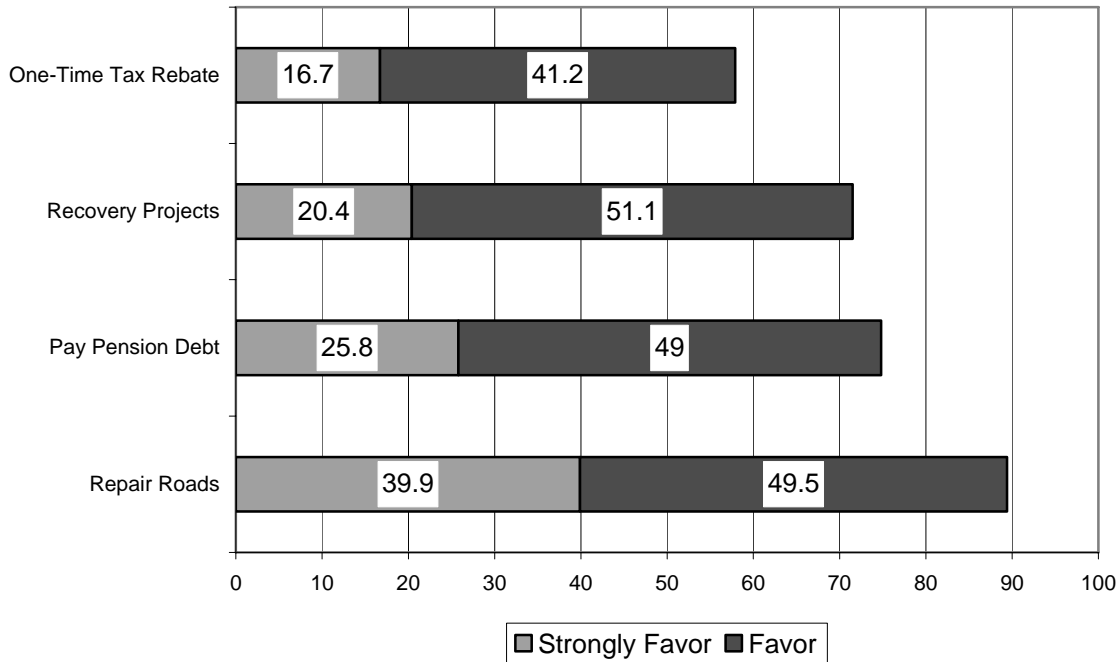
## Rebuilding Versus Top Spending Priority



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

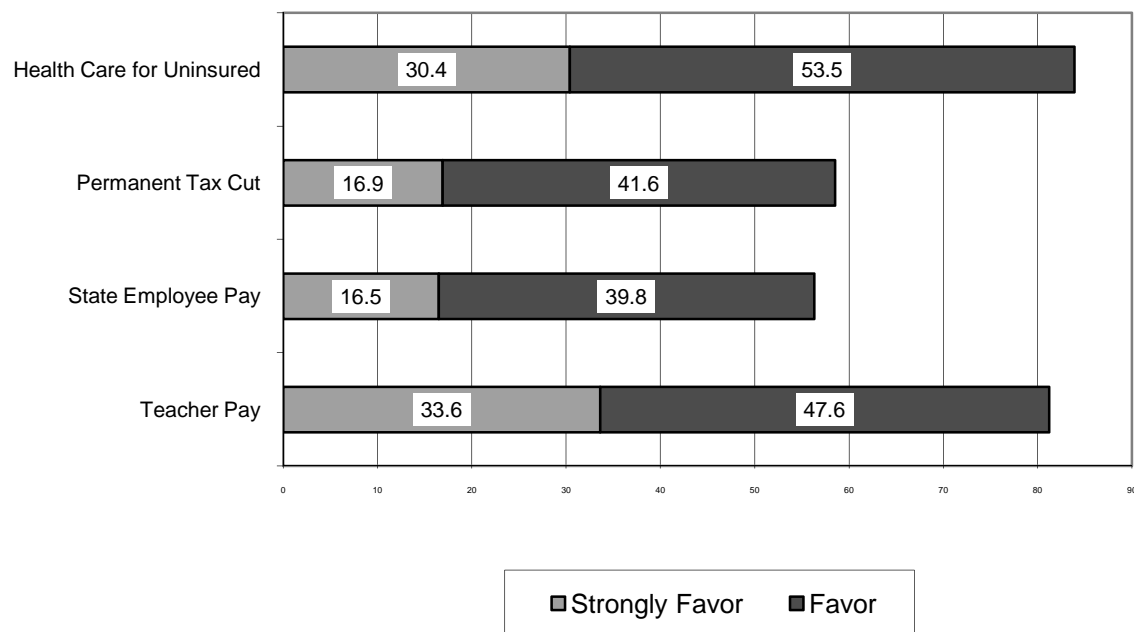
While the 29 percent selecting rebuilding may seem low, if we recalculate spending priorities including respondents who said rebuilding was their top priority, rebuilding would be the top spending priority, narrowly edging out education. Women, minorities, lower income, and New Orleans area residents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

### One-Time Spending Preferences



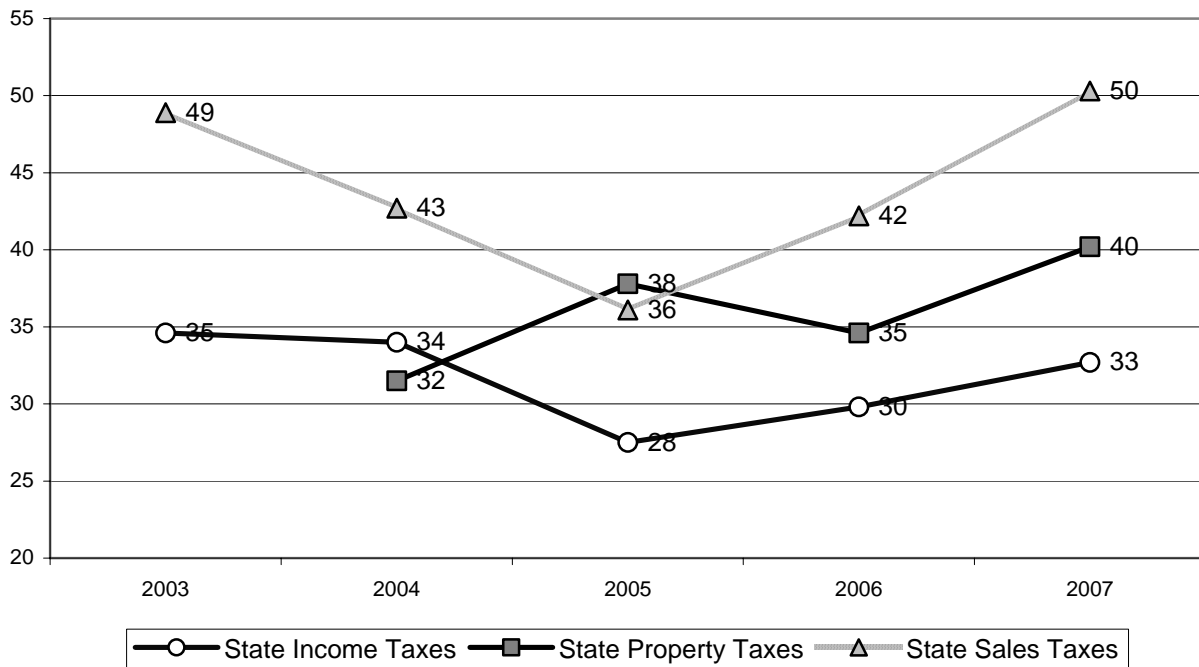
*Surplus Spending:* To gauge how Louisianans prefer to use the budget surplus, we first asked respondents whether the money should be used on one-time items or recurring expenses. We then followed up with questions asking about spending preferences assuming the money could only be used on one-time or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

## Recurring Spending Preferences



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

## Taxes Are Too High and Need to Be Reduced



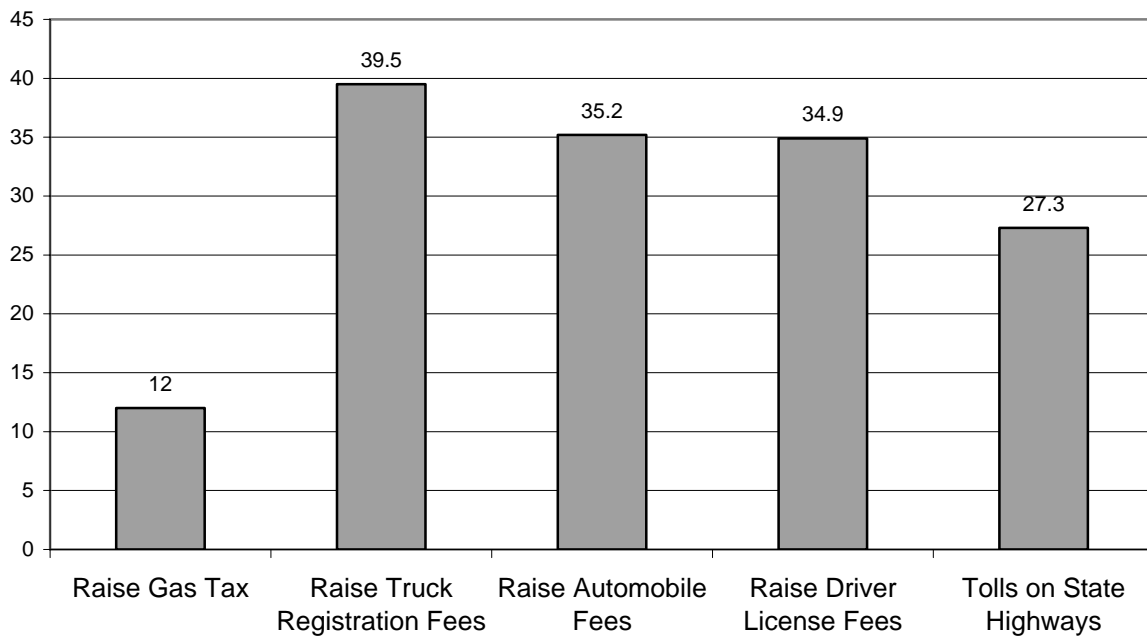
*Attitudes Toward State Taxes:* We see the value in the Louisiana Survey – and the ability to track attitudes over time - in the questions on state taxes. Perceptions that state sales taxes and state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced have increased since 2005. And, over the past year,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

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

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

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

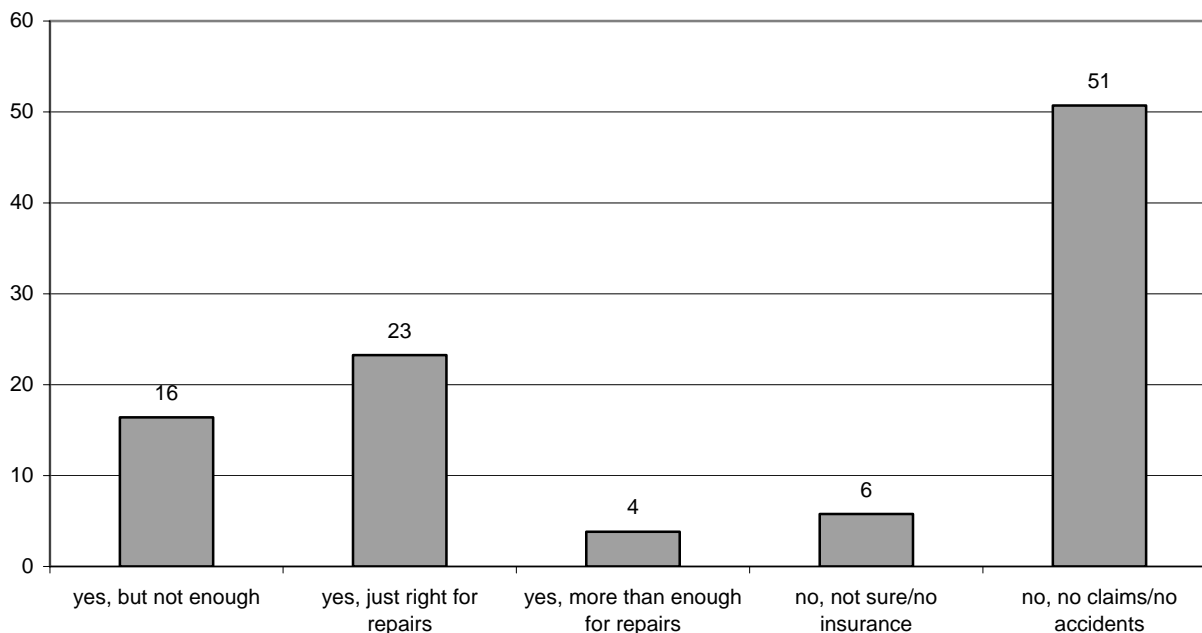
### Support for Mechanisms to Increase Funding for Roads



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

## Evaluating Insurance

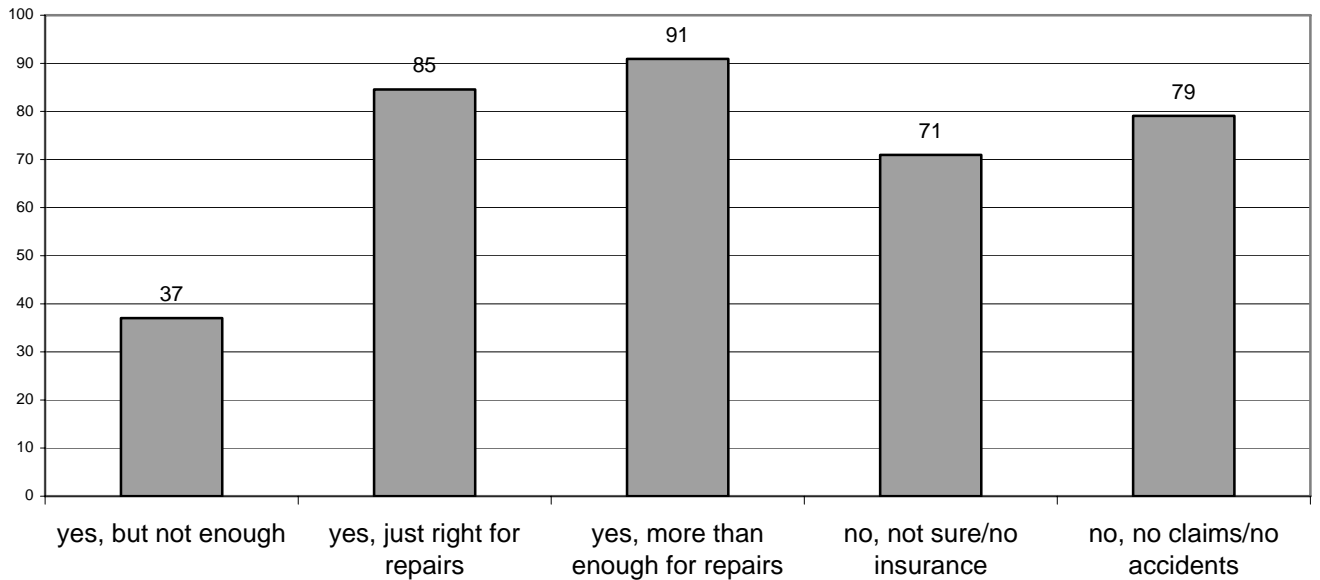
Has Respondent Filed Claim Against Homeowners Insurance?



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

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

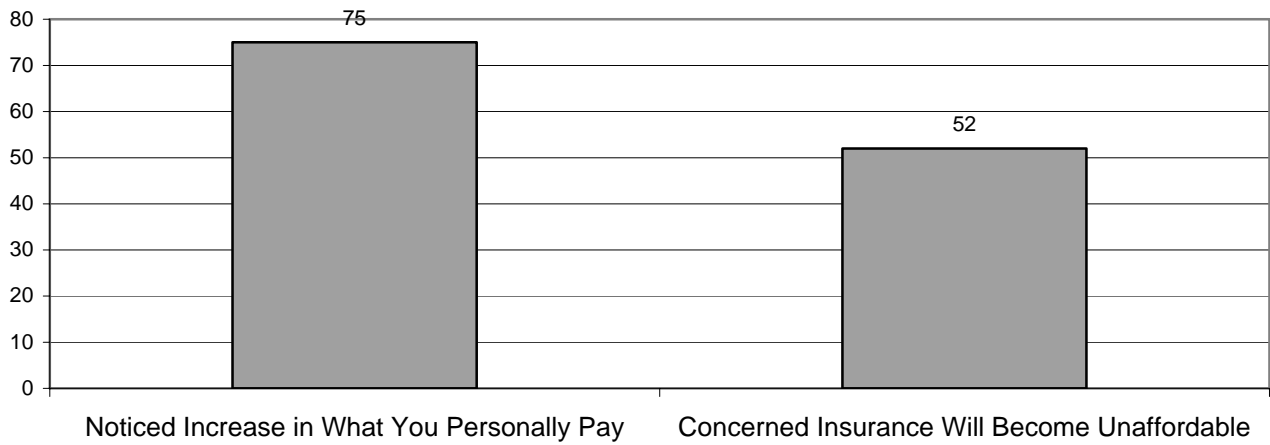
### Trust in Insurance Companies by Claim Experience



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

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

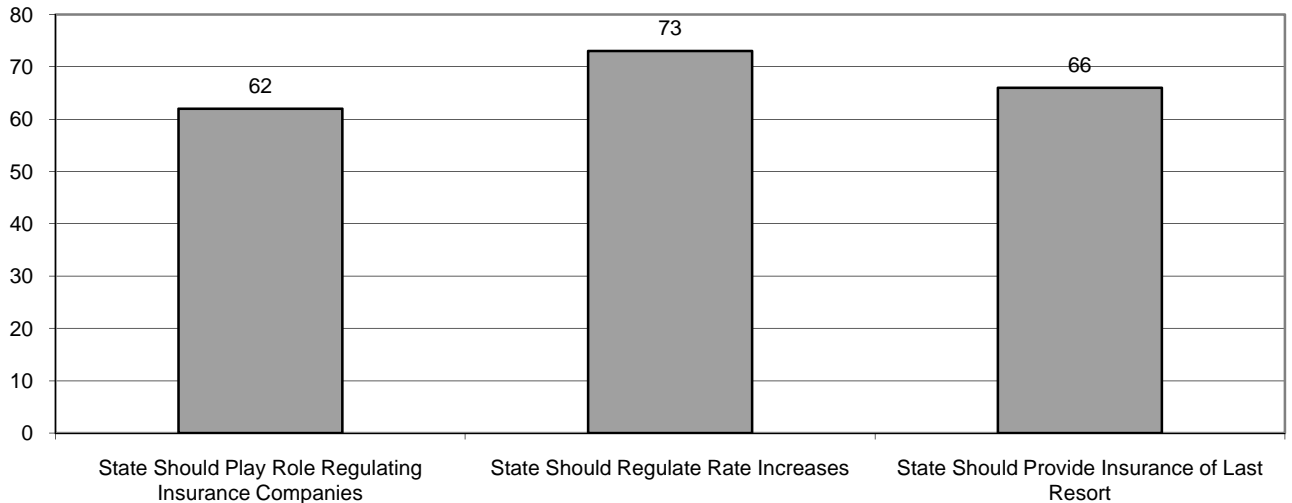
### Insurance Rate Increases and Affordability



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



### Role of State Government In Regulating Insurance



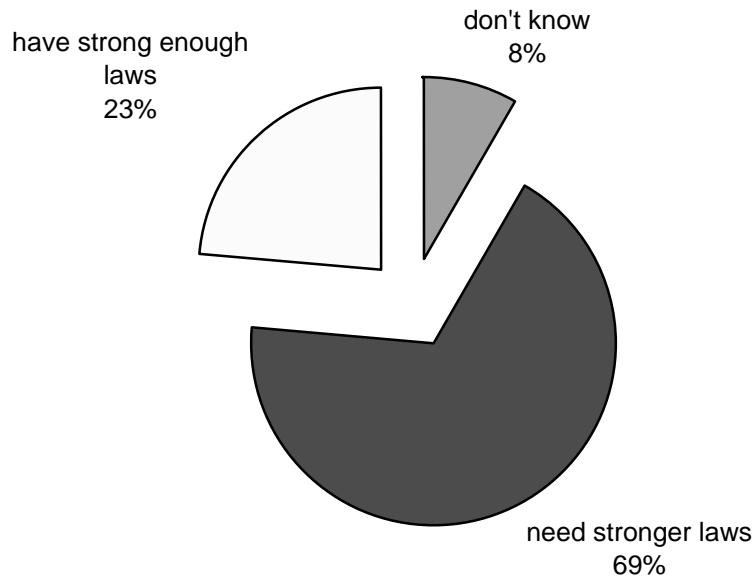
*Insurance Reform:* When it comes to reforming insurance practices, Louisiana residents prefer a state role. Sixty-two percent of residents said that it was better to have the state play a role in regulating insurance companies compared to 21 percent who said it was better to reduce the role of the state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

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

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

# Ethics Reform

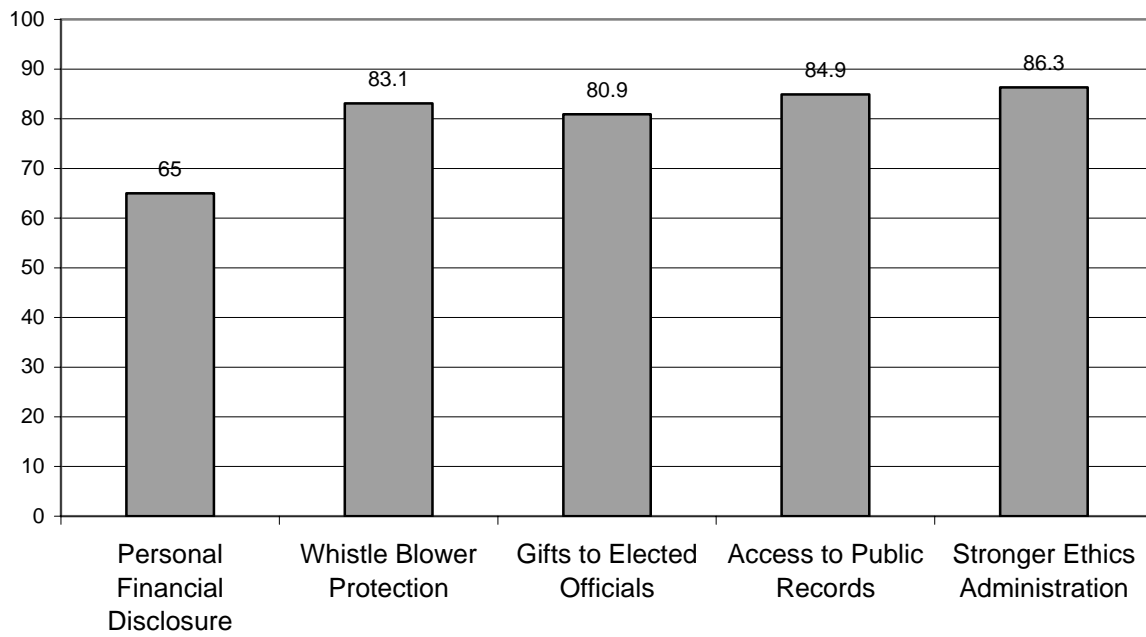
## Support for Stronger Ethics Laws



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

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

## Support for Ethics Reform Provisions



Top Line

Louisiana Survey, Spring 2007

1. To begin with, would you say things are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things are going in the wrong direction here in Louisiana? (N=871)

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

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

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

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

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

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

|                |     |      |
|----------------|-----|------|
| Better         | 192 | 22.1 |
| About the Same | 434 | 50.0 |

|            |     |      |
|------------|-----|------|
| Worse      | 165 | 19.0 |
| Don't Know | 78  | 8.9  |

5. How much confidence would you say you have in state government to effectively address this problem? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident? (N=835)

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

6. We are also interested in how people are getting along financially these days.. would you say that you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same as you were a year ago? (N=859)

|        |     |      |
|--------|-----|------|
| Better | 270 | 21.1 |
| Same   | 417 | 48.6 |
| Worse  | 235 | 27.3 |

7. What about business conditions in the state of Louisiana -- do you think that at the present time business conditions in Louisiana are better, worse, or about the same as they were a year ago? (N=830)

|        |     |      |
|--------|-----|------|
| Better | 250 | 30.1 |
| Same   | 328 | 39.5 |
| Worse  | 252 | 30.4 |

8. And what about business conditions in the nation -- do you think that at the present time business conditions in the country as a whole are better, worse, or about the same as they were a year ago? (N=770)

|        |     |      |
|--------|-----|------|
| Better | 207 | 26.9 |
| Same   | 337 | 43.7 |
| Worse  | 226 | 29.3 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

|   |     |      |
|---|-----|------|
| A | 50  | 5.8  |
| B | 181 | 21.3 |

|   |     |      |
|---|-----|------|
| C | 323 | 37.9 |
| D | 160 | 18.8 |
| F | 137 | 16.1 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22. Higher Education (N=849)

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

23. Public Health and Hospitals (N=857)

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

24. Roads and Transportation (N=868)

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

25. Environmental Protection (N=839)

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

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

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

27. Economic Development (N=836)

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



28. Arts and cultural institutions (N=830)

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

29. State parks and tourism (N=847)

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

30. Coastal Restoration (N=824)

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

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

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

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

|                          |     |      |
|--------------------------|-----|------|
| Public Education         | 285 | 32.8 |
| Higher Education         | 38  | 4.4  |
| Public Health            | 164 | 18.8 |
| Roads and Transportation | 81  | 9.3  |
| Environmental Protection | 18  | 2.1  |
| Public Safety            | 8.4 | 9.6  |
| Economic Development     | 42  | 4.8  |
| Arts and cultural        | 1   | 0.1  |
| State parks and tourism  | 5   | 0.6  |
| Coastal Restoration      | 74  | 8.5  |
| Don't Know               | 69  | 7.9  |
| Refused                  | 9   | 1.1  |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 553 | 88.4 |
| No  | 72  | 11.6 |

43. Have you filed a claim against your homeowners

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

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

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

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 387 | 73.8 |
| No  | 137 | 26.2 |

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 403 | 74.7 |
| No  | 137 | 25.3 |

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 316 | 52.4 |
| No  | 286 | 47.6 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

|            |     |      |
|------------|-----|------|
| Should not | 165 | 18.9 |
| Don't Know | 75  | 8.6  |

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

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

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

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

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

Build and repair roads and infrastructure (N=870)

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

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

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

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

|                |     |      |
|----------------|-----|------|
| Strongly favor | 176 | 20.4 |
| Favor          | 442 | 51.1 |
| Oppose         | 158 | 18.3 |

|                 |    |     |
|-----------------|----|-----|
| Strongly oppose | 39 | 4.5 |
| Don't Know      | 50 | 5.7 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57. Provide PERMANENT tax cuts (N=869)

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

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

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

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

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

Raise the state gasoline tax (N=442)

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

60. Raise truck registration fees (N=442)

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

61. Raise automobile registration fees (N=441)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 399 | 91.0 |
| No  | 38  | 8.6  |



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

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

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

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

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

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

75. What about the state sales tax, would you say that the state sales tax is too high and needs to be reduced, too low and needs to be increased, or just about right? (N=845)

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

76. And what about local property taxes, would you say local property taxes are too high and need to be reduced, too low and need to be increased, or just about right? (N=753)

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

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

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

|   |     |      |
|---|-----|------|
| 5 | 45  | 5.1  |
| 6 | 22  | 2.5  |
| 7 | 296 | 34.0 |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

|                        |     |      |
|------------------------|-----|------|
| Fair and balanced      | 210 | 55.0 |
| Support hometown teams | 171 | 45.0 |

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

|                 |     |      |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| Cover stories   | 204 | 52.3 |
| Protect privacy | 185 | 47.5 |

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 743 | 85.3 |
| No  | 128 | 14.7 |

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

|     |    |      |
|-----|----|------|
| Yes | 58 | 45.3 |
| No  | 70 | 54.7 |

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 67  | 7.7  |
| No  | 804 | 92.3 |

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

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

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

|              |     |      |
|--------------|-----|------|
| Liberal      | 133 | 17.4 |
| Moderate     | 283 | 37.0 |
| Conservative | 349 | 45.6 |

95. Age (N=871)

M=52.3      SD=16.1

96. Education (N=871)

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

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 714 | 82.0 |
| No  | 157 | 18.0 |

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 146 | 74.5 |
| No  | 50  | 25.5 |

99. Race (N=871)

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

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

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

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

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| Yes | 197 | 31.5 |
| No  | 429 | 68.5 |

109. Family Income (N=871)

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

110. Gender

|        |     |      |
|--------|-----|------|
| Male   | 418 | 47.9 |
| Female | 453 | 52.1 |