



The Louisiana Survey 2021

A report on public opinion about the direction of the state, the Covid-19 pandemic, taxes, infrastructure, racial discrimination, economic opportunity, broadband access, paid family leave, early childhood education, and more.



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Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs

The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs is partnership-driven, action-oriented, and dedicated to exploring contemporary issues at the intersection of mass communication and public life. Its interdisciplinary approach draws together experts from diverse fields to advance research and dialogue. The intent is to inspire our communities to think deeply, develop solutions, take action and broaden knowledge. The Center's role, within the state's flagship university, is to respond quickly to the needs of state governance in addressing challenges facing Louisiana, particularly in times of crisis such as during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the 2016 historic floods, and the Covid-19 pandemic. Underlying the Center's endeavors is to strengthen and advance the Manship School's national and state leadership in media and politics.

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About the Louisiana Survey

The *2021 Louisiana Survey* is the nineteenth in an annual series sponsored by the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs at Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication.

The mission of the *Louisiana Survey* is to establish benchmarks as well as to capture change in residents' assessments of state government services. The survey is further dedicated to tracking public opinion on the contemporary policy issues that face the state. Each iteration of the *Louisiana Survey* contains core items designed to serve as barometers of public sentiment, including assessments of whether the state is heading in the right direction or wrong direction, perceptions about the most important problems facing the state, as well as evaluations of public revenue sources and spending priorities.

In the *2021 Louisiana Survey*, this core is supplemented by measures of experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic; support for paid family leave requirements, extension of broadband access, expansion of early childhood education programs, an increase to the gasoline tax, as well as beliefs about race and socio-economic class.

As part of an effort to ensure that the *Louisiana Survey* fulfills its public service mission, the research team solicited input about topics for the survey from members of the government and policy community across the political spectrum. Additionally, the research team drew upon expertise in public policy and polling from Louisiana State University faculty. These advisors provided invaluable insight into the design of the questionnaire and in identifying the contemporary policy questions that could most benefit from an understanding of the public's views. While we are indebted to them for their time and contributions, they bear no responsibility for final decisions on the questionnaire, analysis, and interpretation presented in this report or any mistakes therein.

We especially thank the Reilly Family Foundation for their generous support and vision in helping to create the *Louisiana Survey*.

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Summary

Key results from the *2021 Louisiana Survey*, a project of the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs at Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication, include

State of the State

- The pandemic appears to have had little, if any, effect on what Louisiana residents think about the direction of the state. Today, 46% say the state is heading in the wrong direction, and 42% say it is heading in the right direction. This is a shift from our last survey in 2019, when 43% said the state was heading in the wrong direction and 47% said it was heading in the right direction, but the change is within the margin of error. Beliefs about the direction of the state have held relatively steady since 2017.
- The pandemic has shifted the public's priorities for what problems the state government should tackle. The economy and the pandemic top state residents' concerns, replacing education and transportation infrastructure, which topped the list two years ago.
- Louisiana residents are neither more nor less confident in state government than they were before the pandemic. Forty-one percent (41%) of state residents say they are either very confident or somewhat confident in state government to address problems effectively. This share is on par with annual results from the *Louisiana Survey* since 2013.
- The public has mixed views about economic well-being. On the one hand, a large majority of Louisiana residents (72%) say that the state's economy is worse than it was a year ago. On the other hand, most state residents (54%) say their own financial situation is the same as it was a year ago, while 29% say it is worse than it was a year ago.

Covid-19 Pandemic

- Although only about one in eight Louisiana residents say they tested positive for Covid-19, the pandemic touched many more lives in other ways. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of adults in the state say they personally know someone who tested positive for Covid-19. Nearly half (48%) say they personally know someone who has died from the disease.
- About one-third (31%) of Louisiana residents say they lost their job or had a loss of income because of the pandemic. Nearly the same share (27%) lives with someone who suffered the loss of a job or income.
- By early March, 32% of Louisiana residents said they had not yet received the vaccine and did not intend to do so even when they are eligible. Another 17% said they had already received a vaccination against Covid-19, and still another 41% said they intend to receive the vaccine when it is available to them.

- There is a substantial racial gap in how children are receiving instruction from schools during the pandemic. Eighty-two percent (82%) of White parents with children in kindergarten through 12th grade say their child attends entirely in-person, but just 45% of Black parents say their child attends entirely in-person.
- Fifty-six percent (56%) of parents of school age children think their child learned less over the past year than they would have if not for the pandemic. Despite this, 77% are satisfied with the instruction provided by their child’s school during the pandemic. Just 21% of parents are dissatisfied with the instruction their child’s school provided.
- About half (49%) of state residents approve of the state’s handling of the outbreak, while 38% disapprove – for a net approval of +11 percentage points.
- Seventy-four percent (74%) say, “requiring people to wear masks in public places is important to reduce the spread of COVID-19.” Just 25% say, “requiring people to wear masks in public places is an unnecessary violation of personal freedom.”
- Seventy-five percent (75%) of state residents support the state continuing to allow more days of early voting, but just 49% support the state continuing to allow more people to vote by mail.
- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of residents say the state should regulate high-speed home internet to ensure everyone has access, similar to what it does for public utilities. Sixty-three percent (63%) support spending state tax dollars to extend high-speed home internet access to parts of Louisiana currently without it. Only 52% favor public subsidies to help low-income Louisianans purchase high-speed home internet service.
- The public is the most supportive of the state requiring employers to provide paid family leave when no mention is made of who would cover the cost (80%). Support for paid family leave dips slightly when the proposal includes a state requirement but leaves it to employers and employees to share in paying the cost (73%). Having the state pay for paid family leave receives the least support (58%) but still a majority.

State Finance

- A bipartisan majority of Louisiana residents thinks that the state sales tax is too high, including 53% of democrats and 61% of Republicans. Opinion splits more evenly over the state income tax: 41% say it is too high and 37% say it is about right.
- Fifty-two percent (52%) of Louisiana residents say they pay about the right amount in state taxes, and 41% say they are paying more than their fair share.
- Pluralities say that low-income people (41%), middle-income people (48%), and small businesses (50%) pay *more* than their fair share of state taxes. A plurality (50%) says that

upper-income people pay *less* than their fair share, and a majority (56%) says the same about large businesses.

- The public has little stomach for budget cuts or tax increases in six specific policy areas: elementary and secondary education; higher education; health care; roads, bridges, and highways; prisons and incarceration; and welfare, food stamps and other public assistance programs. While a majority of respondents do not want to reduce spending in any of these areas, only elementary and secondary education gain a majority in favor of higher taxes.
- Support for more government spending on higher education and support for raising state taxes to fund higher education both fell significantly since 2018, by 12 and 13 percentage-points, respectively.
- Fifty-seven percent (57%) favor raising the state gasoline tax if it is used to fund transportation infrastructure. Support is strong among Democrats (60%) and independents (62%), but lags among Republicans (46%).
- Louisiana residents overwhelmingly favor maintenance of existing transportation infrastructure (67%) over expanding its capacity (29%).

Race, Class, and Social Welfare

- The survey asks about the extent of racial discrimination in six different situations: In hiring, pay, and promotions at work; in stores and restaurants; when applying for a loan or mortgage; in dealing with the police; when voting in elections; and when seeking medical treatment. A majority (55%) of the state's residents believe Black people are treated less fairly than White people in dealing with the police. In the remaining five situations, however, most do not believe Black people are treated less fairly.
- Perceptions of discrimination differ considerably between White respondents and Black respondents to the survey. With the exception of encounters with the police, the majority of White respondents say White people and Black people are treated equally across all of these situations. In contrast, the majority of Black respondents say that Black people are treated less fairly than White people in each of these six situations.
- Approximately half (52%) of state residents say the country needs to continue making changes for racial equality, and 44% either say the country has made the changes needed (20%) or say the country has gone too far in making changes on rights for Black people (22%).
- Black Louisiana residents overwhelmingly believe (84%) that the country needs to make further changes to achieve equal rights. Far fewer White Louisianans (39%) feel the country needs further change to achieve equality of rights. In fact, a majority of White residents of the state (56%) believe either that the country has already made the necessary changes for equal rights (26%) or that the country has gone too far in making changes on rights for

Black people (30%). Over the last four years, the latter share has grown 11 percentage-points.

- Overall, 45% of Louisiana residents think being White helps someone's chances of getting ahead, and 46% say being Black hurts a person's chances. White residents of Louisiana tend to think race plays little, if any, role in a person's chances of getting ahead. Nearly half (47%) say being White makes no difference, and about a third (35%) say being Black neither helps nor hurts someone's chances of getting ahead.
- In contrast, White Louisianans think someone's socio-economic class plays a big role in advancement. Seventy-nine percent (79%) say being rich helps, and 78% also thinks being poor hurts, including 58% who say it hurts a lot. When it comes to the role of wealth in shaping someone's chances of getting ahead, attitudes of Black Louisianans are similar to those of White Louisianans. Large majorities think being rich helps (77%) and being poor hurts (78%). Unlike White residents, however, Black residents of Louisiana also think race plays an important role.
- Approximately two-thirds (66%) of Louisiana residents think the economic system in America unfairly favors the wealthy, an eight percentage-point increase since 2016. A majority (55%) of state residents now believe being poor has more to do with circumstances beyond someone's own control than with lack of effort, a 12 percentage-point increase over the past five years. Both increases are concentrated among state residents with higher household incomes.
- Louisiana residents are divided almost evenly between those who favor a smaller government providing fewer services (48%) and those favoring a larger government providing more services (45%). Democrats overwhelmingly favor a larger government and more services (79%), while Republicans just as overwhelmingly favor smaller government with fewer services (77%).
- Most residents do not think the government should provide more assistance to people in need – 33% say it is already providing enough and 20% say it is providing too much. Only 41% want the government to provide more assistance to people in need.
- Seventy-eight percent (78%) approve of the state's 2016 expansion of Medicaid, including majorities among both Democrats (96%) and Republicans (54%). Similarly, most (76%) approve of last year's expansion of unemployment insurance benefits, including majorities among Democrats (94%) and Republicans (62%).

Childcare and Early Childhood Education

- A majority of Louisiana residents support more spending for childcare, regardless of whether the program is universal or targeted to low-income families. Seventy-six percent (76%) support increasing state spending on childcare for infants and toddlers from low-income families, and 75% support doing so for childcare for three- and four-year-olds from

low-income families. Similarly, 69% support increasing state spending on childcare for infants and toddlers from all families, and 67% support doing so for childcare for three- and four-year-olds from all families.

- Likewise, a majority of state residents back more spending on universal and means-tested early childhood education. Seventy-one percent (71%) support increasing state spending on early childhood education for infants and toddlers from low-income families, and 68% support doing so for early childhood education for three- and four-year-olds from low-income families. Similarly, 73% support increasing state spending on early childhood education for infants and toddlers from all families, and 72% support doing so for early childhood education for three- and four-year-olds from all families.
- There is also majority support for raising taxes to pay for spending on early childhood education and childcare programs. Fifty-seven percent (57%) support raising taxes to increase spending on childcare for low-income families. Fifty-three percent (53%) support raising taxes to increase spending on childcare for all families. Fifty-eight percent (58%) support raising taxes to increase spending on early childhood education for low-income families. Fifty-nine percent (59%) support raising taxes to increase spending on early childhood education for low-income families.

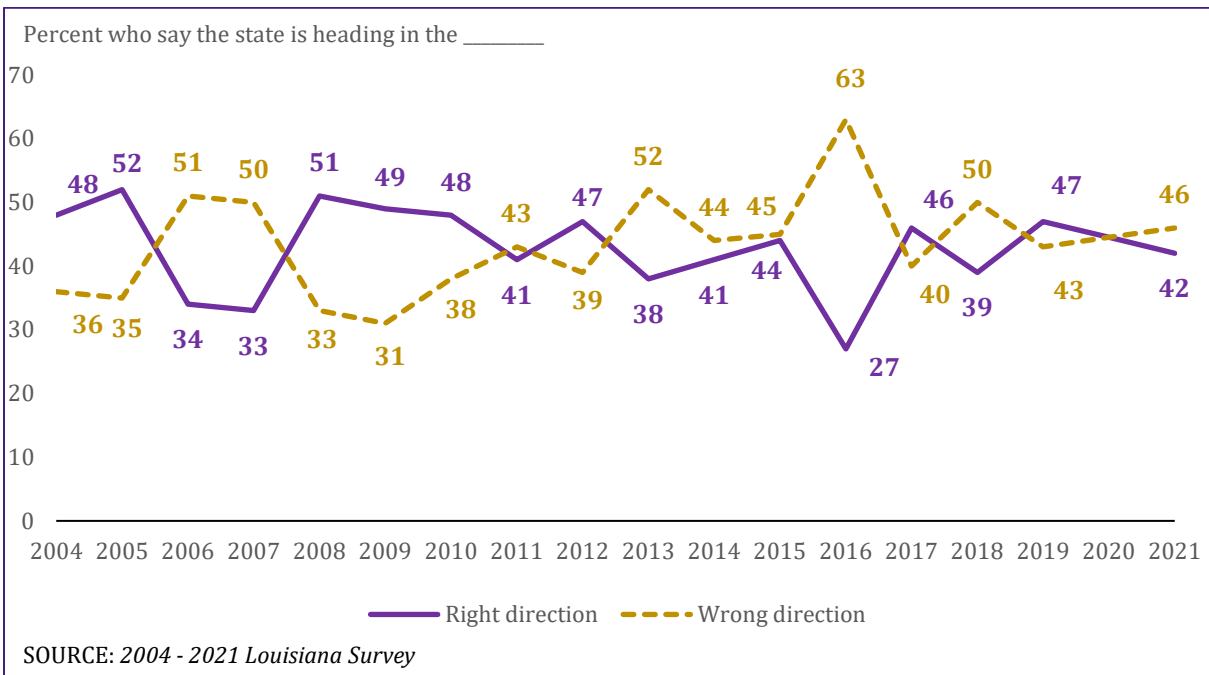
State of the State

Despite pandemic little change in attitudes about how the state is doing

More Louisiana residents say the state is heading in the wrong direction than say it is heading in the right direction, but the difference remains within the survey's margin of error. These percentages show remarkably little change since the last iteration of the *Louisiana Survey* in 2019.

Today, 46% say the state is heading in the wrong direction, while 42% say it is heading in the right direction. These percentages mark a flip from two years ago when they were 43% and 47%, respectively (see Figure 1). However, this change falls within the margin of error for the survey. In fact, opinions about the direction of the state have remained relatively stable since 2017. Over these past few years, opinions have tended to fluctuate within a narrow range in the forties.

Figure 1: Evaluating the direction of the state, 2004-2021



The economy and the pandemic top list of priorities

The *2021 Louisiana Survey* includes a question asking participants to name up to five problems they would most like state government to work on this year. We coded the verbatim responses to this open-ended question into issue categories. Table 1 shows the percentage of participants who mentioned each issue. The same participants may appear in multiple rows of this column because the survey allowed them to name multiple topics. For example, a participant might mention both the Covid-19 pandemic and economic conditions in the state. Therefore, the percentages in this column do not sum to 100.

About one third of participants mentioned an aspect of the economy, such as jobs, business conditions, or wages. Thirty percent (30%) mentioned the Covid-19 pandemic. Similar shares of participants mention education or transportation infrastructure, the two topics that topped the list in our last survey from 2019.

Immediately following this question, we asked participants which of the problems they named is the single most important for state government to work on in 2021. We coded these verbatim responses in the same way as for the previous question. The results appear in the last column of Table 1. Once again, the economy and Covid-19 top this list, effectively tied at 15%. There is a significant drop off from these two to the next most frequently mentioned problem, education.

Table 1: The percentage of participants who named each issue as most important

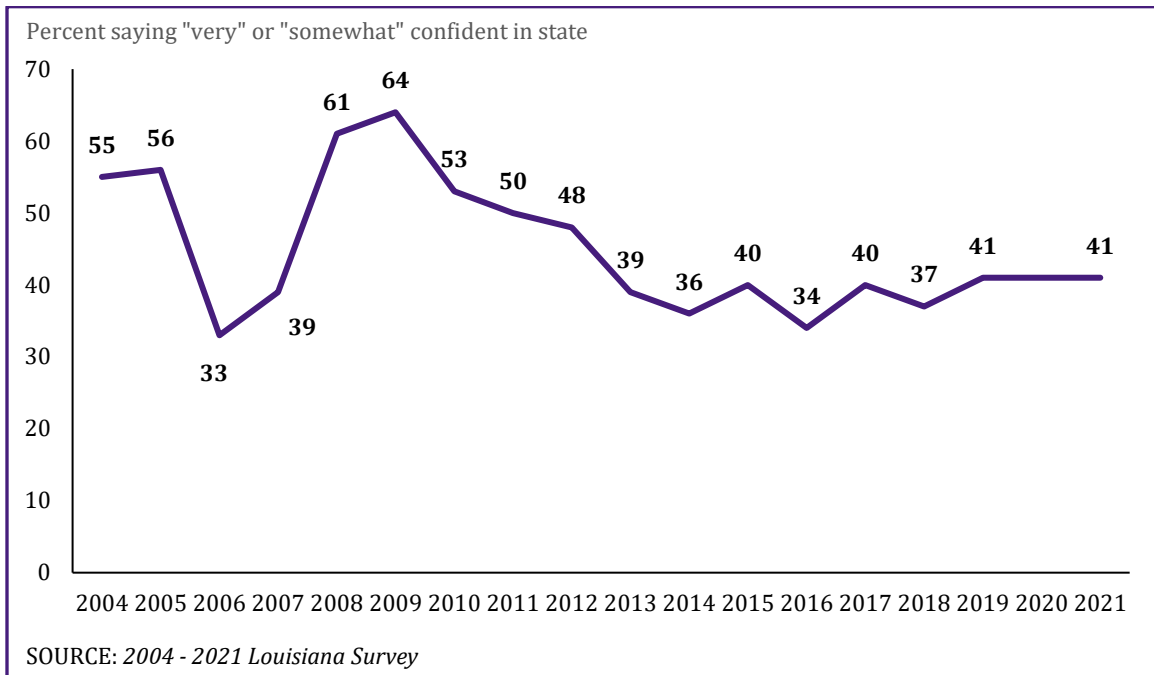
Issue	Mentioned Among Top Five Most Important	Mentioned as Single Most Important
Economy	35	15
Covid-19	30	15
Education	27	8
Transportation infrastructure	26	5
Health care	14	4
Welfare, public assistance, and other social services	12	3
State budget, taxes, and spending	12	3
Politics or government	11	2
Energy, oil, and gas	11	3
Law enforcement and the criminal justice system	10	4
Crime	10	3
Environmental issues (other than coast or natural disasters)	5	1
Racism or race issues	4	1
Flooding, drainage, or preparation for natural disasters	3	1
Drugs	3	1
Housing	3	1
Coastal protection and restoration	2	1
Gun issues	2	1
Auto insurance rates and tort reform	2	1
All other issues	19	7
Don't know / Refused	5	25

Confidence in state government to solve important problems remains low

The public's confidence in state government to tackle important problems remains low. Taken together, 41% of state residents say they are either very confident or somewhat

confident in state government to address important problems effectively. This share is on par with annual results from the *Louisiana Survey* since 2013. After a steep decline from 2009 through 2013, confidence in state government has never substantially recovered. The share has remained near 40% since then.

Figure 2: Confidence that state government can solve important problems remains low



State residents say economy has worsened over the past year, own finances have not

The survey includes questions asking participants about their own personal financial situation and the economy in Louisiana as a whole. In each case, the questions ask participants to compare the current condition to what it was a year ago.

A substantial majority of participants (72%) say that the state's economy is worse than it was a year ago. Only 6% say it is better, and 20% say it is the same. In contrast, a majority (54%) say their own financial situation is the same as it was a year ago. A smaller share, 29%, say their personal financial situation is worse than it was a year ago. Only 17% say it is better.

These results suggest that many Louisiana residents see a difference between the economic situation of the state and their own

financial situation. Although 25% of participants say both their own financial situation and the state's economy have worsened over the past year, nearly twice as many (47%) say the state's economy is worse but their own financial situation is the same as or better than it was.

Looking just at participants who say their own financial situation is *worse* than it was a year ago, a very large majority of them (85%) say that the state is also in worse economic shape. But, they are not the only ones with a dim view of the state's economy. Looking just at people who say their own financial situation is *the same* as it was a year ago, two-thirds (68%) say the state's economy is worse. Even 61% of the people who say their own financial situation is *better* than it was still say the state's economy is worse. Regardless of what they think about their own financial situation, most Louisianans think the state's economy as a whole has soured over the past year.

Experiences and Responses to Covid-19

Relatively few test positive for Covid-19, but many more affected by the pandemic in other ways

Approximately one in every eight (12%) adult residents of Louisiana say they tested positive for Covid-19. A similar share (13%) lives with someone who tested positive for the disease.

Yet, the reach of the pandemic beyond oneself or one's household is far more widespread. In all, 79% of adults in the state say they personally know someone who tested

positive for Covid-19. Moreover, nearly half (48%) say they personally know someone who has died from the disease.

People were more likely to directly experience the economic effects of the pandemic than they were to test positive for Covid-19. Approximately one-third (31%) of Louisiana residents say that they lost their job or had a loss of income because of the pandemic. Nearly the same share (27%) lives with someone who suffered the loss of a job or income.

One-third of adults refuse vaccination

By early March, 17% of Louisiana adults received a vaccination against Covid-19. Another 41% intend to receive the vaccine when it is available to them.

However, 32% say they have not yet received the vaccine and do not intend to do so even when they are eligible. Nine percent are not sure about whether they will receive the vaccine.

Similar shares of Black residents and White residents report that they have already

received the vaccine, 18% and 19% respectively. However, a larger share of Black residents than White residents intend to get the vaccine when they can – 49% and 38%, respectively.

There is a stark partisan divide in thinking about vaccination against Covid-19. Among Democrats, 78% either have already received vaccination or intend to do so when it is available to them. Just 13% of Democrats say they will not get the vaccine and another 9% remain unsure. About half of Republicans (49%) say they either already have received or will receive the vaccine, but 43% say they will not and another 8% remain unsure.

Most parents think children learned less over the past year, but are nevertheless satisfied with how schools handled instruction

Two-thirds (68%) of parents of children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade say their child attends school entirely in-person.¹ The remaining third of these parents are split almost evenly between those whose child attends entirely remotely (18%) and those whose child attends through a mix of in-person and remote instruction (14%).²

There is a substantial racial gap in how children receive instruction from schools. A large majority (82%) of White parents with children in kindergarten through 12th grade say their child attends entirely in-person, but just 45% of Black parents do. Instead, 41% of Black parents of children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade say their child attends entirely remotely (compared to just 4% of White parents).

Most parents (56%) think their child learned less over the past year than they would have if not for the pandemic. Half as many (28%) think their child learned about the same amount, and 15% think their child learned more.

Despite this, most parents are satisfied with the instruction provided by their child's school so far this school year. Approximately three-fourths (77%) are satisfied, including 43% who are very satisfied. Just 21% of parents are dissatisfied with the instruction their child's school provided, including 10% of parents who are very dissatisfied.

Mode of instruction (entirely in-person, entirely remote, or a mix) has no association with whether a parent is satisfied or not with the instruction provided by their child's school. The share of satisfied parents is 77% among those whose children are attending entirely in-person, 73% among

¹ The series of questions about schooling during the pandemic ask about a single child in the household. We randomly assigned parents to versions of the question that ask either about the oldest child in the household in Kindergarten through 12th grade or about the youngest child in the household in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

² The percentages in this paragraph and the following paragraph are among parents of children who are enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade *at a school* (even if they do not attend the school in-person). They do not include the nine percent of parents who say they homeschool a child. Because of the unique nature of K-12 education during the 2020-2021 school year, the 9% of parents who reported that their child is homeschooled likely captures at least three groups. First, it includes the intended target. Second, it may include parents who pulled their children out of the school they would normally have attended to educate them in a homeschool program during the pandemic. The intent of the question is to capture these first two groups. However, it may also include a third group – parents whose children are enrolled in a school but do not attend in-person (i.e., parents whom the researchers intended to have indicated that their child is enrolled at a school and selected “entirely remote” or “a mix of in-person and a remote” rather than to have indicated that their child is homeschooled). Therefore, because this third group represents measurement error, the percentage in these two paragraphs are best interpreted as a ceiling estimate for the share of parents whose children attend school in-person. If we include all parents who say their child is homeschooled (under the equally problematic assumption that all of those responses are an inadvertent indication of the child receiving instruction from their school entirely remotely), the share whose school-age children are educated entirely in-person drops to 62% among all parents, 75% among White parents, and 42% among Black parents.

those whose children attend entirely remotely, and 74% among those whose children attend through a mix of in-person and remote modes. However, there is a relationship between *how satisfied* these parents are and the mode through which their child receives instruction. Half (51%) of parents whose children attend school entirely in-person are *very* satisfied with instruction provided by the school, while 25% and 23% of parents whose children attend entirely remotely or through a mix of in-person and remote modes are very satisfied, respectively.

Mode of instruction relates more closely to parents’ perceptions of how much their child learned. Similar shares of parents who attend entirely in-person (57%) and entirely remote (54%) say their child learned less over the past year. However, a significantly larger share (77%) of parents whose children attend via a hybrid model report less learning.

Table 2: Parents’ Satisfaction with Instruction Provided by Child’s School, by Mode

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Entirely in-person	51	25	11	8	4	
Entirely remote	25	47	13	12	3	
Mix of in-person & remote	23	51	9	15	0	

Table 3: Parents’ Perceptions of Student Learning in Past Year, by Mode

	A Lot More	Somewhat More	Somewhat Less	A Lot Less	About the Same
Entirely in-person	5	7	35	23	31
Entirely remote	15	5	24	30	22
Mix of in-person & remote	7	2	41	36	15

Partisan divide in how residents appraise state's handling of pandemic

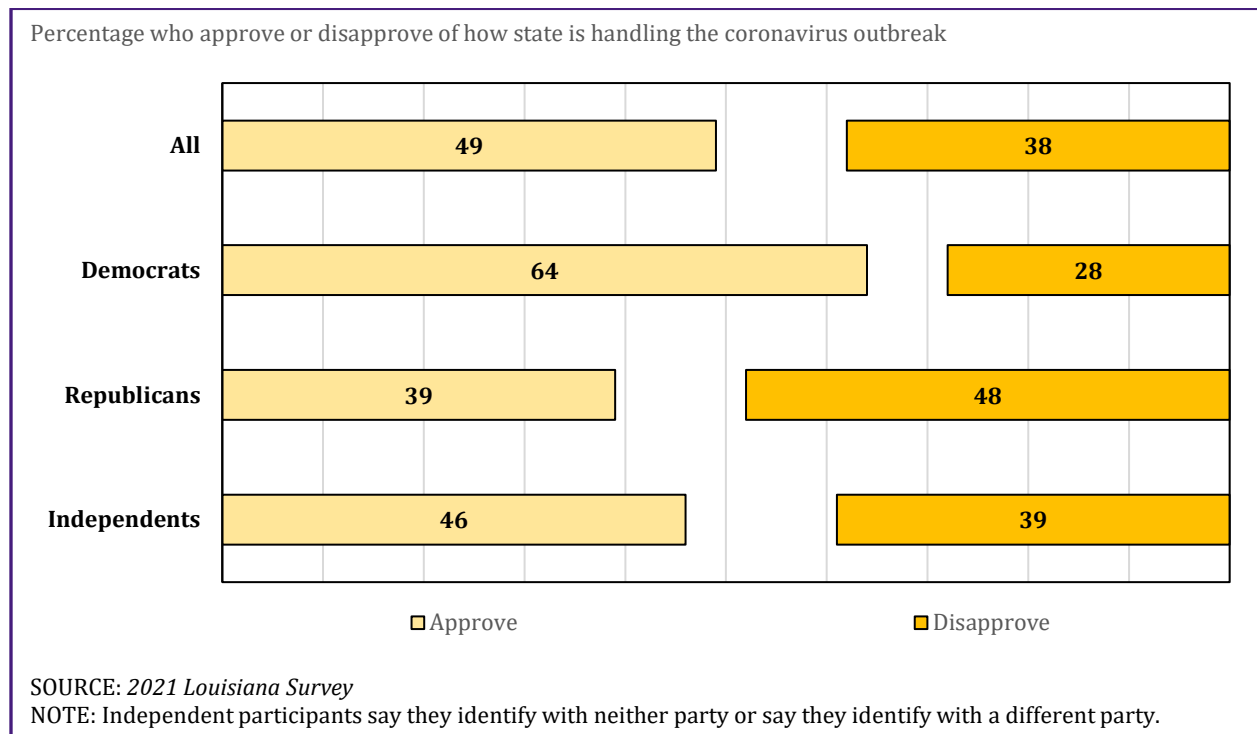
Overall, the public tilts toward approval of how the state has handled the coronavirus outbreak. About half (49%) approve of the state's handling of the outbreak, while 38% disapprove – for a net approval of +11 percentage points.

Democrats are the most positive toward the state's response. Sixty-four percent (64%)

approve, and just 28% disapprove – for a net approval of +36 percentage points.

In contrast, only 39% of Republicans approve of the state's handling of the outbreak, and 48% disapprove – for a net approval of -11 percentage points. Louisiana residents who do not identify with either party fall between Democrats and Republicans, but on balance tend to approve of how the state has handled the pandemic. Forty-six percent (46%) of these independents approve of the state's handling, and 39% disapprove – for a net approval of +7 percentage points.

Figure 3: More Louisiana residents approve of state's handling of pandemic than disapprove, but opinion divides along party lines



Large majority see masks as important for curbing spread

A large majority of Louisiana residents support requiring people to wear masks. About three-fourths (74%) say, “requiring people to wear masks in public places is important to reduce the spread of COVID-19.” Just 25% say, “requiring people to wear masks in public places is an unnecessary violation of personal freedom.”

The extent to which people prioritize public health versus personal freedom when thinking about the mask mandate varies across a number of demographic groups. For example, 84% of women say that requiring masks is important to curb the spread of the virus. This share falls to 64% among men, 35% of whom say that the requirement unnecessarily violates their personal freedom. Nearly all (95%) Black residents of the state believe the mask mandate is needed to mitigate the spread, while the share slips to 66% among white residents.

There is also a stark regional difference. In the metropolitan areas of Baton Rouge and New Orleans, including the cities and their surrounding parishes, only about one in five (19% and 18%, respectively) of residents say the mandate unnecessarily violates personal freedom. The share more than doubles to 38% in the rest of south Louisiana, a region that includes many rural areas as well as Lafayette and Lake Charles. In north Louisiana, which includes metropolitan Shreveport and Monroe alongside rural areas, just 22% feel the mask mandate unnecessarily violates their personal freedom.

Unsurprisingly, given the demographic and regional differences of opinion, Democrats have a more positive view of the mask mandate than Republicans. However, majorities of both parties – 96% of Democrats and 53% of Republicans – agree that requiring masks is important to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

Support for continuing the expansion of in-person early voting, but not mail voting

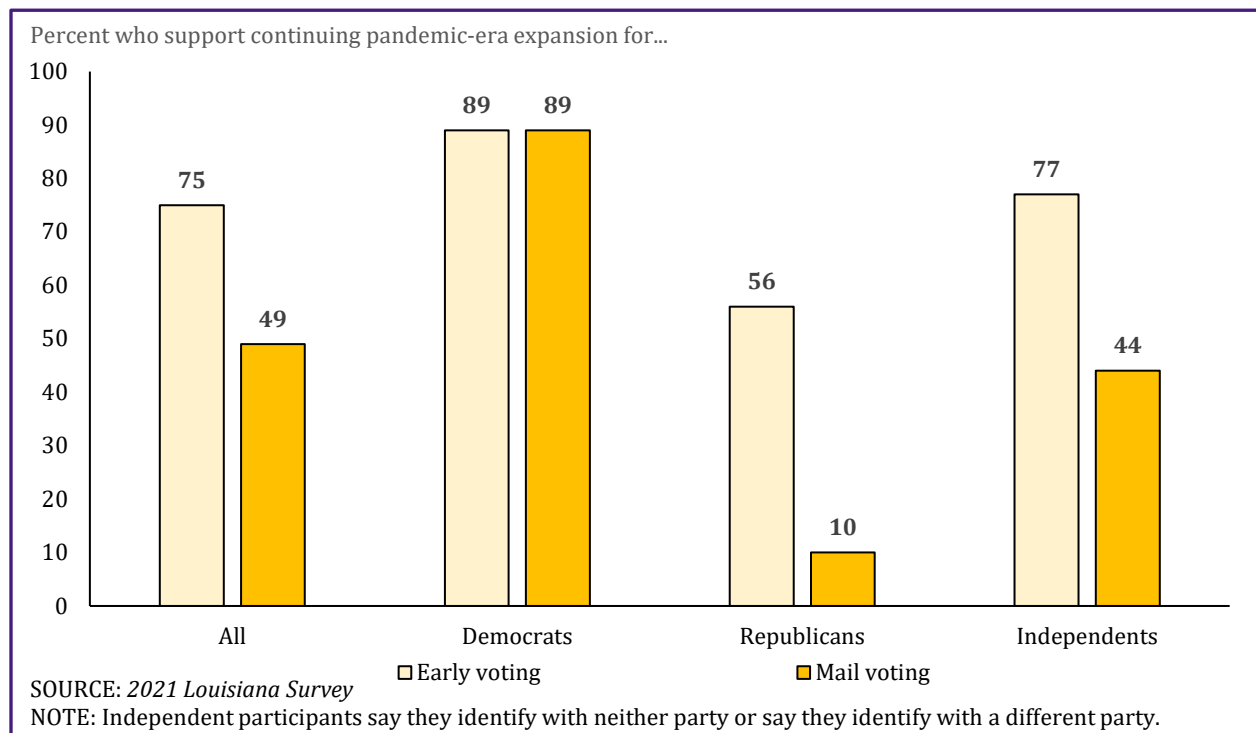
Like many other states, Louisiana extended its timeline for early voting and expanded access to mail voting for elections in the summer and fall of 2020 during the pandemic. To assess whether Louisiana residents want to see these changes continue beyond the pandemic, the *Louisiana Survey* includes questions asking participants whether they support or oppose allowing more days of early voting and allowing more people to vote by mail.

Three-fourths (75%) of state residents support the state continuing to allow more days of early voting, but just 49% support the

state continuing to allow more people to vote by mail. Continuing to offer more days for early voting receives majority support from both Democrats and Republicans, albeit at noticeably different levels. Nearly all Democrats (89%) back the state keeping more days for early voting, and a slimmer majority of Republicans (56%) agree.

Continuing the expansion of eligibility for voting by mail is more hotly disputed between the parties. Again, nearly all Democrats (89%) support allowing more people to vote by mail. Unlike in the case of early voting, very few Republicans (10%) support the state continuing to allow more people to vote by mail. Independents also swing from 77% supporting expansion of early voting to 44% supporting expansion of mail voting.

Figure 4: Larger gap between parties over mail voting than in-person early voting



Most Want State to Expand Broadband Access, Opinions Split on Subsidies

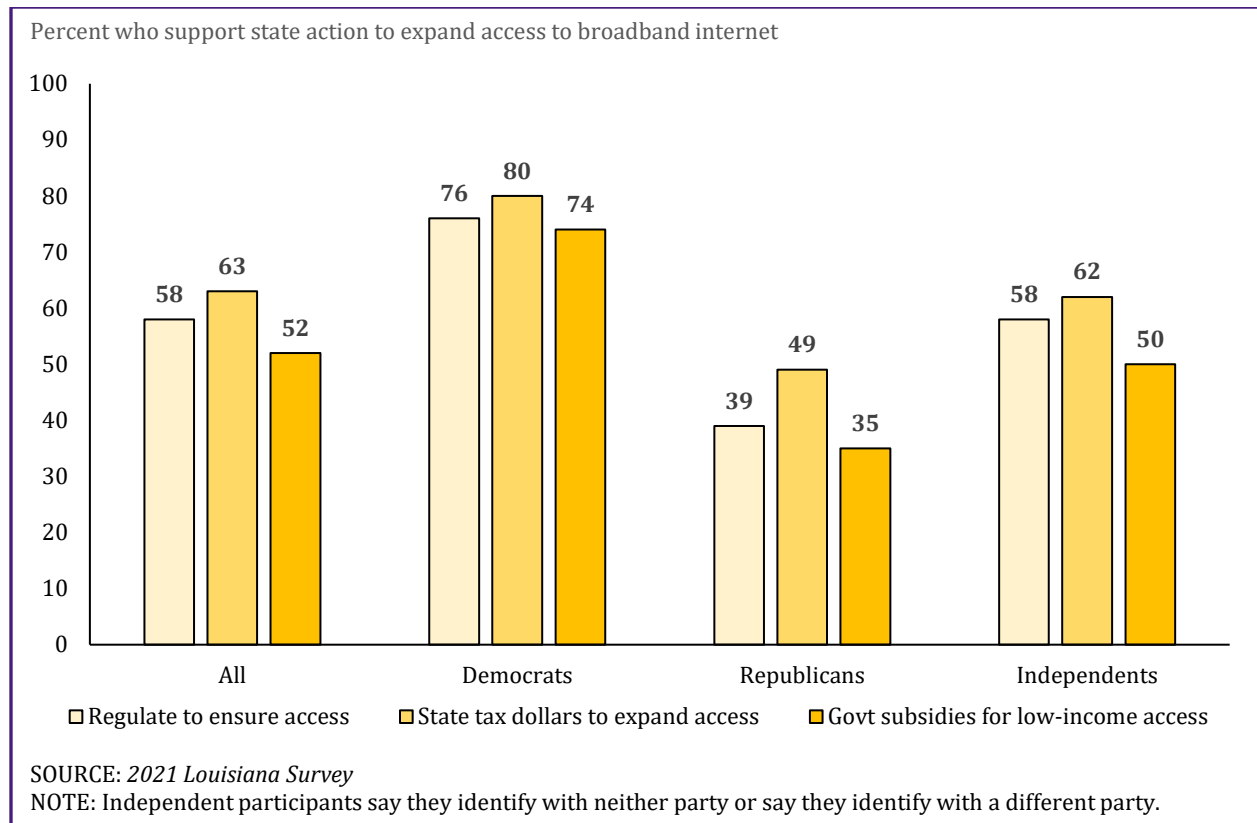
The transition to remote instruction last spring highlighted the challenges posed by limited access to broadband internet in many communities around the state. The survey includes three questions measuring support for state action to expand broadband access. The first question asks whether the state government should regulate high-speed home internet access in the same way it regulates electricity and water to ensure everyone in Louisiana has access to this service. The second question asks participants whether they support or oppose the state government spending tax dollars to extend high-speed home internet access to parts of Louisiana currently without it. The final question asks participants which of the following two statements most closely captures their own view: “The state government should provide subsidies to help low-income Louisianans purchase high-speed home internet service” or “High-speed home internet service is affordable enough that nearly every household should be able to buy service on their own.”

Each of the first two questions receive majority support for state government having a more active role in the provision of

broadband internet service, but the extent of that support varies. About three in five (58%) residents say the state should regulate high-speed home internet to ensure everyone has access, similar to what it does for public utilities. A slightly larger share (63%) support spending state tax dollars to extend high-speed home internet access to parts of Louisiana currently without it. For the third question, however, only about half (52%) favor public subsidies to help low-income Louisianans purchase high-speed home internet service.

Democrats offer the most robust support for all three proposals: 76% support regulation to ensure access, 80% support spending state tax dollars to extend broadband service into parts of the state that lack it, and 74% favor government subsidies to help low-income residents purchase the service. Republicans are less supportive of all three: just 39% think the state should regulate, 49% favor using tax dollars to extend service into places without it, and only 35% favor subsidies for low-income residents. Independents, meanwhile, generally lean toward more state action: 58% favor regulating broadband internet as a public utility and 62% favor using state taxes to extend broadband into parts of the state that do not have it but are somewhat less supportive (50%) of government subsidies for low-income individuals to purchase the service.

Figure 5: Support for state funded expansion of broadband access



Louisianans Support a Variety of Paid Family Leave Policies

The pandemic also highlighted challenges some individuals face when having to balance work and caring for family members dealing with medical concerns. To measure Louisianans views on paid family leave, which allows employees to take time off work to care for family members while continuing to receive pay, the survey randomly assigned participants to one of three questions on this topic. The first question asks whether participants support or oppose state government requiring employers to provide paid family leave to workers. The second question asks whether participants support or oppose state government requiring employers to provide paid family leave to workers *with the cost of the program paid by state tax dollars*. The final question asks whether participants support or oppose state government requiring employers to provide paid family leave to workers *with the cost of the program paid by workers and employers*.

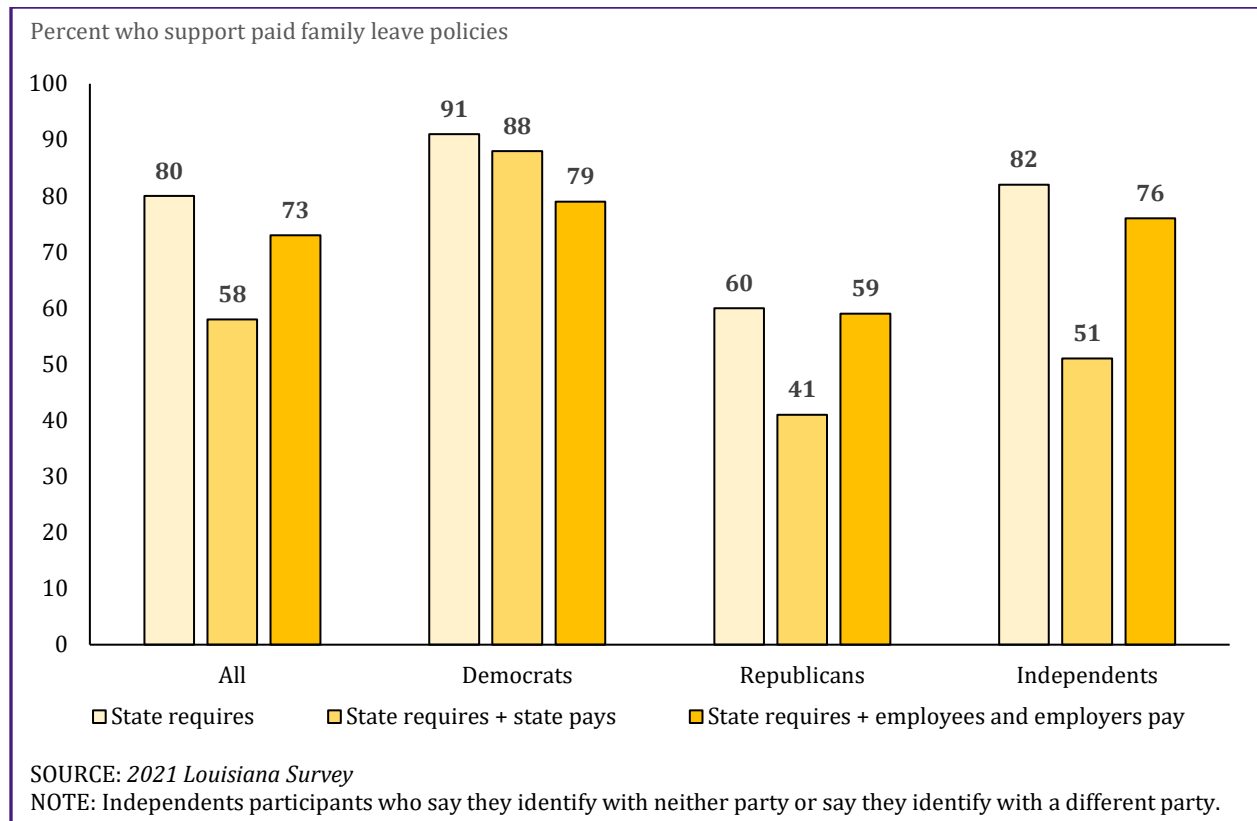
The public is the most supportive when no mention is made of who would cover the cost of a paid family leave requirement (80%). Support for paid family leave dips slightly when the proposal includes a state requirement but leaves it to employers and employees to share in paying the cost (73%).

Finally, having the state pay for paid family leave receives the least support (58%) but still a majority.

Democrats again offer the most robust support across all three questions. Similar large majorities favor requiring paid family leave (91%) and having the state pay for it (88%). Support dips somewhat when employers and employees would have to pay the cost of required leave (77%) but remains relatively high.

Republicans, although generally supportive, are less so than Democrats are. The parties also differ in their least preferred policy to expand broadband internet access. Similar majorities of Republicans support requiring paid family leave (60%) and having employers and employees share in the cost of the program (59%), but their support dips below a majority (41%) on the question referring to the state paying for the cost of the leave requirement. While independents are more supportive of all these proposals than Republicans are, they follow a similar pattern when it comes to most and least preferred proposals. Most independents support the state requirement when no mention of cost is made (82%) and when the cost would be paid by employers and employees (76%), but only about half (51%) favor having the state pay for paid family leave.

Figure 6: Widespread support for requiring paid family leave, but disputes over who pays



State Finance

Most say state sales tax too high, opinion split on state income tax

A majority (54%) of Louisiana residents thinks that the state sales tax is too high (Figure 7). Majorities of both Democrats (53%) and Republicans (61%) agree. Independents, however, split more evenly between saying the sales tax is too high (50%) and saying it is about right (46%).

Public opinion is more divided over the state income tax (Figure 8). The number of people

who say the state income tax is too high (41%) is about the same as the number who say it is about right (37%); the difference is within the survey's margin of error.

Republicans (51%) lean toward saying the income tax is too high, but many say it is about right (38%). Democrats, as whole, do not lean in a particular direction. They split into similarly sized groups who say the income tax is too high (34%), too low (27%), and about right (31%). Like Republicans, few independents think the income tax is too low (8%). But, unlike Republicans, they split evenly between saying it is too high (40%) and saying it is about right (40%).

Figure 7: Majority of Louisianans think state sales tax is too high

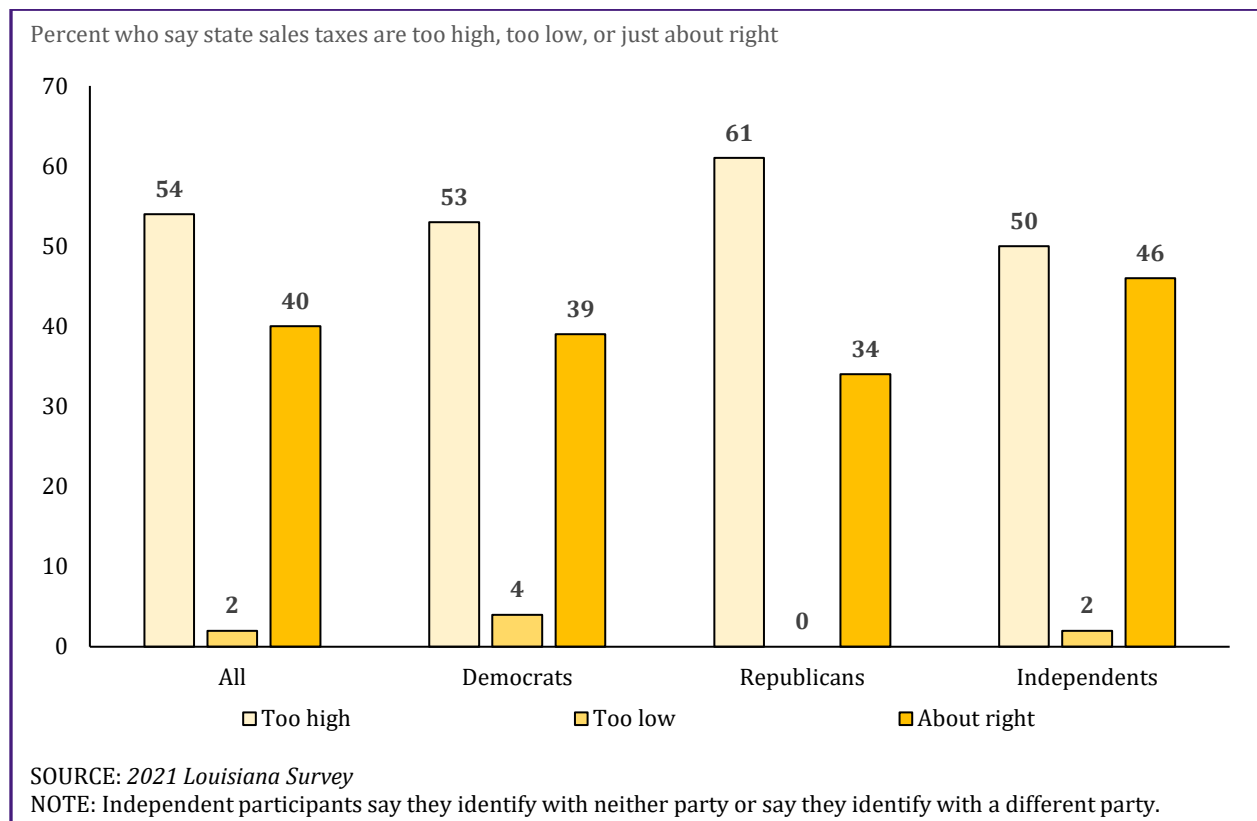
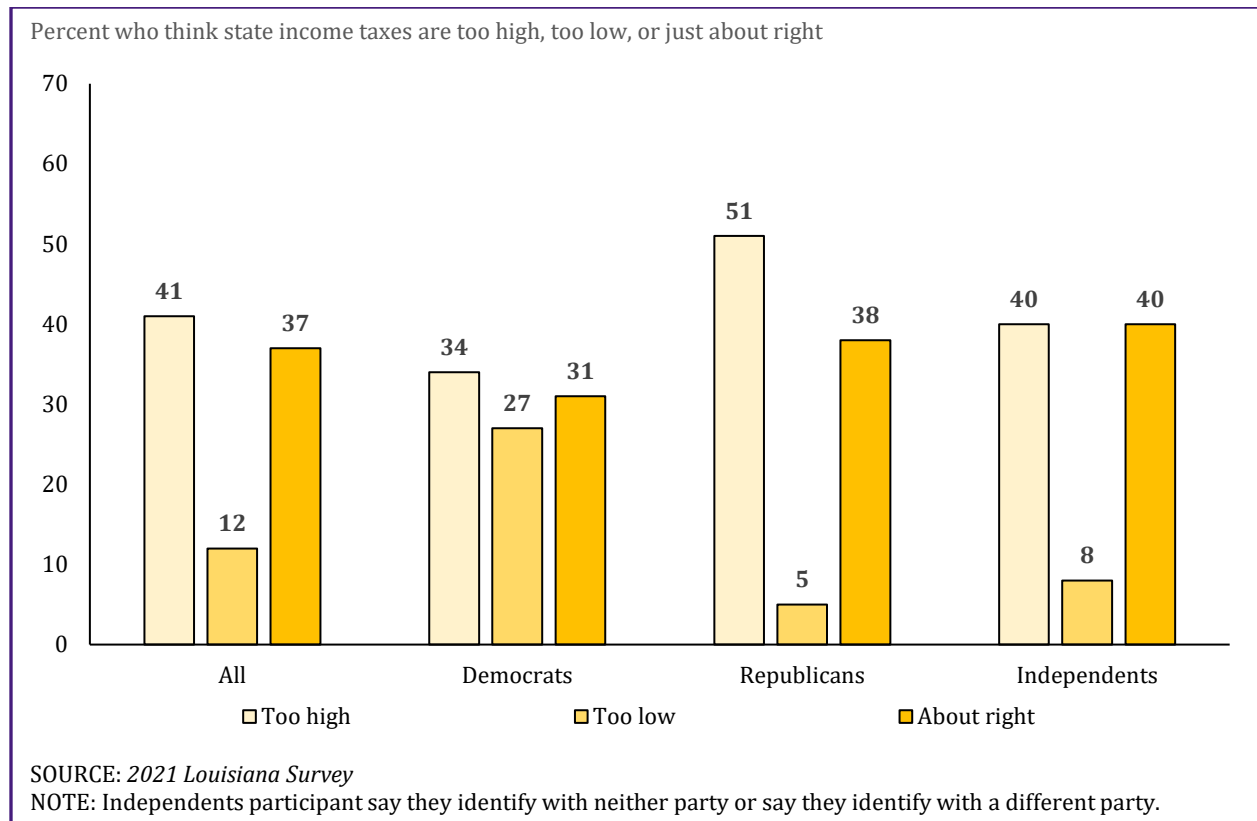


Figure 8: Fewer Louisiana residents believe state income tax is too high



Most think they already pay their fair share of state taxes

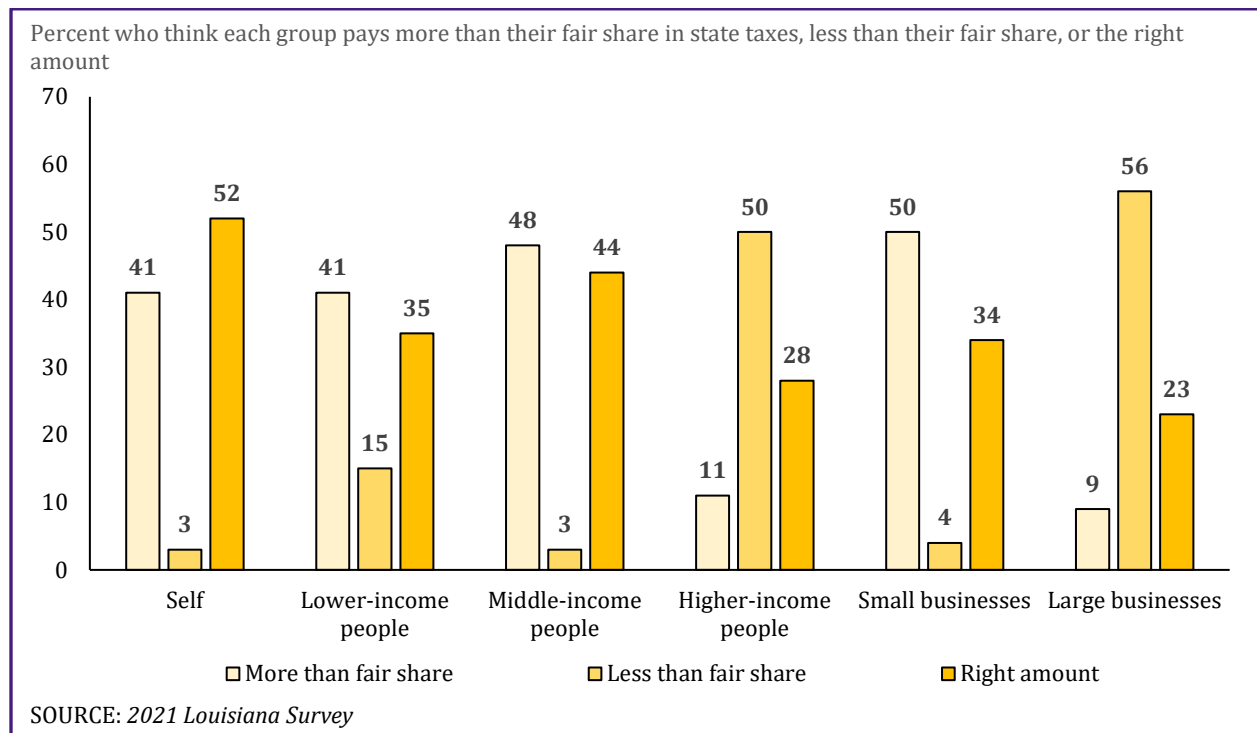
Approximately half (52%) of Louisiana residents say they pay about the right amount in state taxes, but many others (41%) say they are paying more than their fair share (Figure 9). Very few (3%) say they pay less than their fair share in state taxes.

The survey also includes questions asking participants about the state tax burdens of lower-income, middle-income, and upper-income people, as well as small and large businesses. Pluralities say lower-income people (41%) and middle-income people (48%) pay *more* than their fair share of state taxes.

In contrast, half (50%) of Louisiana residents say that upper-income people pay *less* than their fair share.

Louisianans have very different views of the tax burdens that small and large businesses bear. Half (50%) of Louisiana residents say small businesses pay *more* than their fair share of state taxes. Even more (56%) say large businesses pay *less* than their fair share.

Figure 9: Pluralities say lower- and middle-income people pay more than their fair share and higher-income pay less than their fair share



Most state residents do not support spending cuts or tax increases for six major policy areas, except elementary and secondary education

The *2021 Louisiana Survey* includes questions asking participants whether they want to see government spending increased, decreased, or kept the same in six specific policy areas: elementary and secondary education; higher education; health care; roads, bridges, and highways; prisons and incarceration; and welfare, food stamps, and other public assistance programs.

The public has little desire for budget cuts to any of these policy areas. In fact, large majorities want more government spending for elementary and secondary education as well as for transportation infrastructure like roads, bridges, and highways (Figure 10). In two other policy areas – higher education and health care – pluralities constituting approximately half the population want more spending. Even in the final two policy areas, support for spending cuts lags behind support for maintaining current spending levels. Support for spending cuts does not

exceed 36% of the adult population in any of these six policy areas, and it falls well below 20% in most cases.

However, opposition to spending cuts is not the same as support for higher taxes to fund these areas. To capture the tradeoff between spending and taxes, when participants answered that they preferred to see spending increased or kept at current levels for a particular policy area, the survey followed up with a question asking whether they support raising taxes for government spending in that area.

Figure 11 shows the results when comparing those who support raising taxes for spending in a policy area to those who say *either* they oppose raising taxes *or* they support cutting spending in that area. In only one case – elementary and secondary education – does a majority favor raising taxes. In the next three areas shown in the figure, about the same number of people support raising taxes as oppose raising taxes or support spending cuts. In the final two policy domains, those who oppose more spending or oppose more taxes vastly outnumber those who favor more taxes for spending.

Figure 10: Majorities want more spending for elementary and secondary education and transportation infrastructure

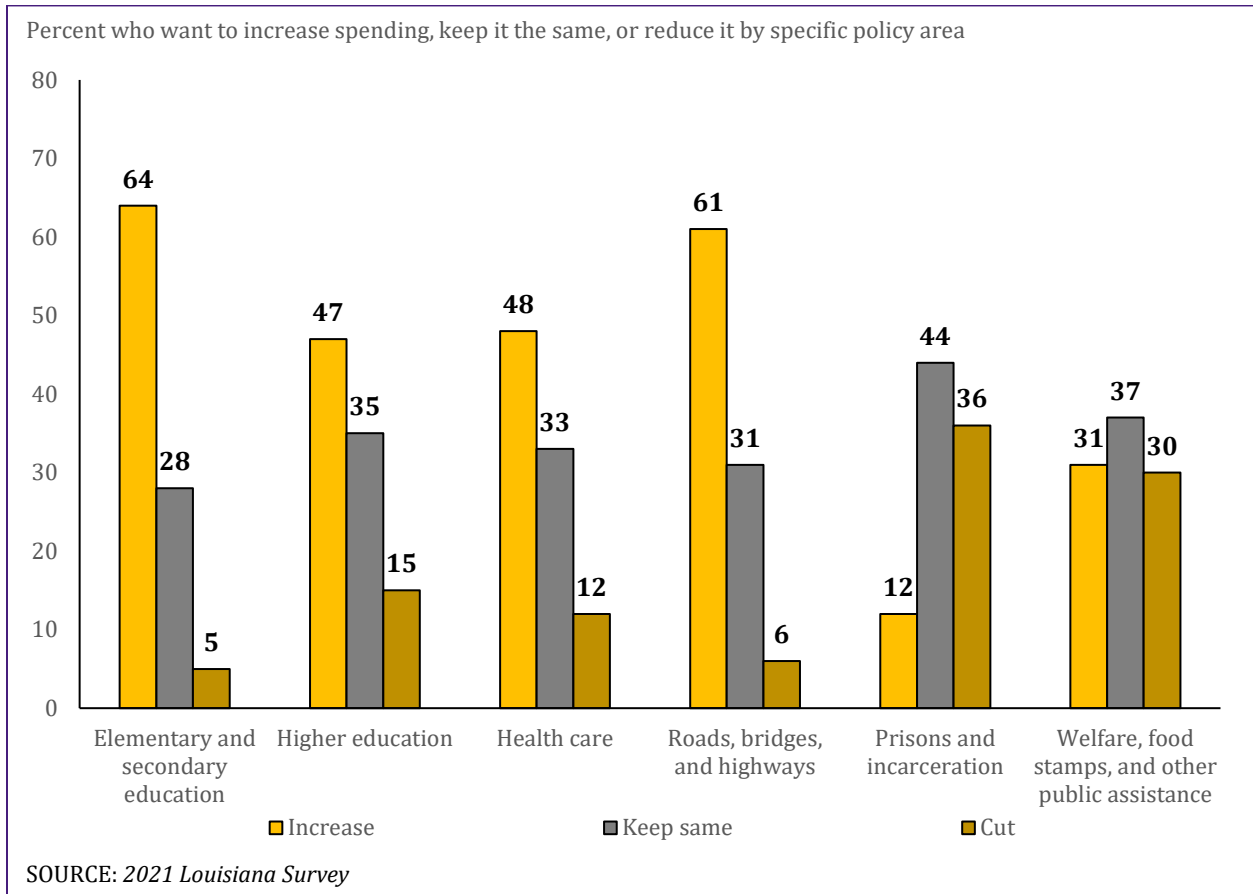
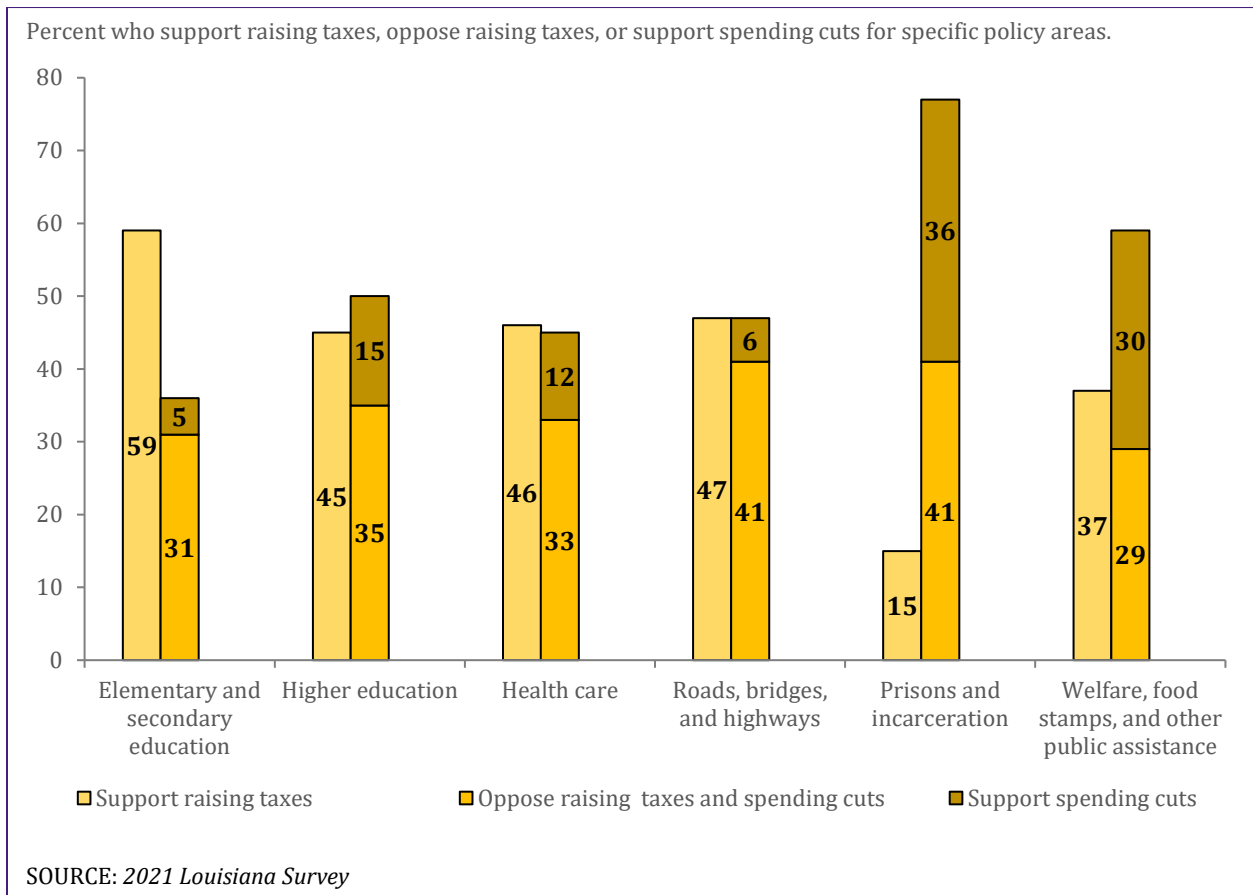


Figure 11: Majority support higher taxes only for elementary and secondary education



Support for higher education funding drops since 2018, but support for welfare spending grows

There are a few notable trends in spending and tax preferences since 2018, when the *Louisiana Survey* last included these questions (Table 4). Most policy areas saw little change in fiscal attitudes over the past three years, but two exceptions stand out. First, there has been a marked drop in support for more spending on higher

education by 12 percentage-points. The shift away from support for funding higher education is also evident in tax attitudes (Table 5). Support for raising taxes to fund higher education fell 13 percentage-points over the past three years.

Second, there was a 13 percentage-point increase in support for more spending on welfare programs. The growth in support for this spending, however, does not appear to translate into more support for taxes to fund welfare.

Table 4: Percent support for more spending on six policy areas in 2018 and 2021

	2018	2021	Change
Elementary and secondary education	61	64	+3
Higher education	59	47	-12
Health care	45	48	+3
Roads, bridges, and highways	59	61	+2
Prisons and incarceration	10	12	+2
Welfare, food stamps, and other public assistance	18	31	+13

Table 5: Percent support for more taxes for six policy areas in 2018 and 2021

	2018	2021	Change
Elementary and secondary education	63	59	-4
Higher education	58	45	-13
Health care	50	46	-4
Roads, bridges, and highways	56	47	-9
Prisons and incarceration	19	15	-4
Welfare, food stamps, and other public assistance	32	37	+5

Most support a higher state tax on gasoline to fund infrastructure, but want focus on maintenance rather than expansion

The *2021 Louisiana Survey* includes two versions of a question to measure support for raising the state tax on gasoline. One version asks participants whether they support or oppose raising the gasoline tax “if the money is dedicated to improving highways, bridges, and other infrastructure?” The other version asks whether they support or oppose such an increase “if the tax allows the state to bring in more money from the federal government in Washington D.C. to spend on improving highways, bridges, and other infrastructure in the state?” We randomly assigned participants to answer one of these two versions.

In response to the first version, a majority (57%) favor raising the gasoline tax. Support is strong among Democrats (60%) and independents (62%), but lags among Republicans (46%).

Perhaps surprisingly, the second version, which aims to identify whether Louisiana residents’ opinions on raising the gasoline tax is shaped by the ability to leverage additional funding from the federal government, yield less support. In response to this version, opinion divides roughly evenly between support (49%) and opposition (47%). The difference may be because this second version does not specifically tie the gasoline

tax to spending for infrastructure. However, it is also possible that the drop in the support reflects antagonism toward federal spending.

Democratic support remains strong (63%) in this second version, but support among Republicans drops to (35%). Similarly, support among independents, who favor the tax when federal spending is not mentioned, drops to 49%.

The survey also asks whether Louisiana residents think it is more important for the state to focus on expanding the capacity of Louisiana’s transportation infrastructure by extending highways, widening roads and bridges, and building new roads and bridges, or to focus on maintaining existing infrastructure by repairing and preserving the roads and bridges the state already has.

Louisiana residents overwhelmingly favor maintenance of existing transportation infrastructure (67%) over expanding the capacity of the state’s transportation infrastructure (29%). Importantly, there are few demographic differences in priority. Even Democrats, Republicans, and independents lean in the same direction by similar amounts. The only noticeable difference in opinion is that residents of the metropolitan Baton Rouge area are more supportive of expanding capacity, but even there most favor maintenance (60%) over expansion (37%).

Views on Race and Class in Louisiana

White Louisianans say there is less racial discrimination than Black Louisianans

The *2021 Louisiana Survey* includes a series of questions asking participants about the extent of racial discrimination in six different situations, such as interacting with police or applying for a loan (see Figure 12 for a list of these situations). Participants indicated whether they thought Black people are treated less fairly than White people, White people are treated less fairly than Black people, or both are treated equally in each situation.

A majority (55%) of the state's residents believe Black people are treated less fairly than White people in dealing with the police. In the remaining five situations, however, most do not believe Black people are treated less fairly. Majorities believe both Black people and White people are treated equally in stores and restaurants (54%), when voting

in elections (61%), and when seeking medical treatment (55%). In the remaining two situations – in hiring, pay, and promotions, as well as when applying for a loan or mortgage – at work, the public as a whole splits more evenly between those who think Black people are treated less fairly than White people and those who say both are treated equally.

Perceptions of discrimination differ considerably between White respondents and Black respondents to the survey. With the exception of encounters with the police, the majority of White respondents say White people and Black people are treated equally across all situations (Figure 13). In the case of hiring, pay, and promotions at work, approximately one in ten White respondents say White people are treated less fairly than Black people.

In contrast, the majority of Black respondents say that Black people are treated less fairly than White people in each of these six situations (Figure 14).

Figure 12: Most do not believe Black people face discrimination in many situations

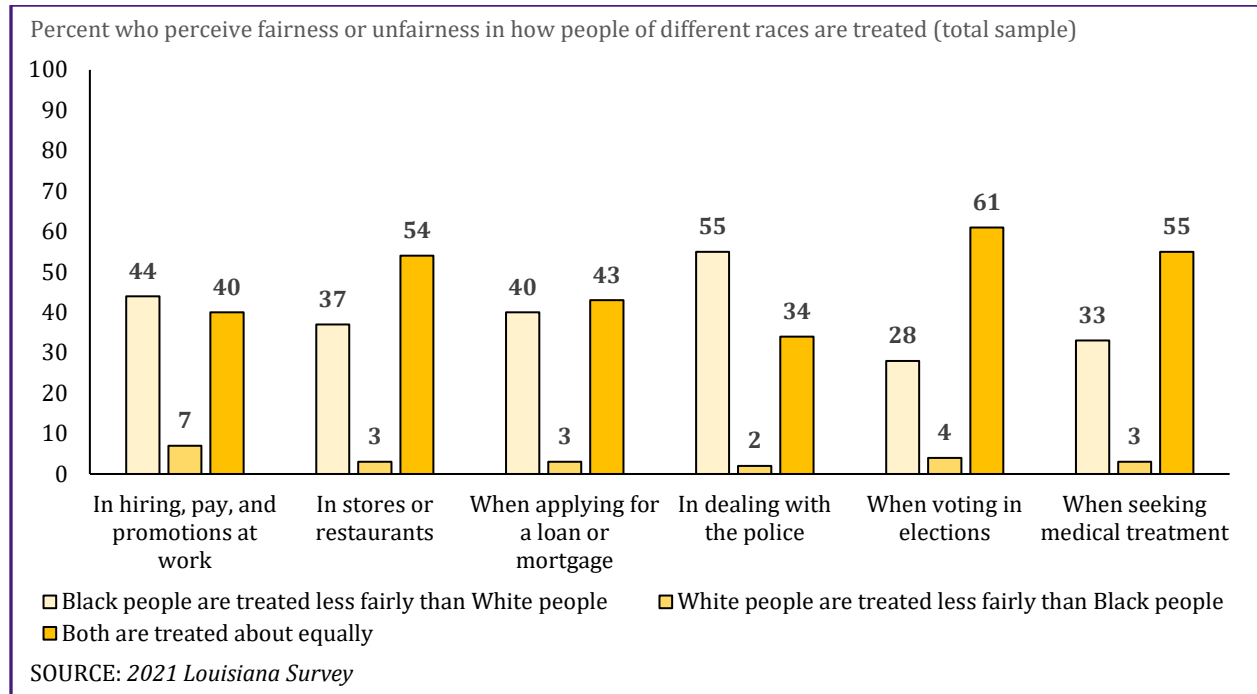


Figure 13: The majority of White Louisianans say races treated equally in most situations

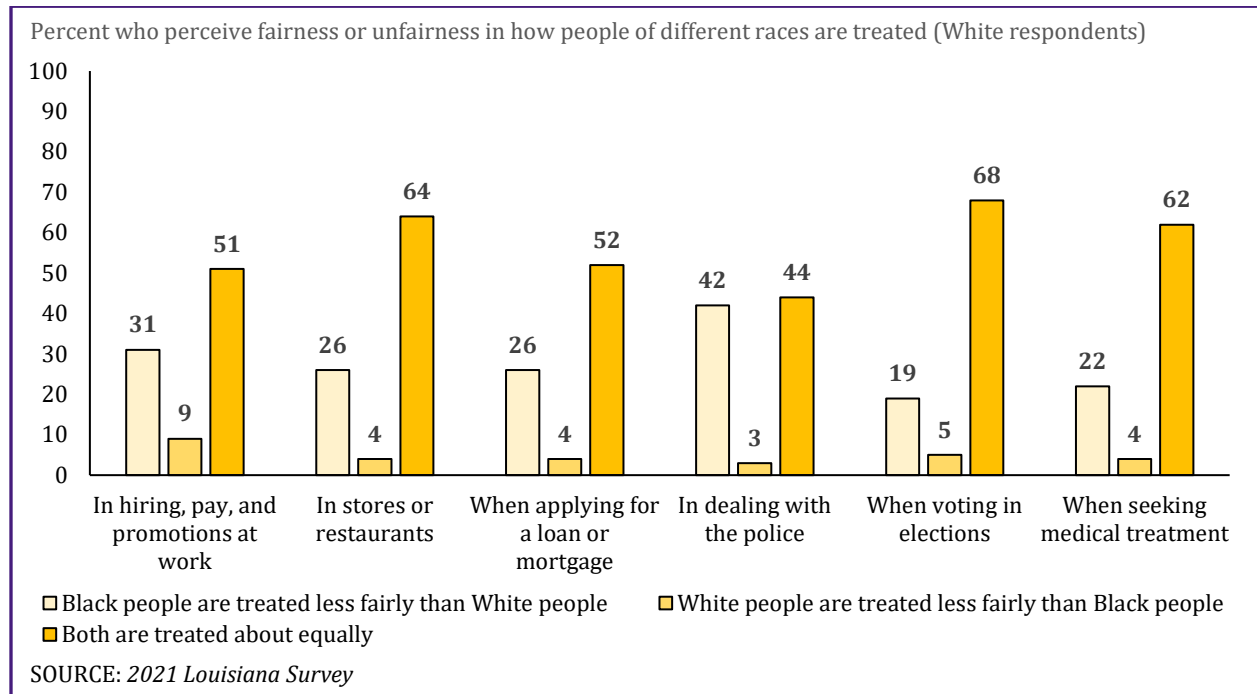
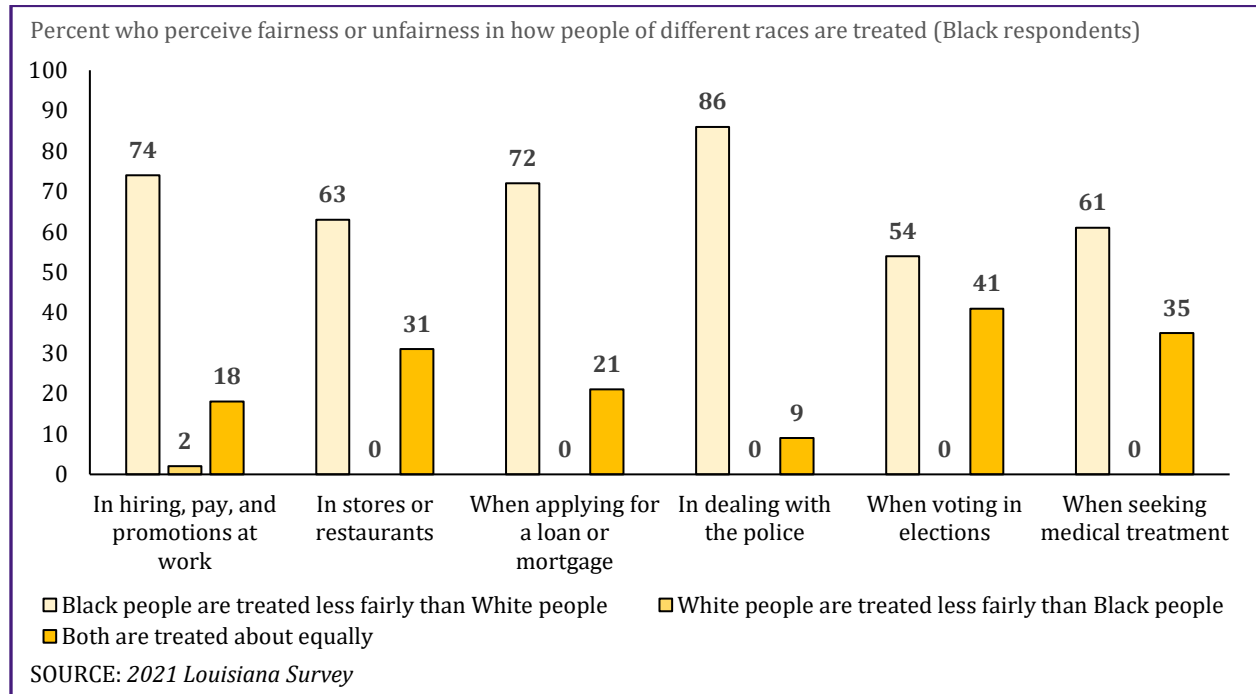


Figure 14: The majority of Black Louisianans say Black people treated less fairly than White people



Black and White Louisiana residents disagree on country's progress toward equal rights

Louisianans split on the progress made toward equal rights for Black people and White people in the United States.

Approximately half (52%) of state residents say the country needs to continue making changes for racial equality, and 44% either say the country has made the changes needed (20%) or say the country has gone too far in making changes on rights for Black people (22%).

There has been a shift in the latter two responses since this question appeared in the 2017 Louisiana Survey. Fewer Louisianans now say the country has made the necessary changes (from 28% to 20%) and more now say the country has gone too far in making changes to secure rights for Black people (from 15% to 22%). The share who believe the country still needs to make progress has essentially remained the same (from 51% to 52%).

Like the 2017 survey, the *2021 Louisiana Survey* includes a follow up question for any participant who says the country needs to continue making changes. This question asks these participants whether they believe the country will eventually make the changes necessary for equal rights between Black people and White people or the country will

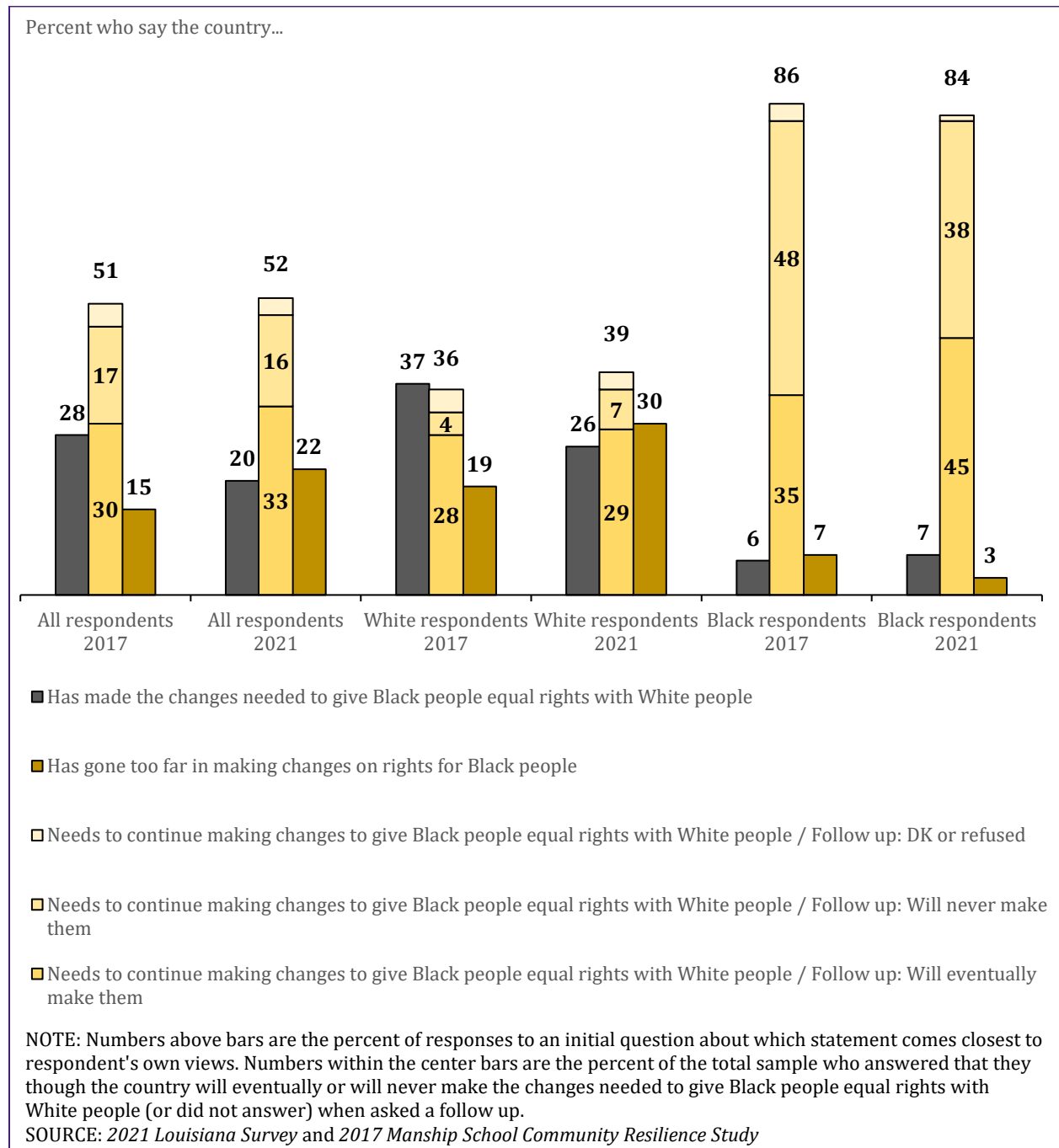
never make them. On balance, Louisiana residents who believe the country needs to make further change also believe it will eventually do so.

The pattern of responses to these questions among the total sample, which represents Louisiana adults as a whole, masks enormous differences between Black and White residents of the state. Figure 15 shows responses for the total sample and by race in both surveys.

Black Louisiana residents overwhelmingly believe (84%) that the country needs to make further changes to achieve equal rights, as was the case in 2017. However, Black Louisianans are somewhat more optimistic today than four years ago. In 2017, 35% felt the country will eventually make the changes necessary for equality and 48% felt the country would never make them. Today, 45% believe the country will make the changes, and 38% believe it will not.

Far fewer White Louisianans (39%) feel the country needs further change to achieve equality of rights. In fact, a majority of White residents of the state believe either that the country has already made the necessary changes for equal rights (26%) or that the country has gone too far in making changes on rights for Black people (30%). Over the last four years, the share of White Louisianans who believe the latter has grown 11 percentage points.

Figure 15: Black residents and White residents of Louisiana have different assessments of need for change to ensure equal rights



More respondents think economic class matters for success than race

The 2021 Louisiana Survey includes four questions asking participants whether they thought various demographic characteristics help or hurt a person's chances of getting ahead. The four characteristics included being White, being Black, being rich, and being poor.

Figure 16 shows the responses for the total sample. Overall, 45% of Louisiana residents think being White helps someone's chances of getting ahead, 11% say it hurts, and 38% say it makes no difference. Forty-six percent (46%) say being Black hurts a person's chances of getting ahead, 16% say it helps, and 30% say it makes no difference.

When shifting to class, the shares who think being rich helps and being poor hurts are much larger than from race. Seventy-nine percent (79%) say being rich helps, including 70% who say it helps a lot, and 78% say being poor hurts, including 61% who say it hurts a lot.

White residents of Louisiana tend to think race plays little, if any, role in a person's chances of getting ahead (Figure 17). Nearly half (47%) say being White makes no

difference, and about a third (35%) say being Black neither helps nor hurts someone's chances of getting ahead. Only about a third (34%) think being White advantages someone's socio-economic chances. A similar share (37%) think being Black negatively affects one's chances for socio-economic advancement. Nearly one-in-five (18%) White residents of Louisiana say being Black helps someone get ahead. In contrast, White Louisianans think someone's socio-economic class plays a big role in advancement. Seventy-nine percent (79%) say being rich helps, including 68% who say it helps a lot. A large majority (78%) also thinks being poor hurts, including 58% who say it hurts a lot.

When it comes to the role of wealth in shaping someone's chances of getting ahead, attitudes of Black Louisianans are similar to those of White Louisianans (Figure 18). Large majorities think being rich helps (77%) and being poor hurts (78%). If anything, Black residents of the state are more likely to say that being poor hurts a lot (70%).

Unlike White residents, however, Black residents of Louisiana also think race plays an important role. Sixty percent (60%) say being White helps someone's chances of getting ahead, including 52% who say it helps a lot. Two-thirds (67%) say being Black hurts someone's chances of getting ahead.

Figure 16: Views of whether race and socio-economic class help or hurt someone's chances of getting ahead, total sample

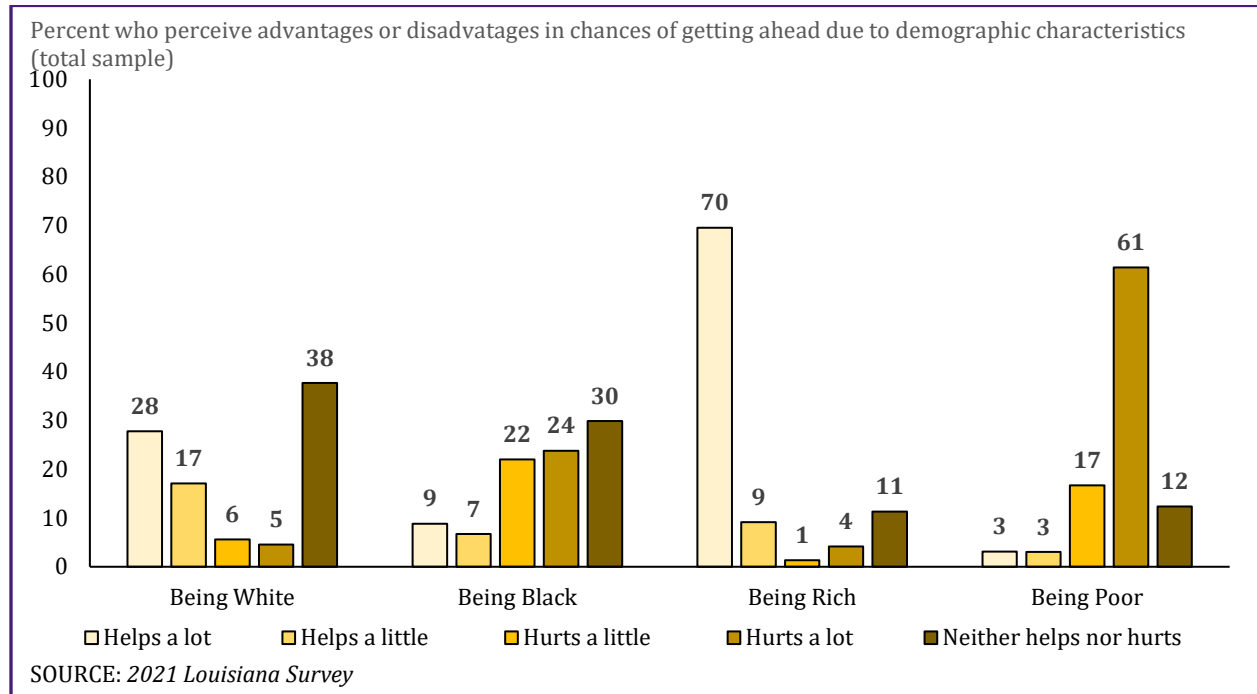


Figure 17: Views of whether race and socio-economic class help or hurt someone's chances of getting ahead, White respondents only

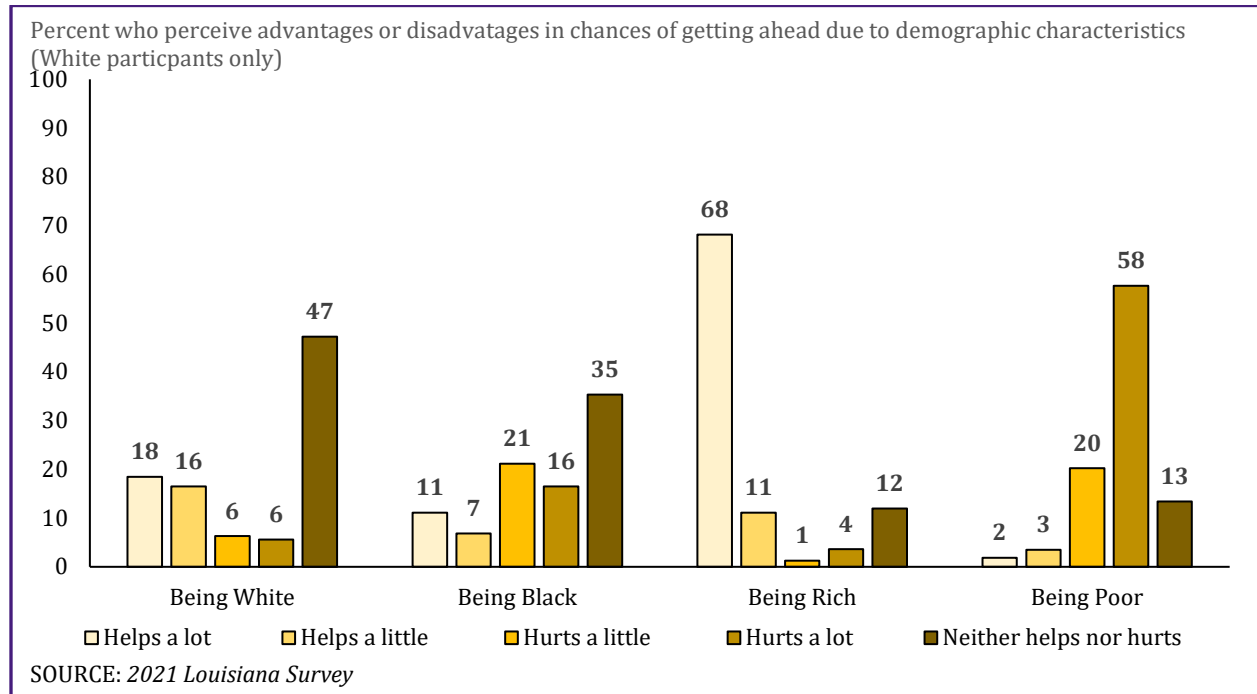
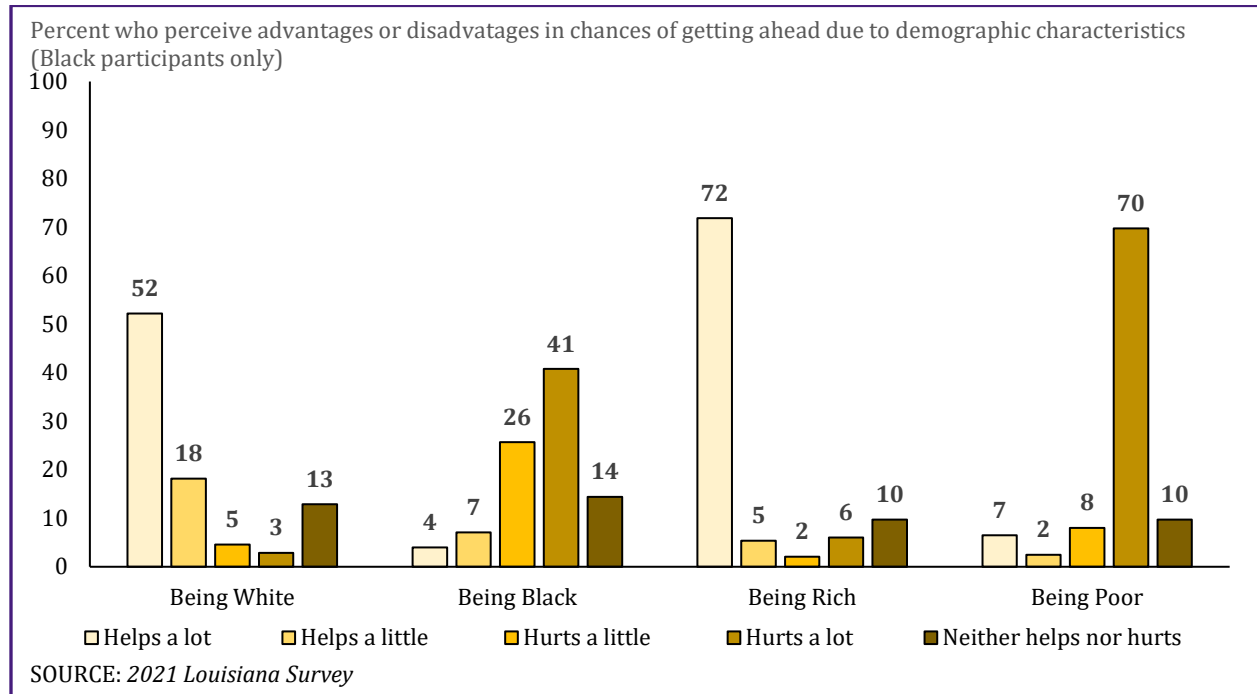


Figure 18: Views of whether race and socio-economic class help or hurt someone’s chances of getting ahead, Black respondents only



Louisiana attitudes trending in economically populist direction...

Approximately two-thirds (66%) of Louisiana residents think the economic system in America unfairly favors the wealthy. This marks an increase from 2016, the last time this question appeared in the *Louisiana Survey* (Figure 19). The question asks participants whether the economic system in the country unfairly favors the wealthy or it is generally fair to most Americans. This shift is concentrated among Louisiana residents with higher household incomes.

A similar pattern appears in a question asking which is more often to blame if a person is poor – lack of effort on his or her own part or circumstances beyond his or her control. A majority (55%) of state residents now believe being poor has more to do with circumstances beyond someone’s own control than with lack of effort. This is a 12 percentage-point increase over the past five years (Figure 20). Again, this shift is concentrated among higher earning households who appear to be more sympathetic to the poor than in 2016.

Figure 19: More state residents think the economic system unfairly favors the wealthy than in 2016

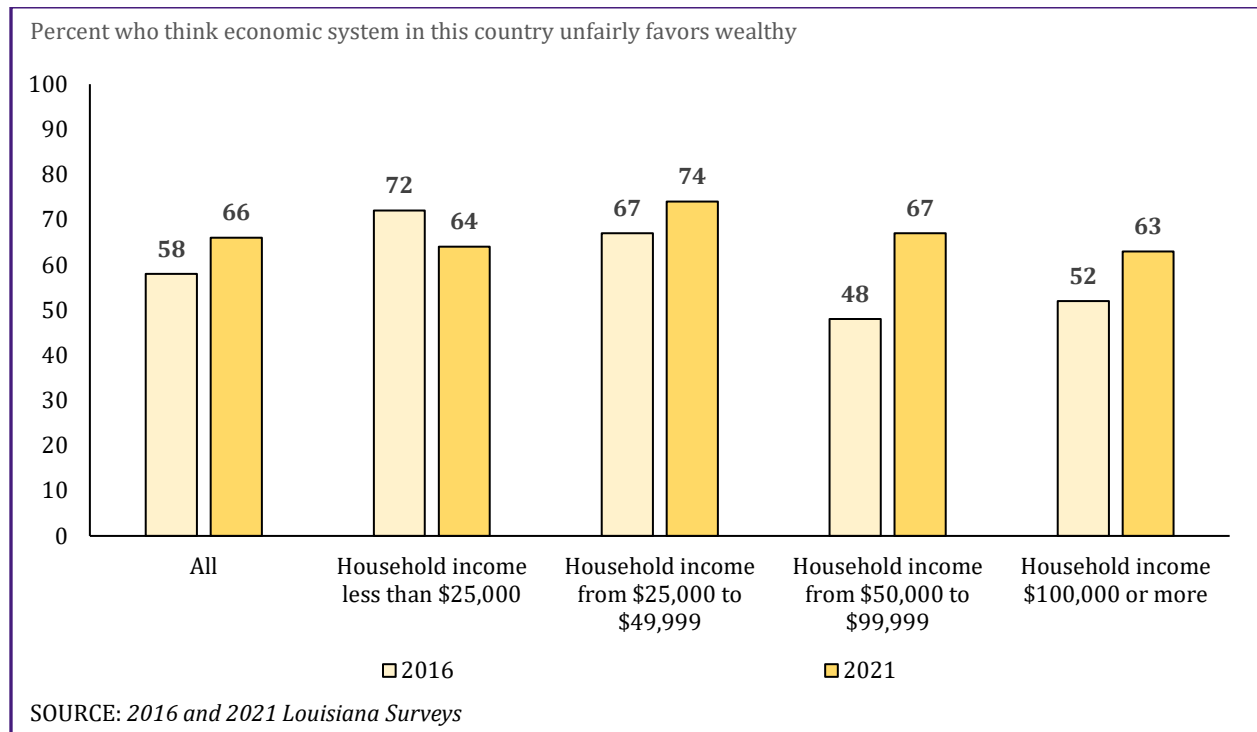
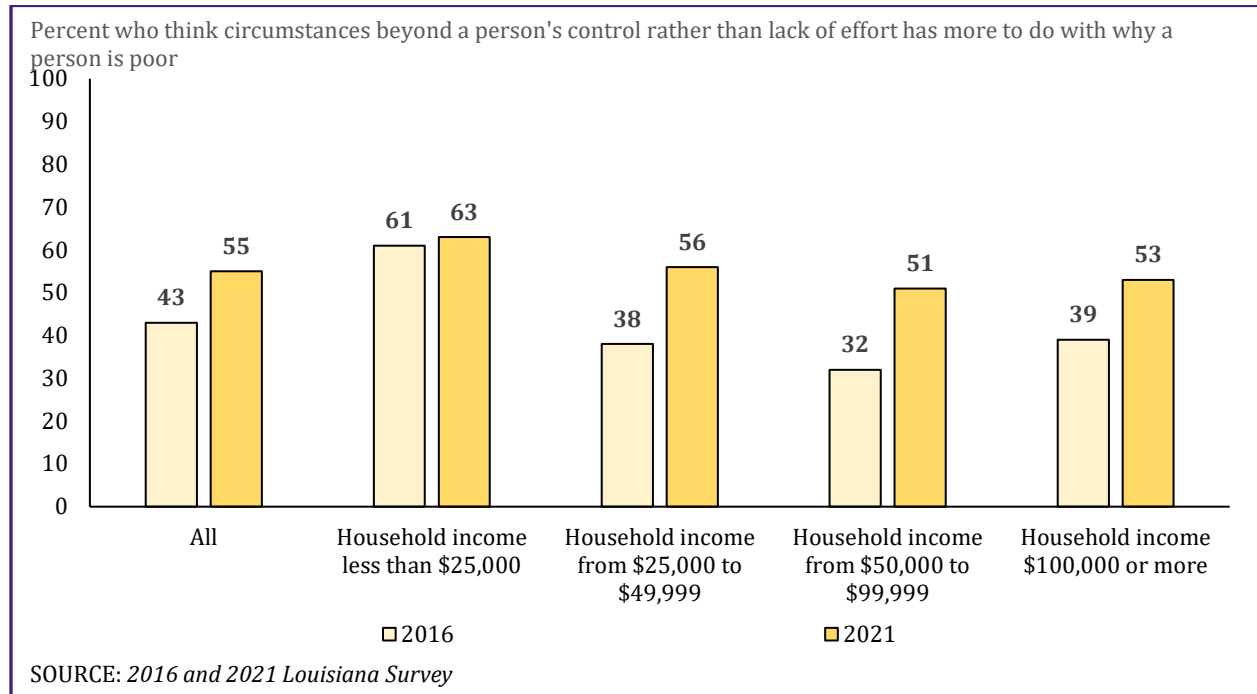


Figure 20: More people think being poor results from circumstances beyond control than in 2016



... But most remain skeptical about government's role in relief

Louisiana residents are divided almost evenly between those who favor a smaller government providing fewer services (48%) and those favoring a larger government providing more services (45%). These shares are essentially the same as when the *Louisiana Survey* last asked this question in 2015 (49% and 45%, respectively). The chief divide in opinion stems from partisanship. Democrats overwhelmingly favor a larger government and more services (79%), while Republicans just as overwhelmingly favor smaller government with fewer services (77%).

The *2021 Louisiana Survey* also asked participants about the amount of assistance that the government provides to people in need – specifically, whether the government should provide more assistance, less assistance, or is already providing the right amount of assistance. Most residents do not think the government should provide more assistance to people in need – 33% say it is already providing enough and 20% say it is

providing too much. Only 41% want the government to provide more assistance to people in need.

Again, political party plays a key role in opinion. Two-thirds (66%) of Democrats want the government to provide more assistance. Most Republicans (80%) do not, but they split evenly between those who say the government provides the right amount (40%) and those who say it provides too much assistance (40%).

Despite a general reticence when it comes to government services and assistance, Louisiana residents as a whole approve of specific recent policies to help those in need. Seventy-eight percent (78%) approve of the state's 2016 expansion of the Medicaid program. Majorities among both Democrats (96%) and Republicans (54%) approve of Medicaid expansion. Similarly, a majority (76%) of state residents approve of last year's expansion of unemployment insurance benefits. Again, the benefit has bipartisan approval – 94% among Democrats and 62% among Republicans.

Views on Childcare and Early Childhood Education

Most Louisianans support more spending for childcare and early childhood education, including raising taxes to pay for it

To measure what Louisiana residents think about state funding for early childhood education programs, the *2021 Louisiana Survey* includes questions about different families and children's ages the program might serve. Additionally, to assess whether Louisianans view early childhood education programs as something different than childcare, we randomly assigned participants to either versions of the questions that mentions "early childhood education" or versions that mention "childcare."

In all, there are four groups: Participants asked about childcare for low-income families, participants asked about childcare for all families, participants asked about early childhood education for low-income families, and participants asked about early childhood education for all families. Participants in each group answered questions about increasing state spending on programs for infants and toddlers, increasing spending on programs for three- and four-year-olds, and if they support increased funding, a question about raising taxes to fund the programs.

The most striking pattern in the results is how robust support for more spending is regardless of age of child, whether the program is means-tested or universal, or whether the program consists of childcare or early childhood education. Across all of these questions, support for more spending remains between 67% and 76%. The differences are within the margin of error.

Support for taxes to fund childcare or early childhood education is lower but remains above 50%. The final column of Table 6 shows the percent of participants asked about the particular version of the program listed in the row who support raising taxes to fund more spending.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) support raising taxes to increase spending on childcare for low-income families. Fifty-three percent (53%) support raising taxes to increase spending on childcare for all families. Fifty-eight percent (58%) support raising taxes to increase spending on early childhood education for low-income families. Fifty-nine percent (59%) support raising taxes to increase spending on early childhood education for low-income families. These percentages are within the margin of error of each other.

Table 6: Most Louisiana residents support more funding for childcare and early childhood education across a variety of potential program designs

Childcare for low-income families	76	75	57
Childcare for all families	69	67	53
Early childhood education for low-income families	71	68	58
Early childhood education for all families	73	72	59

Note: Participants randomly assigned to one of four question batteries listed in the Program column. Spending columns are the percent who support increasing spending for the program. The final column is the percent who support raising taxes to fund more spending (the denominator for this percentage includes those who do not support more spending and those who support more spending but not more taxes as well).

Survey Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted among a statewide sample of 781 adults (18 years of age or older) living in Louisiana. The survey was conducted by interviewers at Louisiana State University's Public Policy Research Lab. The sample includes 154 respondents interviewed via landline telephone and 627 respondents interviewed on a cellphone, including 476 who do not have a landline telephone.

Approximately four-fifths of the sample (82 percent) was stratified across parishes proportionally to their adult population ensuring geographic representation across the state. The remaining 18 percent of the sample was drawn statewide. For both the parish and statewide samples, the design of the landline samples ensures representation of both listed and unlisted numbers by use of random digit dialing. Similarly, the cell phone samples are randomly drawn from known, available phone number banks dedicated to wireless service. Both samples, landline and cellphone, were provided by Marketing Systems Group.

The combined landline and cell phone sample is weighted using an iterative procedure that matches race, education, household income, gender, and age to known profiles for the adult population of Louisiana found in the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2019 one-year estimates. Weighting cannot eliminate every source of nonresponse bias. However, proper administration of random sampling combined with accepted weighting techniques has a strong record of yielding unbiased results.

The sample has an overall margin of error of +/- 6.4 percentage points. The margin of error includes adjustment due to the weighting procedure. The design effect due to weighting is 1.4 percentage points; that is, the margin of error is 1.4 percentage points larger than it would be for a simple random sample of this size without weighting.

In addition to sampling error, as accounted for through the margin of error, readers should recognize that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls. As often as possible, the *Louisiana Survey* follows the wording of relevant questions repeatedly used by reputable public opinion research institutions and projects, such as the Pew Research Center, Gallup Inc., and the American National Election Studies.

Interviews for this survey were conducted from January 4 to March 1, 2021. However, 80% of interviews occurred from February 1 to March 1, 2021.

The *2021 Louisiana Survey* has a response rate of four percent. This response rate is the percentage of eligible residential households or personal cell phones in the sample for which an interview is completed. The rate is calculated using the American Association for Public Opinion Research's method for Response Rate 3 as published in their Standard Definitions. Response rates for

telephones have been on decline for several decades and frequently fall in the single digits even among the very best survey research organizations.

Louisiana State University's Public Policy Research Lab, a division of the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs, designed the survey questionnaire and sampling strategy, computed the survey weights, and conducted all statistical analysis.

Question Wording and Toplines

Unless otherwise indicated, results are for the total sample. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Crosstabs for these responses are available at <https://pprllsu.com/projects/>

Q1.

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?

Right direction	42
Wrong direction.....	46
Don't know/Refused [VOLUNTEERED].....	11

Q2. [OPEN-ENDED QUESTION]

Thinking about the problems facing Louisiana, which problems would you most like the state government to be working on in 2021? **[CALLERS RECORD UP TO FIVE RESPONSES. IF RESPONDENT PROVIDES LESS THAN FIVE, PROMPT WITH "Any others?" UNTIL RESPONDENT HAS NO MORE OR REACHES FIVE.]**

VERBATIM RESPONSES RECORDED AND CODED INTO CATEGORIES (SEE TABLE 1)

Q3.

Which of those problems is the SINGLE MOST important for state government to be working on in 2021?

VERBATIM RESPONSES RECORDED AND CODED INTO CATEGORIES (SEE TABLE 1)

Q4.

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?

Very confident.....	9
Somewhat confident.....	33
Not very confident.....	31
Not at all confident.....	24
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q5.

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?

Better.....	17
Same.....	54
Worse.....	29
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q6.

Now thinking about the economy in Louisiana as a whole, would you say that over the past year the state's economy has gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?

Better.....	6
Same.....	20
Worse.....	72
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q7-Q18 INTRO.

Now, I'm going to read you some different areas where Louisiana spends tax dollars. As I read each one, tell me if you would like to see state spending in this area increased, decreased, or kept the same. **[ORDER OF SIX POLICY AREAS RANDOMIZED.]**

Q7.

What about spending for elementary and secondary education? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

Increased.....	64
Decreased.....	5
Kept about the same.....	28
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q8A. [ASKED IF Q7 IS 'Increased']

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, increasing spending above current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to increase spending for elementary and secondary education?

Support.....	76
Oppose.....	21
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q8B. [ASKED IF Q7 IS ‘Kept about the same’]

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, keeping spending at current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to keep spending for elementary and secondary education at this level?

Support.....	36
Oppose.....	41
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q9.

What about spending for higher education? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

Increased.....	47
Decreased.....	15
Kept about the same.....	35
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q10A. [ASKED IF Q9 IS ‘Increased’]

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, increasing spending above current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to increase spending for higher education?

Support.....	75
Oppose.....	23
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	2

Q10B. [ASKED IF Q9 IS ‘Kept about the same’]

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, keeping spending at current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to keep spending for higher education at this level?

Support.....	27
Oppose.....	69
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q11.

What about spending for health care? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

Increased.....	48
Decreased.....	12
Kept about the same.....	33
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	6

Q12A. [ASKED IF Q11 IS ‘Increased’]

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, increasing spending above current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to increase spending for health care?

Support.....	71
Oppose.....	25
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q12B. [ASKED IF Q11 IS ‘Kept about the same’]

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, keeping spending at current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to keep spending for health care at this level?

Support.....	33
Oppose.....	64
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q13.

What about spending for roads, bridges, and highways? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

Increased.....	61
Decreased.....	6
Kept about the same.....	31
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	2

Q14A. [ASKED IF Q13 IS ‘Increased’]

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, increasing spending above current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to increase spending for roads, bridges, and highways?

Support.....	64
Oppose.....	34
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q14B. [ASKED IF Q13 IS ‘Kept about the same’]

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, keeping spending at current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to keep spending for roads, bridges, and highways at this level?

Support.....	27
Oppose.....	68
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	5

Q15.

What about spending for prisons and incarceration? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

Increased.....	12
Decreased.....	36
Kept about the same.....	44
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	7

Q16A. [ASKED IF Q15 IS 'Increased']

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, increasing spending above current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to increase spending for prisons and incarceration?

Support.....	54
Oppose.....	45
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	2

Q16B. [ASKED IF Q15 IS 'Kept about the same']

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, keeping spending at current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to keep spending for prisons and incarceration at this level?

Support.....	18
Oppose.....	78
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q17.

What about spending for welfare, food stamps, and other public assistance programs? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

Increased.....	31
Decreased.....	30
Kept about the same.....	37
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q18A. [ASKED IF Q17 IS 'Increased']

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, increasing spending above current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to increase spending for welfare, food stamps, and other public assistance programs?

Support.....	74
Oppose.....	24
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	2

Q18B. [ASKED IF Q17 IS ‘Kept about the same’]

Keeping in mind that, because the state faces a budget shortfall, keeping spending at current levels could require higher taxes, would you support or oppose raising taxes in order to keep spending for welfare, food stamps, and other public assistance programs at this level?

Support.....	37
Oppose.....	60
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q19.

Would you say that state income taxes on individuals and households are too high, too low, or just about right?

Too high.....	41
Too low.....	12
Just about right.....	37
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	10

Q20.

Would you say that state sales tax is too high, too low, or just about right?

Too high.....	54
Too low.....	2
Just about right.....	40
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q21.

Now, thinking about the taxes you and your household pay to the state of Louisiana, do you think you're paying more than your fair share, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

More than your fair share.....	41
Less than your fair share.....	3
About the right amount.....	52
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

[ORDER OF Q22 THROUGH Q26 RANDOMIZED]

Q22.

How about lower-income people, are they paying more than their fair share of state taxes, less than their fair share, or about the right amount?

More than their fair share.....	41
Less than their fair share.....	15
About the right amount.....	35
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.].....	9

Q23.

How about middle-income people, are they paying more than their fair share of state taxes, less than their fair share, or about the right amount?

More than their fair share.....	48
Less than their fair share.....	3
About the right amount.....	44
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	5

Q24.

How about upper-income people, are they paying more than their fair share of state taxes, less than their fair share, or about the right amount?

More than their fair share.....	11
Less than their fair share.....	50
About the right amount.....	28
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	11

Q25.

How about small businesses, are they paying more than their fair share of state taxes, less than their fair share, or about the right amount?

More than their fair share.....	50
Less than their fair share.....	4
About the right amount.....	34
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	13

Q26.

How about large businesses, are they paying more than their fair share of state taxes, less than their fair share, or about the right amount?

More than their fair share.....	9
Less than their fair share.....	56
About the right amount.....	23
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	13

Q27A. [PARTICIPANTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO EITHER Q27A OR Q27B]

Do you support or oppose increasing the state tax on gasoline if the money is dedicated to improving highways, bridges, and other infrastructure?

Support.....	57
Oppose.....	41
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q27B. [PARTICIPANTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO EITHER Q27A OR Q27B]

Do you support or oppose increasing the state tax on gasoline if the tax allows the state to bring in more money from the federal government in Washington D.C. to spend on improving highways, bridges, and other infrastructure in the state?

Support.....	49
Oppose.....	47
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q28.

Some people want to focus on expanding the capacity of Louisiana's transportation infrastructure by extending highways, widening roads and bridges, and building new roads and bridges. Other people want to focus on maintaining existing infrastructure by repairing and preserving the roads and bridges we already have. Which do you think is more important?

Expanding the capacity of infrastructure.....	29
Maintaining existing infrastructure.....	67
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q29.

Have you ever tested positive for COVID-19 (the disease caused by the coronavirus)?

Yes.....	12
No.....	87
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	1

Q30.

Have you been laid off or had a cut in pay because of the coronavirus outbreak?

Yes.....	31
No.....	69
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q31.

Does anyone else besides you live in your household?

Yes.....	75
No.....	24
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q32. [IF Q31 IS 'YES']

Other than yourself has anyone in your household ever tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes.....	13
No.....	61
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	1

Q33. [IF Q31 IS 'YES']

Other than yourself, has anyone in your household been laid off or had a cut in pay because of the coronavirus outbreak?

Yes.....	27
No.....	48
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	1

Q34.

Other than yourself or anyone living with you do you personally know anyone who do you personally know anyone who has ever tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes.....	79
No.....	21
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q35.

Do you personally know anyone who has died from complications related to COVID-19?

Yes.....	48
No.....	51
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q36.

How much do you approve or disapprove of how the state government is handling the coronavirus outbreak?

Strongly approve.....	19
Somewhat approve.....	30
Somewhat disapprove.....	11
Strongly disapprove.....	20
Neither approve nor disapprove.....	18
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	2

Q37. [ORDER OF STATEMENTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED.]

Which of these two statements comes closer to your own views? "Requiring people to wear masks in public places is important to reduce the spread of COVID-19" or "Requiring people to wear masks in public places is an unnecessary violation of personal freedom"?

Important to reduce spread.....	74
Unnecessary violation.....	25
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	1

Q38A.

Have you received the vaccination for COVID-19??

Yes.....	17
No.....	82
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	1

Q38.

When a vaccine against COVID-19 is available for you, do you plan to get vaccinated?

Yes.....	41
No.....	32
Not asked [BECAUSE Q38A IS 'YES'].....	17
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	9

Q39A. [PARTICIPANTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO EITHER Q39A OR Q39B]

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Louisiana increased the number of days when voters can vote in-person before Election Day. Should the state continue to allow more days for early voting?

Yes.....	75
No.....	23
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	2

Q39B. [PARTICIPANTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO EITHER Q39A OR Q39B]

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Louisiana relaxed restrictions on absentee voting to allow more people to vote by mail. Should the state continue to allow more people to vote by mail?

Yes.....	49
No.....	50
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	1

Q40.

Are you the parent, stepparent, or foster parent of a child living in your household who is in a grade from kindergarten through 12th grade?

Yes.....	28
No.....	71
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	1

Q41. [IF Q40 IS 'YES'. RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO EITHER OLDEST OR YOUNGEST CHILD VERSION.]

Thinking about the [RANDOMIZE: oldest / youngest] child living in your household who is in a grade from kindergarten through 12th grade, is this child's school:

Public school that is not charter school.....	73
Charter school.....	4
Private school.....	15
Child is homeschooled.....	9
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q42. [IF Q41 IS NOT 'HOMESCHOOLED'.]

How is this child attending school?

Entirely in-person.....	68
Entirely remote.....	18
Mix of in-person and remote.....	14
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q43. [IF Q41 IS NOT 'HOMESCHOOLED'.]

Has the way this child has attended school (in-person only, remote only, or a mix) changed since the start of the school year?

Yes.....	52
No.....	48
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q44. [IF Q41 IS NOT 'HOMESCHOOLED'. PARTICPANTS SELECT ALL THAT APPLY; THEREFORE, PERCENTAGES DO NOT SUM TO 100.]

Which other ways has this child attended school this school year?

Entirely in-person.....	21
Entirely remote.....	20
Mix of in-person and remote.....	70
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q45. [IF Q41 IS NOT 'HOMESCHOOLED'.]

How satisfied are you with the instruction provided by this child's school so far this school year?

Very satisfied.....	43
Somewhat satisfied.....	33
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	11
Very dissatisfied.....	10
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.....	3
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	0

Q46. [IF Q40 IS 'YES']

Still thinking about this same child, do you think this child has learned more, less, or about the same over the past year as they would have learned if there had not been a pandemic?

A lot more.....	8
Somewhat more.....	7
Somewhat less.....	33
A lot less.....	24
About the same.....	28
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	1

Q47.

Should the state government regulate high-speed home internet access in the same way it regulates electricity and water to ensure everyone in Louisiana has access to this service?

Yes.....	58
No.....	35
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	7

Q48.

Do you support or oppose the state government spending tax dollars to extend high-speed home internet access to parts of Louisiana currently without it?

Support.....	63
Oppose.....	33
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	4

Q49. [ORDER OF STATEMENTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED.]

Which statement best describes your view, even if neither is exactly right? "The state government should provide subsidies to help low-income Louisianans purchase high-speed home internet service" or "High-speed home internet service is affordable enough that nearly every household should be able to buy service on their own"?

Should provide subsidies.....	52
Affordable enough.....	41
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	7

[FOR QUESTIONS Q50 THROUGH Q51, PARTICPANTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO ONE OF FOUR BATTERIES: A, B, C, OR D]

Q50A. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY A]

Do you support or oppose the state government increasing spending on quality childcare for infants and toddlers from low-income families?

Support	76
Oppose.....	22
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	2

Q50B. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY B]

Do you support or oppose the state government increasing spending on quality childcare for infants and toddlers from all families?

Support	69
Oppose.....	27
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	4

Q50C. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY C]

Do you support or oppose the state government increasing spending on quality early childhood education for infants and toddlers from low-income families?

Support	71
Oppose.....	28
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	1

Q50D. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY D]

Do you support or oppose the state government increasing spending on quality early childhood education for infants and toddlers from all families?

Support	73
Oppose.....	27
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	0

Q51A. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY A]

Do you support or oppose the state government increasing spending on quality childcare for three- and four-year-olds from low-income families?

Support	75
Oppose.....	23
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	2

Q51B. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY B]

Do you support or oppose the state government increasing spending on quality childcare for three- and four-year-olds from all families?

Support	67
Oppose.....	30
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	2

Q51C. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY C]

Do you support or oppose the state government increasing spending on quality early childhood education for three- and four-year-olds from low-income families?

Support	68
Oppose.....	31
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	1

Q51D. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY D]

Do you support or oppose the state government increasing spending on quality early childhood education for three- and four-year-olds from all families?

Support	72
Oppose.....	25
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	2

Q52AB. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY A OR BATTERY B AND ANSWERED SUPPORT TO EITHER Q50 OR Q51]

Do you support or oppose raising taxes to fund more spending on childcare?

Support	73
Oppose.....	25
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	2

Q52CD. [ASKED IF RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO BATTERY C OR BATTERY D AND ANSWERED SUPPORT TO EITHER Q50 OR Q51]

Do you support or oppose raising taxes to fund more spending on early childhood education?

Support	77
Oppose.....	20
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	3

Q53A. [PARTICIPANTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO Q53A, Q53B, OR Q53C]

Paid family leave allows workers to receive pay while taking time off from work to care for a family member with a health condition or after the birth or adoption of a child. Do you support or oppose the state government requiring employers to provide paid family leave to workers?

Support.....	80
Oppose.....	17
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	3

Q53B. [PARTICIPANTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO Q53A, Q53B, OR Q53C]

Paid family leave allows workers to receive pay while taking time off from work to care for a family member with a health condition or after the birth or adoption of a child. Do you support or oppose the state government requiring employers to provide paid family leave to workers with the cost of the program paid by state tax dollars?

Support.....	58
Oppose.....	37
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	5

Q53C. [PARTICIPANTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO Q53A, Q53B, OR Q53C]

Paid family leave allows workers to receive pay while taking time off from work to care for a family member with a health condition or after the birth or adoption of a child. Do you support or oppose the state government requiring employers to provide paid family leave to workers with the cost of the program paid by workers and employers?

Support.....	72
Oppose.....	20
Don't know/Refused [VOL.].....	8

[ORDER OF Q54 THROUGH 59 RANDMOIZED]

Q54. [ORDER OF FIRST TWO RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED IN QUESTION WORDING AND RESPONSE LIST]

In general, in our country these days, would you say that Black people are treated less fairly than White people, White people are treated less fairly than Black people, or both are treated about equally in hiring, pay, and promotions at work?

Black people are treated less fairly than White people	44
White people are treated less fairly than Black people	7
Both are treated about equally	40
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	8

Q55. [ORDER OF FIRST TWO RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED IN QUESTION WORDING AND RESPONSE LIST]

In general, in our country these days, would you say that Black people are treated less fairly than White people, White people are treated less fairly than Black people, or both are treated about equally in stores or restaurants?

Black people are treated less fairly than White people	37
White people are treated less fairly than Black people	3
Both are treated about equally	54
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	8

Q56. [ORDER OF FIRST TWO RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED IN QUESTION WORDING AND RESPONSE LIST]

In general, in our country these days, would you say that Black people are treated less fairly than White people, White people are treated less fairly than Black people, or both are treated about equally when applying for a loan or mortgage?

Black people are treated less fairly than White people	40
White people are treated less fairly than Black people	3
Both are treated about equally	43
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	14

Q57. [ORDER OF FIRST TWO RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED IN QUESTION WORDING AND RESPONSE LIST]

In general, in our country these days, would you say that Black people are treated less fairly than White people, White people are treated less fairly than Black people, or both are treated about equally in dealing with the police?

Black people are treated less fairly than White people	55
White people are treated less fairly than Black people	2
Both are treated about equally	34
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	9

Q58. [ORDER OF FIRST TWO RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED IN QUESTION WORDING AND RESPONSE LIST]

In general, in our country these days, would you say that Black people are treated less fairly than White people, White people are treated less fairly than Black people, or both are treated about equally when voting in elections?

Black people are treated less fairly than White people	28
White people are treated less fairly than Black people	4
Both are treated about equally	61
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	7

Q59. [ORDER OF FIRST TWO RESPONSE OPTIONS RANDOMIZED IN QUESTION WORDING AND RESPONSE LIST]

In general, in our country these days, would you say that Black people are treated less fairly than White people, White people are treated less fairly than Black people, or both are treated about equally when seeking medical treatment?

Black people are treated less fairly than White people	33
White people are treated less fairly than Black people	3
Both are treated about equally	55
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	10

Q60. [ORDER OF STATEMENTS RANDOMIZED]

Which of these three statements comes closer to your own views -- even if none is exactly right?

Country has made the changes needed to give Blacks equal rights with Whites	20
Country needs to continue making changes to give Blacks equal rights with Whites.....	52
Country has gone too far in making changes on rights for Blacks	22
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	5

Q61. [ASKED IF Q60 IS 'Country needs to continue making changes']

Do you think our country will eventually make the changes needed to give Blacks equal rights, or do you think the country will never make those changes?

Will eventually make them.....	64
Will never make them.....	22
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	5

Q62.

Overall, how does being White affect people's ability to get ahead in our country these days?

Helps a lot	28
Helps a little	17
Hurts a little	6
Hurts a lot	5
Neither helps not hurts	38
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	7

Q63.

Overall, how does being Black affect people's ability to get ahead in our country these days?

Helps a lot	9
Helps a little	7
Hurts a little	22
Hurts a lot	24
Neither helps not hurts	30
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	9

Q64.

Overall, how does being rich affect people’s ability to get ahead in our country these days?

Helps a lot	70
Helps a little	9
Hurts a little	1
Hurts a lot	4
Neither helps not hurts	11
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	4

Q65.

Overall, how does being poor affect people’s ability to get ahead in our country these days?

Helps a lot	3
Helps a little	3
Hurts a little	17
Hurts a lot	61
Neither helps not hurts	12
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	3

Q66. [ORDER OF STATEMENTS RANDOMIZED]

Which of these three statements comes closer to your own views -- even if none is exactly right?

The economic system in this country unfairly favors the wealthy	66
The economic system in this country is generally fair to most Americans	31
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	3

Q67. [ORDER OF STATEMENTS RANDOMIZED IN QUESTION AND RESPONSE LIST]

In your opinion, which is generally more often to blame if a person is poor? Lack of effort on his or her own part, or circumstances beyond his or her control?

Lack of effort.....	33
Circumstances beyond control.....	55
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	12

Q68. [ORDER OF STATEMENTS RANDOMIZED IN QUESTION AND RESPONSE LIST]

If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services or a larger government providing more services?

Smaller government and fewer services.....	48
Larger government and more services.....	45
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	8

Q69. [ORDER OF FIRST TWO STATEMENTS RANDOMIZED]

Thinking about the assistance government provides to people in need. Do you think the government...

Should provide more assistance.....	41
Should provide less assistance.....	20
Is providing about the right amount of assistance	33
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	6

Q70.

As you may know, Medicaid is a program to provide health coverage mostly to low-income individuals. A few years ago, Louisiana expanded its Medicaid program to provide health care coverage to more people. Do you approve or disapprove of the state expanding its Medicaid program?

Approve	78
Disapprove	18
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	4

Q71A. [ASKED IF Q70 IS 'Approve']

Do you approve strongly or not so strongly?

Strongly	79
Not so strongly.....	20
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	1

Q71B. [ASKED IF Q70 IS 'Disapprove']

Do you disapprove strongly or not so strongly?

Strongly	65
Not so strongly.....	34
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	1

Q72.

As you may know, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, commonly known as welfare, is a program to provide money to low-income individuals. Do you approve or disapprove of the state expanding this program?

Approve	53
Disapprove	42
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	5

Q73A. [ASKED IF Q72 IS ‘Approve’]

Do you approve strongly or not so strongly?

Strongly	72
Not so strongly.....	26
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	2

Q73B. [ASKED IF Q72 IS ‘Disapprove’]

Do you disapprove strongly or not so strongly?

Strongly	63
Not so strongly.....	35
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	1

Q74.

As you may know, Unemployment Insurance is a program to provide money to people who are laid off from work. Last year, Louisiana expanded its unemployment insurance program to provide benefits to more people. Do you approve or disapprove of the state expanding this program?

Approve	76
Disapprove	20
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	3

Q75A. [ASKED IF Q74 IS ‘Approve’]

Do you approve strongly or not so strongly?

Strongly	78
Not so strongly.....	22
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	0

Q75B. [ASKED IF Q74 IS ‘Disapprove’]

Do you disapprove strongly or not so strongly?

Strongly	72
Not so strongly.....	27
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	1

HHCLASS.

Would you say your household is upper-income, middle-income, or lower-income?

Upper income	7
Middle income.....	58
Lower income.....	33
Don’t know/Refused [VOL.]	2

PID1.

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, independent, or what?

Democrat.....	29
Republican.....	25
Independent.....	28
Something else.....	15
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	3

PID2A. [ASKED IF PID1 IS 'Democrat' OR 'Republican.' INSERT RESPON FROM PID1.]

Would you consider yourself a strong or not so strong [Democrat / Republican]?

Strong	70
Not so strong	30
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	0

PID2B. [ASKED IF PID1 IS NEITHER 'Democrat' NOR 'Republican.']

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, independent, or what?

Democratic Party	18
Republican Party.....	25
Independent (Don't lean to either party).....	54
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	3

IDEO.

When it comes to politics, would you say you are very liberal, liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal.....	7
Liberal	6
Somewhat liberal.....	9
Moderate	21
Somewhat conservative.....	16
Conservative	19
Very conservative.....	13
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	9

YOB. [RESPONSES RECODED INTO AGE CATEGORIES BELOW]

In what year were you born?

18-29 years old.....	16
30-49 years old.....	30
50-64 years old.....	28
65 years or older.....	23
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	3

HOME.



Do you or does your family own your home, pay rent, or something else?

Own home.....	72
Pay rent.....	21
Something else.....	5
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	1

EDUCAT.

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

Less than 9 th grade	3
9 th through 12 th grade but no diploma.....	10
High school graduate or equivalency	25
Some college or vocational school, but no degree	24
A 2-year college degree.....	8
A 4-year college degree.....	13
A graduate or professional degree	15
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	0

ZIPCODE. [RESPONSES RECORDED VERBATIM.]

And what is your zip code?

HISP.

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Yes.....	3
No	94
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	2

RACE.

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

White.....	65
African American	27
Asian.....	1
Something else.....	6
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	2

HAVECELL. [ASKED IF INTERVIEWED ON LANDLINE PHONE]

Do you have a cell phone?

Yes.....	79
No	21
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	0

HAVELAND. [ASKED IF INTERVIEWED ON CELL PHONE]

Does your household have a landline phone?

Yes.....	15
No	85
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	0

INCOME.

We would like to know what your household income was last year before taxes. Please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household income.

Under \$10,000	7
\$10,000 - \$14,999	6
\$15,000 - \$24,999	10
\$25,000 - \$34,999.....	9
\$35,000 - \$49,999.....	9
\$50,000 - \$74,999.....	14
\$75,000 - \$99,999.....	10
\$100,000 - \$149,999	10
\$150,000 - \$199,999	4
\$200,000 or more	4
Don't know/Refused [VOL.]	16

GENDER. [CALLER RECORDED GENDER, ASKED ONLY IF NECESSARY]

Male.....	49
Female.....	51