

# THE LOUISIANA SURVEY 2016

**LSU**

Manship School of  
Mass Communication  
Reilly Center For  
Media & Public Affairs



## Republicans Want Leaders to Stick to Positions, Democrats More Willing to Compromise

Ideological Distance between Parties Larger in Perception  
than Reality



*The third in a series of reports from the 2016 Louisiana Survey*

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THIS REPORT:**

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# Reilly Center for Media and Public Affairs

The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs, an integral part of Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication, uses the intellectual muscle of the school's faculty to help solve practical problems and advance good government initiatives. The Reilly Center's mission is to generate thoughtful programs, dialogue, and research about social, economic, and political affairs, as well as the developing role of the media in American society. The Center is committed to advancing the Manship School's national leadership in media and politics.

The Center's agenda is diverse and fluid – from the annual John Breaux Symposium, which brings in national experts to discuss a topic that has received little or no attention, to conducting the annual *Louisiana Survey*, a vital resource for policymakers, which tracks advancements and regressions of citizen attitudes about state services. 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 and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Its action-oriented and partnership-driven philosophy underscores the Reilly Center's dedication to tackling ideas and issues that explore the relationship of media and the public in democratic society.

# About the Louisiana Survey

The *2016 Louisiana Survey* is the fifteenth in an annual series sponsored by the Reilly Center for Media and 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 *2016 Louisiana Survey*, this core is supplemented by measures of partisan polarization; public opinion of testing, the Common Core State Standards, and school reforms implemented during the Jindal Administration; support for changing the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS); beliefs about the causes and solutions for poverty; public opinion on raising the minimum wage in Louisiana; perceptions of race relations in Louisiana; attitudes toward public memorials to the Confederacy; and opinions on a variety of social issues such as same sex marriage, religious freedom laws, abortion, and gun rights.

As part of an effort to ensure that the *Louisiana Survey* fulfills its public service mission, the research team drew upon expertise in public policy and polling from Louisiana State University faculty in the Public Administration Institute, the Department of Political Science, and the Manship School of Mass Communication. These faculty members 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 any mistakes in the questionnaire, analysis, or interpretation presented in this report.

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

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## Overview

Are voters looking for compromise between a Democratic governor and a majority Republican legislature? The *2016 Louisiana Survey*, a project of the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs at LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication, shows that Democrats and Republicans are split over whether their leaders should compromise with the opposing party or stand firm on their positions. The survey reveals:

- Louisiana residents as a whole have a mixed view of political compromise, with 49 percent preferring elected leaders to work with the other side and 45 percent preferring their leaders to stand up for their positions. The parties are split – a majority of Democrats (55 percent) would accept some policies they do not like in order to get things done in state government, while a majority of Republicans (52 percent) would prefer their leaders to stick to their positions even if little gets done.
- Ideological differences underlie, in part, views on compromise. Republicans tilt further to the right than Democrats tilt to the left: 42 percent of Democrats are liberal and 69 percent of Republicans are conservative. Forty-nine percent of Democrats are moderate or conservative, but just 27 percent of Republicans are moderate or liberal.
- The *perceived* ideological gap may be larger than the *actual* gap. Democrats see the Republican Party in Louisiana as more conservative than Republicans see themselves. Likewise, Republicans see the Democratic Party in Louisiana as more liberal than Democrats see themselves. Yet, for most issues, the majority of Democrats and the majority of Republicans do not take opposing positions.
- Beyond ideology, the parties are divided by mutual dislike. Nearly nine in ten Republicans (87 percent) have unfavorable opinions of the Democratic Party in Louisiana, including 40 percent with a very unfavorable opinion. In contrast, two-thirds of Democrats (67 percent) have an unfavorable opinion of the Republican Party in the state, including 31 percent with a very unfavorable opinion.
- Republicans like the Republican Party in Louisiana (81 percent favorable) more than they like their party nationally (74 percent favorable). But Democrats like the Democratic Party nationally (79 percent favorable) more than they like their state party (66 percent favorable).

The *2016 Louisiana Survey* was administered over the telephone from February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 26<sup>th</sup> to both landline and cell phone respondents. The project includes a representative sample of 1,001 adult Louisiana residents. The total sample has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.

This is the third in a series of releases about findings from the *2016 Louisiana Survey*. Previous releases from the *2016 Louisiana Survey* are available at [www.pprllsu.com](http://www.pprllsu.com).

In recent years, the nation’s politics have become increasingly polarized, with shrinking common ground between Democrats and Republicans. This polarization is reflected in the gridlock now common to the halls of government. Does polarization pose a threat to our state politics as well? Are voters looking for compromise between a Democratic governor and a majority Republican legislature?

The *2016 Louisiana Survey*, a project of the Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs at LSU’s Manship School of Mass Communication, shows that Democrats and Republicans are split over whether their leaders should compromise with the opposing party or stand firm on their positions. The survey also shows that the ideological chasm between the parties may be more a matter of perception than actual differences in position.

## Republicans Want to Stand Firm, Democrats Willing to Compromise

Representative democracy often requires political leaders with different views to compromise, relaxing on some positions in order to accomplish other goals. However, these compromises are sometimes criticized for giving up too much ground to political opponents or yielding on principles that some voters consider too important to sacrifice.

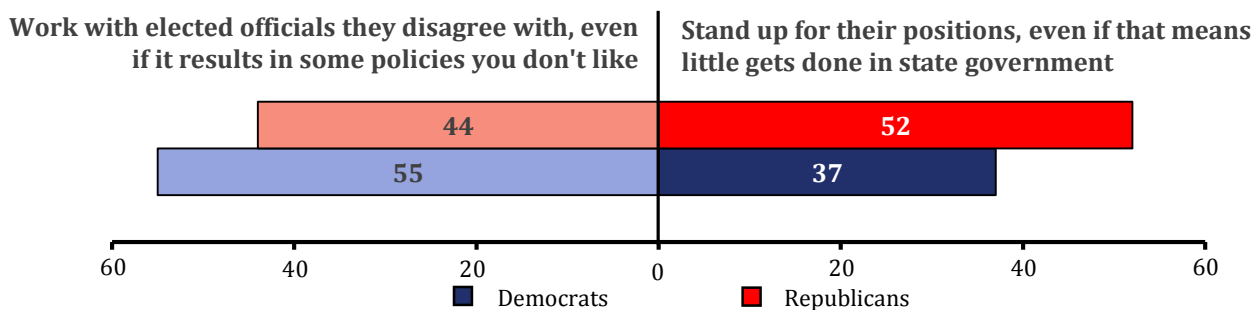
Louisiana residents as a whole take a mixed view of political compromise. We asked respondents whether elected leaders in state government who share their positions on the most important issues facing Louisiana should work with elected officials they disagree with, even if it results in some policies they do not like, or should these leaders stand up for their positions, even if it means little gets done in state government. About half prefer compromise (49 percent), and nearly the same amount want leaders to stick to their positions (45 percent).

The overall result, however, masks important divisions across the political parties (Figure 1). A majority of Democrats (55 percent) would accept some policies they do not like in order to get things done in state government, while a majority of Republicans (52 percent) would prefer their leaders to stick to their positions even if little gets done.<sup>1</sup>

Ideology plays a role in how partisans answer this question. Partisans closer to the ideological extremes are less supportive of compromise, especially among Republicans. Very liberal and liberal Democrats still prefer compromise but by a slimmer margin (51 percent for compromise). Very conservative and conservative Republicans prefer for their leaders to stand up for their positions by a 29 point margin (62 percent say stand up vs 33 percent who say compromise).

**Figure 1: Democrats More Willing to Work with Other Side**

% saying elected officials in state government who share their positions on important issues should \_\_\_\_\_

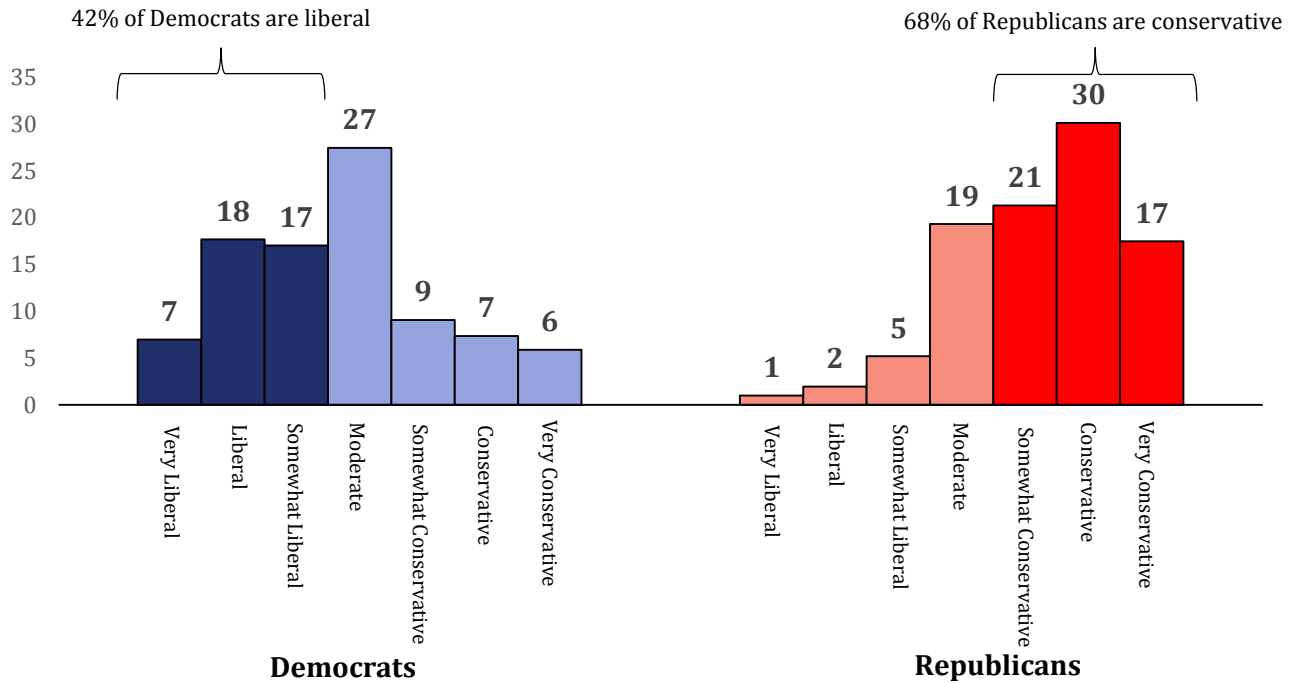


SOURCE: 2016 Louisiana Survey

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this report Democrats and Republicans include individuals who ‘lean’ toward those parties.

**Figure 2: There are More Conservative Republicans than Liberal Democrats**

% in each party who identify as \_\_\_\_\_



Note: Percent saying 'don't know' or refusing to answer not shown.  
 SOURCE: 2016 Louisiana Survey

## Republicans Further to Right than Democrats are to Left

Political parties in Louisiana are more ideologically sorted than they once were. As was the case throughout the South historically, the Democratic Party in Louisiana was once home to a significant number of conservatives and moderates. For decades, the rightward tilt of Democrats in the state – relative to Democrats nationally – meant there was significant overlap between the two parties in Louisiana.

The survey asked respondents to identify their political ideology using a seven point scale: ‘very liberal’ (1), ‘liberal’ (2), ‘somewhat liberal’ (3), ‘moderate’ (4), ‘somewhat conservative’ (5), ‘conservative’ (6), or ‘very conservative’ (7).

Today, 42 percent of Democrats in Louisiana identify as liberal (either ‘somewhat liberal’,

‘liberal’, or ‘very liberal’). Only about half as many (22 percent) identify as conservative. Another 27 percent identify as moderate.

The pattern is not symmetric across parties. Democrats have more moderates and conservatives than Republicans have moderates and liberals (19 percent and 8 percent respectively). Instead, Republicans tilt further to the right than Democrats do to the left. The share of Republicans on the conservative side of the ideological spectrum (68 percent) is much greater than the share of Democrats on the liberal side. Additionally, Republicans are more likely to identify themselves at the furthest end of the spectrum: 17 percent consider themselves very conservative as opposed to just seven percent of Democrats who consider themselves very liberal.

Still, the political parties’ centers of gravity (that is, the median Democrat and the median Republican) are not very far apart on the seven

**Table 1: Few Wedge Issues Pit Most Democrats Against Most Republicans**

Issues where majority of Democrats and majority of Republicans DO give different responses	Issues where majority of Democrats and majority of Republicans DO NOT give different responses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welfare spending</li><li>2. Raising taxes on corporations &amp; wealthy</li><li>3. School vouchers</li><li>4. Stricter restrictions on firearms</li><li>5. Abortion</li><li>6. Religious freedom law</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. K-12 education spending</li><li>2. Higher education spending</li><li>3. Health care spending</li><li>4. Transportation infrastructure spending</li><li>5. Law enforcement &amp; prison spending</li><li>6. Coastal protection &amp; restoration spending</li><li>7. Raising minimum wage</li><li>8. Common Core</li><li>9. Charter schools</li><li>10. Requiring legislative approval to increase TOPS</li><li>11. Removing Confederate monuments</li><li>12. Same sex marriage</li><li>13. Allowing Syrian refugees to settle in state</li></ol>

Note: See appendix below for cross tabs of responses to these questions by party identification.

point ideological spectrum used in the survey. The median Democrat identifies as ‘moderate’ (4) and the median Republican identifies as ‘somewhat conservative’ (5).

The proximity between the parties is further evidenced when considering specific issues. For example, there is only one instance out of seven questions about state spending in various policy areas – K-12 education, higher education, health care, transportation infrastructure, law enforcement, public assistance programs, and coastal protection – where the majority within each party choose different response options: A majority of Republicans want to decrease spending for public assistance programs like welfare, while a majority of Democrats want to maintain current spending. To be sure, there are some differences on other issues – Democrats tend to be more supportive of higher spending – but these differences rarely pit a majority of Democrats against a majority of Republicans.

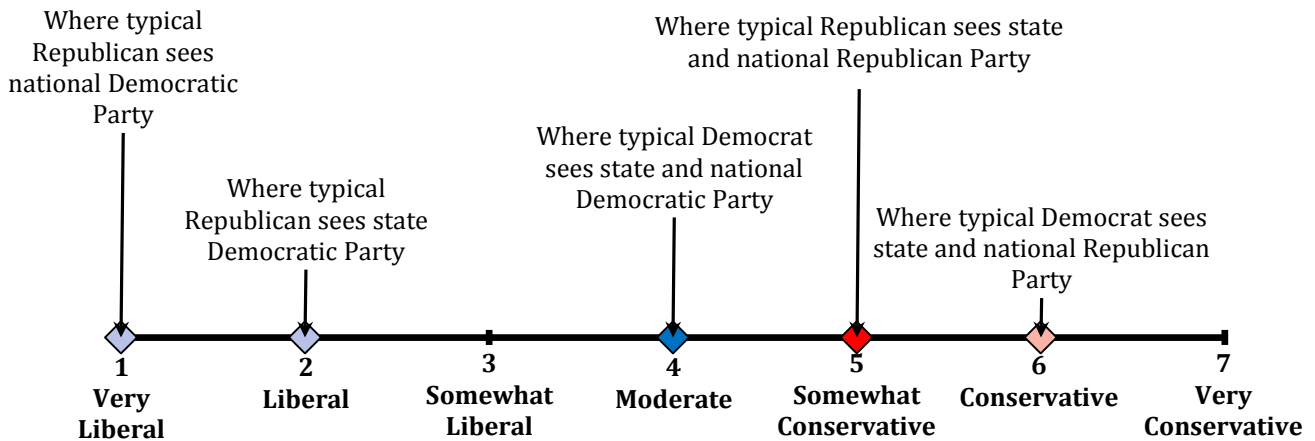
The same pattern holds across a number of policy issues included in the 2016 Louisiana Survey. Republicans and Democrats often differ in the amount of support or opposition, but on most

issue these differences do not end up with the majority within each party on opposing sides (Table 1). Again, this does not mean that the parties are exactly the same in how they think about the issues in the second column of Table 1, but any differences that exist are not so large as to put entrenched majorities on opposite sides.

Differences rarely pit majority of Democrats against majority of Republicans on specific issues.

**Figure 3: Partisans See Opposing Party as More Extreme Than Opposing Party Sees Itself**

*Median placement of self, state parties, and national parties by respondent partisanship*



Note: Darker points are where partisans see their own party. Lighter points are where partisans see the opposing party.

SOURCE: 2016 Louisiana Survey

## Parties See Opponents as More Extreme

The perception of a wide ideological gap may be a bigger deterrent to compromise than the actual gap. As noted above, despite ideological sorting across parties, the distance between the median Democrat and median Republican is relatively small. The distance between where partisans see their party and where they see the opposing party is much greater.

Democrats and Republicans both believe their party aligns well with their own positions. The median Democrat not only thinks of herself as moderate, but also thinks the Democratic Party in the state and the Democratic Party nationally are moderate. Similarly, the median Republican sees the state and national Republican Party as 'somewhat conservative,' where she also places herself.

Partisans tend to see the opposing side as more extreme than where people on the other side see themselves (Figure 3). For example, the typical Democrat thinks the Republican Party in Louisiana (as well as the Republican Party

nationally) is 'conservative' rather than 'somewhat conservative.' What might have been a one-step difference is instead seen as a two-step difference.

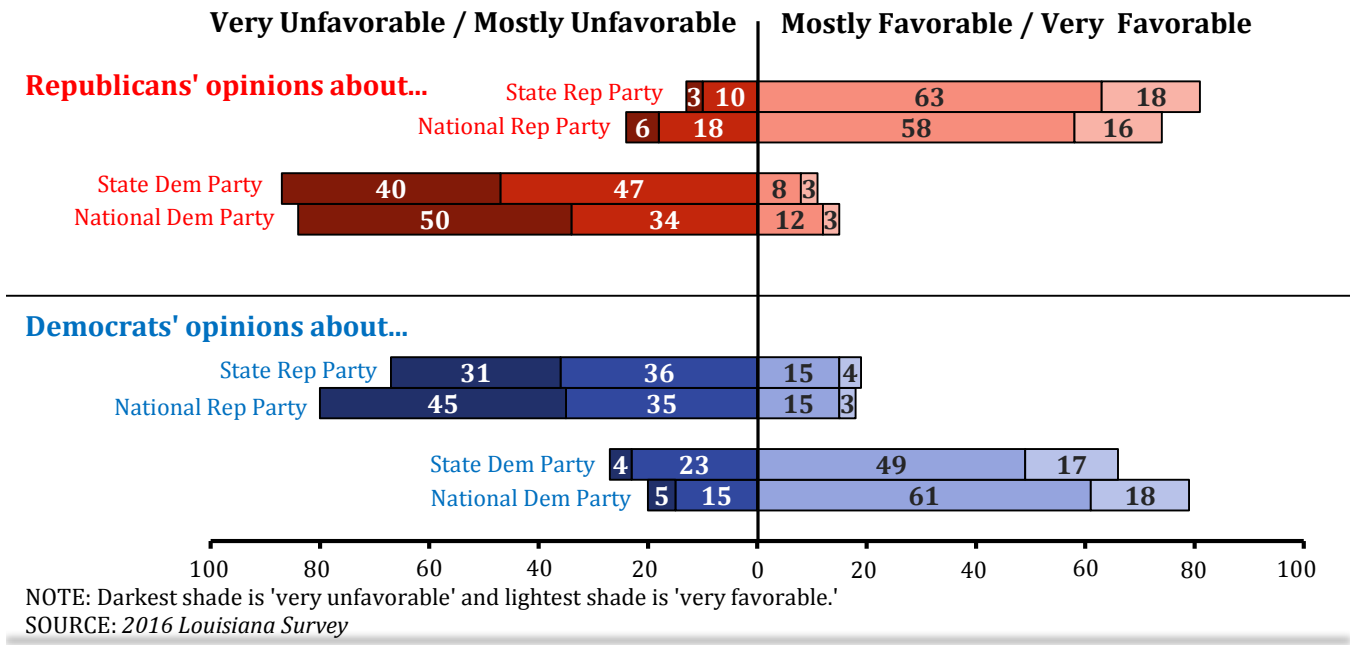
Republicans see an even wider gap. The typical Republican thinks the Democratic Party in Louisiana is liberal (but not quite as liberal as they see the Democratic Party nationally, which they place all the way on the far left of the spectrum). The one-step difference between where the parties place themselves becomes a three-step difference in the minds of Republicans.

Partisans tend to see the opposing side as more extreme than where people on the other side see themselves.



**Figure 4: Few Partisans Have a Favorable Opinion of Other Side**

*% with mostly/very unfavorable/favorable opinion of the political parties*



## Deep Dislike between Parties

Democrats, of course, dislike the Republican Party, and Republicans, likewise, dislike the Democratic Party. What is alarming is the depth of the mutual antipathy between the parties. The survey asked respondents about their overall opinions of the Republican Party in Louisiana, the Republican Party nationally, the Democratic Party in Louisiana, and the Democratic Party nationally. Respondents described their opinions as 'very favorable,' 'mostly favorable,' 'mostly unfavorable,' or 'very unfavorable.'

Democrats and Republicans each dislike the opposing party in the state, but there is some imbalance. Nearly nine in ten Republicans (87 percent) have unfavorable opinions of the Democratic Party in Louisiana, including 40 percent with a very unfavorable opinion. In contrast, two-thirds of Democrats (67 percent) have an unfavorable opinion of the Republican Party in the state, including 31 percent with a very unfavorable opinion. This leaves a 20 point gap between Republicans and Democrats in how much they dislike the opposing party in the state.

Republicans tend to evaluate the Democratic Party in Louisiana in the same way they evaluate the party nationally. The share of Republicans with an unfavorable opinion of the state Democratic Party (87 percent) is statistically indistinguishable from the share with an unfavorable opinion of the national party (84 percent). However, the share with a 'very unfavorable' opinion of the Democratic Party nationally (50 percent) is larger than the share with that opinion of the party in Louisiana.

Democrats see more of a difference between the state and national Republican Party. Two-thirds of Democrats have an unfavorable opinion of the Republican Party in Louisiana, but this rises to 80 percent when evaluating the Republican Party nationally.

Taken together, these results indicate Democrats like the Democratic Party nationally (79 percent favorable) more than they like their state party (66 percent). But Republicans like the Republican Party in Louisiana (81 percent favorable) more than they like their party nationally (74 percent favorable).

# Survey Methodology

The data in this report were collected from a randomly selected sample of adult (18 years or older) residents of Louisiana via telephone interviews conducted from February 1 to February 26, 2016. The project includes live-interviewer surveys of 302 respondents contacted via landline telephone and 699 respondents contacted via cell phone, for a total sample of 1,001 respondents. The design of the landline sample ensures representation of both listed and unlisted numbers by use of random digit dialing. The cell phone sample is randomly drawn from known, available phone number banks dedicated to wireless service.

The response rate is 3%. This response rate is the percentage of residential households or personal cell phones for which an interview is completed. The rates are calculated using the American Association for Public Opinion Research's method for Response Rate 3 as published in their Standard Definitions. Response rates have declined steadily for all surveys over the past several decades. Response rates for telephone have been on decline for several decades and frequently fall in the single digits even among the very best survey research organizations.

The combined landline and cell phone sample is weighted using an iterative procedure that matches race and ethnicity, education, household income, gender and age to known profiles for Louisiana found in the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The sample is also weighted for population density by parish. Weighting cannot eliminate every source of nonresponse bias. However, proper conduction 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 +/- 3.1 percentage points.

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.

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

## Question Wording & Topline Frequencies

NOTE: Frequencies for a given question represent percentages among only those respondents who were asked that particular question. Not all respondents were asked each question, and questions asked to a subset of respondents are labelled accordingly. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Q1. On another topic, thinking about elected officials in state government who share your positions on the most important issues facing Louisiana. Should they work with elected officials they disagree with, even if it results in some policies you don't like, or should they stand up for their positions, even if that means little gets done in state government?

They should work with elected officials they disagree with, even if it results in some policies you don't like.	49
They should stand up for their positions, even if that means little gets done in state government.	45
Don't know/Refused (Volunteered)	7

**[For Q2 through Q5, respondents randomly assigned to battery A or battery B. Within each battery order of Q2 and Q3 is randomized, and order of Q4 and Q5 follows pattern for Q2 and Q3.]**

Q2a. Would you say your overall opinion of the **Democratic Party** in Louisiana is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Very favorable	8
Mostly favorable	30
Mostly unfavorable	32
Very unfavorable	21
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	8

Q3a. Would you say your overall opinion of the **Republican Party** in Louisiana is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Very favorable	10
Mostly favorable	37
Mostly unfavorable	22
Very unfavorable	18
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	12

Q4a. Would you say that the **Democratic Party** in Louisiana is very liberal, liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal	12
Liberal	20
Somewhat liberal	14
Moderate	25
Somewhat conservative	9
Conservative	4
Very conservative	6
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	10

Q5a. Would you say that the **Republican Party** in Louisiana is very liberal, liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal	4
Liberal	6
Somewhat liberal	6
Moderate	19
Somewhat conservative	17
Conservative	20
Very conservative	17
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	10

Q2b. Would you say your overall opinion of the **Democratic Party** nationally is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Very favorable	8
Mostly favorable	33
Mostly unfavorable	29
Very unfavorable	27
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	5

Q3b. Would you say your overall opinion of the **Republican Party** nationally is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Very favorable	7
Mostly favorable	35
Mostly unfavorable	29
Very unfavorable	24
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	5

Q4b. Would you say that the **Democratic Party** nationally is very liberal, liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal	24
Liberal	18
Somewhat liberal	11
Moderate	18
Somewhat conservative	6
Conservative	5
Very conservative	6
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	12

Q5b. Would you say that the **Republican Party** nationally is very liberal, liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal	4
Liberal	5
Somewhat liberal	5
Moderate	17
Somewhat conservative	13
Conservative	17
Very conservative	23
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	15

Q6. Generally speaking do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or what?

Democrat	29
Republican	26
Independent	35
Other	4
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	6

**[Q7a was asked only if respondents answered 'Democrat' or 'Republican' to Q6.]**

Q7a. Would you consider yourself a strong or a not so strong **[INSERT ANSWER TO Q6]**?

Strong	59
Not so Strong	40
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	2

**[Q7b was asked only if respondents did not answer 'Democrat' or 'Republican' to Q6.]**

Q7b. Would you say, you lean to the Democratic Party or Republican Party, or would you say you don't lean to either party?

Democratic Party	10
Republican Party	27
Independent (Don't lean to either party)	62
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	1

Q8. When it comes to politics, would you say you are very liberal, liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal	4
Liberal	9
Somewhat liberal	10
Moderate	25
Somewhat conservative	14
Conservative	19
Very conservative	11
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	8

## Appendix: Cross Tabs by Party Identification

NOTE: Frequencies for a given question represent percentages only among Democrats or Republicans (including leaners) who were asked that particular question. Not all respondents were asked each question. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Top line frequencies for responses from overall sample on these issues will be reported in specific issues of the *2016 Louisiana Survey* series that cover the respective topic or in the full report containing all results.

Responses that receive a majority among a political party are highlighted. Questions where majority of Democrats and majority of Republicans answer with different responses are marked with an asterisk (\*).

**K-12 Spending:** What about spending for primary and secondary education? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Increased	<b>69</b>	48
Decreased	3	7
Kept about the same	25	44
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	3	2

**Higher Education Spending:** What about spending for higher education? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Increased	<b>73</b>	48
Decreased	2	8
Kept about the same	24	43
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	1	1

**Health Care Spending:** What about spending for health care? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Increased	<b>62</b>	27
Decreased	7	21
Kept about the same	27	47
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	4	4

**Transportation Infrastructure Spending:** What about spending for roads, bridges, and highways? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Increased	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
Decreased	5	3
Kept about the same	25	26
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	1	1

**Law Enforcement & Prison Spending:** What about spending for prisons and law enforcement? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Increased	28	40
Decreased	25	14
Kept about the same	46	43
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	2	3

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

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Increased	22	6
Decreased	22	<b>67</b>
Kept about the same	<b>54</b>	25
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	2	3

**Coastal Protection & Restoration Spending:** What about spending for coastal protection and restoration? Should this be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Increased	44	39
Decreased	4	8
Kept about the same	46	44
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	6	9

**Raising Minimum Wage:** Now we would like to ask you about some economic issues. First, do you favor or oppose raising the minimum wage in Louisiana to \$8.50 an hour?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	<b>88</b>	<b>59</b>
Oppose	11	38
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	1	2



**\*Raising Taxes on Wealthy & Corporations:** In your view, what would do more to reduce poverty?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Raising taxes on wealthy people & corporations in order to expand programs for the poor	67	23
Lowering taxes on wealthy people & corporations in order to encourage more investment & economic growth	18	61
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	14	17

**Common Core:** As you may know, in the last few years states have been deciding whether or not to use the Common Core, which are standards for reading and math that are the same across the states. In the states that have these standards, they will be used to hold public schools accountable for their performance. Do you favor or oppose the use of the Common Core in Louisiana?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	47	23
Oppose	45	70
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	9	7

**\*School Vouchers:** Do you favor or oppose providing parents with children in failing public schools with tax money in the form of scholarships to help pay for their children to attend private or religious schools?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	52	39
Oppose	40	55
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	7	6

**Charter Schools:** A charter school is a public school that functions independently of local school district control. Would you favor or oppose opening more charter schools as long as they maintain certain standards set by the state government?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	67	73
Oppose	30	25
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	3	3

**Requiring Legislative Approval to Increase TOPS:** As you may be aware, TOPS is a scholarship program funded by the state of Louisiana that provides financial support for Louisiana high school students to attend Louisiana state colleges and universities. Some state leaders have proposed requiring approval from the state legislature before the amount of the award can be increased, even if tuition goes up. What about you? Would you favor or oppose requiring approval from the state legislature before the amount of the award can be increased, even if tuition goes up?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	38	47
Oppose	<b>53</b>	43
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	8	9

**Removal of Confederate Monuments:** Do you favor or oppose removing monuments of people who fought on the side of the Confederacy during the Civil War from public spaces?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	34	6
Oppose	<b>56</b>	<b>92</b>
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	11	3

**\*Stricter Restrictions on Firearms:** Would you favor or oppose stricter statewide restrictions on access to firearms?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	<b>71</b>	41
Oppose	28	<b>56</b>
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	2	3

**\*Abortion:** Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases, or illegal in all cases?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Legal in all/most cases	<b>53</b>	27
Illegal in all/most cases	39	<b>69</b>
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	8	4

**Same Sex Marriage:** Do you favor or oppose allowing same-sex couples to marry legally?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	44	32
Oppose	50	<b>61</b>
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	6	8

**\*Religious Freedom Law:** If a business provides wedding services, such as catering or flowers, should it be allowed to refuse those services to same-sex couples for religious reasons, or required to provide those services as it would to all customers?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Be allowed to refuse those services	38	74
Be required to provide those services	54	22
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	9	5

**Allowing Syrian Refugees to Settle in Louisiana:** Do you favor or oppose allowing Syrian refugees to move into Louisiana?

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Favor	39	11
Oppose	50	84
Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	12	5