

Final Frequencies (n=600)
LOUISIANA STATEWIDE SURVEY
The Mellman Group & Public Opinion Strategies
March 31, 2017

Hello. My name is [FIRST NAME ONLY]. I'm calling long distance from _____. We are conducting a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions. We are not selling anything, and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation. Could I please speak with **[ASK FOR NAME ON LIST. IF NOT AVAILABLE, SCHEDULE TIME FOR A CALLBACK.] [IF LANDLINE, ASK]** First, are you registered to vote at this address **[IF NO, TERMINATE AND MARK TQ1 ON SAMPLE SHEET]**

[RECORD, BUT DO NOT ASK, GENDER:]

male 45
female 55

1. How likely would you say you are to vote in the November 2018 general election for Congress and other political offices -- are you almost certain to vote in the election, very likely, about 50-50, not too likely, not at all likely, or aren't you sure?

almost certain 79
very likely 21
about 50-50 **[TERMINATE]**
not too likely **[TERMINATE]**
not at all likely..... **[TERMINATE]**
dk/not sure..... **[TERMINATE]**

2. Generally speaking, would you say that things in Louisiana are going in the right direction or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

right direction 38
wrong track 47
[VOL] don't know 16

3. On a day-to-day basis, using a scale from ZERO to TEN where zero means you do NOT FEEL SAFE AT ALL and ten means you feel COMPLETELY SAFE, how safe do you personally feel in your community? Of course you can choose any number between zero and ten.

[RECORD ACTUAL NUMBER. DK/REFUSED=99] _____

Zero 2
One 1
Two 0
Three 0
Four 2
Five 12
Six 7
Seven 15
Eight..... 16
Nine 13
Ten 31
[VOL] DK/Ref..... 0
Mean 7.8

As you may know, Louisiana is facing a nearly \$440-million-dollar budget shortfall. I am going to read you a list of things that could be done to deal with this shortfall. Please tell me if you believe each proposal is generally acceptable or generally unacceptable as Louisiana seeks to solve its budget deficit problem.

[IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:] And do you feel that way **STRONGLY** or **NOT SO STRONGLY**?

[ROTATE BY QUESTION Q.4-Q.10]	Total Accep	Total Unaccep	Strongly Accep	NSS Accep	NSS Unaccep	Strongly Unaccep	VOL DK/ref
4. __Raising income taxes.....	28	69	13	16	15	54	3
5. __Raising business taxes.....	46	49	25	20	16	33	5
6. __Raising taxes on the wealthy.....	69	27	52	18	9	19	3
7. __Reducing spending on transportation improvements.....	37	58	16	21	17	41	5
8. __Reducing spending on health care services and hospitals.....	19	78	10	9	14	64	3
9. __Reducing spending on state universities.....	30	68	15	14	16	52	2
10. __Reducing spending on state prisons ...	60	34	38	22	12	22	6

11. Do you think Louisiana should sentence more offenders than it does now to prison, sentence fewer offenders than it does now to prison, or should Louisiana sentence about the same number of offenders to prison as it does now?

More.....	23
Fewer.....	31
About the same.....	32
[VOL] don't know.....	14

12. Now I'm going to read you some arguments about the issue of sentencing nonviolent offenders, and then ask what you think. **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__ (Some/other) people say that Louisiana sends a higher proportion of its citizens to prison than any other state, and makes less use of alternatives for nonviolent offenders, like treatment and supervision. These alternatives are much more cost-effective ways of preventing crime and keeping our communities safe.

__ (Some/other) people say that some so-called nonviolent crimes – like drug and property offenses – need to be punished with prison sentences. We need to show these offenders and others that there are serious consequences for breaking the law, and keep these criminals off the street.

How about you? Do you think Louisiana should sentence fewer nonviolent offenders to prison and make greater use of treatment and supervision instead, or should Louisiana continue sending the same number of nonviolent offenders to prison?

[IF FEWER OR THE SAME, ASK:] And do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Fewer, strongly.....	50
Fewer, not strongly.....	14
The same, not strongly.....	10
The same, strongly.....	21
[VOL] Not sure/DK.....	6
TOTAL FEWER.....	63
TOTAL THE SAME.....	30

13. Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view about nonviolent offenders?

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

__Statement A. It does not matter whether a nonviolent offender is in prison 15 or 20 or 24 months. What really matters is that the system ensures that when these offenders do get out, they are less likely to commit another crime.

OR

__Statement B. Longer sentences for nonviolent offenders have made our streets safer, and this is no time to be reducing prison sentences for anyone. As long as these criminals are behind bars they cannot commit new crimes in our communities.

[IF A OR B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Statement A, strongly.....	53
Statement A, not strongly	16
Statement B, not strongly.....	9
Statement B, strongly.....	16
[VOL] Not sure/DK.....	7
TOTAL STATEMENT A.....	68
TOTAL STATEMENT B.....	25

14. Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view? **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__Statement A. Prisons are a government spending program, and just like any other government spending program they need to be put to the cost-benefit test to make sure that society is benefitting from locking offenders up compared to punishing them other ways.

OR

__Statement B. It may be more expensive to lock up criminals compared to punishing them in other ways, but we need to make sure offenders go to prison so they learn the consequences of breaking the law.

[IF A OR B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Statement A, strongly.....	38
Statement A, not strongly	17
Statement B, not strongly.....	14
Statement B, strongly.....	25
[VOL] Not sure/DK.....	6
TOTAL STATEMENT A.....	55
TOTAL STATEMENT B.....	39

15. One proposal is to shorten prison sentences for nonviolent offenders and use the money saved to pay for stronger probation and parole and more substance abuse and mental health treatment for offenders. Would you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

[IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:] And do you feel that way STRONGLY or NOT SO STRONGLY?

Acceptable, strongly	63
Acceptable, not so strongly	20
Unacceptable, not so strongly	6
Unacceptable, strongly	9
[VOL] DK/refused.....	2
TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	83
TOTAL UNACCEPTABLE	15

16. On another topic, generally speaking, would you say that people who are found guilty of drug crimes these days serve sentences that are **[ROTATE]** __too harsh, __too lenient, or about right?

Too harsh.....	35
About right	29
Too lenient	21
[VOL] DK/refused.....	15

17. In Louisiana, one proposal is to maintain long sentences for serious drug traffickers, while reducing penalties for other lower-level drug offenses. Now I'm going to tell you what supporters and opponents of the plan to reduce penalties on lower-level drug offenders say, and then ask whether you favor or oppose it.

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

__**Supporters** of this proposal say research shows long prison sentences should be used primarily on the high-level drug dealers driving the illegal drug market. Sentencing lower-level street dealers, who may be addicts themselves, to longer prison sentences is not effective. Street dealers should be punished, but not in ways that prevent them from becoming productive citizens in the future.

__**Opponents** of this proposal say that we should not let even lower-level drug dealers off the hook. They need to serve long prison sentences to keep them off the streets and to deter others. Reducing penalties for street dealers sends the wrong message. You do the crime, you do the time.

How about you? Do you favor or oppose reducing penalties for lower-level drug offenses?

[IF FAVOR/OPOSE:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Favor, strongly	45
Favor, not so strongly	17
Oppose, not so strongly.....	9
Oppose, strongly	24
[VOL] Undecided/Don't know.....	4
TOTAL FAVOR	63
TOTAL OPOSE.....	33

18. As you may know, mandatory minimum sentences require those convicted of certain crimes to serve a specific length of time in prison. One proposal is that instead of mandatory minimums, judges have the flexibility to determine sentences based on the facts of each case. Would you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

[IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:] And do you feel that way STRONGLY or NOT SO STRONGLY?

Acceptable, strongly	56
Acceptable, not so strongly	19
Unacceptable, not so strongly	9
Unacceptable, strongly	11
[VOL] DK/refused.....	4
TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	76
TOTAL UNACCEPTABLE	20

19. Currently in Louisiana, people on probation and parole can be sent back to jail or prison for behavior like failing a drug test, missing a meeting with their supervision officer, or missing curfew. One proposal is to limit the use of prison and jail in response to these non-criminal violations and instead use sanctions like community service and increased reporting. Would you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

[IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:] And do you feel that way STRONGLY or NOT SO STRONGLY?

Acceptable, strongly	55
Acceptable, not so strongly	20
Unacceptable, not so strongly	9
Unacceptable, strongly	14
[VOL] DK/refused.....	2
TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	75
TOTAL UNACCEPTABLE	23

20. People on probation or parole are usually under supervision by government officials for a number of years, to confirm they follow certain rules. One proposal being discussed would allow people to earn reductions in the amount of time they are under supervision by participating in programs like substance abuse and mental health treatment, and by following the rules. Would you find such a proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

[IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:] And do you feel that way STRONGLY or NOT SO STRONGLY?

Acceptable, strongly.....	63
Acceptable, not so strongly	22
Unacceptable, not so strongly	5
Unacceptable, strongly.....	7
[VOL] DK/refused.....	2
TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	85
TOTAL UNACCEPTABLE.....	13

21. When a person is arrested, charged with, or convicted of a crime, the criminal justice system often imposes fines, fees, surcharges, and other financial penalties. One proposal would keep the fines and fees the same, but allow offenders to pay them on a monthly basis, with the amount paid each month based on the offender's income. Half of each payment would go to pay victims back for damages they suffered. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

[IF FAVOR/OPOSE:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Favor, strongly	68
Favor, not so strongly	19
Oppose, not so strongly.....	5
Oppose, strongly	5
[VOL] Undecided/Don't know.....	3
TOTAL FAVOR	87
TOTAL OPOSE.....	10

THANK YOU. THE FEW REMAINING QUESTIONS ARE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.

22. Have you or a member of your immediate family been a victim of a violent crime?

[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	3
Yes, Someone else in your household.....	8
Yes, Both	2
No	86
dk/na/other	1
TOTAL YES	13

23. Have you or a member of your immediate family been a victim of a nonviolent crime?

[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	15
Yes, Someone else in your household.....	12
Yes, Both	14
No	58
dk/na/other	1
TOTAL YES	41

24. Have you or someone in your immediate family ever been in prison or on probation or parole?

[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	3
Yes, Someone else in your household.....	13
Yes, Both	1
No	82
dk/na/other	1
TOTAL YES	17

25. Are you or someone in your immediate family active in Law Enforcement?
[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?

Yes, You	3
Yes, Someone else in your household	11
Yes, Both	1
No	84
dk/na/other	1
TOTAL YES	14

26. What is your age? **[CODE ACTUAL AGE. REFUSED=99]** _____

18-29	16
30-39	15
40-49	15
50-59	19
60-69	20
70+	15
Ref	0

27. What was the last level of schooling you completed?

less than high school graduate	5
high school graduate	25
vocational training/vocational school	4
some college, but no degree	19
a 2-year or associate degree	11
a 4-year or bachelor's degree	24
a post-graduate degree	12
na	0
TOTAL HS OR LESS	30
TOTAL VOCA/SOME COLL/2-YEAR.....	35
TOTAL B.A./POSTGRAD.....	35

28. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else? **[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT ASK:]** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)? **[IF INDEPENDENT ASK:]** Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

strong Republican	24
not so strong Republican	7
independent leans Republican	7
independent.....	20
independent leans Democratic.....	5
not so strong Democrat.....	5
strong Democrat	26
dk/na/other	6
TOTAL REPUBLICAN.....	37
TOTAL INDEP/OTHER	26
TOTAL DEMOCRAT	37

Party Registration (from voter file):

Democratic	48
Republican	31
NPA/Other	20

29. Do you consider yourself very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative or very conservative? **[IF MODERATE, ASK:]** Do you tend to lean toward the liberal or conservative side?

very liberal.....	9
somewhat liberal.....	7
moderate leans liberal.....	6
moderate	26
moderate leans conservative.....	8
somewhat conservative.....	19
very conservative.....	19
DK/ref.....	6
TOTAL LIBERAL	23
TOTAL MODERATE.....	32
TOTAL CONSERVATIVE.....	46

30. Are you black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or some other race?

black	28
white	66
Hispanic	1
Asian.....	0
Native American.....	1
other	2
ref.....	2

31. In which of the following ranges does your family income fall? **[READ LIST]**

below \$12,000	9
above 12 but less than 20 thousand	6
above 20 but less than 30 thousand	8
above 30 but less than 40 thousand	7
above 40 but less than 50 thousand	8
above 50 but less than 60 thousand	9
above 60 but less than 80 thousand	9
above 80 but less than 100 thousand	8
above 100 but less than 150 thousand	9
above 150 thousand	4
[VOL] refused	22

32. What is your zip code? _____

Thank you for answering these questions.

Methodological Statement

This analysis represents the findings of a survey of 600 voters representing the likely November 2018 Louisiana electorate (based on participation in past elections) conducted by The Mellman Group and Public Opinion Strategies for The Pew Charitable Trusts. Interviews were conducted by telephone March 27 - March 30, 2017, and included both cell phones and landlines randomly selected from official voter lists. The margin of error is +/-4.0% at the 95% level of confidence. When design effects are accounted for, the overall margin of error is +/- 4.4 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The data were weighted to reflect the composition of the likely electorate for gender, region, age, race, party registration, party score, ideology, and vote history based on the voter file. The margin of error is higher for subgroups (see Appendix below).

APPENDIX

<u>Subgroup (with n-size)</u>	<u>Margin of Error at 95% Confidence</u>	<u>Margin of Error at 80% Confidence</u>
Democrats (n=221)	+/- 6.6%	+/- 4.3%
Independents (n=157)	+/- 7.8%	+/- 5.1%
Republicans (n=223)	+/- 6.6%	+/- 4.3%
Liberal (n=135)	+/- 8.4%	+/- 5.5%
Moderate (n=191)	+/- 7.1%	+/- 4.6%
Conservative (n=274)	+/- 5.9%	+/- 3.9%
Very Conservative (n=112)	+/- 9.3%	+/- 6.0%
North Louisiana (n=129)	+/- 8.6%	+/- 5.6%
Central/South Louisiana (n=148)	+/- 8.1%	+/- 5.3%
Baton Rouge (n=120)	+/- 8.9%	+/- 5.8%
New Orleans (n=203)	+/- 6.9%	+/- 4.5%