

Louisiana Statewide Voter Poll

State Issues and Politics
April 2024

Conducted for
The Advocate Newspapers/The Times-Picayune



Survey information

- Survey was conducted April 22-26, 2024 under the direction of Ronald A. Faucheux, Ph.D., Faucheux Strategies, LLC.
- Faucheux Strategies is a nonpartisan survey research firm based in Louisiana.
- Survey based on a representative statewide sample of 800 completed interviews with voters in Louisiana.
- Interviews were conducted by live, professionally trained telephone interviewers via cell phones (79%) and landlines (21%) based on a scientifically selected, random sample of the entire Louisiana electorate. Sample targets were based on official voter registration data.
- Margin of error for full sample: +/- 3.46%.
- Because of rounding, some of the data columns do not add up to 100%.
- Racial composition of sample: 30% African American voters, 64% White voters, 6% other voters.
- "Independents" include self-identified independents and voters who have no party affiliation or who are affiliated with a third-party.
- For purpose of this poll's analysis, the "South Louisiana" region includes Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, Plaquemine, St. Bernard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Allen, Beauregard, Jeff Davis, Acadia, St. Landry, Evangeline, Lafayette, Iberia, St. Mary, St. Martin, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. John, St. James, St. Charles and Assumption Parishes. The "North & Central Louisiana" region includes East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension, Livingston, Tangipahoa, Washington, St. Helena, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Point Coupee, Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, Vernon, West Carroll, Winn Parishes. To have allocated parishes into smaller regions would have increased the margin of error to unacceptably high levels; for example, each region in a four-region cross-tabulation would have a margin of error of +/- 7%.
- "Rock-Solid Trump Republicans" are Republican voters who very strongly support Donald Trump; "Less-Reliable Trump Republicans" are Republican voters who never, rarely or only fairly strongly support Trump.

Overview

Good news for Gov. Landry:

- Landry has grown his support level since the gubernatorial election. He received 51.6% in last year's primary election and his favorable rating is 56% in this poll. Landry's favorable rating is higher in the North & Central Louisiana region (59%) than in the South Louisiana region (54%).
- Among Rock-Solid Trump Republicans, which is Landry's base, his favorable rating is 80%; among Less-Reliable Trump Republicans, he's 63%.
- Landry's negative rating remains fairly low, at 33%.
- Unanswered questions: Is the new governor experiencing a temporary gubernatorial honeymoon, or is he building an enduring base of support? Can he hold the 36% of Democrats who are currently favorable toward him?
- **Net-positive** Landry's ratings: crime and criminal penalties (+23 points), parental rights on school and medical issues (+18 points), developing the state's economy (+10 points), gun regulation (+5 points) and the environment (+4 points).
- A majority of voters (53%) favor giving Louisiana parents cash vouchers to pay all or some of their children's tuition at the public, private or religious schools of their choice.
- Donald Trump, Landry's ally, defeats President Biden by wide 14- and 15-point margins in the state.

Bad news for Gov. Landry:

- By a nearly a three-to-one margin (60% to 21%), voters give Landry bad marks on handling the **insurance** issue. Moreover, voters rank lowering insurance rates as their second most important priority, behind only reducing crime and gun violence. Insurance is the top priority among independent voters. Even Republicans lean negatively toward Landry on the insurance issue, 30% approve and 48% disapprove of the job he's doing.
 - The insurance issue does not currently appear to be hurting Landry's overall rating, but over time if voters continue to be dissatisfied with state government's response to the problem, it could become very harmful to him.
- **Net-negative** Landry ratings: insurance rates (-39 points), race relations (-7 points), writing a new constitution (-2 points) and education (-1 point).
- There is little voter interest in writing a **new state constitution**. Only 2% of Republicans see it as a top priority.

Overview continued

Challenges for Gov. Landry:

- Voters rate the quality of life in the state more negatively than positively (56% vs. 43%). Among voters who rate quality of life positively, only a small fraction (5%) rate it "excellent" as opposed to "good" (38%)—meaning that the most intensely positive feelings about Louisiana's quality of life are weak.
- 16% of voters, including 24% of those 18-44-years-old, expect to move out of Louisiana over the next five years. That translates to about 480,000 people. (Keep in mind, however, that when people say they "expect" to move, it doesn't necessarily mean they will actually do it.)
- On **race relations**: White voters rate Landry 32% favorable/27% unfavorable and Black voters rate him 24% favorable/61% unfavorable.
- 60% of voters rate Louisiana public schools negatively, and only about a third rate them positively.
- A 54% majority of voters (including 35% of Republicans and 59% of independents) support changing Louisiana's **abortion** law to expand a woman's right to an abortion during the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. Landry is strongly anti-abortion.
- A 63% majority of voters (including 52% of Republicans and 64% of independents) believe gun owners should be required to have permits to carry concealed weapons. Also, a 51% majority of voters (including 34% of Republicans and 48% of independents) think the Louisiana legislature should prohibit the sale of "AR-15 style" semiautomatic rifles in the state. Landry is a strong advocate of gun rights and the 2nd Amendment.

The presidential election in Louisiana:

- In 2020, Trump won the election in Louisiana by 18.6 points. In this poll, he's leading Biden by solid, but slightly smaller, 15- and 14-point margins.
- In the two-way race, Trump beats Biden 88% to 6% among Republicans. Biden wins Democrats 77% to 14%. Trump wins independents 53% to 29%. The biggest portion of undecided voters are independents. Biden receives 86% of progressive Democrats and 72% of more moderate Democrats. Biden wins Black voters in the two-way race, 75% to 16%. Trump wins Whites, 70% to 21%.
- Kennedy draws 10% statewide—20% from independents, 8% from Democrats, 7% from Republicans and 13% from 18-44-year-olds. He does better among more moderate Democrats (12%) than progressive Democrats (5%). He receives 13% of the vote among Less-Reliable Trump Republicans.
- If Trump is convicted of a crime before the election, this poll indicates he could lose between 2% and 9% of his vote in Louisiana—that translates to about 25,000 to 113,000 actual votes, based on poll results and turnout numbers from the last election. Trump's margin in Louisiana was 400,000 votes in 2020. While his possible loss of votes could potentially reduce his lead in Louisiana, it wouldn't come close to erasing his sizable advantage.

Overview continued

Other ratings:

- This is the first reported poll that has measured **Mike Johnson's** statewide rating in Louisiana since he became U.S. House Speaker. He's net-positive, 44% favorable, 30% unfavorable statewide.
 - Among Louisiana Republicans, Johnson is 60% favorable, 17% unfavorable. Among Rock-Solid Trump Republicans, he's 69% favorable and 11% unfavorable.
- State Insurance Commissioner **Tim Temple** has a net-negative rating--21% favorable, 28% unfavorable. His favorable rating is higher among Republicans (30%) than Democrats (14%) or independents (15%).
- The insurance rate problem is a brutal one for state politicians; voters seem unconvinced that much is happening to correct it. That's based on Landry's approval rating on the insurance issue, and on Temple's personal rating and voter disagreement with his policies, as tested in this poll.
- The Louisiana State **Legislature** has a net positive rating of 41% favorable and 35% unfavorable.
 - The Legislature's favorable rating is about the same in the North & Central Louisiana region (41%) as in the South Louisiana region (40%).
 - Republican voters are more favorable toward the Legislature (50%) than Democrats (32%) or independents (33%). This makes sense since Republicans hold supermajorities of both legislative chambers. Also, 55% of Rock-Solid Trump Republicans and 45% of Less-Reliable Trump Republicans are favorable toward the Legislature.

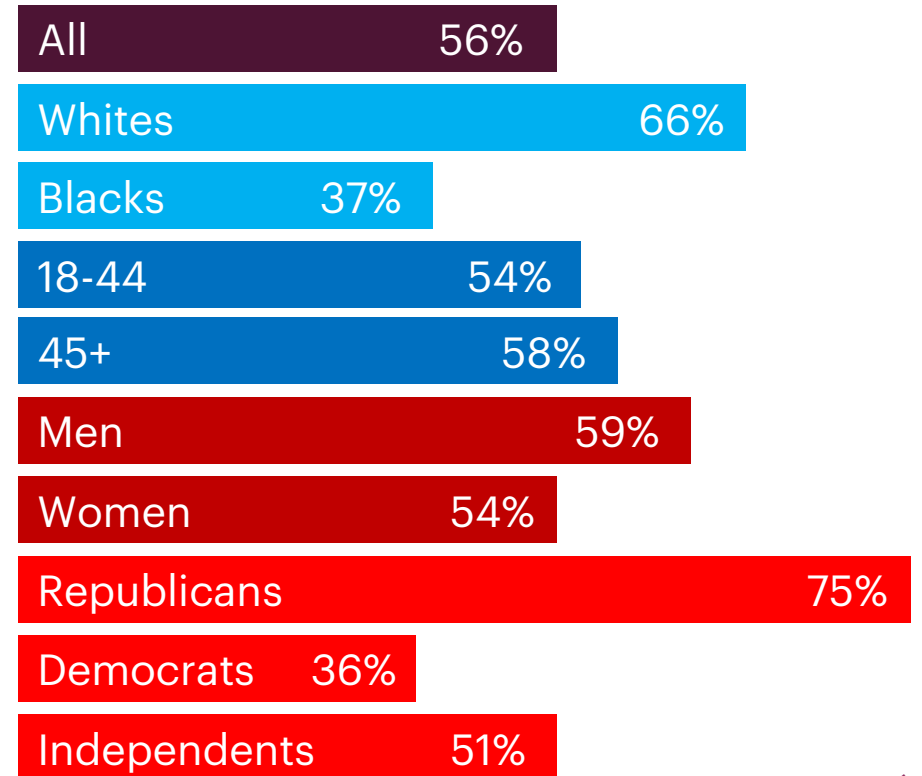
Favorability ratings

Question: For each of the following public officials, please say whether you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of them.... if you have never heard of somebody, just say so --

	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE
Gov. Jeff Landry	56%	33%
President Joe Biden	37%	59%
Former President Donald Trump	51%	46%
Speaker of the House Mike Johnson	44%	30%
State Insurance Commissioner Tim Temple	21%	28%
The Louisiana State Legislature	41%	35%

- **Landry** has grown his voter support since the gubernatorial election last year. He received 51.6% of the vote in last year's open primary and his favorability rating is now at 56%.
- In 2020, **Biden** received 39% in Louisiana. His favorability rating is now 37%. He has the highest negative rating of any official measured in this poll (59%), by far. Biden's favorability rating is 80% among progressive Democrats and 71% among more moderate Democrats.
- Currently, **Trump's** favorability rating is 41% **nationally** (Quinnipiac poll) and 51% in **Louisiana** (this poll).
- Trump's favorability rating is 14 points higher than Biden's in Louisiana.
- Speaker **Johnson** rates net-positive in his home state, 44% to 30%. Among Republicans, he's 60% favorable, 17% unfavorable. Among Rock-Solid Trump Republicans, Johnson is 69% favorable, 11% unfavorable.
- **Temple's** favorability rating is higher among Republicans (30%) than Democrats (14%) or independents (15%).

Favorability rating of Gov. Jeff Landry by demographic groups



Presidential election in Louisiana

Question: If the election for President was held today, would you most likely vote for (ROTATE NAMES) Democrat Joe Biden, Republican Donald Trump, Independent Robert Kennedy Jr., Green Party candidate Jill Stein or independent Cornel West?

Question: If the candidates for President were (ROTATE NAMES) Joe Biden and Donald Trump, which one of these two would you most likely vote for?

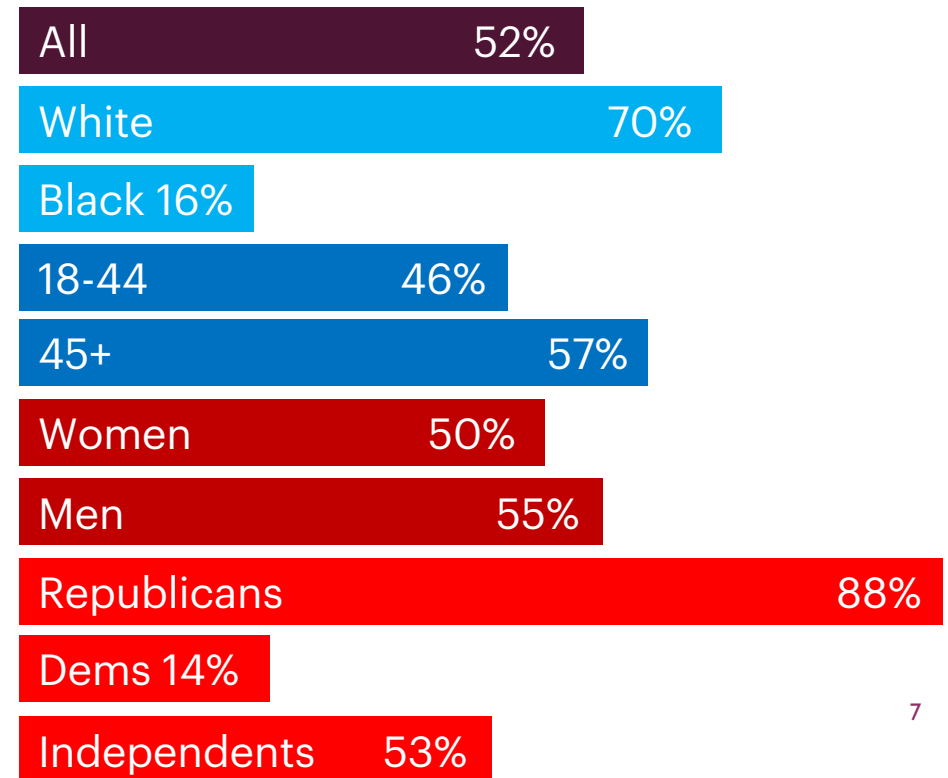
5-WAY

Donald Trump	48%
Joe Biden	33%
Robert Kennedy Jr.	10%
Cornel West	2%
Jill Stein	1%
Don't know	6%

2-WAY

Donald Trump	52%
Joe Biden	38%
Don't know	10%

Trump's two-way trial heat vote by demographic groups



- In 2020, Trump won the election in Louisiana by 18.6 points. In this poll, he's leading Biden by solid, but slightly smaller, 15- and 14-point margins.
- In the two-way race, Trump beats Biden 88% to 6% among Republicans. Biden wins Democrats 77% to 14%. Trump wins independents 53% to 29%. The biggest portion of undecided voters are independents.
- Biden receives 86% of progressive Democrats and 72% of more moderate Democrats.
- Biden wins Black voters in the two-way race, 75% to 16%. Trump wins Whites, 70% to 21%.
- Kennedy polls 10% statewide--20% from independents, 8% from Democrats, 7% from Republicans and 13% from 18-44-year-olds. He does better among more moderate Democrats (12%) than among progressive Democrats (5%). He also does better among Less-Reliable Trump Republicans (13%) than among Rock-Solid Trump Republicans (less than 1%).

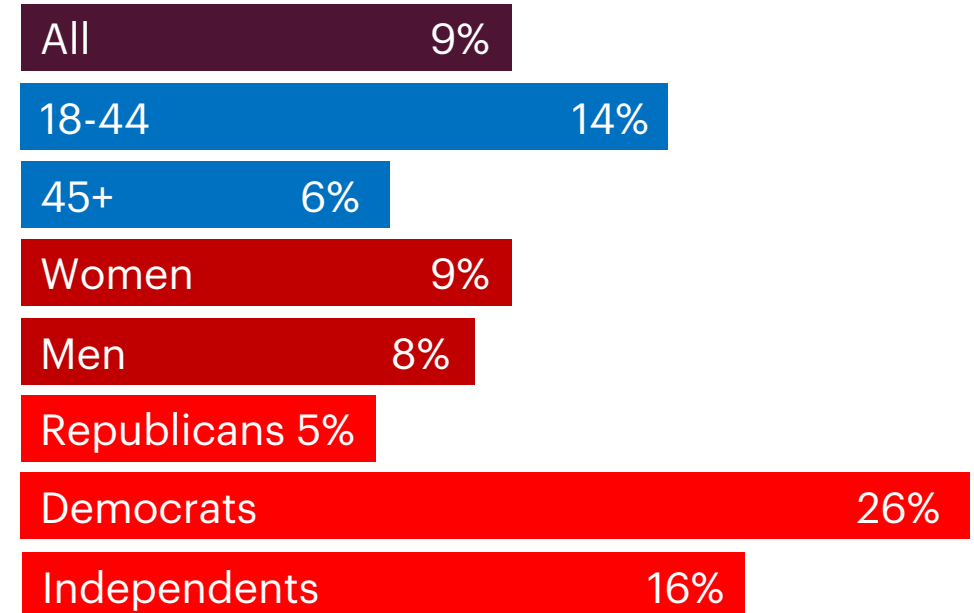
Presidential election in Louisiana: If Trump is convicted

Question asked if respondent voted for Trump in a previous question: If Donald Trump is convicted of a crime before the election--would you definitely still vote for him, probably still vote for him, probably not vote for him or definitely not vote for him?

Asked of Trump supporters:

Definitely still vote for him	57%
Probably still vote for him	31%
Probably not vote for him	7%
Definitely not vote for him	2%
Don't know/not sure	3%

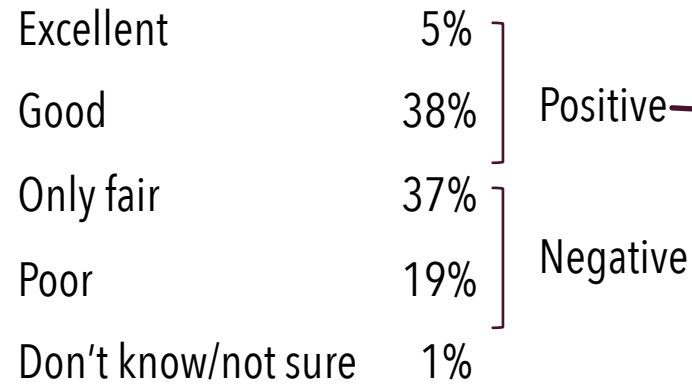
Trump voters who would "definitely" or "probably" not stick with him if he's convicted, by demographic groups



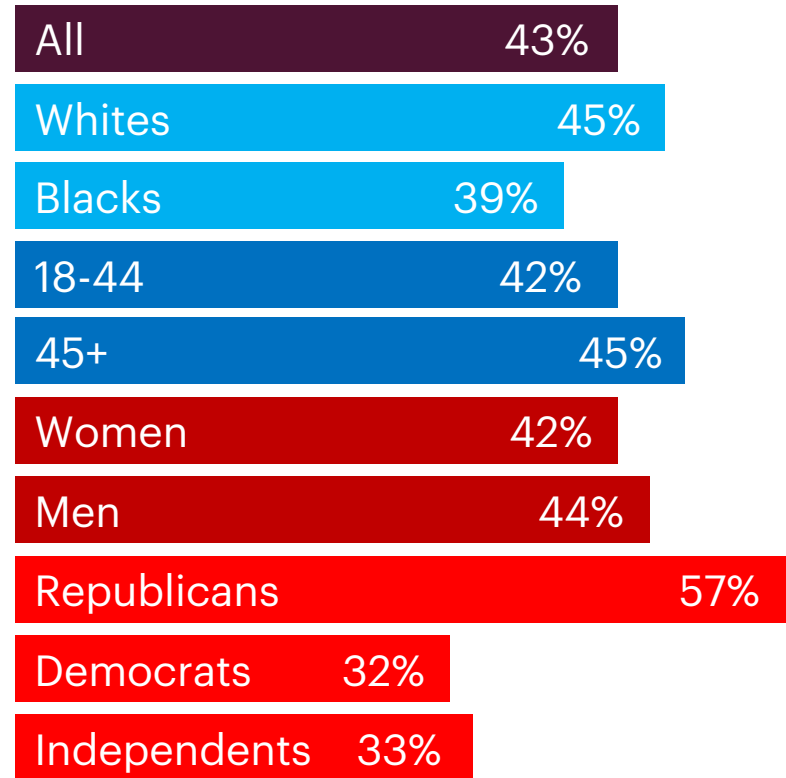
- If Donald Trump is convicted of a crime before the election, **he could lose between 2% and 9% of his vote** in Louisiana--that translates to about 25,000 to 113,000 votes, based on this poll result and turnout numbers from the last presidential election.
- Trump's margin in Louisiana was 400,000 votes in 2020, which means his possible loss of votes due to a conviction could potentially tighten his wide margin a bit, but it wouldn't come close to erasing it.
- Younger Trump voters (18-44) are more likely to abandon him if he's convicted than older Trump voters (45+), by a 14% to 6% margin.
- Most of Trump's voters are Republicans and, of them, only 5% say they definitely or probably would not stick with him if he's convicted. Independents and Democrats who support Trump make up a smaller portion of his vote--and are more likely to abandon him if he's convicted.

Louisiana: Perceptions of quality of life

Question: How would you rate the overall quality of life in Louisiana--would you say it's excellent, good, only fair or poor?



Respondents who say "Excellent" or "Good" by demographic groups



- Most Louisiana voters lean more negatively than positively when it comes to their perceptions of the state's quality of life, 56% vs. 43%.
- Note also that among those who rate quality of life positively, only a small fraction (5%) rate it "excellent" as opposed to "good" (38%)--meaning that the most intensely positive feelings about Louisiana's quality of life are weak.
- Republicans are much more positive than either Democrats or independents--an indication that quality of life perceptions relate to political views.
- Voters in North & Central Louisiana rate quality of life (44%) about as positively as those in South Louisiana (43%).

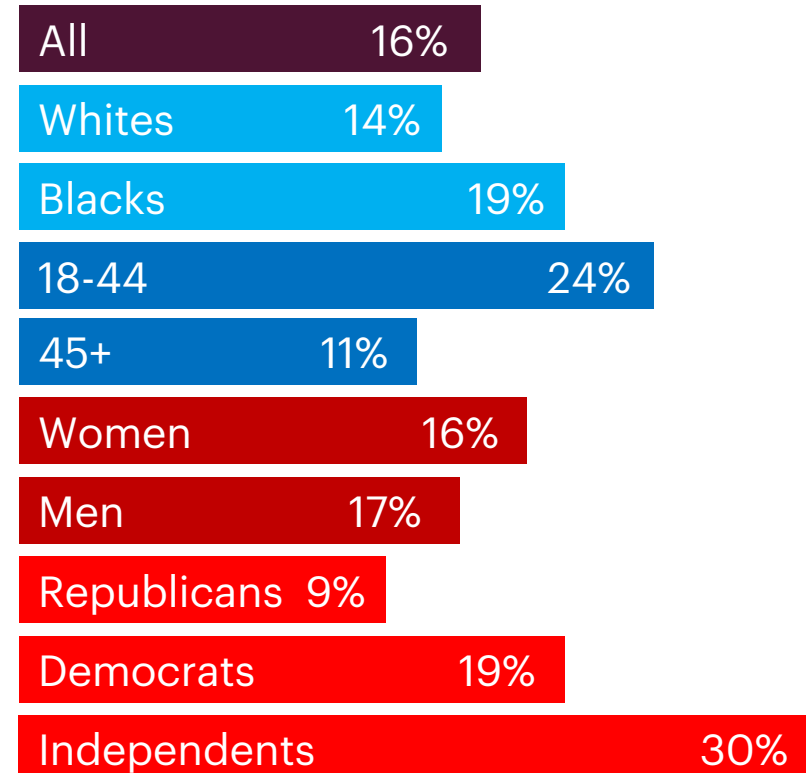
Louisiana: Stay or Leave

Question: Over the next five years, do you expect to... stay in Louisiana ...or... do you expect to move out of Louisiana?

Stay in Louisiana over the next 5 years	79%
Expect to move out of Louisiana over the next 5 years	16%
Don't know/not sure	4%

- Independents more likely expect to move out of state than any other group. That's followed by 18-44-year-olds, Black voters and Democrats.
- Note that more than twice as many younger people than older people expect to leave.
- Republicans, voters over 45 and Whites are least likely to expect to leave.
- 16% of the state's electorate translates to about 480,000 people.
- Keep in mind that when people say they "expect" to move, it doesn't necessarily mean they will actually do it.
- Voters in North & Central Louisiana are less likely to expect to move out of the state than those in South Louisiana (14% vs. 18%).

Those who say "expect to move out" by demographic groups



Voter choices: Most important priorities for Gov. Landry

Question: Which ONE of the following issues do you think should be Governor Jeff Landry’s TOP PRIORITY for the next year... create more economic growth and jobs... reduce crime and gun violence... improve public education... lower insurance rates... protect Louisiana’s environment... improve roads and bridges... write a new state constitution... or ...reduce poverty.

	All	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Reduce crime and gun violence	26%	29%	29%	12%
Lower insurance rates	18%	20%	15%	20%
Create more economic growth, jobs	11%	12%	9%	15%
Improve public education	11%	8%	14%	15%
Reduce poverty	8%	6%	11%	9%
Improve roads and bridges	7%	6%	5%	10%
Protect Louisiana’s environment	3%	2%	5%	1%
Write a new state constitution	1%	2%	*	1%
All of them (volunteered)	14%	14%	12%	16%
None of them (volunteered)	*	*	*	*

- Voters want Landry to focus his **top two priorities** on crime/gun violence (26%) and lowering insurance rates (18%).
- Top priorities of **White voters**: crime and gun violence (25%), lowering insurance rates (22%).
- Top priorities of **Black voters**: crime and gun violence (30%); and reducing poverty (12%), improving public education (12%) and economic/job growth (12%).
- Top priorities of **18-44-year-olds**: crime and gun violence (29%), lowering insurance rates (16%), improving education (13%) and economic/job growth (13%).
- Top priorities of those **45-years-old and older**: crime and gun violence (25%) and lowering insurance rates (20%).
- Few voters see writing a new state **constitution** as a top priority; only 2% of Republicans say it is.
- A substantial 14% of voters volunteered that **all** of these issues should be top priorities.

Gov. Landry's approval rating on issues

Question: As you may know, Jeff Landry became governor of Louisiana in January. So far, do you generally approve or disapprove of how he's handling each of the following state issues... if you're not familiar with what he's done on a particular issue, please just say so--

	Approve	Disapprove	Net +/-	
Crime and criminal penalties	50%	27%	+23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landry's best issues are: crime and criminal penalties (net positive 23 points), parental rights (net positive 18 points) and developing the state's economy (net positive 10 points). His worst issue is insurance rates (net negative 39 points)--a hot topic and a big political problem. • 62% of Republicans and 37% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of crime and criminal penalties. • 30% of Republicans and 12% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of insurance rates. • 53% of Republicans and 36% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of parental rights on school/medical issues. • 46% of Republicans and 36% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of education. • 43% of Republicans and 19% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of race relations. • 35% of Republicans and 18% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of writing a new state constitution. • 61% of Republicans and 26% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of gun regulation. • 58% of Republicans and 26% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of developing the state's economy. • 52% of Republicans and 21% of Democrats approve of Landry's handling of the environment.
Parental rights on school, medical issues	44%	26%	+18	
Developing the state's economy	42%	32%	+10	
Gun regulation	45%	40%	+5	
The environment	38%	34%	+4	
Education	38%	39%	-1	
Writing a new state constitution	27%	29%	-2	
Race relations	29%	36%	-7	
Insurance rates	21%	60%	-39	

Changing the state: Is Gov. Landry moving too fast?

Question: Governor Jeff Landry has proposed changing the state's education, election and criminal justice systems--as well as replacing the state constitution with a new one. Overall, do you think he's moving too fast... moving too slow... or moving about right in pushing for these changes?

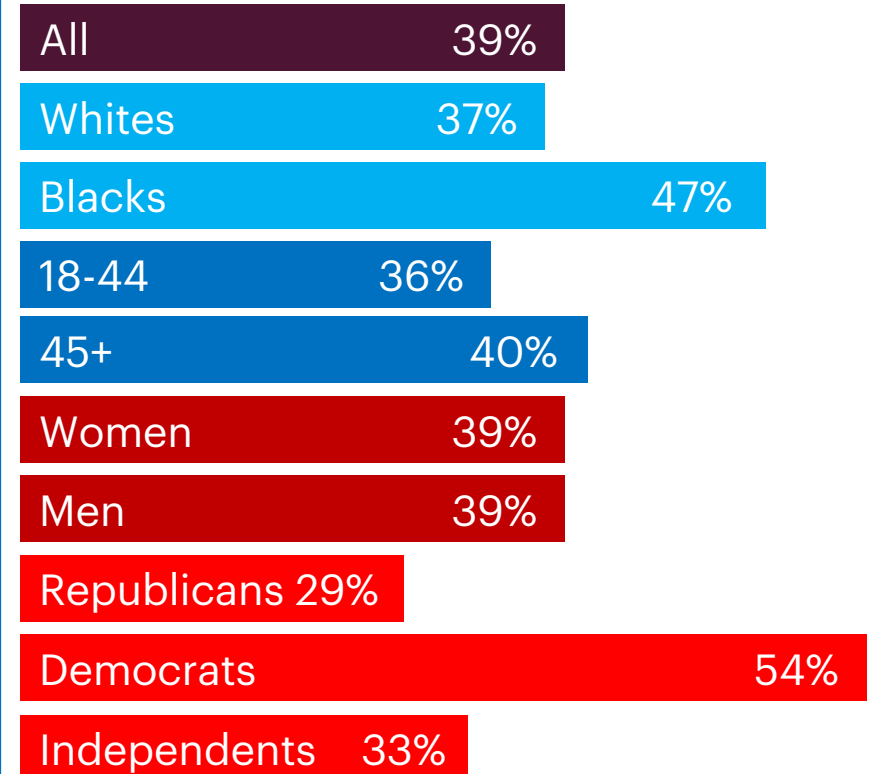
Too fast 39%

Too slow 14%

About right 43%

- It's mostly Democrats and Black voters who say the governor is moving too fast.
- From a pro-Landry perspective, 57% of voters statewide say he's either moving about right or too slow.
- From an anti-Landry perspective, 53% say he's not moving at the right pace.

Those who say Gov. Jeff Landry is moving "too fast" changing the state, by demographic groups

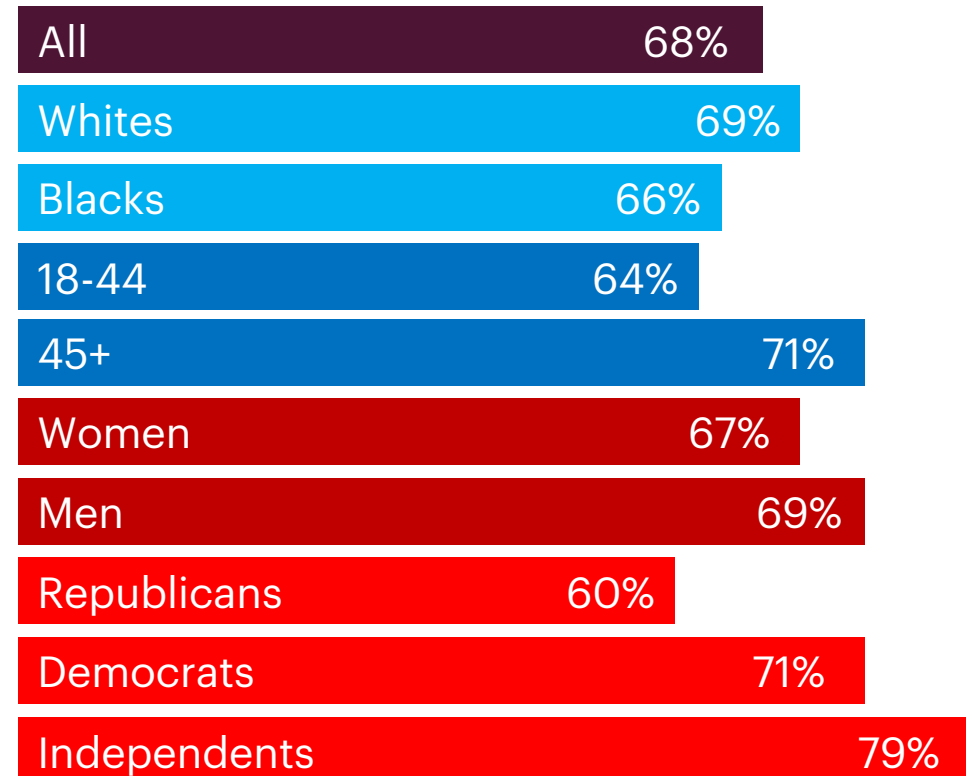


Insurance laws: Commissioner Temple's approach

Question: Louisiana's new Insurance Commissioner Tim Temple has proposed easing regulation of insurance companies to make Louisiana more attractive for them to do business here. One of his proposals is to allow companies to drop homeowner's coverage, even if it's been in effect for more than three years. Do you agree or disagree with Commissioner Tim Temple on this issue?

Agree with Temple	25%
Disagree with Temple	68%
Don't know	7%

Those who disagree with Temple, by demographic groups



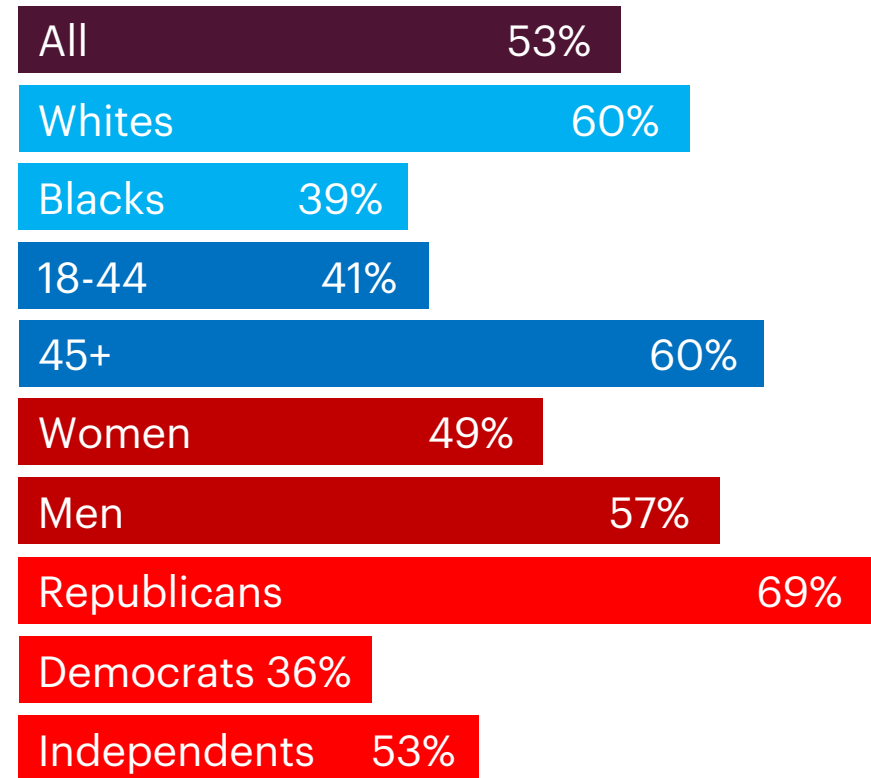
- The insurance rate issue is a brutal one for state officials. Large majorities of voters disapprove of Gov. Landry's handling of the issue (see p. 12) and disagree with Commissioner Temple's approach, based on this poll question.
- Opposition to Temple's approach is greatest among independents (79%) and lowest among Republicans (60%).

Reducing crime

Question: Which ONE of following comes closest to your opinion on reducing crime--(ROTATE) we need to get tough on crime and put criminals behind bars longer -- or, we need to emphasize systemic issues of race, poverty and unemployment instead of more incarceration.

Get tough on crime and put criminals behind bars longer	53%
Emphasize systemic issues of race, poverty and unemployment instead of more incarceration	40%
Both (volunteered)	5%
Neither (volunteered)	2%
Don't know (volunteered)	1%

Those who favor getting "tough on crime," by demographic groups



- There are clear generational, racial, gender and partisan divides on this issue. Whites and Blacks are 21 points apart, younger and older voters are 19 points apart, men and women are 12 points apart and Republicans and Democrats are 33 points apart.

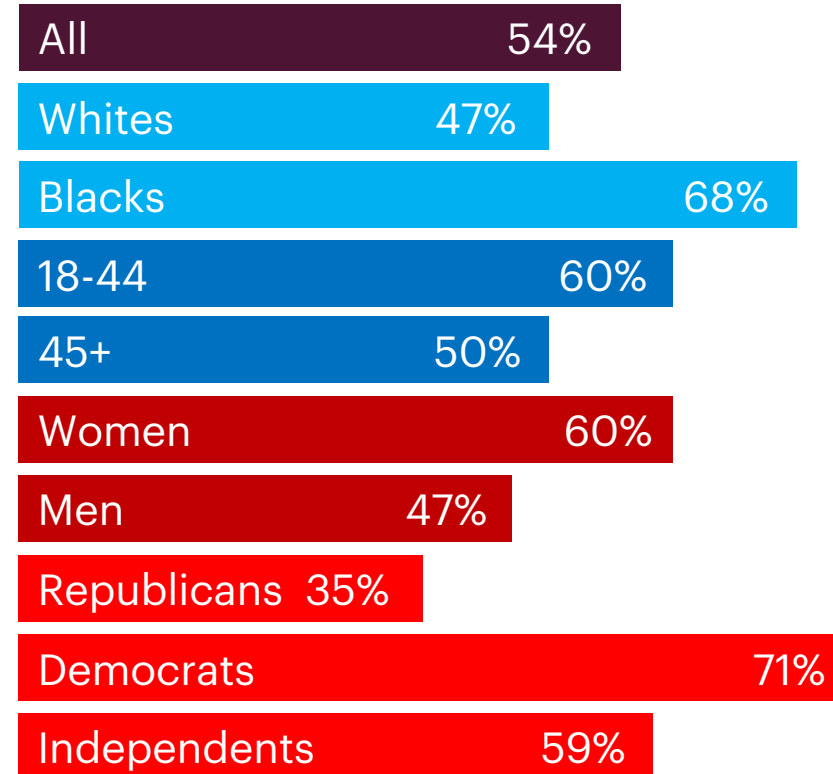
Louisiana's abortion law: Keep "as is" or change to 15-week ban

Question: Louisiana law currently bans almost all abortions. Do you support keeping this law AS IS ...or... would you like to see it changed to expand a woman's right to an abortion during the first 15 weeks of pregnancy?

Keep law as is 41%
Change law to expand right to abortion during first 15 weeks 54%
Don't know (volunteered) 4%

- A majority of Louisiana voters support changing state law to expand a woman's right to an abortion during the first 15 weeks of pregnancy.
- Voters in North & Central Louisiana (53%) are slightly less inclined to support expansion of abortion rights than are voters in South Louisiana (55%).
- Rock-Solid Trump Republicans (26%) are much less inclined to support expansion of abortion rights than are Less-Reliable Trump Republicans (46%).
- Progressive Democrats (78%) are more inclined to support expansion of abortion rights than are more moderate Democrats (62%).

Those who favor expanding right to abortion for first 15 weeks, by demographic groups



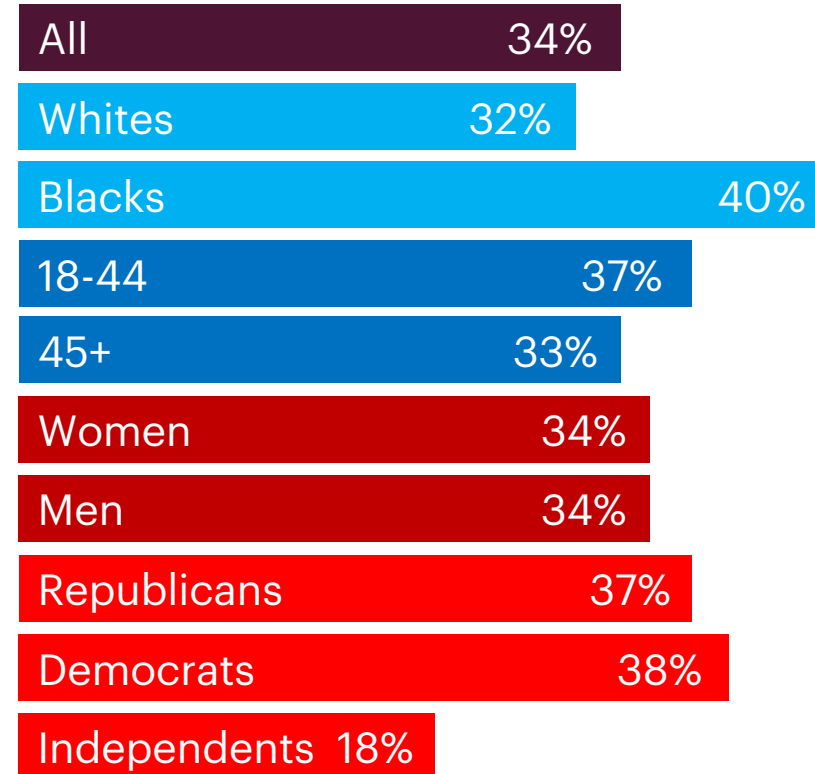
Rating the quality of Louisiana public schools

Question: How would you rate the quality of K-12 education provided by public schools in Louisiana--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

Excellent	3%
Good	31%
Only fair	31%
Poor	29%

- Slightly more than a third of the state's electorate rate public schools in Louisiana positively--and 60% view them only fair or poor.
- More Black voters than White voters, and about the same percentage of Republican and Democratic voters, give the school system positive marks.
- Independents are most negative; only 18% rate the public school system positively.
- Voters in North & Central Louisiana (29%) are less inclined to rate public schools positively than are voters in South Louisiana (39%).

Those rate public schools in Louisiana "excellent" or "good," By demography groups



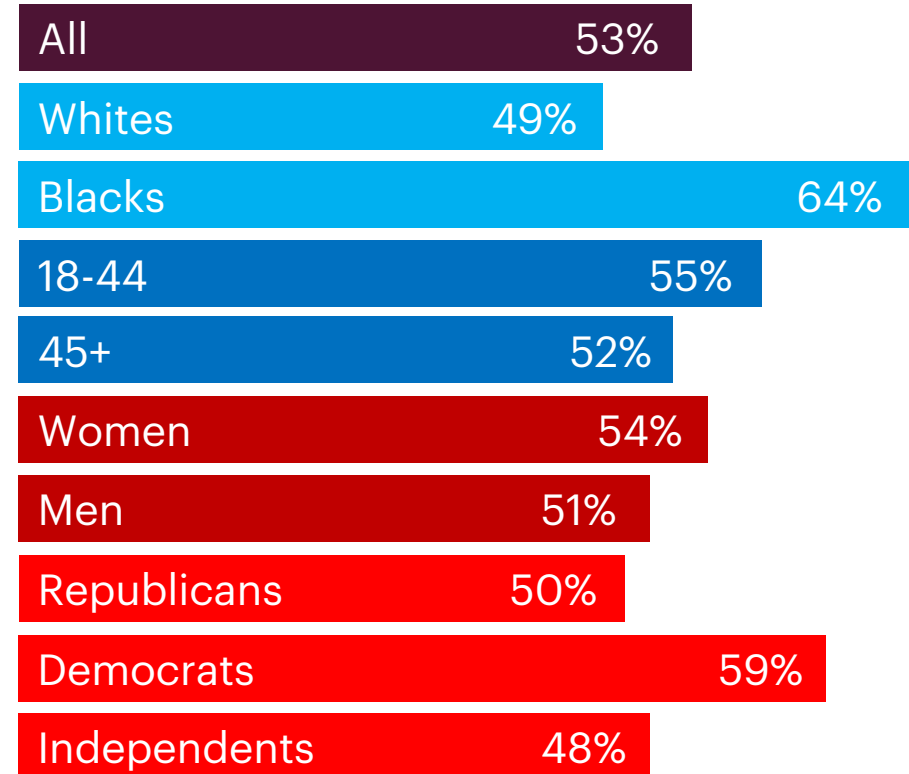
Cash vouchers for public, private and religious schools

Question: For K-12 education, do you think it's a good or bad idea to give Louisiana parents cash vouchers to pay all or some of their children's tuition at the public, private or religious school of their choice?

Good idea	53%
Bad idea	40%
Don't know	7%

- A majority of state voters support a program, as described in this poll question, that would give Louisiana parents cash vouchers to pay all or some of their children's tuition at the public, private or religious schools of their choice.
- Constituencies most in favor of the cash voucher plan are Black voters and Democrats.
- Voters in North & Central Louisiana and in South Louisiana express the same levels of support for the voucher plan (53%).
- 53% of voters who are favorable toward Landry support the voucher plan.

Respondents who say the cash voucher plan is a "good idea," by demographic groups

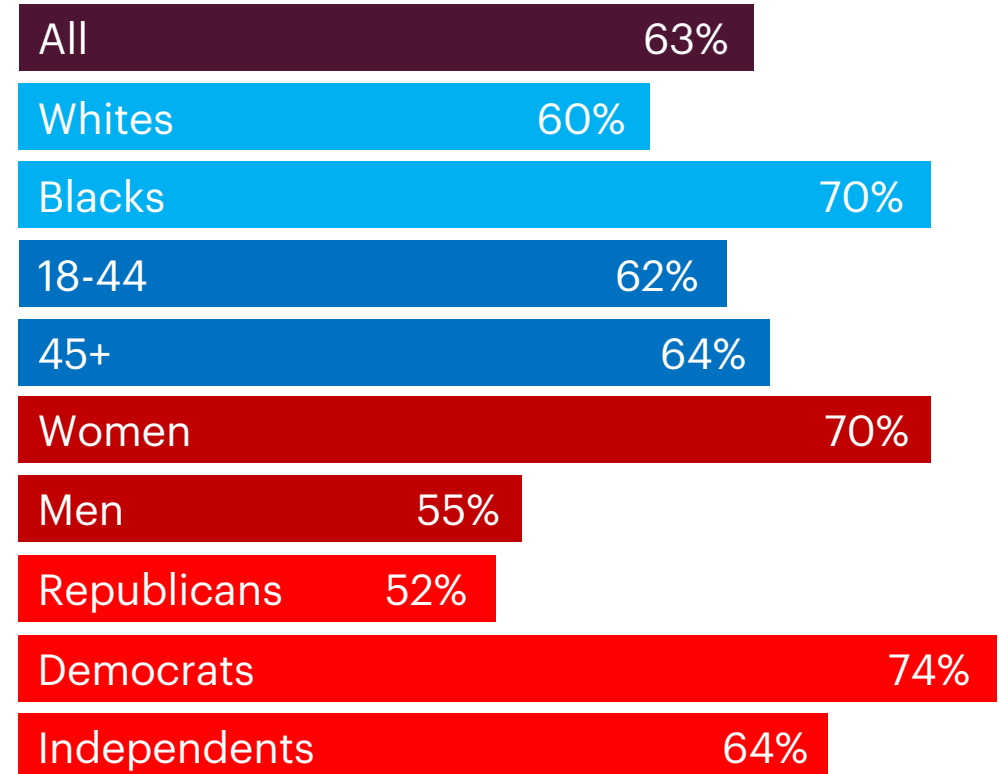


Concealed carry: Require gun permits?

Question: Louisiana has a new law that allows people 18 years old and older to carry concealed weapons without a gun permit. Do you think we should keep the law AS IS ...or... do you think gun owners should have to have a permit to carry a concealed weapon?

Keep law "as is"	33%
Gun owners should have permits to carry concealed weapons	63%
Don't know	4%

Respondents who say gun owners should have a permit to carry a concealed weapon, by demographic groups



- A strong majority of Louisiana voters support changing the current concealed carry law to require gun permits.
- 41% of Rock-Solid Trump Republicans support changing the current concealed carry law, as compared to 64% of Less-Reliable Trump Republicans--that's a wide gap within the GOP electorate.
- 77% of progressive Democrats support changing the current concealed carry law as compared to 72% of more moderate Democrats.
- The same percentage of voters in South Louisiana and in North & Central Louisiana (63%) support changing the current concealed carry law to require gun permits.

“AR-15 style” semiautomatic rifles

Question: Do you think the Louisiana legislature should prohibit the sale of "AR-15 style" semiautomatic rifles in the state--yes or no?

Yes, prohibit	51%
No, don't prohibit	44%
Don't know	5%

- A 51% majority of Louisiana voters favor prohibiting the sale of "AR-15 style" semiautomatic rifles in the state.
- 24% of Rock-Solid Trump Republicans support prohibiting the sale of "AR-15 style" semiautomatic rifles as compared to 45% of Less-Reliable Trump Republicans--that's a wide gap within the GOP electorate.
- 75% of progressive Democrats support prohibiting the sale of "AR-15 style" semiautomatic rifles as compared to 66% of more moderate Democrats.
- More voters in South Louisiana (55%) favor prohibiting the sale of "AR-15 style" semiautomatic rifles than voters in North & Central Louisiana (48%).

Those who favor prohibiting “AR-15 style” semiautomatic rifles, by demographic groups

