



**Public Education through the Public's Eye:
A Survey of New Orleans Voters and Parents**

Voter Top Line Results

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Survey Conducted by Market Research Insight**

**600 Registered Voters in Orleans Parish
November 3 - 14, 2009**

Hello, my name is _____ with Market Research Insight, a nationally recognized research firm. We do not sell anything. We just conduct various opinion surveys. Tonight, we are surveying New Orleans voters about important issues facing public education.

Just to be sure, are you registered to vote in New Orleans for elections such as Mayor and City Council? (IF NO, POLITELY TERMINATE)

Do you or does anyone in this household work for:

- The news media? (IF YES, POLITELY TERMINATE)
- An advertising or public relations firm? (IF YES, POLITELY TERMINATE)
- A marketing research firm? (IF YES, POLITELY TERMINATE)

Are you the parent or guardian of at least one child in a traditional public school or public charter school in New Orleans?

HAVE CHILD IN PUBLIC SCHOOL OR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Yes	19%	5%	29%
No	81%	95%	71%

How many children do you have attending traditional public schools or public charter schools?
(RECORD 1 OR HIGHER NUMBER)

Questions 1-9 for Parents of Public School Children Only and Answers Appear in Separate Document

1. (IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD IN PUBLIC OR CHARTER SCHOOL, ASK...) For this survey, please answer all of the following questions as they apply to your child in public school with the most recent birthday? (CONTINUE AND ASK EVERYONE...) Is your child in a traditional public school or public charter school?
2. (IF CHILD, ASK IN PUBLIC OR CHARTER SCHOOL, ASK...) If you were to grade the quality of the public school your child attends, would it be A, B, C, D, or F?

(IF CHILD IN PUBLIC OR CHARTER SCHOOL, ASK FOLLOWING SERIES Q's 3-9)
Thinking about your child, do you agree or disagree with the following statements about traditional and public charter schools? (CONTINUE WITH...) Do you strongly (AGREE/DISAGREE) or somewhat (AGREE/DISAGREE)? (RANDOM ORDER)

3. Information about different public school options for my child is readily available to me.
4. I had good options to choose from when I was deciding where to register my child for school.
5. It was easy to register my child for school.
6. My child is enrolled in the school that was my first or second choice.
7. It is important that I be able to choose what school my child attends.
8. It is important that my child be able to go to our neighborhood school.
9. I tried to enroll my child in our neighborhood school, but I was not able to.

(ASK ALL RESPONDENTS QUESTIONS 10-31)

10. Would you say that public schools in New Orleans (ROTATE 1ST TWO OPTIONS) were better before Katrina, are better after Katrina, or about the same before and after?

10. PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW ORLEANS			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Were Better Before Katrina	17%	12%	20%
Are Better After Katrina	32%	44%	24%
Are About The Same Before And After	31%	23%	37%
Uncertain	20%	21%	19%

I am going to read a number of statements that apply to both traditional public schools and public charter schools in New Orleans. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each. (CONTINUE WITH...) Do you strongly (AGREE/DISAGREE) or somewhat (AGREE/DISAGREE)? (RANDOM ORDER SERIES)

11. The state of Louisiana made the right decision to take over most schools in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

11. THE STATE OF LOUISIANA MADE THE RIGHT DECISION TO TAKE OVER MOST SCHOOLS IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Disagree	11%	5%	15%
Somewhat Disagree	10%	5%	13%
Uncertain	13%	10%	15%
Somewhat Agree	28%	33%	25%
Strongly Agree	38%	47%	32%
Total Disagree	21%	10%	28%
Total Agree	66%	80%	57%

12. Public charter schools have improved public education in New Orleans.

12. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE IMPROVED PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Disagree	6%	3%	8%
Somewhat Disagree	7%	3%	10%
Uncertain	17%	17%	17%
Somewhat Agree	36%	36%	35%
Strongly Agree	34%	41%	29%
Total Disagree	13%	6%	18%
Total Agree	70%	77%	64%

13. A parent should be able to send their child to any school in the city.

13. A PARENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEND THEIR CHILD TO ANY SCHOOL IN THE CITY			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Disagree	4%	8%	1%
Somewhat Disagree	11%	17%	7%
Uncertain	6%	10%	3%
Somewhat Agree	29%	28%	29%
Strongly Agree	50%	37%	60%
Total Disagree	15%	25%	8%
Total Agree	79%	65%	89%

14. A parent should be able to send their child to their neighborhood school.

14. A PARENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEND THEIR CHILD TO THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Disagree	1%	2%	1%
Somewhat Disagree	3%	3%	4%
Uncertain	3%	4%	3%
Somewhat Agree	31%	30%	31%
Strongly Agree	62%	60%	62%
Total Disagree	4%	5%	5%
Total Agree	93%	90%	93%

15. The many new teachers coming into public schools in New Orleans have improved public education in the city.

15. THE MANY NEW TEACHERS COMING INTO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW ORLEANS HAVE IMPROVED THE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE CITY			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Disagree	5%	3%	6%
Somewhat Disagree	12%	6%	15%
Uncertain	29%	34%	26%
Somewhat Agree	31%	31%	32%
Strongly Agree	23%	26%	22%
Total Disagree	17%	9%	21%

Total Agree	54%	57%	54%
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16. A school should receive more money to educate a student from a low income family than it receives to educate a student from a family that is not low income.

16. A SCHOOL SHOULD RECEIVE MORE MONEY TO EDUCATE A STUDENT FROM A LOW INCOME FAMILY			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Disagree	25%	33%	19%
Somewhat Disagree	23%	25%	21%
Uncertain	8%	10%	7%
Somewhat Agree	24%	20%	26%
Strongly Agree	21%	12%	26%
Total Disagree	48%	58%	40%
Total Agree	45%	32%	52%

17. A school should receive more money to educate a student with a learning disability than it receives to educate a student without a learning disability.

17. A SCHOOL SHOULD RECEIVE MORE MONEY TO EDUCATE A STUDENT WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Disagree	7%	6%	7%
Somewhat Disagree	11%	11%	11%
Uncertain	7%	7%	7%
Somewhat Agree	31%	33%	30%
Strongly Agree	44%	42%	45%

Total Disagree	18%	17%	18%
Total Agree	75%	75%	75%

Now I have a few options to read to you about what groups should have oversight and control over public schools in New Orleans. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each of the following options. (CONTINUE WITH...) Do you strongly (FAVOR/OPPOSE) or somewhat (FAVOR/OPPOSE)? (RANDOM ORDER SERIES)

18. Give control of all schools back to the Orleans Parish School Board.

18. GIVE CONTROL OF ALL SCHOOLS BACK TO THE ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Oppose	36%	45%	29%
Somewhat Oppose	19%	18%	20%
Uncertain	11%	12%	10%
Somewhat Favor	21%	18%	24%
Strongly Favor	13%	7%	16%
Total Oppose	55%	63%	49%
Total Favor	34%	25%	40%

19. Give control of all schools to the next Mayor of New Orleans.

19. GIVE CONTROL OF ALL SCHOOLS TO THE NEXT MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Oppose	64%	66%	62%
Somewhat Oppose	19%	16%	21%

Uncertain	10%	12%	8%
Somewhat Favor	5%	4%	6%
Strongly Favor	2%	2%	3%
Total Oppose	83%	82%	83%
Total Favor	7%	6%	9%

20. Give control of all schools to the State Recovery School District.

20. GIVE CONTROL OF ALL SCHOOLS TO THE STATE RECOVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Oppose	21%	17%	23%
Somewhat Oppose	18%	17%	19%
Uncertain	20%	25%	18%
Somewhat Favor	26%	28%	25%
Strongly Favor	14%	14%	15%
Total Oppose	39%	34%	42%
Total Favor	40%	42%	40%

21. Change almost all schools into public charter schools.

21. CHANGE ALMOST ALL SCHOOLS INTO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Oppose	17%	13%	20%
Somewhat Oppose	20%	16%	23%

Uncertain	16%	17%	16%
Somewhat Favor	27%	34%	23%
Strongly Favor	19%	21%	18%
Total Oppose	37%	29%	43%
Total Favor	46%	54%	41%

22. Create a new school board whose members are elected citywide.

22. CREATE A NEW SCHOOL BOARD WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED CITYWIDE			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Oppose	8%	11%	5%
Somewhat Oppose	9%	11%	8%
Uncertain	9%	9%	9%
Somewhat Favor	34%	35%	33%
Strongly Favor	40%	34%	45%
Total Oppose	17%	22%	13%
Total Favor	74%	69%	78%

23. Create a new school board whose members are appointed by the Mayor of New Orleans.

23. CREATE A NEW SCHOOL BOARD WHOSE MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Strongly Oppose	55%	60%	51%
Somewhat Oppose	25%	25%	26%
Uncertain	7%	8%	6%

Somewhat Favor	9%	4%	13%
Strongly Favor	4%	2%	5%
Total Oppose	80%	85%	77%
Total Favor	13%	6%	18%

24. Do you think public schools in New Orleans do or do not have enough money to provide all students with a good education?

24. PUBLIC SCHOOL MONEY TO PROVIDE ALL STUDENTS A GOOD EDUCATION			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Do Have Enough Money	20%	27%	15%
Do Not Have Enough Money	71%	61%	77%
Uncertain	9%	12%	8%

25. As you may know, public schools in New Orleans are funded by a combination of property and sales taxes. Although people who rent their homes do not pay property taxes directly, their monthly rent includes money to pay the property taxes. Are you willing or unwilling to pay more in property and sales taxes to support public schools?

25. PAY MORE IN PROPERTY OR SALES TAX TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Willing To Pay More	49%	47%	50%
Unwilling To Pay More	43%	48%	40%

Uncertain	8%	6%	10%
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26. (IF WILLING TO PAY MORE, ASK...) On a monthly basis, would you be willing to pay \$40 more? To pay \$30 more? To pay \$20 more? To pay \$15 more? To pay \$10 more? To pay less than \$10 more? (WHEN RESPONDENT SAYS WILLING TO PAY STOP QUESTION AND RECORD RESPONSE)

26. MONTHLY AMOUNT WILLING TO PAY			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
\$40 More	32%	30%	33%
\$30 More	12%	13%	11%
\$20 More	19%	20%	18%
\$15 More	5%	4%	5%
\$10 More	15%	12%	17%
Less Than \$10 More	9%	11%	9%
Volunteered Not Really Willing to Pay Any More	2%	3%	1%
Uncertain/Won't Say	6%	7%	6%

Thank you, that completes the opinion section of the survey. Now, a few questions for demographic purposes and we'll be finished.

27. What is your age? (RECORD ACTUAL AGE)

27. VOTER AGE			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
18-24 Years	4%	2%	5%
25-34 Years	15%	12%	18%
35-44 Years	16%	13%	18%

45-54 Years	17%	21%	14%
55-64 Years	18%	18%	19%
65-74 Years	13%	14%	12%
75-84 Years	9%	10%	8%
85 Years & Older	2%	4%	2%
Refused	6%	7%	5%

28. What is the highest level of education you have obtained to date?

28. EDUCATION			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Less Than High School	5%	0%	8%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	27%	17%	33%
Some College, No Degree	21%	14%	25%
Associate's Degree	9%	6%	10%
Bachelor's Degree	19%	29%	13%
Graduate Or Professional Degree	19%	34%	9%

29. Approximately, what is your household's total, yearly income? When I read the correct category, just tell me.

29. ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Under \$15,000	16%	8%	20%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	19%	9%	24%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	15%	9%	19%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	15%	17%	14%

\$50,000 to \$74,999	11%	16%	9%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8%	9%	8%
\$100,000 and over	16%	33%	7%

30. And, your gender is male or female? (CONTINUE WITH...) Are you employed outside of the home?

30. GENDER AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
Employed Male	29%	35%	25%
Not Employed Male	13%	14%	13%
Employed Female	27%	26%	28%
Not Employed Female	31%	25%	35%

31. What do you consider to be your main ethnic background? (RECORD RESPONSE BUT DO NOT READ CATEGORIES)

31. ETHNIC BACKGROUND			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
African-American	60%	0%	100%
Caucasian	38%	96%	0%
Hispanic	1%	3%	0%
Asian	0%	1%	0%

This concludes our survey. Thank you for your time.

COUNCIL DISTRICT			
	Total Voters	White & Other	African-American
District A	21%	35%	12%
District B	19%	21%	18%
District C	24%	23%	24%
District D	20%	13%	25%
District E	16%	7%	22%

Please direct any questions with regard to this survey to coweninfo@tulane.edu or please call 504-274-3690.