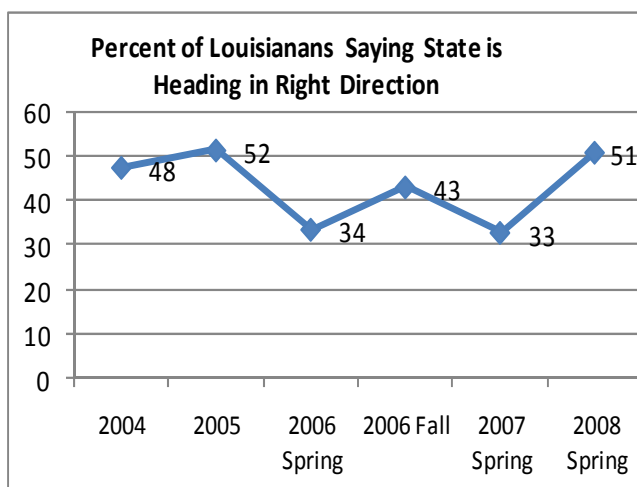


### Great Expectations and the Jindal Administration

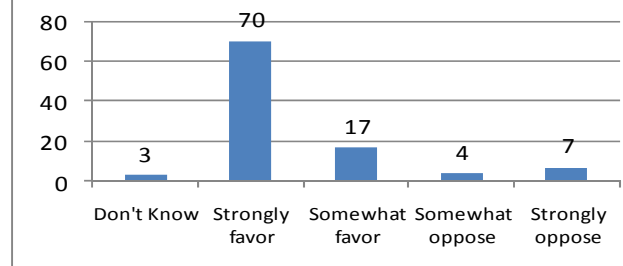
The election of Bobby Jindal marks a substantial increase in optimism regarding the direction of the state. This optimism is found in several areas of the survey. First, there is a substantial increase in the percent of Louisiana residents saying the state is heading in the right direction. According to the 2008 Louisiana Survey, 51 percent of Louisianans now say the state is headed in the right direction. This is an 18 point increase over the 2007 Louisiana Survey and marks the strongest response on the right direction question since 2005.

Second, confidence that state government will address the most important problem has increased substantially over the 2007 results. Sixty-one percent of respondents in the 2008 survey said they were very (15 percent) or somewhat confident (46 percent) that state government would effectively address their self-identified most important problem. This is up 20 points over 2007 when 39 percent of respondents said they were very or somewhat confident state government would effectively address the most important problem.

Substantial majorities believe that at least some change is possible across a wide range of issues. Respondents see the greatest possibilities for change in improving roads and infrastructure (54 percent) followed by increasing worker training (50 percent), reducing waste in state government (49 percent) and attracting business to the state (49 percent). When asked in an open-ended question what the single most important thing the Jindal Administration can accomplish, respondents said reduce corruption (21 percent), bring jobs to the state or improve the economy (18 percent), and improve access to and quality of health care (14 percent).



### Support for Expanding Funding of Pre-K Programs



### Support for Expanding Pre-K Program

When asked what should be a greater priority cutting spending and reducing taxes or making sure there is sufficient funding for the needs of young children, two-thirds of Louisianans (67 percent) opt for making sure there is adequate funding for the needs of young children. There is even broader support for expanding funding of Pre-K programs: 70 percent of Louisianans strongly favor expanding funding of Pre-K programs and an additional 17 percent somewhat favor expanding funding. While there are differences in support across partisan affiliation and political ideology, there is strong support among Republicans and Conservatives for expanded funding.

### Skepticism About Tax Credits

Louisianans express skepticism about recently passed tax credits for parents of children in religious or private schools. Forty-percent of Louisianans say the tax credits are a good idea, including 67 percent of parents with children in religious or private schools. Thirty-one percent of respondents say the tax credits are a bad idea, while 29 percent say they do not know or have not given it much thought. When phrased as a choice between providing tax credits or improving existing schools, Louisianans overwhelmingly prefer to improve existing public schools. Eighty percent of respondents prefer improving existing public schools.

### About the Louisiana Survey

The mission of the Louisiana Survey is to establish benchmarks and assess progress and regressions in residents' assessments of state government services. The Survey has been conducted annually since 2002, and was conducted twice in 2005 and 2006. For the full report, see [www.survey.lsu.edu](http://www.survey.lsu.edu). For more information about the survey, contact Kirby Goidel, co-director of the PPRL and director of the survey, at 225-578-7588 or at [kgoidel@lsu.edu](mailto:kgoidel@lsu.edu).



### Concerns About Taxes Rise

Public concern over taxes has increased over time with Louisianians increasingly likely to say that their taxes are too high and need to be reduced. The most notable shift over the past year is a 12-point increase in the percent of respondents saying that state income taxes are too high and need to be reduced. In 2007, 33 percent of respondents said state income taxes are too high and needed to be reduced. This jumped to 45 percent in 2008. Perceptions that state sales and property taxes were too high increased as well. At least some of the increased concern can likely be traced to the fact that since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita state government has been running a surplus. With state government running in the black over the past several years, it is hardly surprising that people would begin to question whether they are being overtaxed. The increase, particularly with state income taxes, is also likely connected to the passage of the Stelly Plan in 2002.

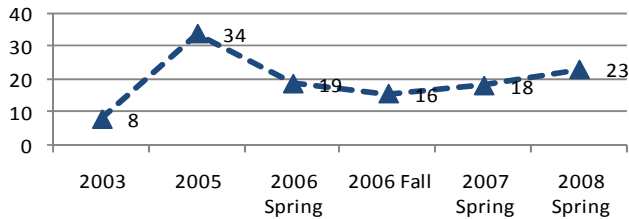
**Percent Saying Taxes Are Too High and Need to Be Reduced**



### Changes in the Primaries for Federal Office

As Louisiana moves to closed primaries for federal elections, Louisianians are largely unaware of such changes. Just under half of Louisianians (49 percent) said they were aware of such changes. Among those who are aware of such changes, a majority (55 percent) say the change is a bad idea.

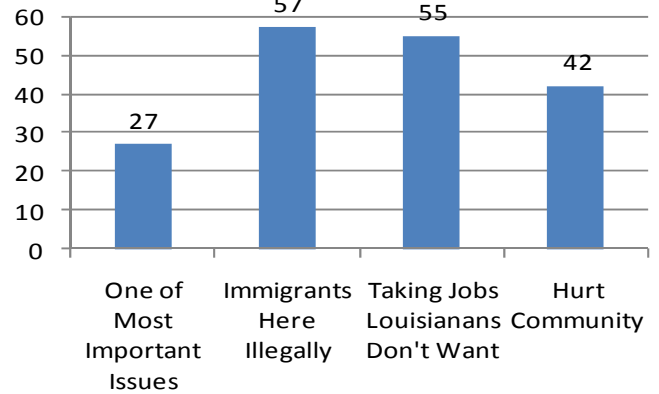
**Percent of Louisianians Saying the State Is Less Corrupt**



### Perceptions of Corruption Decline

While it is not clear what the long-term impact ethics reform may have on Louisiana politics, it did appear to have a short term effect on the percent of Louisianians saying the state is less corrupt. Relative to 2007, there has been a five-point increase in the percent of Louisianians saying the state is less corrupt.

### Attitudes Toward Immigration



### Immigration in Louisiana

Louisianians see immigration as an important but not critical issue and are split on whether immigration has helped or hurt their local community. Just over a quarter of respondents (27 percent) see immigration as one of the most important issues confronting the state, but a more substantial – 40 percent – see immigration as an important issue but not one of the most important issues. Nearly a third of respondents (32 percent) say immigration is not all that important or not important at all. Only 22 percent of respondents say that immigration has had a great deal of impact on their local community, and a majority of respondents (55 percent) say that immigrants are mostly taking jobs Louisianaans do not want. Louisianians are almost evenly split about whether immigration has helped or hurt their local communities. Forty-two percent of respondents say immigration has hurt their local community, while 44 percent say immigration has helped the community. New Orleans residents are more likely to report that immigration has impacted their community, but are also more likely to say that, on balance, immigration has helped more than hurt.

### Methodology

The Public Policy Research Lab conducted the survey between January 31 and March 3, 2008. Calls were conducted from noon until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday and noon to 8 pm on Sunday. Telephone numbers were selected using random digit dialing. The statewide survey has a sampling error of +/- 2.8 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. This means that if we replicated the survey twenty times, only once will the answers differ by more than 2.8 percentage points over the answers in this report. The margin of error will be larger for subgroups, including the split ballot samples. The approximate margin of error for the split ballot samples is +/- 4.0 percentage points. The cooperation rate for the survey is 40 percent, meaning that 40 percent of calls in which a potential respondent was contacted yielded a completed interview. Differences in response rates among different segments of the population may result in biased estimates of public opinion. To account for these differences, data are often weighted by demographic characteristics where sample estimates do not closely mirror census-based population estimates. The results presented in this report are weighted to provide the most accurate estimate of population preferences possible.