

# LOUISIANA COASTAL ISSUES POLL

## March 2017

### About the Poll

This statewide Louisiana poll was developed and conducted by Applied Technology Research Corporation for the National Audubon Society, Inc. The poll was designed to address likely Louisiana voters' opinions on coastal land loss and coastal protection and restoration issues.

Interviews for this statewide poll were completed by telephone with 1,050 likely Louisiana voters from March 2 through March 8, 2017.

The project was designed to provide a comparable level of precision within each of seven geographic areas (four coastal and three non-coastal) within Louisiana. The design provided for interviews to be conducted with 150 likely voters within each of the seven areas.

Louisiana likely voters were assigned to one of the seven geographic areas based on their parish. The four coastal areas along with the parishes comprising those areas are:

Orleans metro coastal area: Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles and St. Tammany Parishes;

Plaquemines and St. Bernard coastal area: Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes;

Bayou Central coastal area: Lafourche, St. Mary and Terrebonne Parishes; and

Southwest coastal area: Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia and Vermilion Parishes.

Voters in the remaining parishes were assigned to one of three non-coastal areas. The three non-coastal areas and the parishes comprising those areas are:

Florida/River Parishes area: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana Parishes;

Acadiana/Southwest area: Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, St. Landry, and St. Martin Parishes; and

North Louisiana area: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, Vernon, Webster, West Carroll and Winn Parishes.

The overall sample error for the statistics obtained from the sample of 1,050 likely voters statewide (base sample of 602 with an oversample of 448) is not greater than plus or minus 4.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. In other words, there is a 95% certainty that the statistics presented for the statewide results obtained on this survey are not more than 4.0 percentage points above or below the figure that would have been obtained if all of the likely voters in the state would have been interviewed.

The sample error at the 95% level of confidence for statistics obtained from the sample of areas within the state are as follows:

Area	Total sample size	Base sample	Oversample	Sample error (+/- percentage points)
New Orleans metro coastal	150	138	12	8.0
Plaquemines & St. Bernard coastal	150	9	141	8.0
Bayou Central coastal	150	31	119	8.0
Southwest LA coastal	150	43	107	8.0
Florida/River Parishes non-coastal	150	149	1	8.0
Acadiana/Southwest non-coastal	150	82	68	8.0
North Louisiana non-coastal	150	150	0	8.0
Coastal (all four coastal areas combined)	600	221	379	6.6
Non-coastal (all three non-coastal areas combined)	450	381	69	5.0
Louisiana Statewide	1,050	602	448	4.0

The sample error may be larger for subgroup responses based on attitudinal, demographic and geographic variables within areas. There are other sources of potential error which cannot be calculated including question wording and order of question presentation.

Telephone numbers were selected at random from a sample frame of telephoned, likely Louisiana voter households. Both landline and cellular telephone numbers were included in the sample frame.

A statistical weighting procedure was employed to normalize the sample to the likely voter population based on area and voter race and age category. The percentages shown in the tables are weighted. Counts within tables are unweighted counts.

LOUISIANA COASTAL ISSUES POLL  
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Statewide Frequency Responses

Based on interviews with 1,050 likely Louisiana voters;  
Conducted March 2-8, 2017; Sample error +/- 4.0 percentage points;  
Weighted by race and age; May not total 100.0% due to rounding.

C1.	How important are Louisiana's coastal areas and wetlands to you personally: very important, somewhat important or not important?	VERY IMPORTANT ..... 77.8 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT ..... 19.4 NOT IMPORTANT ..... 2.7 (DNK/WS) ..... 0.1				
C2.	Does coastal land loss currently affect you personally?	YES ..... 31.6 NO ..... 67.1 (DNK/WS) ..... 1.3				
C3.	Do you feel that coastal land loss will personally affect you in the future?	YES ..... 73.5 NO ..... 21.3 (DNK/WS) ..... 5.2				
C4.	How much of a threat would you say coastal land loss poses (insert item): a very serious threat, somewhat of a threat, or not a threat at all?					
	<b>(Randomize)</b>					
		<table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">VERY SERIOUS <u>THREAT</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;">SOMEWHAT <u>OF A THREAT</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;">NOT A <u>THREAT</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;">(DNK <u>/WS)</u></th> </tr> </thead> </table>	VERY SERIOUS <u>THREAT</u>	SOMEWHAT <u>OF A THREAT</u>	NOT A <u>THREAT</u>	(DNK <u>/WS)</u>
VERY SERIOUS <u>THREAT</u>	SOMEWHAT <u>OF A THREAT</u>	NOT A <u>THREAT</u>	(DNK <u>/WS)</u>			
	a. to your community .....	36.2.....37.6..... 24.9..... 1.4				
	b. to the state of Louisiana.....	74.2..... 22.2 ..... 2.5..... 1.1				
	c. to jobs and the economy in coastal Louisiana .....	69.5..... 24.7 ..... 3.8..... 2.1				
	d. to coastal cities and communities subject to hurricane storm surge.....	84.8..... 11.3 ..... 2.5..... 1.3				
	e. to wildlife and fisheries in coastal Louisiana .....	78.9..... 15.3 ..... 4.5..... 1.3				
	f. to the culture and way of life in coastal communities .....	76.8..... 17.7 ..... 4.1..... 1.5				
C5.	Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar or not very familiar with what is being done to protect and restore Louisiana's coastal areas and wetlands?	VERY FAMILIAR ..... 15.2 SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR ..... 60.8 NOT FAMILIAR ..... 23.2 (DNK/WS) ..... 0.8				

- C6. The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is presenting to the state legislature an updated Coastal Master Plan containing a list of projects that build or maintain land and reduce hurricane flood risk to Louisiana’s coastal communities. The projects will be paid for from the state’s dedicated coastal protection and restoration trust fund, not from general state revenues. Do you want your legislator to vote for or against that plan?
- VOTE FOR PLAN ..... 88.4  
VOTE AGAINST PLAN..... 3.7  
(UNDECIDED/DNK/WS) ..... 7.9

<u>Region</u>	<u>Vote For Plan</u>	<u>Vote Against Plan</u>	<u>Undecided/DNK/WS</u>
Orleans Metro	92.3	1.8	5.9
Plaq & St. Bernard	87.9	4.7	7.4
Bayou Central	88.9	4.8	6.3
SW Coastal	92.8	1.2	5.9
Florida/River	88.6	4.4	7.1
Acadiana/SW	88.0	3.5	8.5
North LA	83.6	5.4	11.0

- C7. Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for your legislator if he or she voted for the master plan or would this not affect your voting decision one way or the other?
- MORE LIKELY ..... 52.4  
LESS LIKELY ..... 4.4  
NOT AFFECT DECISION ..... 38.0  
(DNK/WS)..... 5.2

<u>Region</u>	<u>More Likely</u>	<u>Less Likely</u>	<u>Not Affect Decision</u>	<u>DNK/WS</u>
Orleans Metro	58.2	6.8	30.8	4.3
Plaq & St. Bernard	60.7	9.7	22.5	7.0
Bayou Central	62.2	3.0	31.3	3.5
SW Coastal	49.2	2.6	40.8	7.4
Florida/River	51.2	3.4	39.8	5.6
Acadiana/SW	53.7	2.0	40.5	3.8
North LA	46.0	4.8	43.1	6.1

- C8. In your opinion, is there currently enough money available to do what needs to be done to protect and restore coastal Louisiana?
- YES..... 19.4  
NO ..... 66.9  
(DNK/WS)..... 13.7

- C9. Although there is money dedicated to get started, there is not yet a dedicated source of money to pay for all the projects in the master plan. In your opinion, should state government work to identify and secure additional funding for future projects identified in the master plan?
- YES..... 85.7  
NO ..... 10.7  
(DNK/WS)..... 3.7

- C10. In your opinion, should state government ensure those funds currently dedicated to coastal restoration and protection are not spent on something else?
- YES..... 90.5  
NO ..... 6.8  
(DNK/WS)..... 2.7

C11. Please tell me if you think the following should or should not contribute money to pay for coastal restoration and flood protection projects in the master plan:

<b>(Randomize)</b>	<u>SHOULD CONTRIBUTE</u>	<u>SHOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE</u>	<u>(DNK /WS)</u>
a. your parish government .....	65.1	32.5	2.4
b. the Louisiana state government .....	89.7	8.9	1.5
c. the federal government .....	91.8	7.1	1.1
d. oil and gas companies .....	92.6	6.5	0.8
e. taxpayers in coastal Louisiana .....	67.8	30.6	1.6
f. taxpayers statewide .....	65.1	31.8	3.1
g. the navigation industry .....	86.2	10.6	3.2
h. private industry .....	78.3	18.4	3.3
i. private foundations .....	74.5	20.8	4.7
j. environmental groups .....	82.9	15.0	2.1

C12. Which one of these do you think should contribute the most money to pay for coastal restoration and flood protection projects?

	<u>MOST MONEY</u>
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT .....	33.0
OIL AND GAS COMPANIES .....	32.8
THE LOUISIANA STATE GOVERNMENT .....	12.5
DON'T KNOW/WON'T SAY .....	7.0
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS .....	5.0
TAXPAYERS STATEWIDE .....	3.4
THE NAVIGATION INDUSTRY .....	1.8
PRIVATE INDUSTRY .....	1.4
TAXPAYERS IN COASTAL LOUISIANA .....	1.3
YOUR PARISH GOVERNMENT .....	1.1
PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS .....	0.8

D1. Are you registered to vote as a Democrat, Republican or some other way?

DEMOCRAT .....	45.9
REPUBLICAN .....	34.7
OTHER .....	19.4

D2. Regardless of how you are registered to vote, do you more often agree with the actions of Democrats or Republicans?

DEMOCRATS .....	37.4
REPUBLICANS .....	42.9
(NEITHER) .....	11.6
(DNK/WS) .....	8.1

D3. What is your age? (Are you under 35, 35 to 49, 50 to 64, or 65 or over?)

UNDER 35 .....	15.4
35 – 49 .....	23.2
50 – 64 .....	33.7
65 OR OVER .....	27.7

D4. What is the highest grade you completed in school?	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL..... 3.5 H.S. GRADUATE-NO COLLEGE.... 21.4 SOME COLLEGE..... 20.4 ASSOCIATE DEGREE ..... 7.2 COLLEGE GRADUATE..... 46.0 (DNK/WS)..... 1.5
D5. (Record respondent's sex by observation; If necessary ask: Are you female or male?)	FEMALE ..... 52.7 MALE..... 47.3
D6. What is your race or ethnic background?	WHITE/OTHER..... 71.2 BLACK..... 28.8
D7. Is the approximate annual income for all people in your household under \$50,000, over \$100,000 or somewhere in-between?	UNDER \$50,000 ..... 28.5 SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN ..... 36.6 OVER \$100,000 ..... 27.9 (DNK/WS)..... 7.0