EDGEWATER RESEARCH | MY PEOPLE VOTE©
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SURVEY

March 2021

A telephone survey of 651 likely voters in Louisiana's Second Congressional District was conducted on March 2 through March 7, 2021 by pollsters Dr. Edward Chervenak of Edgewater Research LLC and Dr. Tony Licciardi of My People Vote©. Dr. Chervenak is a 20-year veteran pollster. Dr. Licciardi is the developer of the My People Vote© campaign canvassing app.
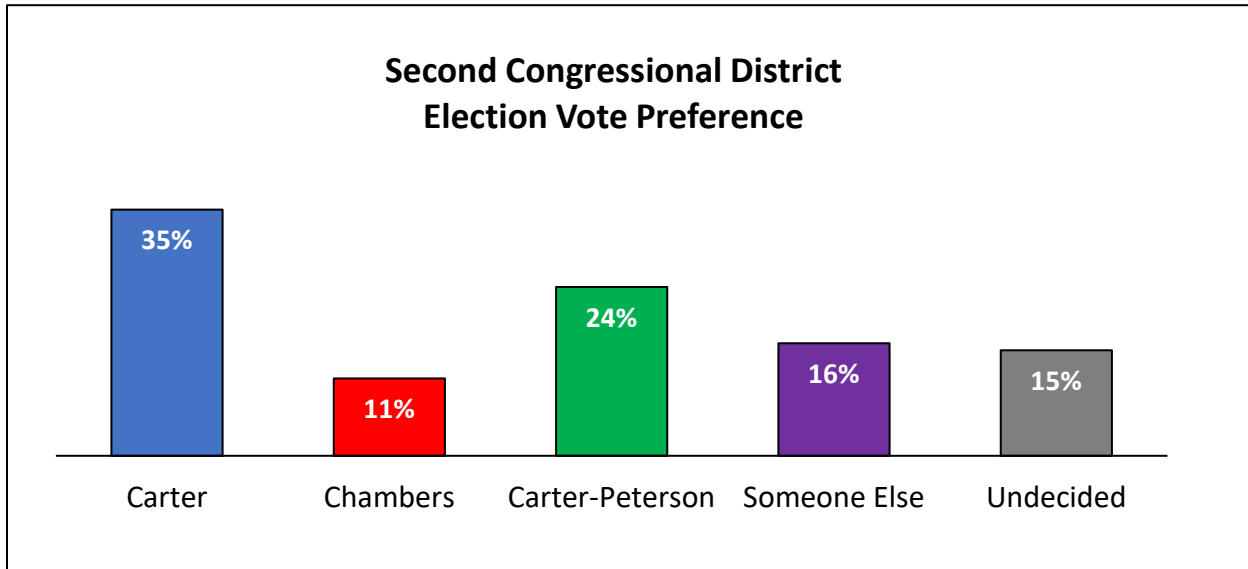
The poll gauged who likely voters preferred in the primary election for the open seat in the 2nd Congressional District. It also asked respondents to select what they thought was the most important problem in the state, their stance on easier access to voting, and how they rated K-12 education in Louisiana

Data for this survey was collected using two modes of contact. An interactive voice response (IVR) survey was used to reach respondents on landlines and live interviewers called cell phone numbers.
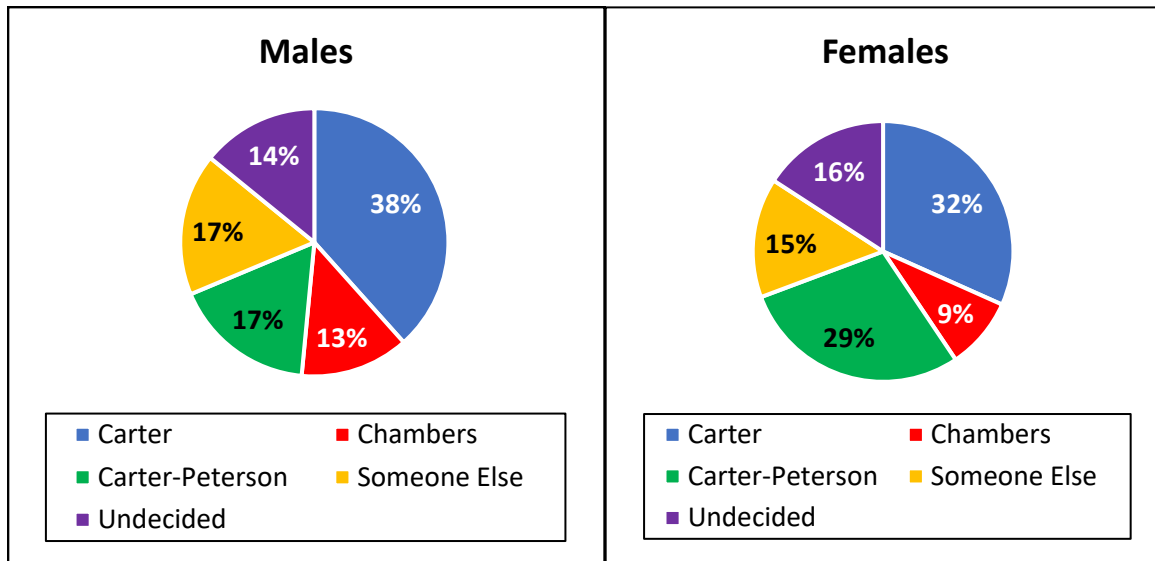
Likely voters were randomly selected from the Louisiana Secretary of State's voter file. A likely voter is defined in this survey as an individual who has voted seven or more times in the past ten statewide elections.

The sample of 651 respondents yields a margin of error of +/- 3.8% with 95% confidence. Readers should be cautious in making inferences about sub-categorical cross tabulations of survey results. While a sample size of 651 random respondents yields a +/- 3.8% margin of error, sub-categories of groups by race, age, sex, and partisanship are smaller than the total sample size, thus, leading to wider margins of error when they are reported in cross tabulations.
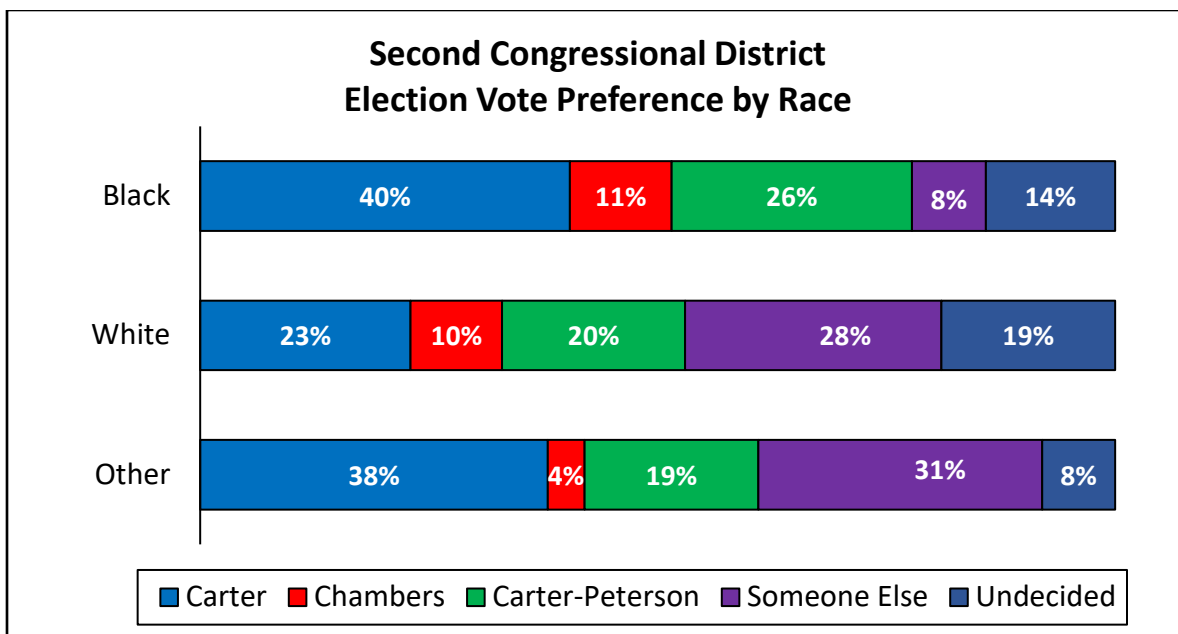
Likely Voter Preference in the 2nd Congressional District Primary Election

Second Congressional District Election Vote Preference

Carter	35%
Chambers	11%
Carter-Peterson	24%
Someone Else	16%
Undecided	15%

Respondents were asked which candidate they preferred in the upcoming March primary for the open seat in the 2nd Congressional District. Troy Carter leads the field with 35% of respondents supporting his candidacy. Karen Carter Peterson is next garnering 24% support, while Garry Chambers trails behind at 11%. Another 16% of respondents say they are going to vote for someone else. Fifteen percent report they are still undecided.

Males

Carter	38%
Chambers	13%
Carter-Peterson	17%
Someone Else	17%
Undecided	14%

Females

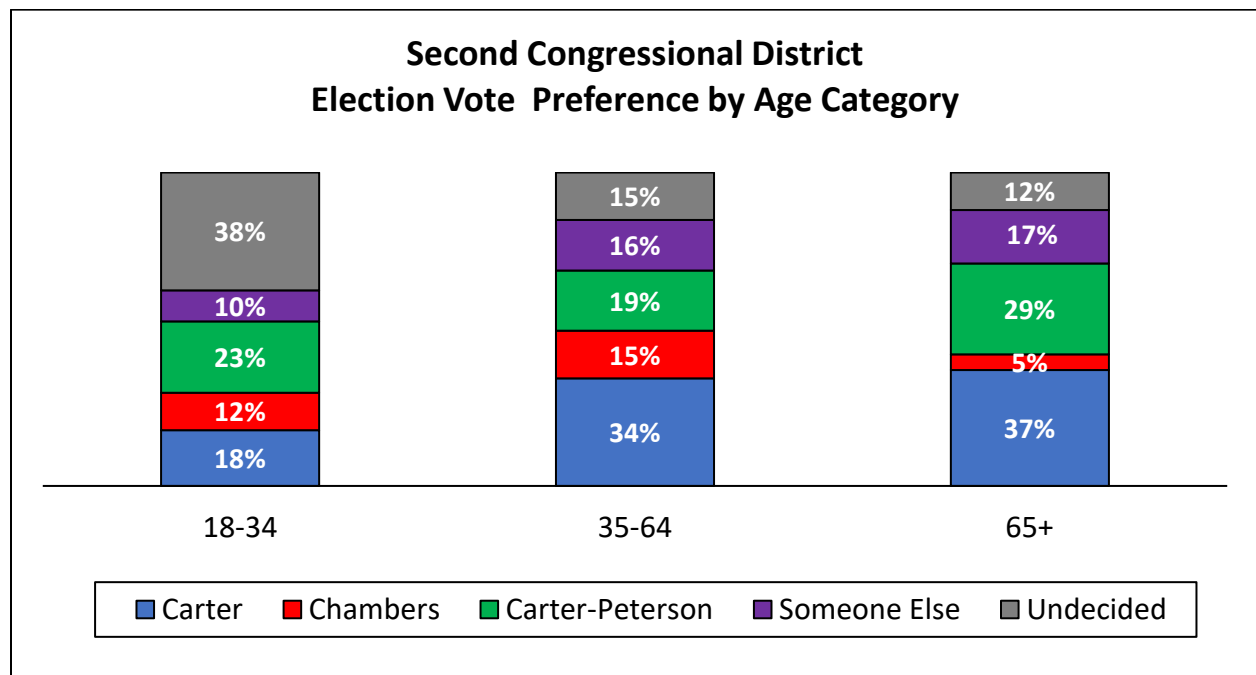|	
Carter	32%
Chambers	9%
Carter-Peterson	29%
Someone Else	15%
Undecided	16%

There is a gender gap when it comes to supporting Karen Carter Peterson, with women more likely than men to back her candidacy by 12 percentage points. A gender gap half that size was found for Troy Carter, this time with men more likely than women to report they are going to vote for him. The results also indicate that men are slightly more in favor of Gary Chambers than are females.

**Second Congressional District
Election Vote Preference by Race**

Race	Carter	Chambers	Carter-Peterson	Someone Else	Undecided
Black	40%	11%	26%	8%	14%
White	23%	10%	20%	28%	19%
Other	38%	4%	19%	31%	8%

When the results are broken down by the race of the respondent, Troy Carter leads Karen Carter Peterson among black likely voters, who make up the solid majority of voters in the 2nd Congressional district. Forty percent of black likely voters reply they like Carter in the election, compared to one-quarter who back Carter Peterson. A relatively equal percentage of non-black minorities and blacks say they are going to vote for Carter. However, non-black minorities are also the group most likely to say they want someone else to win the open seat. They are also the least likely to support Garry Chambers' campaign.
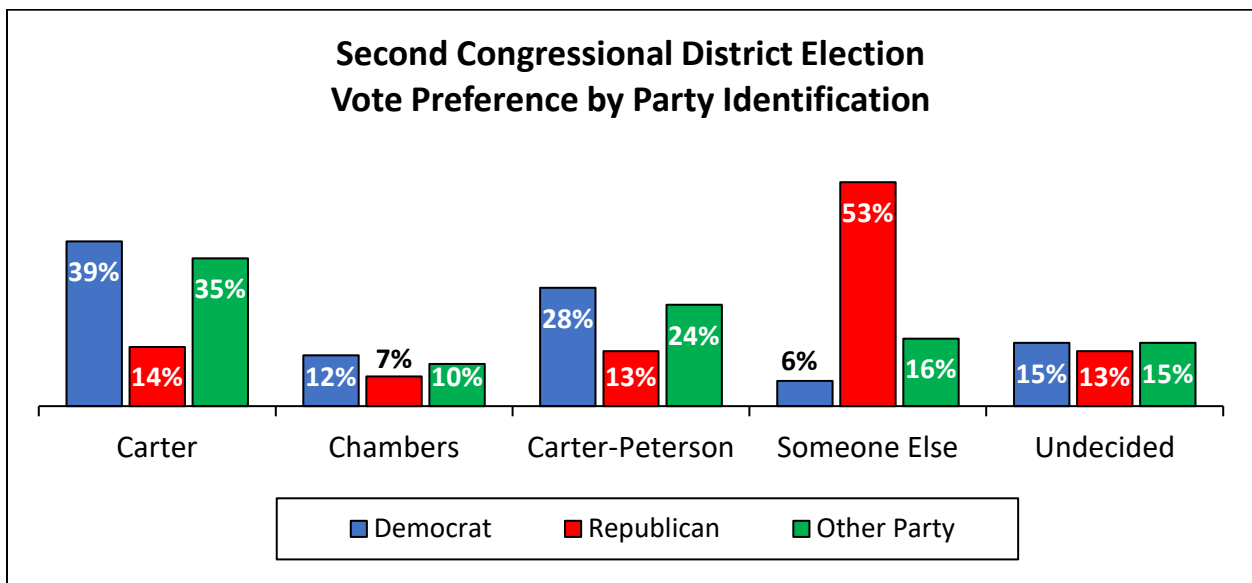
There is a measure of racial disparity in Troy Carter's support. While he secured 4-in 10 black respondents, less than one-quarter of white respondents express support for him. In fact, a plurality of whites, 28%, say they are going to vote for someone else in the election. One in five whites are undecided on who they want to vote for. An equal percentage of blacks and whites say they are going to vote for Chambers.

Second Congressional District
Election Vote Preference by Age Category

Category	18-34	35-64	65+
Undecided	38%	15%	12%
Someone Else	10%	16%	17%
Carter-Peterson	23%	19%	29%
Chambers	12%	15%	5%
Carter	18%	34%	37%

■ Carter ■ Chambers ■ Carter-Peterson ■ Someone Else ■ Undecided

Age appears to have some influence on vote preference. Over one-third of the two older age cohorts voiced their support for Troy Carter. The youngest age cohort was one-half as likely to say they back his campaign. In fact, the youngest

respondents were slightly more in favor of Karen Carter Peterson. However, nearly 40% still did not know who they would vote for in the primary election.

Karen Carter Peterson also did relatively well with the oldest voters, although she still trails Troy Carter with this group of voters. The oldest voters were the least supportive of Gary Chambers' candidacy. Only 5% back him for the open seat, while he earned low double-digit support from the other two age groups.

Second Congressional District Election
Vote Preference by Party Identification

	Carter	Chambers	Carter-Peterson	Someone Else	Undecided
Democrat	39%	12%	28%	6%	15%
Republican	14%	7%	13%	53%	13%
Other Party	35%	10%	24%	16%	15%

There is a difference in opinion based on partisanship on who to vote for in the upcoming election. Democrats are in the Troy Carter and Karen Carter Peterson camps. Republicans, however, are not. A majority of them want to see someone else win the open seat election.
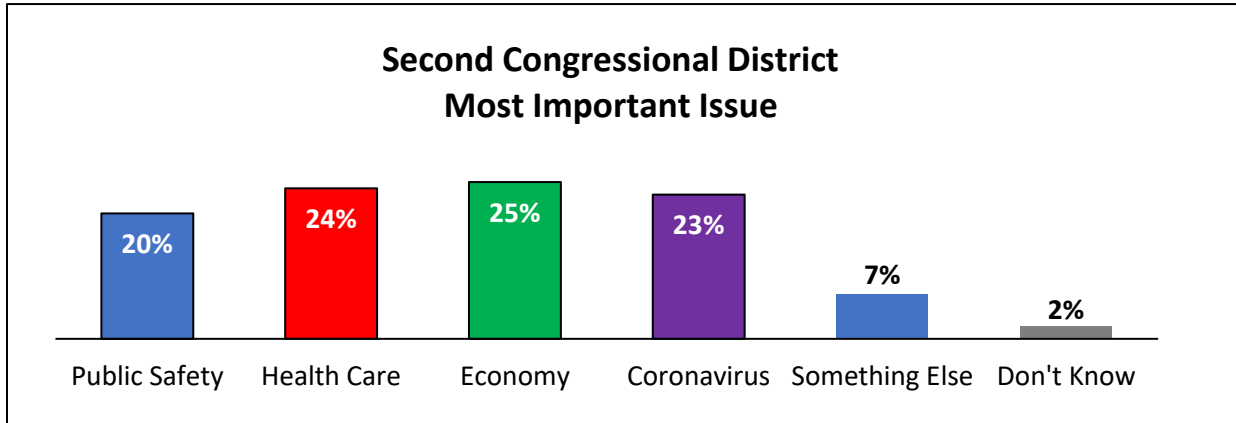
Voter Preference by Parish

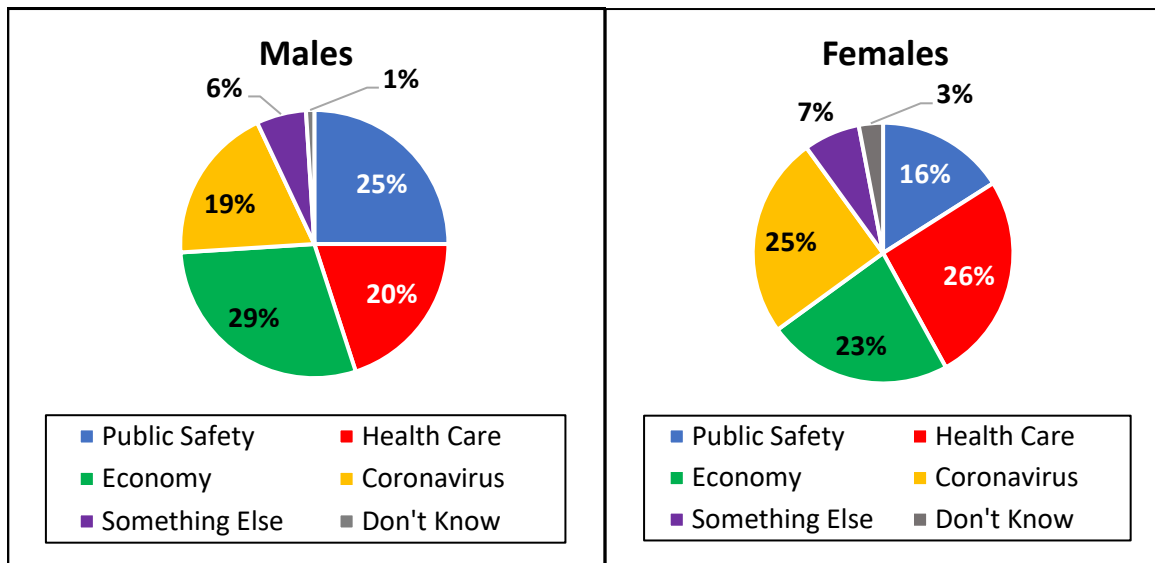|	Carter	Chambers	Carter Peterson	Someone Else	Undecided	(N)
Ascension	33%	7%	40%	13%	7%	15
Assumption	40%	0%	0%	20%	40%	5
East Baton Rouge	36%	8%	36%	8%	12%	66
Iberville	30%	10%	30%	30%	0%	19
Jefferson	36%	5%	17%	25%	18%	107
Orleans	32%	14%	24%	11%	19%	359
St. Charles	42%	10%	26%	16%	5%	18
St. James	47%	0%	10%	40%	3%	30
St. John	45%	5%	27%	23%	0%	22
West Baton Rouge	20%	10%	20%	40%	10%	9

The table presents the vote breakdown for the candidates across the 10 parishes in the 2nd congressional district. We have to be careful about reading too much into the proportions because some of the raw numbers for the parishes are small, even in the single digits. We can interpret some of the results in the larger parishes like Orleans and Jefferson, but as was mentioned in the introduction, the margin of error is much larger because the raw numbers are much smaller.

Troy Carter receives slightly more support in Jefferson than he does in Orleans. However, he garners more backing in Orleans than does Karen Carter Peterson. As for Gary Chambers, he collected 14% in Orleans, but only 5% in Jefferson.
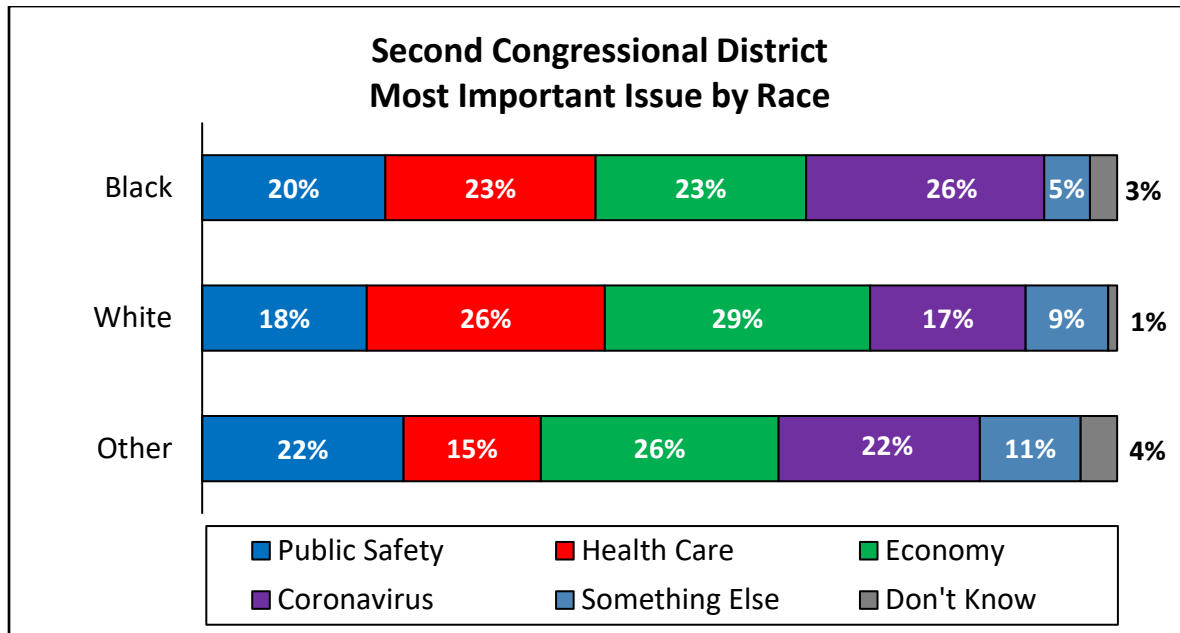
Most Important Issue

**Second Congressional District
Most Important Issue**

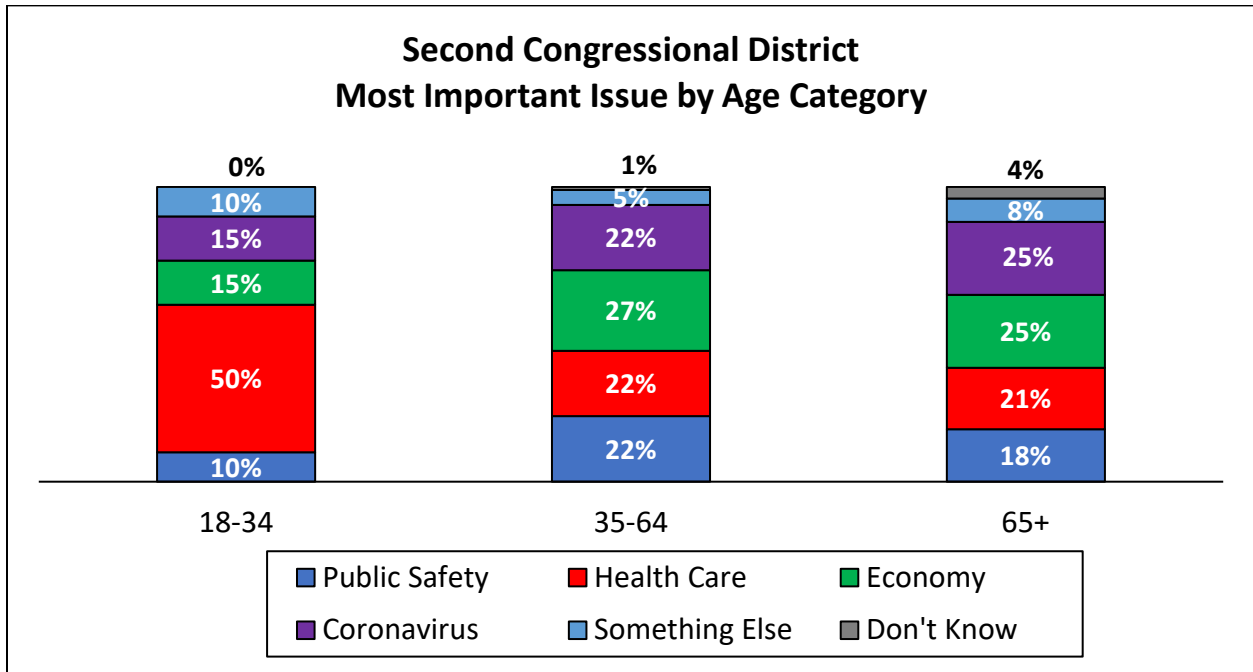| Public Safety	Health Care	Economy	Coronavirus	Something Else	Don't Know
20%	24%	25%	23%	7%	2%

We asked respondents what the most important issue was to them. As the bar chart above indicates, likely voters in the survey were relatively split in deciding what were the top issues.

Males

- Public Safety: 25%
- Health Care: 20%
- Economy: 29%
- Coronavirus: 19%
- Something Else: 6%
- Don't Know: 1%

Females

- Public Safety: 16%
- Health Care: 26%
- Economy: 23%
- Coronavirus: 25%
- Something Else: 7%
- Don't Know: 3%

Legend: Public Safety, Health Care, Economy, Coronavirus, Something Else, Don't Know
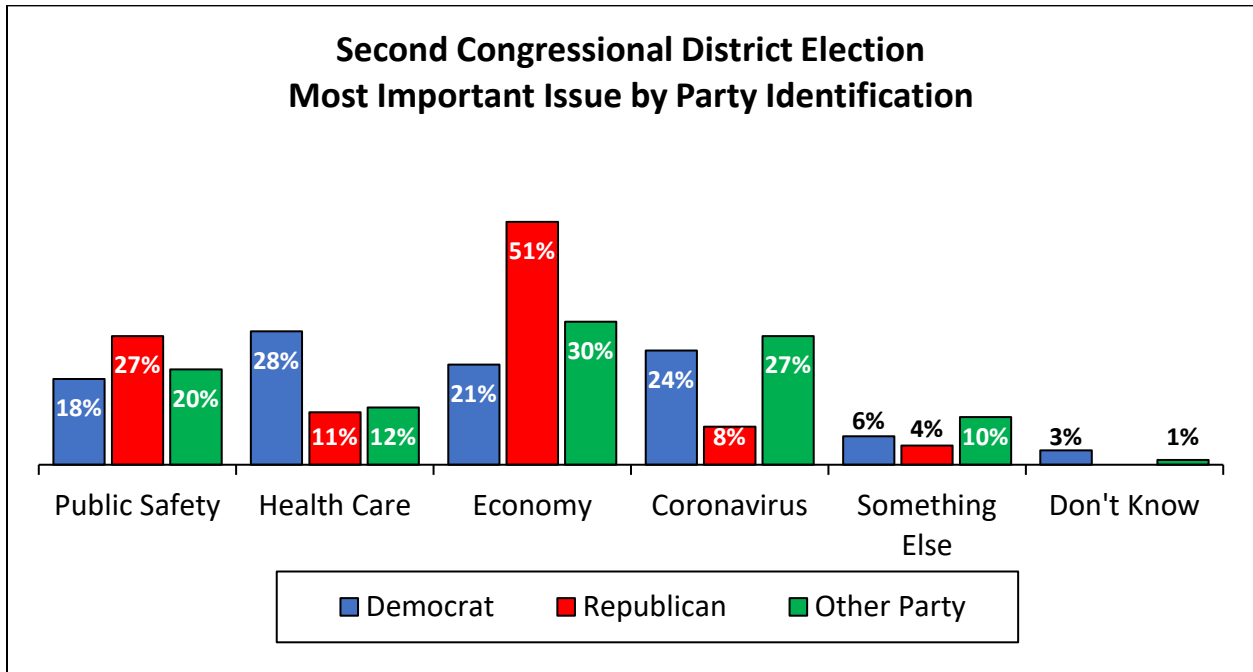
Men were more likely than women to mention public safety and the economy as the top issues. Conversely, women were more likely than men to say health care and coronavirus were the most important issues.

**Second Congressional District
Most Important Issue by Race**

Race	Public Safety	Health Care	Economy	Coronavirus	Something Else	Don't Know
Black	20%	23%	23%	26%	5%	3%
White	18%	26%	29%	17%	9%	1%
Other	22%	15%	26%	22%	11%	4%

Legend: ■ Public Safety ■ Health Care ■ Economy ■ Coronavirus ■ Something Else ■ Don't Know

Blacks were relatively evenly split in naming their most important issue. Coronavirus was the top issue by a small margin. For white respondents, the economy edged out health care as the top issue. They were also the least concerned about the coronavirus as an important issue. Non-black minorities were also slightly more likely to report that the economy was the top issue for them.

Second Congressional District
Most Important Issue by Age Category

	18-34	35-64	65+
	0%	1%	4%
Something Else	10%	5%	8%
Coronavirus	15%	22%	25%
Economy	15%	27%	25%
Health Care	50%	22%	21%
Public Safety	10%	22%	18%

Legend: Public Safety, Health Care, Economy, Coronavirus, Something Else, Don't Know

Age had some effect on naming the top issue. The two older age cohorts were twice more likely than the youngest cohort to say public safety was a priority issue. They were also more likely than younger likely voters to mention the economy and coronavirus as the number one issue. Surprisingly, the youngest age group was twice more likely than the two other age categories to report that health care was their top issue.
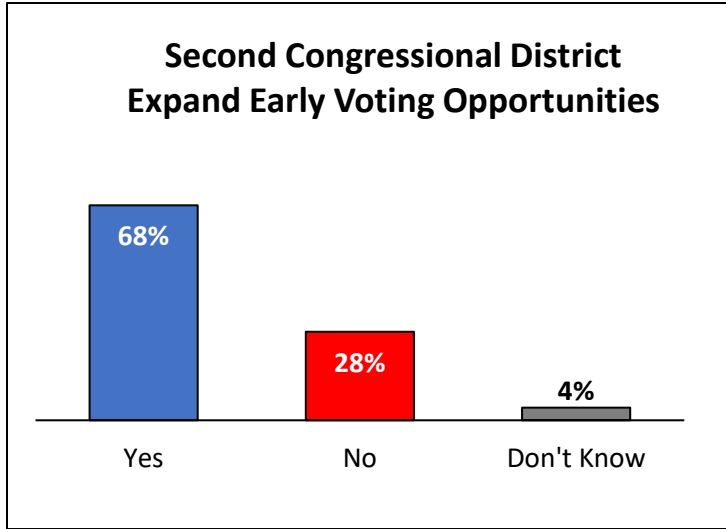
Second Congressional District Election
Most Important Issue by Party Identification

	Public Safety	Health Care	Economy	Coronavirus	Something Else	Don't Know
Democrat	18%	28%	21%	24%	6%	3%
Republican	27%	11%	51%	8%	4%	
Other Party	20%	12%	30%	27%	10%	1%

Democrats and Republicans were of different minds on deciding what was the most important issue. Democrats were far more likely than Republicans to answer that health care and the coronavirus were the principal issues. Republicans, on the other hand, saw the economy and public safety as their main concerns. Other Party respondents were split between the economy and coronavirus as their primary issue.
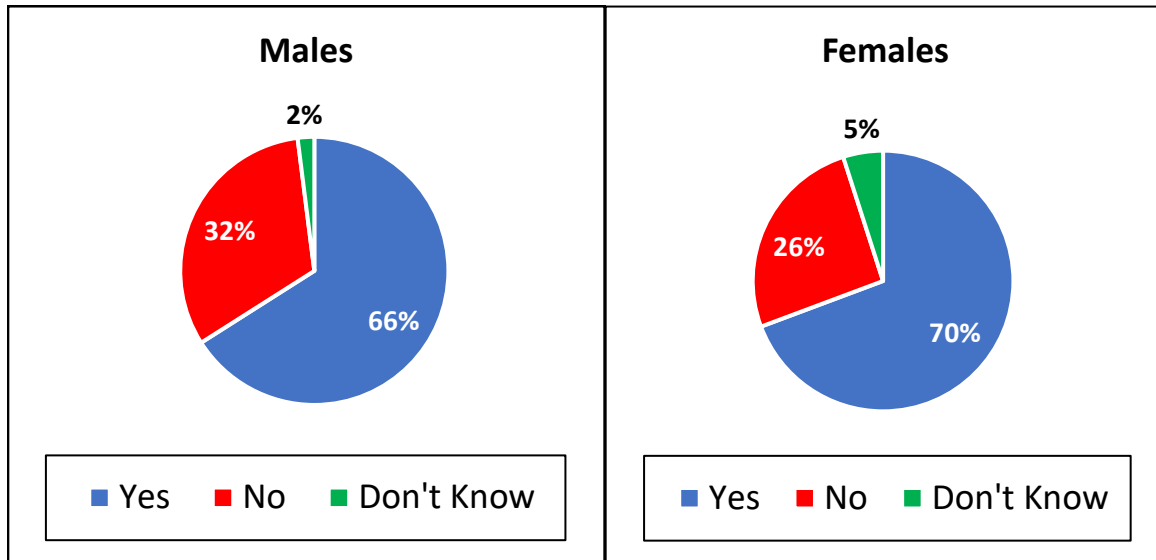
Most Important Problem by Parish

	Public Safety	Health Care	Economy	Coronavirus	Something Else	Don't Know	(N)
Ascension	25%	25%	38%	12%	0%	0%	*15*
Assumption	80%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	*5*
East Baton Rouge	18%	40%	18%	21%	2%	1%	*66*
Iberville	5%	5%	47%	32%	2%	0%	*19*
Jefferson	13%	18%	30%	31%	8%	1%	*107*
Orleans	24%	24%	21%	20%	26%	13%	*359*
St. Charles	10%	16%	47%	16%	2%	0%	*18*
St. James	10%	33%	33%	23%	0%	0%	*30*
St. John	8%	17%	29%	33%	2%	1%	*22*
West Baton Rouge	0%	0%	44%	44%	1%	0%	*9*

One quarter of likely voters in Orleans viewed public safety and health care as the top issues. Another 26% said something else was the main issue. Respondents in Jefferson Parish were most likely to report that the economy and coronavirus were the chief issues.
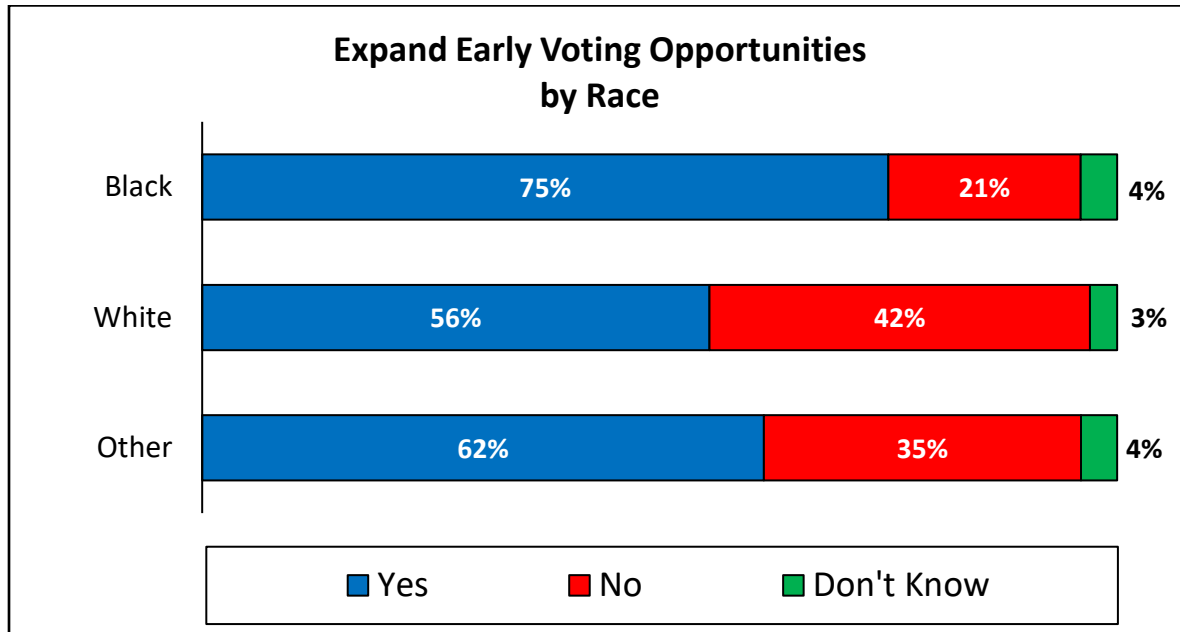
Making Voting Easier

Second Congressional District
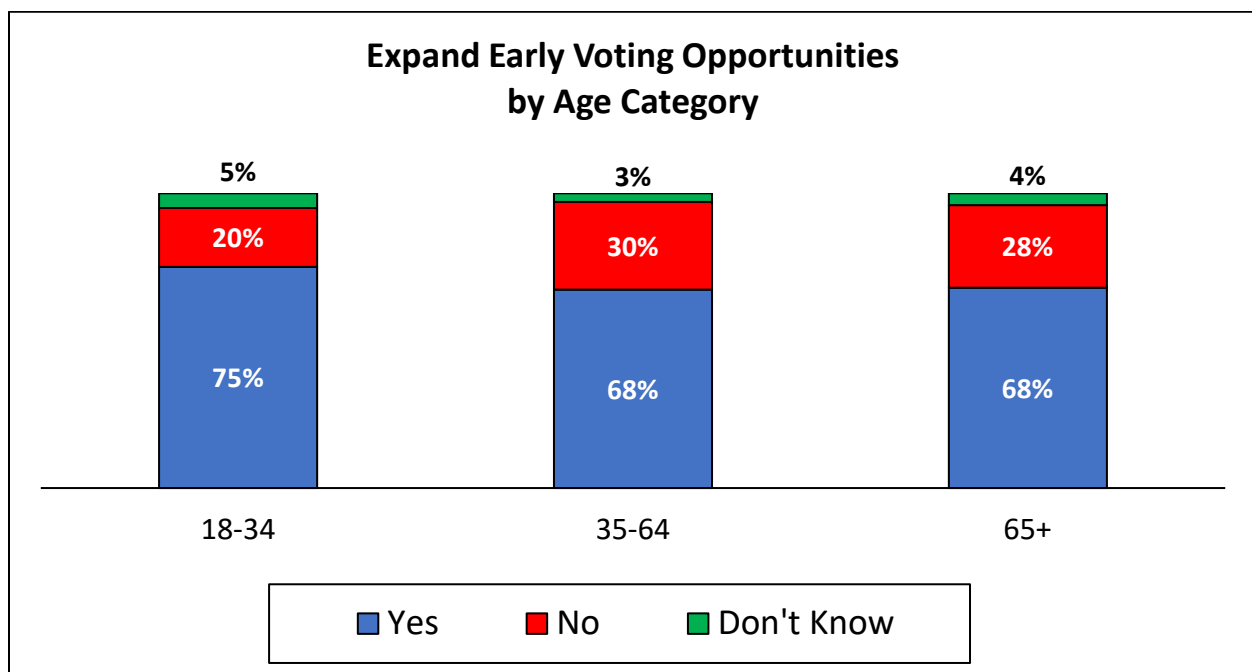**Expand Early Voting Opportunities**

Recently, there have been efforts by several states to scale back early voting. Given that current situation, we asked the respondents in this survey whether they thought government should make voting easier by expanding mail-in and early voting opportunities. By an overwhelming margin, they think government should make voting easier.
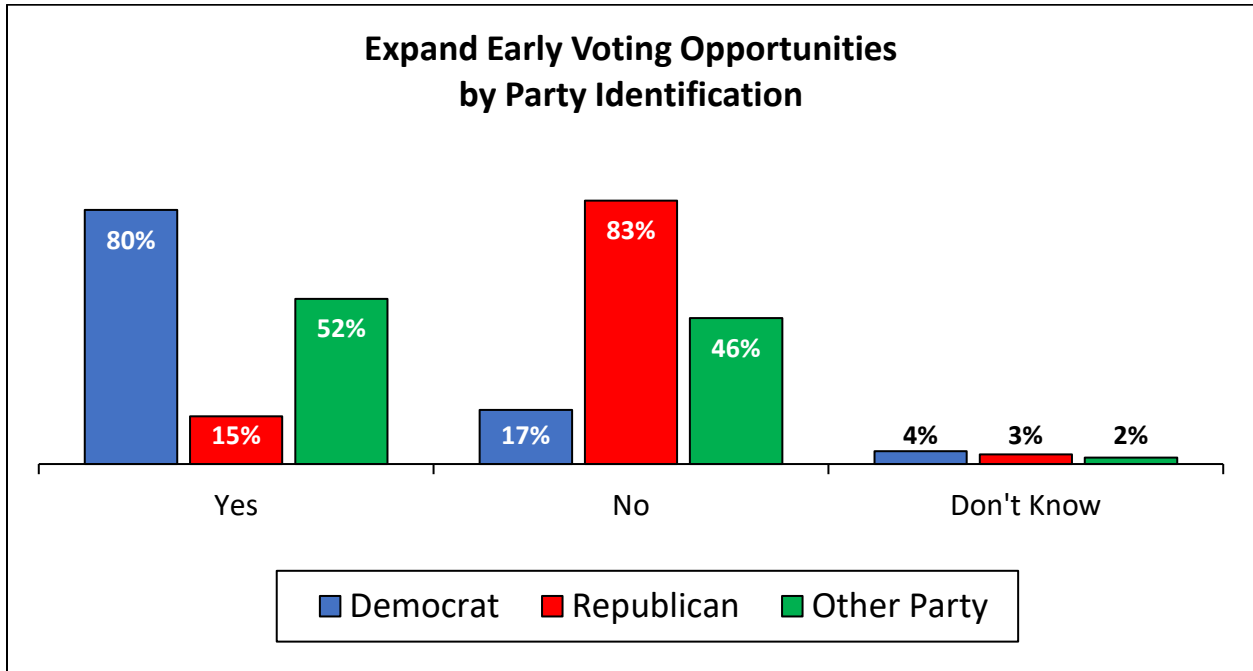

Men and women are in general agreement about government making voting easier.

**Expand Early Voting Opportunities
by Race**

Black	Yes 75%	No 21%	Don't Know 4%
White	Yes 56%	No 42%	Don't Know 3%
Other	Yes 62%	No 35%	Don't Know 4%

Legend: ■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

There is some measure of difference across the racial categories. Three-fourths of black likely voters would like to see more opportunities for voting. While a solid majority of whites think voting should be made easier, they are twice more likely than blacks to oppose such efforts. Non-black minority opinion is more in line with whites than it is with blacks.

**Expand Early Voting Opportunities
by Age Category**

Age	Yes	No	Don't Know
18-34	75%	20%	5%
35-64	68%	30%	3%
65+	68%	28%	4%

Legend: ■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

The youngest age group is the most supportive for expanding opportunities to vote. Three-quarter of the youngest likely voters, compared to two-thirds of middle age and older voters think government should expand mail-in and early voting opportunities.
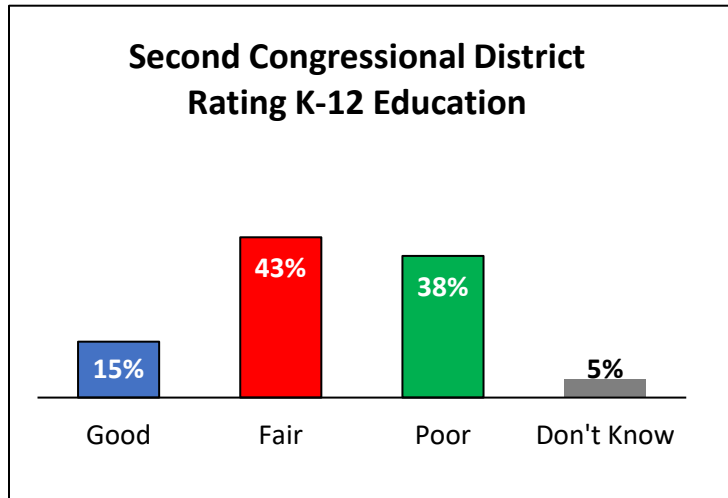

Distinctive opinions on the question of expanding voting opportunities are strongly shaped by partisanship. In fact, the bar chart shows how Democrats and Republicans are diametrically opposed on this issue. Eighty percent of Democrats are in favor of expanding voting while 83% of Republicans are opposed to this idea. Other Party respondents are basically split in their opinion.
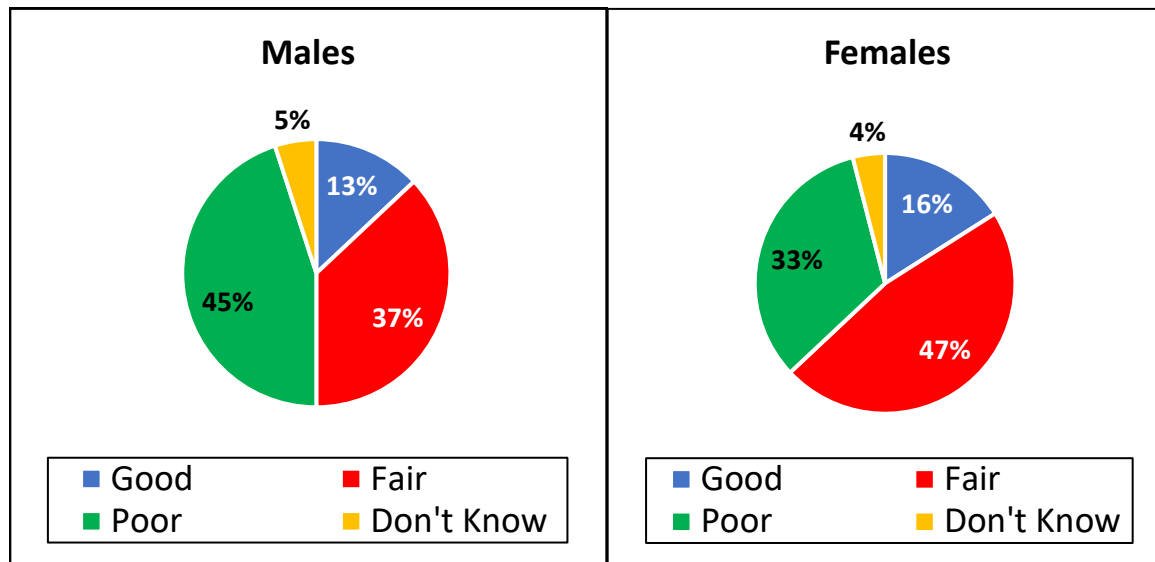
Expand Early Vote Opportunities by Parish

	Yes	No	Don't Know	(N)
Ascension	53%	47%	0%	15
Assumption	80%	20%	0%	5
East Baton Rouge	82%	15%	3%	66
Iberville	42%	58%	0%	19
Jefferson	54%	43%	3%	107
Orleans	76%	19%	5%	359
St. Charles	47%	52%	0%	18
St. James	43%	57%	0%	30
St. John	50%	50%	0%	22
West Baton Rouge	50%	50%	0%	9

Likely voters in Orleans are overwhelmingly in favor of expanding voting opportunities, while a majority of Jefferson respondents feel the same way.
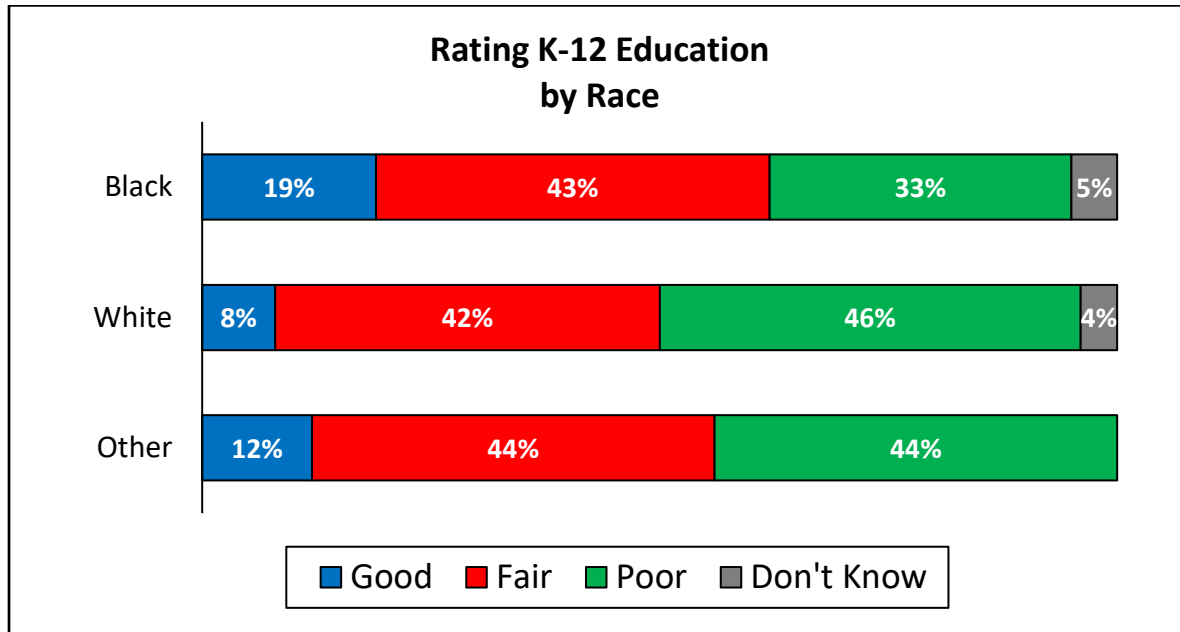
Rating K-12 Education

Second Congressional District Rating K-12 Education

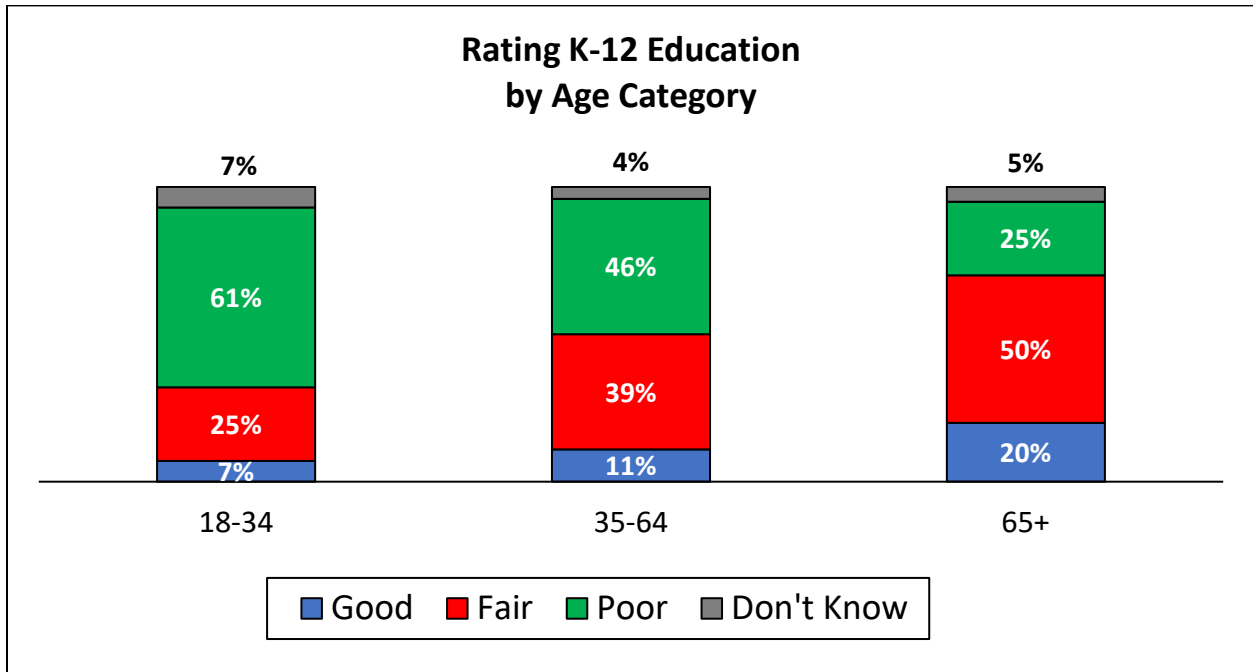|			
Good 15%	Fair 43%	Poor 38%	Don't Know 5%

We asked the Second Congressional district respondents to rate the quality of K-12 public schools in Louisiana. Unfortunately, they did not rate them very positively. Only 15% responded that the public schools are good. A plurality, 43% rated them as fair and another 38% graded them as poor.

Males

5%
13%
45%
37%

Good   Fair
Poor   Don't Know

Females

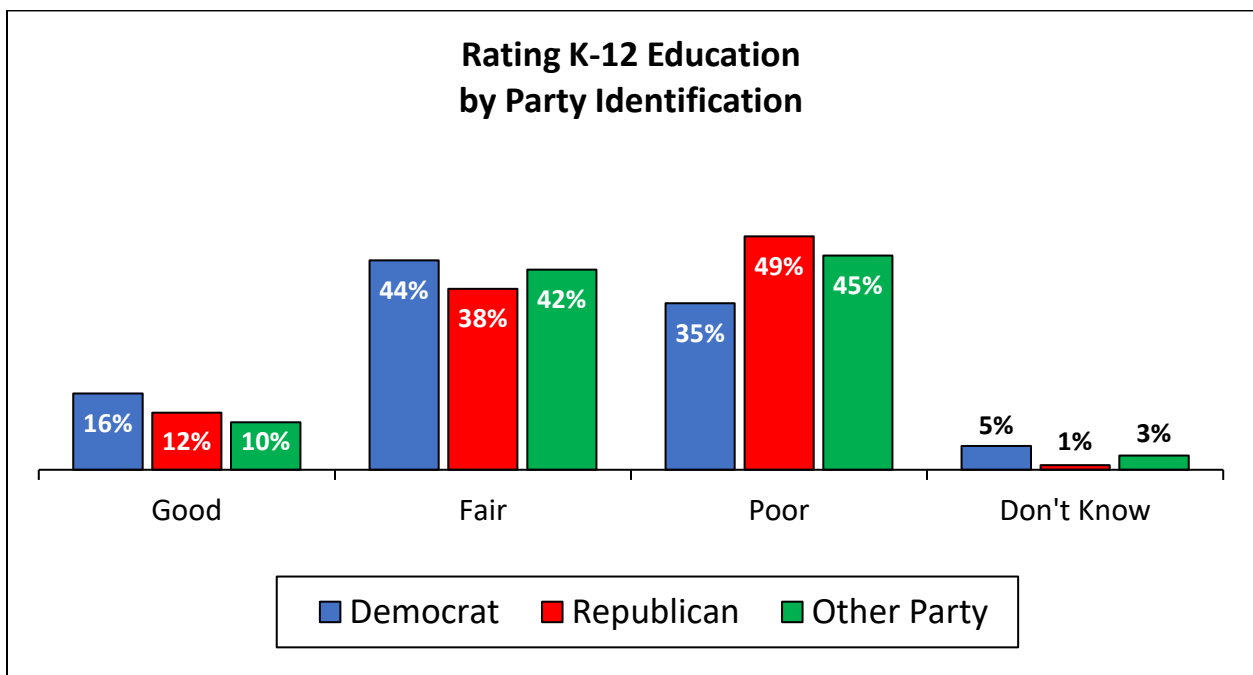

4%
16%
33%
47%

Good   Fair
Poor   Don't Know

Men and women are of different opinions when it comes to rating K-12 education in the state. They have a relatively similar attitude in rating the schools as good, but differences appear in rating the schools as poor. Men are more pessimistic in their rating of public schools than are women.

Rating K-12 Education by Race

Race	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Black	19%	43%	33%	5%
White	8%	42%	46%	4%
Other	12%	44%	44%	

Blacks are relatively the most positive in their rating of K-12 education in the state. They are twice more likely than whites to rate the education system as good. They are also more likely than non-black minorities to give the school system positive marks. Nonetheless, blacks are also nearly twice more likely to rate the schools as poor as to rate them as good. Whites are nearly six times more likely to rate schools as poor as to rate them as good.

Rating K-12 Education by Age Category

Age shapes attitudes in evaluating the public school system. The youngest respondents are the most negative in their opinion about public education while the oldest age cohort is the most positive. Likely voters age 35 to 64 find themselves in the middle.

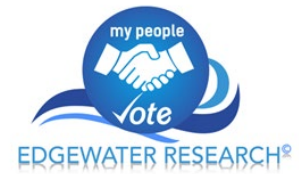**Rating K-12 Education by Party Identification**

We don't find significantly large differences among Democrats, Republicans, and Other Party adherents when it comes to rating the public education system as good. Democrats were slightly more likely to rate the school system as good compared to the other party identifiers. There was, however, a double digit divide between Republicans and Democrats when rating public education as poor. Other Party identifiers were almost as likely as Republicans to rate the schools poorly.

Rate K-12 Education by Parish

	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	(N)
Ascension	19%	44%	31%	6%	15
Assumption	20%	60%	20%	0%	5
East Baton Rouge	24%	48%	25%	3%	66
Iberville	26%	37%	37%	0%	19
Jefferson	18%	35%	41%	6%	107
Orleans	11%	44%	40%	5%	359
St. Charles	21%	42%	26%	10%	18
St. James	13%	50%	37%	0%	30
St. John	9%	30%	52%	9%	22
West Baton Rouge	22%	44%	33%	0%	9

Likely voters in Jefferson Parish were more upbeat on the K-12 public school system then were respondents from Orleans Parish. Orleans was more likely to rate the system as fair and an equal percentage of respondents from both parishes gave a negative rating to the public school system.

Vote Preference by Issues
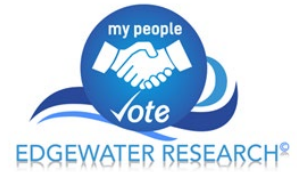
Vote Preference * Important Issue

	Public safety	Healthcare	Economy	Coronavirus	Something else	Don't Know	Total
Troy Carter	38.3%	31.6%	33.9%	39.5%	26.2%	18.8%	34.6%
Gary Chambers	10.9%	14.5%	8.5%	6.8%	19.0%	6.3%	10.6%
Karen Carter Peterson	18.0%	23.7%	27.3%	32.7%	4.8%	6.3%	23.8%
Someone Else	16.4%	5.9%	24.8%	12.2%	26.2%	18.8%	15.8%
Undecided	16.4%	24.3%	5.5%	8.8%	23.8%	50.0%	15.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- A range of respondents, from 32% to 39% who rate public safety, healthcare, the economy, and coronavirus as the top issue say they back Troy Carter in the primary election.

Vote Preference * Early Voting

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Troy Carter	40.5%	21.5%	20.8%	34.4%
Gary Chambers	11.0%	10.8%		10.6%
Karen Carter Peterson	26.6%	18.3%	16.7%	23.9%
Someone Else	5.9%	40.3%	12.5%	15.9%
Undecided	16.0%	9.1%	50.0%	15.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Forty percent of respondents who support expanding voting opportunities back Troy Carter while 40% of those who oppose that idea say they will vote for someone else.

Vote Preference * Education System Rating

	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Total
Troy Carter	34.0%	33.6%	36.0%	32.3%	34.5%
Gary Chambers	8.2%	7.2%	15.0%	12.9%	10.6%
Karen Carter Peterson	26.8%	30.7%	17.0%	9.7%	23.9%
Someone Else	20.6%	13.4%	17.8%	6.5%	15.8%
Undecided	10.3%	15.2%	14.2%	38.7%	15.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

- Evaluation of the school system doesn't appear to affect Troy Carter's standing. Regardless of how respondents evaluate the public school system, support for Carter does not vary.

IVR surveys, also known as "robo-polls" employ an automated, recorded voice to call respondents who are asked to answer questions by punching telephone keys. Advantages of IVR surveys include their low cost, the almost immediate collection of data, and the simple and convenient processing of data. They also reduce interviewer bias to zero by eliminating the live human interviewer. Every survey respondent hears the same question read the same way. When conducting IVR surveys, pollsters must not rely on all details of a call list. They cannot assume that the details of the person in the file will match the individual who picks up the call. Demographic categories of race, age, gender, and political party identification must be self-reported by the respondent to ensure a valid and accurate analysis. Ideally, the sample of respondents should reflect the population of interest. Unfortunately, this is usually not the case. One of the problems with telephone surveys is non-response since some people may screen their calls or hang-up when called. This may cause some groups to be over- or under-represented.

Because IVR surveying is prohibited by FCC rules from calling cell phone numbers, only VOIP and home phone numbers can be called. Residents who are cell phone only who would be eligible to participate are excluded from IVR polls. The growing trend of minority and younger households without land lines can result in a coverage error. As a result, we employed live interviewers to contact cell phone numbers to better capture that population.

Finally, no reliable conclusions can be drawn from the observed survey data unless the sample has been post-weighted to correct for the lack of representativeness. It is imperative that survey analysts accurately post weight the cases to reflect the demographics of the population of interest. In this instance this sample was post-weighted to reflect gender, age, race, and parish parameters of the population of likely voters in Louisiana.

Robocall Script:

This is a confidential survey of voters:

Q1 – Who will you vote for in the US Congressional election, Troy Carter, Gary Chambers, Karen Carter Peterson, or someone else? Press 1 for Troy Carter. Press 2 for Gary Chambers. Press 3 for Karen Carter Peterson. Press 4 for someone else. (1.5 sec pause) If you don't know press 5.

Q2 – What issue is most important to you: public safety, healthcare, the economy, coronavirus, or something else? Press 1 for public safety. Press 2 for healthcare. Press 3 for the economy. Press 4 for coronavirus. Press 5 for something else. (1.5 sec pause) If you don't know, press 6.

Q3 – Please tell me, do you think government should make voting easier by expanding mail-in and early-voting opportunities? Press 1 for yes. Press 2 for no. (1.5 sec pause) If you don't know, press 3.

Q4 – How would you rate the quality of K through 12 schools in Louisiana? Good, fair, or poor? Press 1 for good, Press 2 for fair. Press 3 for poor. (1.5 sec pause) If you don't know, press 4.

Q5 – If you are male, press 1., if you are female, press 2.

Q6 – If you are younger than 35, press 1, if you 35 to 64 years old, press 2, if you are older than 64, press 3.

Q7 – If you are black, press 1, if you are white, press 2, if you are something else, press 3.

Q8 – If you think of yourself as a Democrat press 1, a Republican press 2, something else press 3.

Thank you for taking the survey."

Live Interviewer Script

Q1 – "Hi, this is_____. May I speak to _____ I'm calling with a short 4 question confidential university survey of voters. Who will you vote for in the US congressional election: Troy Carter, Gary Chambers, Karen Carter-Peterson, or someone else?"

Q2 – "Of the following issues, which one is most important to you: Public safety, healthcare, the economy, coronavirus, or something else?"

Q3 – "Do you think that the government should expand mail-in and early voting opportunities? Yes or no?"

Q4 – "This is the last question. How would you rate the quality of K through 12 education in Louisiana: Good, Fair, or Poor?"

"Thank you for your time."

Sample Demographics

Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	262	40.3	40.3	40.3
	Female	389	59.7	59.7	100.0
	Total	651	100.0	100.0	

Age Category

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 to 34	40	6.2	6.2	6.2
	35 to 64	320	49.1	49.1	55.3
	65+	291	44.7	44.7	100.0
	Total	651	100.0	100.0	

Race

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Black	410	63.0	63.0	63.0
	White	216	33.2	33.2	96.1
	Other	25	3.9	3.9	100.0
	Total	651	100.0	100.0	

Political Party

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democrat	486	74.6	74.6	74.6
	Republican	75	11.6	11.6	86.2
	Other	90	13.8	13.8	100.0
	Total	651	100.0	100.0	

Parish

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Ascension	15	2.3	2.3	2.3
	Assumption	5	.8	.8	3.1
	East Baton Rouge	66	10.1	10.1	13.2
	Iberville	19	2.9	2.9	16.1
	Jefferson	107	16.4	16.4	32.5
	Orleans	359	55.2	55.2	87.7
	St. Charles	18	2.8	2.8	90.5
	St. James	30	4.7	4.7	95.1
	St. John	22	3.4	3.4	98.6
	West Baton Rouge	9	1.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	651	100.0	100.0	