

**BELDEN RUSSONELLO & STEWART**

RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS

# **Unequal Justice in Louisiana: Louisiana Voters Consider Their Public Defender System**

## **Analysis of a statewide survey**

**Conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart  
for the Louisiana Justice Coalition**

**September 2006**

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## Overview

Louisiana voters believe competent legal representation is a fundamental right in the U.S. and is necessary to prevent innocent people from going to jail. Seven in ten (71%) voters strongly agree that “providing competent legal representation is one of our most fundamental rights in the U.S.” and another eight in ten (80%) feel strongly that competent legal representation is “necessary to prevent the innocent from going to jail.”

However, a large majority of Louisiana voters believes their state falls short of these ideals and suffers from an unequal justice system. To revamp the state’s system of indigent defense, large majorities support a number of reforms from statewide standards on minimum levels of resources for public defenders, limits on the number of cases public defenders can undertake at one time, and a statewide oversight board.

The 2006 survey of Louisiana voters assesses voters’ awareness of and opinions on the current state of indigent defense in Louisiana, as well as gauges reaction to proposed changes to the system. The Louisiana Justice Coalition asked Belden Russonello & Stewart to conduct the statewide survey of 609 registered voters. The survey was conducted by telephone from July 17 to July 28, 2006 and used a sample drawn from registered voter lists updated in May 2006. The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points.

The research reveals four main points on Louisiana voters’ attitudes toward indigent defense:

1. Louisiana voters express a strong belief in the value of fairness and high levels of concern that disparities in the system may cause innocent individuals to be wrongfully imprisoned.

2. Current flaws in the system, especially not having the resources to meet the needs of the justice system and lack of restrictions on the number of cases that can lead to impossibly high case loads are of high concern and considered in need of immediate attention. After hearing about these flaws, voters are more inclined to increase spending to fix the system.
3. Voters favor a range of reforms to the current system in Louisiana to ensure individuals accused of a crime receive competent representation, especially statewide standards and oversight.
4. The public believes the state government needs to guarantee resources to low-income people accused of a crime so they can obtain DNA testing and other laboratory services and to hire investigators. Large majorities also believe it is important to ensure lawyers have reasonable case loads and individuals have their cases go to trial within weeks of being arrested.

Louisiana voters believe the state's justice system currently favors the rich over the poor, and a large majority is deeply troubled by the inadequacies of the current indigent defense system in providing legal representation. Seven in ten voters (69%) say a rich person gets treated better than a poor person in the Louisiana justice system, and when told of a man in Calcasieu Parish in prison for a year and a half before seeing a lawyer, eight in ten voters (82%) say this is a serious problem that needs to be addressed immediately.

The survey shows Louisiana voters hold high ideals for their justice system. Nine in ten (88%) "strongly agree" that "the quality of justice a person receives should not be determined by how much money a person has." A system in line with these ideals would provide low-income individuals accused of a crime with the resources necessary to mount a defense, Louisiana voters believe. According to voters, defendants should have an attorney with adequate time to devote to their case, as well as resources, such as DNA testing and funding to hire investigators.

Large majorities support specific reforms to the system of indigent defense. Specifically, over eight in ten Louisiana voters support statewide standards on minimum levels of resources for public defenders (88%), a statewide oversight board (84%), and a limit on the number of cases a public defender can undertake at one time (82%). Voters also express strong support for using state funds for training of public defenders (63%) and establishing salary guidelines so public defenders and prosecutors receive about the same salaries (73%).

The most troubling aspects of the current system of public defense for Louisiana voters include the inability of the current system to meet the need. Eight in ten

voters in the state (82%) believe this is a serious problem that needs to be addressed immediately. Another seven in ten (71%) say that the overloading of cases resulting in situations where lawyers meet their clients in the courtroom for only a few minutes before trial is a serious problem that needs addressing. These examples of how the system currently functions in Louisiana violate voters' belief in the need for fairness in the judicial system.

Voters need information about the current indigent defense system. Voters' opinions change over the course of the survey, as voters hear details on the current state of the system and when resources are tied to specific reform efforts. After hearing information about the current system, voters are much more likely to favor increasing state funding than cutting. While at the outset of the survey, 51% of Louisiana voters oppose using tax dollars to provide lawyers to low-income people; by the end of the survey four in ten voters (41%) believe state funding for indigent defense should be increased and only one in ten (6%) supports cutting funding. Another four in ten (38%) want to keep spending at current levels.

Voters are also very likely to support specific examples of state spending on indigent defense. For example, six in ten (63%) favor using "state funds to provide formal training and professional development for public defenders." Another six in ten (60%) believe "resources to obtain DNA testing and other laboratory services" should be "guaranteed" a low-income person accused of a crime, and nearly half (46%) believe "resources to hire investigators to check on evidence and find witnesses" should be "guaranteed."

## Findings

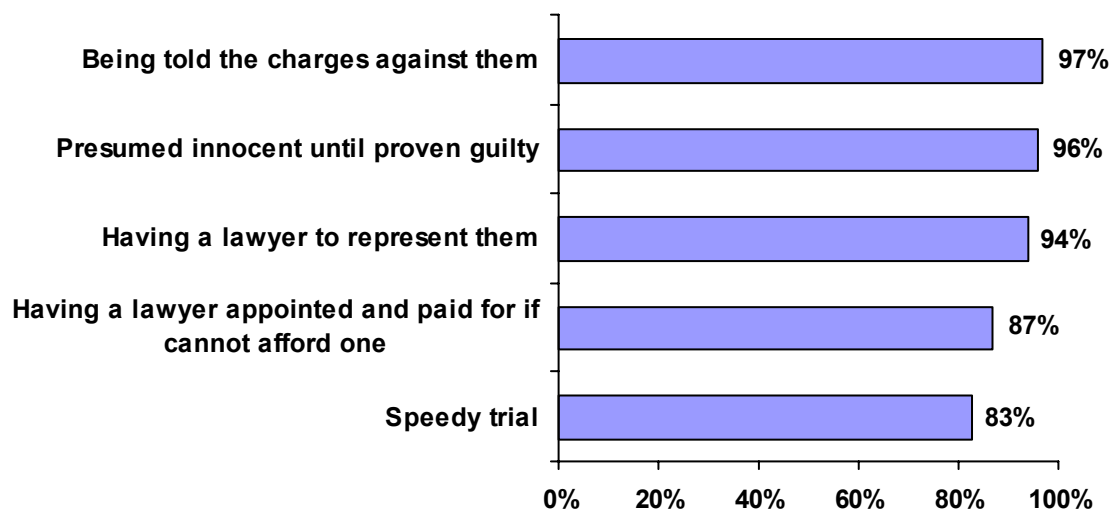
### A. Impressions of the Louisiana criminal justice system

#### 1. Rights of the accused

Voters in Louisiana are fairly knowledgeable about the rights of those arrested for crimes in the U.S. More than nine in ten voters are aware that arrested individuals have a right to be told the charges against them (97%), to be presumed innocent until proven guilty (96%) and to have a lawyer represent them (94%). More than eight in ten are aware of the right to have a lawyer appointed and paid for by the court if they cannot afford one (87%) and of the right to a speedy trial (83%).

#### Rights of the Accused

% saying "Yes, is a right"



Please tell me if you think each of the following is a right for individuals arrested for a crime in the U.S. [RANDOMIZE]

Q14. Being told what the charges against them are

Q15. To be presumed innocent until proven guilty

Q11. Having a lawyer to represent them

Q12. Having a lawyer appointed and paid for by the court if they cannot afford one

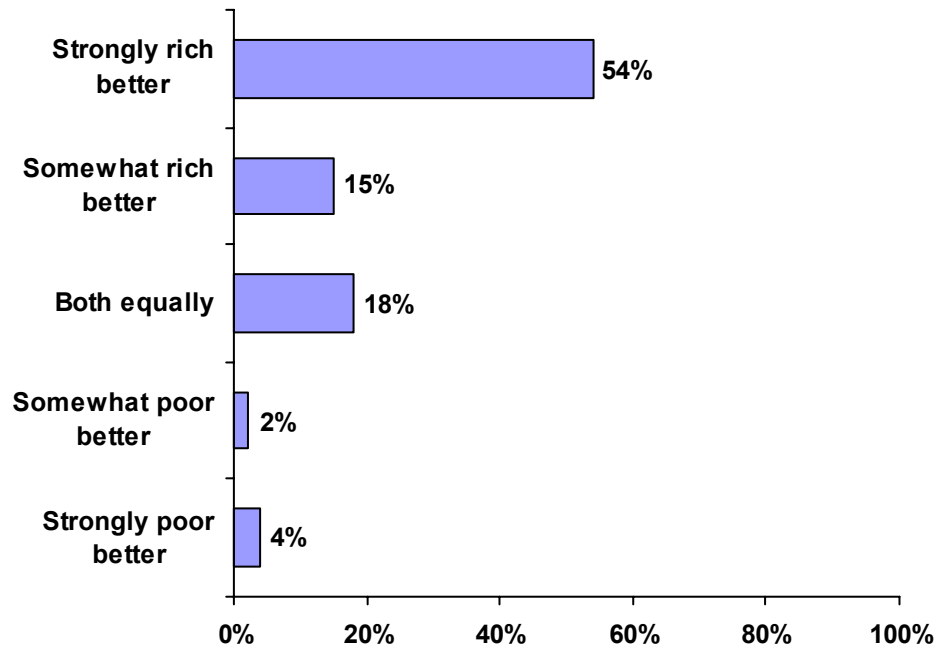
Q13. Speedy trial

## 2. Opinions of Louisiana’s justice system and public defenders

Voters in Louisiana are generally critical of the current system of justice in their state. Even though most assume those arrested for a crime are guilty, they also believe the justice system favors the wealthy and voters give the system of public defenders only passing grades.

When voters consider the Louisiana justice system, many say the system is biased in favor of wealthy defendants. Nearly seven in ten (69%) believe that a rich person generally gets treated better than a poor person in the Louisiana justice system. More than half (54%) strongly believe this bias exists. Fewer than one in five (18%) believe that rich and poor are treated equally, while 6% say the poor are treated better.

### Rich and Poor in the Louisiana Criminal Justice System



Q9. Do you agree more that in the Louisiana justice system, [ROTATE: a rich person usually gets treated better than a poor person, OR a poor person gets treated better than a rich person, OR] that rich and poor usually get treated equally? IF NOT EQUALLY: Do you agree strongly or somewhat that a [rich/poor] person gets treated better?

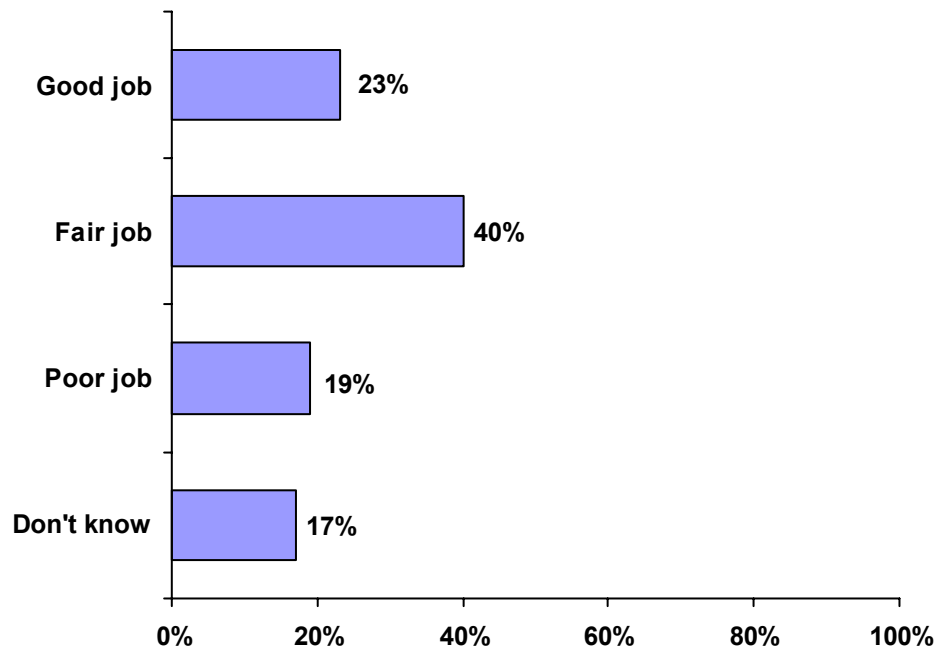
Those who feel most strongly that the rich are treated better include:

- African Americans (76% “strongly rich treated better”);
- Those with a high school education or less (62%);
- Those earning \$25,000 or less per year (64%);
- Liberals (69%); and
- Democrats (67%).

Voters' assumptions about the criminal justice system extend beyond treatment of rich and poor to assumptions of guilt. About two in ten (22%) believe that people arrested for a crime in Louisiana are almost always guilty, and more than half (52%) say they are guilty "most of the time." Eight percent say those arrested for crimes in their state are innocent "most" of the time and 3% say they are "almost always innocent." A sizable number (16%) are unsure.

When we turn to the system of public defenders, voters give the system only passing grades. Two in ten voters (23%) believe the Louisiana government is doing a "good" job "providing legal defense for low-income people who cannot afford a lawyer," and, two in ten (19%) say the government does a "poor" job. A plurality (40%) gives the government a "fair" rating, with an additional two in ten (17%) unsure.

### Rating Louisiana's Public Defender System



Q16. The state of Louisiana is constitutionally required to create a system to pay lawyers to represent low-income people arrested for crimes who cannot afford legal help on their own. Do you think the Louisiana government is doing a good job, fair job, or poor job providing legal defense for low-income people who cannot afford a lawyer?

Louisianans more likely than others to believe the government does a “poor” job providing legal defense for low-income people include:

- African Americans (28% “poor job”);
- Liberals (25%);
- Democrats (22%);
- Independents (23%); and
- Those in the parishes hardest hit by the 2005 hurricanes (23%)<sup>1</sup>.

Voters also express mixed opinions about the quality of lawyers serving as public defenders in Louisiana. Four in ten (43%) disagree that “most public defenders in Louisiana are not very good lawyers,” but a sizable segment of 34% agree, and another 23% do not know.

Louisianans who are most likely to disagree that public defenders are not very good lawyers are:

- Younger voters, age 18 to 34 (47% “disagree”);
- College graduates (48%); and
- High income voters (47%).

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<sup>1</sup> Parishes hardest hit by the hurricanes include those with the largest percentage of their population displaced by the 2005 hurricanes according to estimates obtained from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals: Cameron, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes.

### 3. Ideals for the criminal justice system

Voters in Louisiana are nearly unanimous in their belief that the criminal justice system should provide each defendant fair treatment in the legal system. Support for indigent defense is rooted in the value of fairness, and strong majorities agree with statements emphasizing the importance of this value within the criminal justice system.

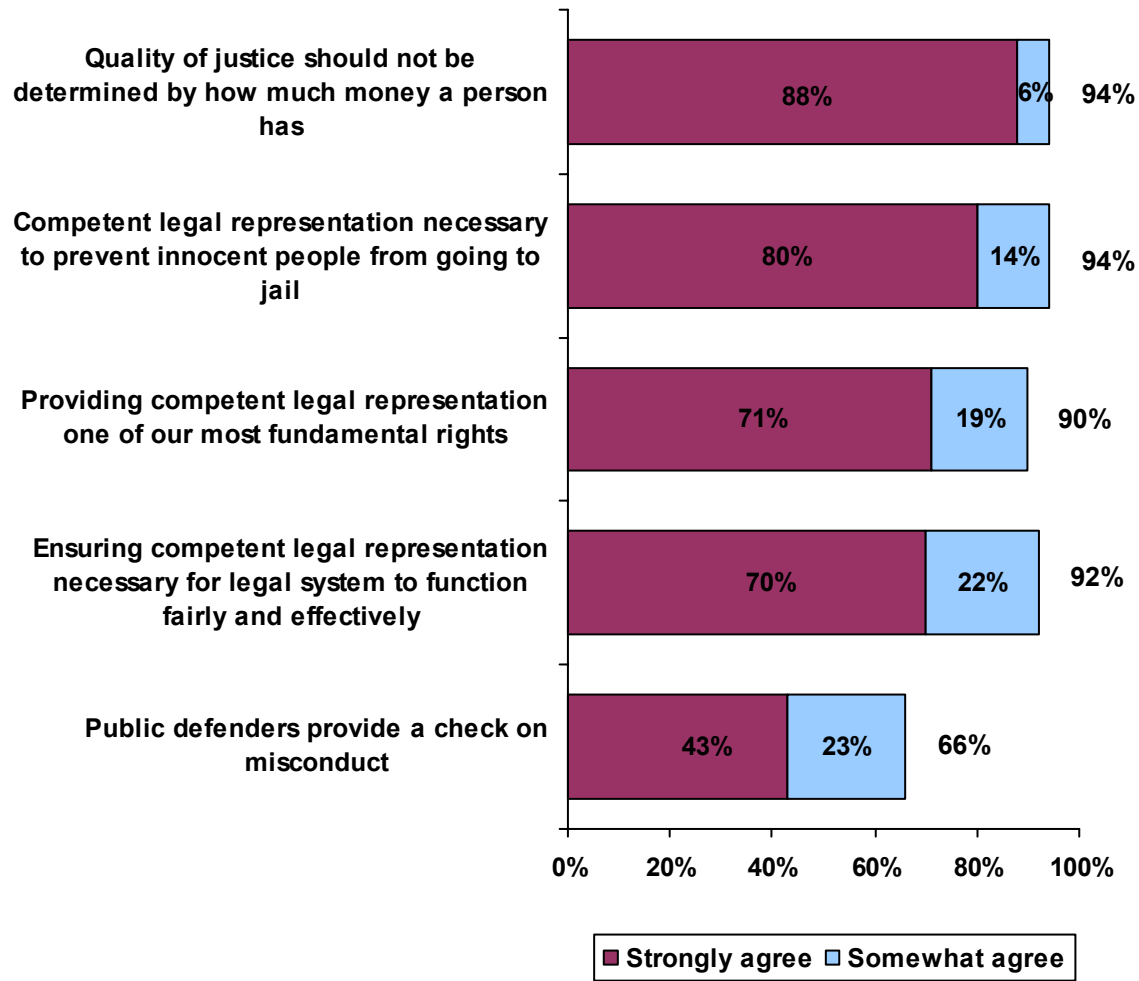
More than nine in ten Louisiana voters agree that :

- The quality of justice a person receives should not be determined by how much money a person has (94% agree; 88% “strongly”);
- Providing competent legal representation is necessary to prevent innocent people from going to jail (94% agree; 80% “strongly”);
- Providing competent legal representation is one of our most fundamental rights in the U.S. (90% agree, 71% “strongly”); and
- Ensuring competent legal representation for all is necessary for our legal system to function fairly and effectively (92% agree; 70% “strongly”).

To a slightly lesser degree do voters believe:

- Public defenders provide a check on police brutality and corruption, misconduct by prosecutors, police, or lab technicians, or other abuses (66% agree; 43% “strongly”).

## Ideals for the Criminal Justice System



Now please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. The first statement is... Is that strongly or somewhat? [RANDOMIZE]

Q36. The quality of justice a person receives should NOT be determined by how much money a person has.

Q34. Providing competent legal representation is necessary to prevent innocent people from going to jail.

Q35. Providing competent legal representation is one of our most fundamental rights in the U.S.

Q33. Ensuring competent legal representation for all is necessary for our legal system to function fairly and effectively.

Q37. Public defenders provide a check on police brutality and corruption, misconduct by prosecutors, police, or lab technicians, or other abuses.

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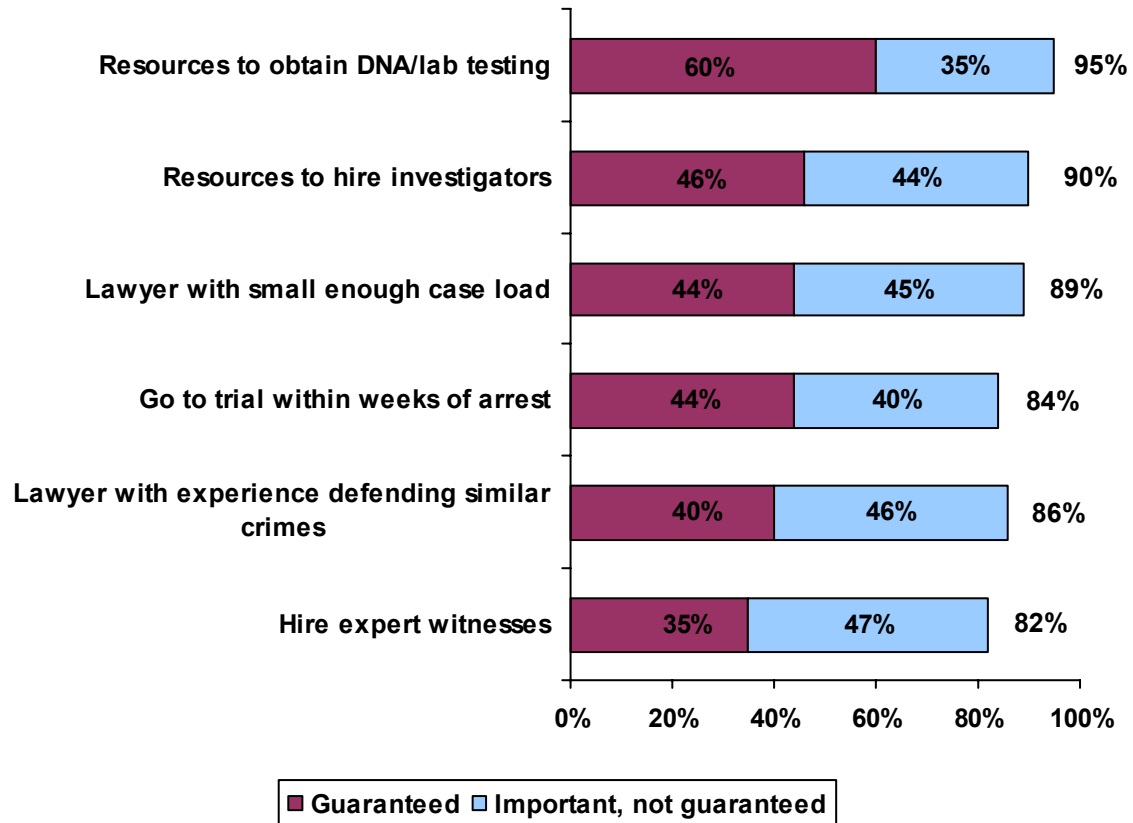
A system in line with these ideals would provide low-income individuals accused of crimes with the resources necessary to mount a defense, according to voters.

A large majority of voters feels it is important for public defenders to have tools that defendants with higher incomes would have. More than eight in ten voters say that each of the resources tested is important for someone accused of a crime to have available. In particular, voters believe ensuring funds for DNA testing is essential.

Six in ten voters say that “resources to obtain DNA testing and other laboratory services” (60%) should be “guaranteed” to such defendants. Further, more than four in ten say that “resources to hire investigators to check on evidence and find witnesses” (46%), “a lawyer with a small enough case load to provide the time necessary to prepare a defense for each person” (44%), “to have their case go to trial within weeks of being arrested” (44%), and “a lawyer with experience in defending people accused of similar crimes” (40%) should be “guaranteed” to low-income defendants. Fewer voters feel “resources to hire expert witnesses” should be guaranteed (35%).

Support for providing these tools is generally widespread; few demographic differences emerge.

## Tools for Public Defenders



Please tell me if you think each of the things in this list should be guaranteed by the government to low-income people accused of a crime, is important but should not be guaranteed, is not very important, or is not at all important for someone accused of a crime. Here's the first one: [RANDOMIZE]

Q20. Resources to obtain DNA testing and other laboratory services

Q18. Resources to hire investigators to check on evidence and find witnesses

Q21. A lawyer with a small enough case load to provide the time necessary to prepare a defense for each person

Q22. To have their case go to trial within weeks of being arrested

Q17. A lawyer with experience in defending people accused of similar crimes

Q19. Resources to hire expert witnesses

## B. Louisiana's current system

### 1. How serious are the system's flaws?

Louisiana voters express a desire for a criminal justice system which is rooted in the value of fairness. When presented with the current system's flaws, most voters feel strongly that each of the problems tested in this survey is serious enough to warrant immediate action. Their highest priorities involve basic rights: being appointed a lawyer and having a speedy trial.

More than seven in ten voters say that each of these is a serious problem requiring immediate action:

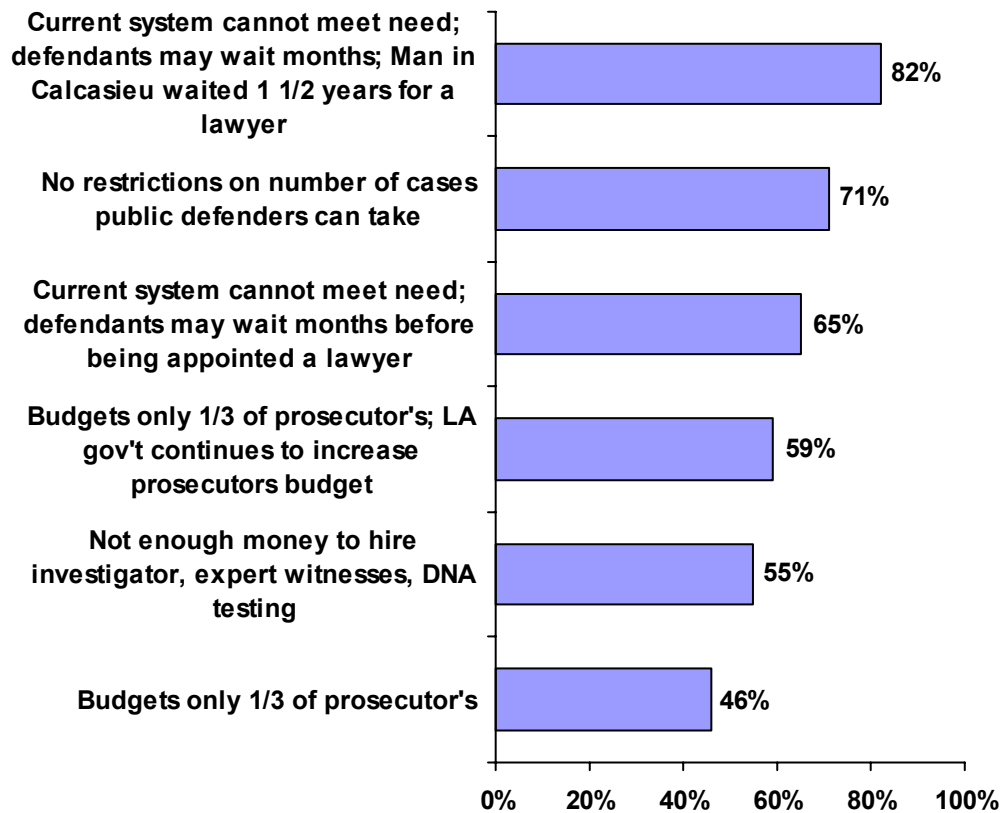
- The current system cannot meet the need. In some places, defendants may wait months in jail before being appointed a lawyer and getting a hearing. In Calcasieu Parish, a man was in prison for a year and a half before seeing a lawyer (82% "serious problem"); and
- There are no restrictions on the number of cases public defenders can take. Many times these lawyers represent thousands of people a year. Often public defenders meet their clients in the courtroom for only a few minutes before their trial starts (71% "serious problem").

Concerns about the problems are heightened when voters are given specific examples or more information about the problem. For example, the statement: "The current system cannot meet the need. In some places, defendants may wait months in jail before being appointed a lawyer and getting a hearing," is viewed as a "serious problem" by two-thirds of voters (65%). However, when the statement includes the example of a man in Calcasieu Parish's jail for a year and a half, 82% believe it is a "serious problem."

Likewise, additional information on the budgets for both prosecutors and public defenders make voters more likely to view the budget disparity as a serious problem. Fewer than half (46%) say it is a serious problem that "Public defenders' budgets are generally only one-third of the budgets prosecutors receive." However, when voters are additionally informed that "Louisiana government continues to increase the budget for the prosecutors' office but the public defenders' budget is not keeping up," six in ten (59%) say it is a "serious problem."

## How Serious are the System's Flaws?

% saying "Serious problem requiring immediate action"



Here are some statements about how the public defenders system works in Louisiana. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a serious problem that needs immediate action, is a problem but not immediate, is not much of a problem, or not at all a problem. Here's the first one: [RANDOMIZE]

Q41B. [Split sample; N=301] The current system cannot meet the need. In some places, defendants may wait months in jail before being appointed a lawyer and getting a hearing. In a case in Calcasieu Parish, a man was in prison for a year and a half before seeing a lawyer.

Q38. There are no restrictions on the number of cases public defenders can take. Many times these lawyers represent thousands of people a year. Often public defenders meet their clients in the courtroom for only a few minutes before their trial starts.

Q41A. [Split sample; N=308] The current system cannot meet the need. In some places, defendants may wait months in jail before being appointed a lawyer and getting a hearing.

Q40B. [Split sample; N=301] Public defenders' budgets are generally only one-third of the budgets prosecutors receive. Louisiana government continues to increase the budget for the prosecutors' office but the public defenders' budget is not keeping up.

Q39. Lawyers defending those accused of crimes often do not have enough money to hire an investigator, expert witnesses, or to conduct DNA testing.

Q40A. [Split sample; N=308] Public defenders' budgets are generally only one-third of the budgets prosecutors receive.

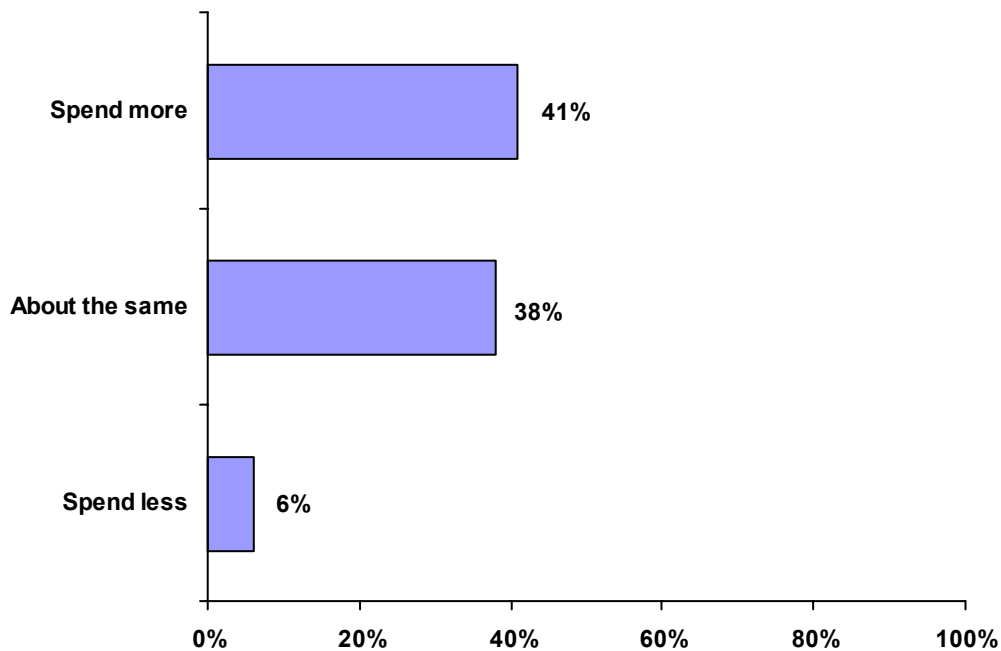
## 2. Plurality supports increased spending to repair these flaws after given information

At the end of the survey, four in ten Louisiana voters (41%) say that the “state government should be spending more” on legal defense for low-income people accused of a crime who cannot afford a lawyer. Another four in ten (38%) says spending should remain the same. Only 6% say the Louisiana government should be spending less money.

Voters most likely to say the state should spend more include:

- Younger voters, age 18 to 34 (47% “spend more”);
- African Americans (55%);
- Liberals (53%);
- Democrats (49%); and
- Independents (48%).

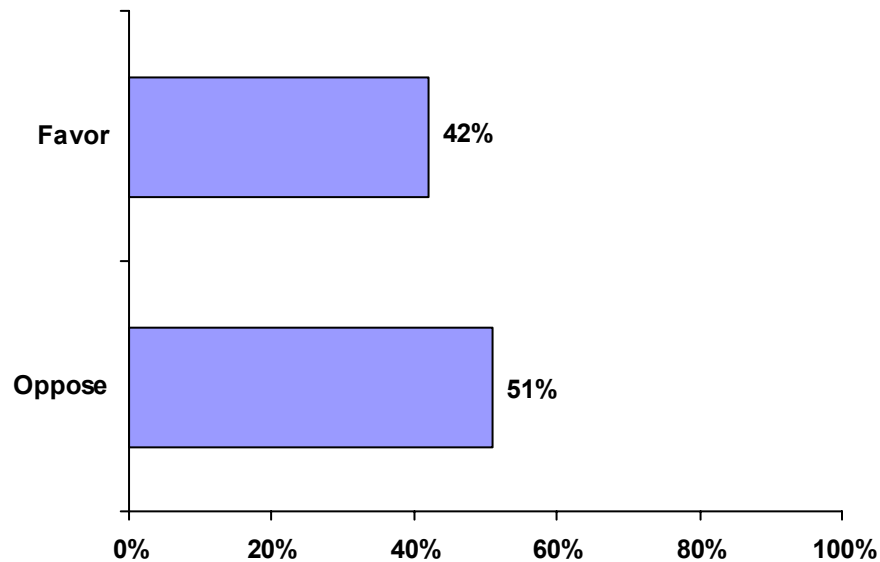
### Spending on Public Defenders



Q43. Now, in Louisiana, do you think the state government should be spending more or spending less on legal defense for low-income people accused of a crime who cannot afford a lawyer, or should the government keep the funding about where it is now?

Unless voters are informed of the system's flaws, they will be reluctant to spend tax dollars on public defenders. At the outset, a slight majority (51%) opposes the government "using taxpayer dollars to provide lawyers to represent low-income people accused of crimes." Four-in-ten (42%) support this use of taxpayer dollars. This changes over the course of the survey, after hearing details on the system's current state, less than one in ten (6%) would reduce funding for the indigent defense system.

### Providing Lawyers for Low-Income Defendants



Q8. Given everything we must do in society, do you favor or oppose state government using taxpayer dollars to provide lawyers to represent low-income people accused of crimes? Do you [favor/oppose] it strongly or somewhat?

Providing lawyers to low-income people accused of crimes earns majority support among:

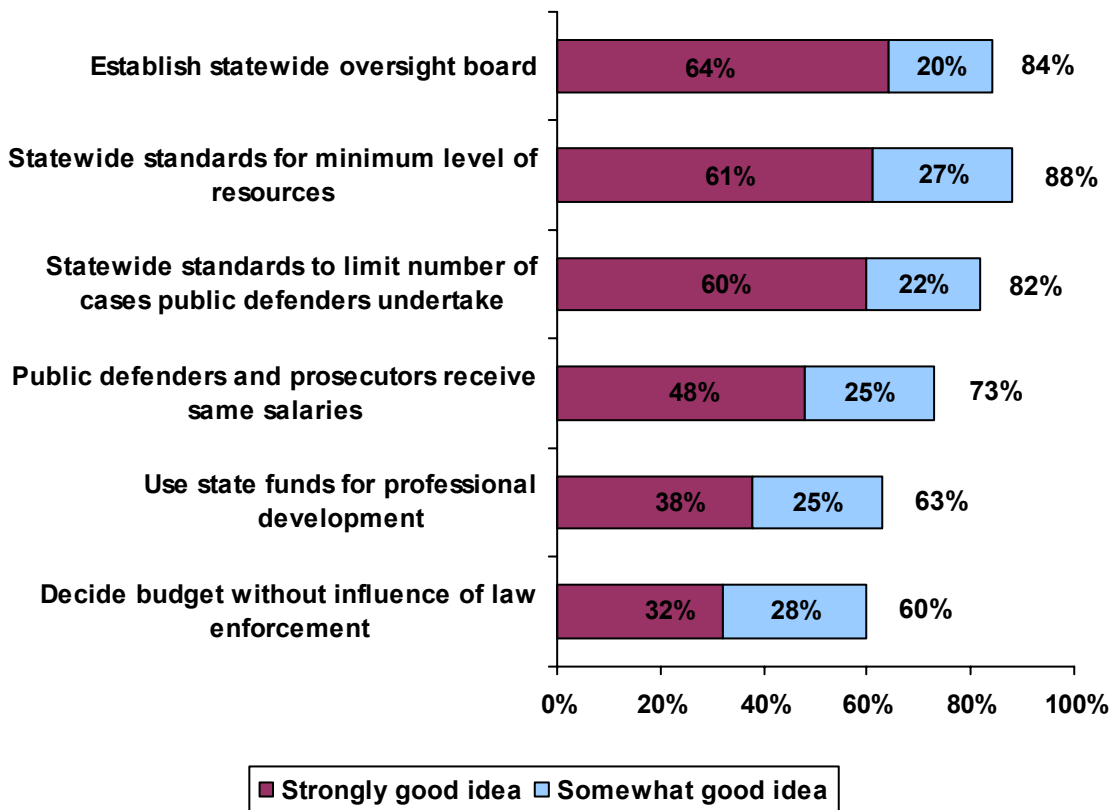
- Voters 18-34 years old (52%);
- African Americans (53%); and
- Liberals (53%).

## C. Changing the current system

### 1. Proposals to change the current system

Voters favor a range of reforms to the current system in Louisiana to ensure that individuals accused of a crime receive competent representation. Asked about several possible reforms, Louisiana voters feel that the best ideas for reform of the public defender system in the state involve the creation of statewide standards and a statewide oversight board. Budgetary reforms and paying prosecutors and public defenders the same salaries receive slightly less support. These preferences mirror voters' support for guaranteeing resources – for example, DNA testing – to low-income people accused of a crime.

#### Improving the Public Defender System



There are a number of proposals to change how the system of public defenders works in Louisiana. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a good idea or not a good idea. Do you feel strongly or somewhat that this is a [good/not good] idea? [RANDOMIZE]

Q28. Establish a statewide oversight board to ensure and equal level of justice from parish to parish in Louisiana

Q24. Set statewide standards for a minimum level of resources that should be available to all public defenders, such as access to expert witnesses, investigators and DNA testing when appropriate

Q23. Set statewide standards to limit the number of cases public defenders can undertake at one time

Q25. Set salary guidelines so public defenders and prosecutors receive about the same salaries

Q27. Use state funds to provide formal training and professional development for public defenders

Q26. Decide the budget for public defenders without the influence of law enforcement or the prosecutor's office

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More than eight in ten voters feel each of the proposals establishing statewide standards or oversight are a “good idea” and more than six in ten feel strongly that each is a good idea:

- Set statewide standards for a minimum level of resources that should be available to all public defenders, such as access to expert witnesses, investigators and DNA testing when appropriate (88% “good idea;” 61% “strongly”);
- Establish a statewide oversight board to ensure an equal level of justice from parish to parish in Louisiana (84%; 64%); and
- Set statewide standards to limit the number of cases public defenders can undertake at one time (82%; 60%).

Other reforms are seen as a “good idea” by more than six-in-ten voters, though fewer than half feel “strongly” that each is a good idea:

- Set salary guidelines so public defenders and prosecutors receive about the same salaries (73% “good idea;” 48% “strongly”);
- Use state funds to provide formal training and professional development for public defenders (63%; 38%); and
- Decide the budget for public defenders without the influence of law enforcement or the prosecutor’s office (60%; 32%).

Support for these reforms is generally widespread, though African Americans, those with some college education, liberals and Democrats express somewhat stronger support for each of these proposals than do other demographic groups.

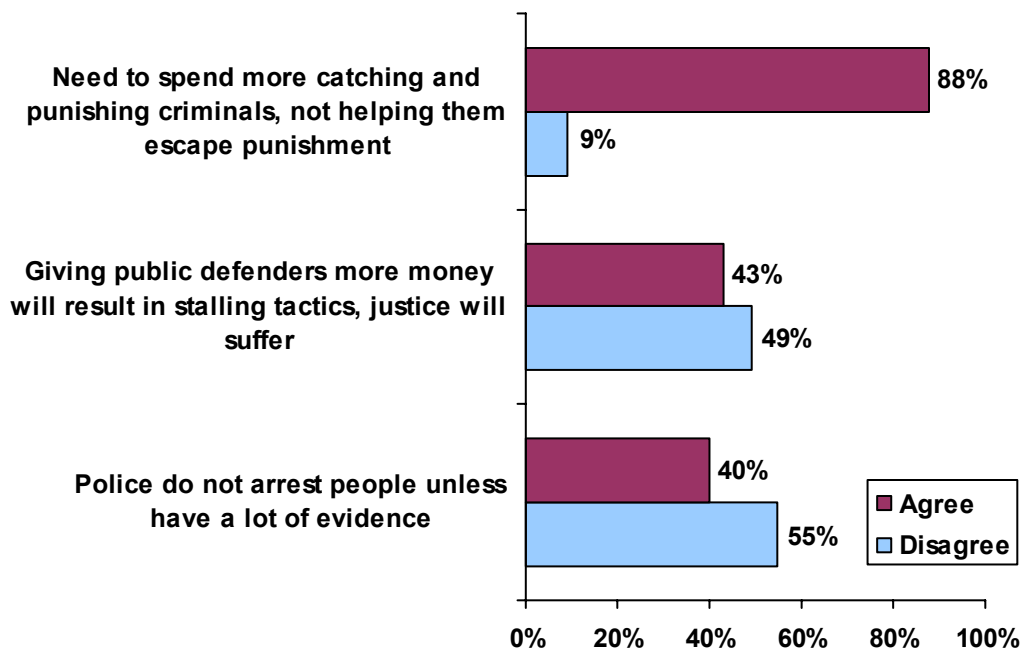
## 2. Criticisms of increased spending

Arguments against increased spending receive lukewarm support from Louisiana voters. Voters are not convinced that spending on the public defender system will cause justice to “suffer.” Nearly half (49%) disagree that “giving public defenders more money and resources will result in more stalling tactics, longer trials, and justice will suffer,” while four in ten (43%) agree.

Further, voters are not convinced that the police do such a good job that the public defender system is unnecessary. A majority of voters (55%) disagree and four in ten (40%) agree that “the police do not arrest people for crimes unless they have a lot of evidence, so most people who are arrested and charged with crimes are guilty.”

Voters do believe, however, that catching and punishing criminals should be a top priority. Nearly nine in ten agree (88%; 76% “strongly”) that “we need to spend more resources on catching and punishing criminals, not on trying to help them escape punishment.”

### Criticisms of Increased Spending



Now please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. The first statement is... Is that strongly or somewhat? [RANDOMIZE]

Q31. We need to spend more resources on catching and punishing criminals, not on trying to help them escape punishment.

Q30. Giving public defenders more money and resources will result in more stalling tactics, longer trials, and justice will suffer.

Q29. The police do not arrest people for crimes unless they have a lot of evidence, so most people who are arrested and charged with crimes are guilty.

# **Appendix A: Detailed Methodology**

## Methodology

The goals of this research project were to assess Louisianans' opinions on the current state of indigent defense and their receptiveness to reform of both government transparency in finances and increased spending for indigent defense. The Louisiana Justice Coalition asked Belden Russonello & Stewart to conduct a statewide survey of 609 registered voters in Louisiana to explore these topics.

BRS developed the questionnaire in conjunction with the Louisiana Justice Coalition and its partners. Once finalized, the questionnaire was subjected to a pretest, resulting in slight modifications to the questionnaire both in terms of question wording and length.

The fieldwork was conducted by telephone using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system, from July 17 to July 28, 2006 by a team of professional, fully-trained and supervised telephone interviewers. A briefing session familiarized the interviewers with the sample specifications and the instrument for this study. The interviews averaged 15 minutes in length. BRS monitored the interviewing and data collection at all stages to ensure quality.

The survey used two cluster samples drawn from voter lists including all registered voters in Louisiana. The source list was updated in May 2006. The first sample, drawn from the five parishes hardest-hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (Cameron, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard), and the the second sample, covered the rest of the state. Voter Contact Services provided the sampling frame.

The survey consists of a total of 609 completed telephone interviews. All sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results may differ from those which would be obtained if the entire population under study were interviewed. The margin of sampling error for the entire survey is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. This means that in 95 out of

100 samples of this size the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of plus or minus 4.0 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every individual registered voter in Louisiana had been interviewed. The sampling error is larger for smaller groups within the sample. Other non-sampling error may also contribute to total survey error.

### *Data Analysis*

The demographic characteristics of the sample, obtained via the selection methods described above, were matched to estimates for all registered voters compiled by Voter Contact Services. The data have been weighted by race.

The following table shows the demographic composition of the survey respondents.

**Composition Table**

<b>Total</b>	<b>Unweighted number</b>	<b>Unweighted percent</b>	<b>Weighted percent</b>
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	243	40%	40%
Female	366	60	60
<b>Race</b>			
White	440	72%	66%
African American	142	23	30
<b>Age</b>			
18-34	120	20%	20%
35-54	242	40	40
55+	238	39	39
<b>Party registration</b>			
Democrat	317	52%	56%
Republican	147	24	23
Other	121	20	19
<b>Education</b>			
<HS/HS Grad	277	45%	47%
Some college	155	25	25
College grad+	175	29	28
<b>Income</b>			
<\$25,000	156	26%	27%
\$25,000-\$49,999	174	29	29
\$50,000+	190	31	30
<b>Region</b>			
Hardest hit parishes	132	22%	22%
Rest of state	477	78	78

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## Reading this report:

Tables and graphs included in the text of this report highlight selected relevant survey findings and are expressed in percentages. The base for each table is all respondents (n=609) unless otherwise noted. In reading these data, when the percent sign (%) appears at the top of a column, the numbers add vertically; when % appears at the left of a row, the numbers add horizontally. An asterisk (\*) indicates less than 1%; a double hyphen (--) indicates zero. Due to weighting, rounding, omission of "don't know," "refused," or other responses, percentages may add to more or less than 100%.

# **Appendix B: Selected Tables**

## Taxpayer Dollars to Provide Lawyers to Low-Income Defendants

Q8. Given everything we must do in society, do you favor or oppose state government using taxpayer dollars to provide lawyers to represent low-income people accused of crimes? Do you [favor/oppose] it strongly or somewhat?

	Favor	Opp- ose	Strng favor	Smwt favor	Smwt oppo	Strng oppo	DK/ Ref
<b>Total</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>
Men	43%	49	22%	21	18	31	8
Women	40%	53	15%	25	20	33	7
18-34	52%	44	21%	31	17	27	5
35-54	39%	56	16%	23	19	37	6
55+	40%	50	19%	21	21	29	10
White	37%	54	15%	22	19	35	8
African American	53%	43	25%	28	19	24	4
<HS/HS	38%	54	17%	21	20	34	8
Some college	44%	50	15%	29	18	32	6
College grad	45%	49	23%	22	20	29	7
Less than \$25,000	47%	46	18%	29	16	30	6
\$25,000-\$50,000	44%	50	21%	23	20	30	7
\$50,000 or more	37%	59	14%	23	24	35	5
Liberal	53%	42	21%	32	17	25	4
Moderate	43%	47	18%	25	19	28	10
Conservative	35%	59	15%	20	22	37	5
Democrat	45%	46	20%	25	17	29	8
Republican	35%	63	12%	23	27	36	3
Independent	43%	45	20%	23	16	29	11
Hardest hit parishes	43%	51	15%	28	16	35	6
Rest of state	41%	51	19%	22	20	31	8

## Treatment in the Louisiana Justice System

Q9. Do you agree more that in the Louisiana justice system, [ROTATE: a rich person usually gets treated better than a poor person, OR/ a poor person gets treated better than a rich person, OR] that rich and poor usually get treated equally? IF NOT EQUALLY: Do you agree strongly or somewhat that a [rich/poor] person gets treated better?

	Rich	Poor	Strng rich	Smwt rich	Both equal	Smwt poor	Strng poor	DK/ Ref
<b>Total</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
Men	69%	4	54%	15	20	1	3	7
Women	70%	7	55%	15	17	2	5	6
18-34	68%	6	47%	21	21	3	3	5
35-54	71%	8	58%	13	16	1	7	5
55+	67%	5	54%	13	19	2	3	9
White	62%	7	44%	18	23	2	5	8
African American	84%	3	76%	8	8	1	2	5
<HS/HS	76%	4	62%	14	16	2	2	4
Some college	65%	7	52%	13	21	1	6	7
College grad	63%	9	45%	18	19	2	7	9
Less than \$25,000	79%	5	64%	15	12	2	3	4
\$25,000-\$50,000	71%	6	58%	13	19	2	4	5
\$50,000 or more	62%	8	46%	16	21	2	6	10
Liberal	81%	6	69%	12	7	2	4	5
Moderate	66%	8	51%	15	20	3	5	6
Conservative	65%	6	48%	17	23	1	5	6
Democrat	78%	5	67%	11	12	1	4	7
Republican	54%	10	33%	21	27	3	7	10
Independent	74%	5	56%	18	19	2	3	3
Hardest hit parishes	67%	7	56%	11	16	3	4	9
Rest of state	70%	5	54%	16	19	1	4	6

## People Arrested in Louisiana: Guilty or Innocent?

Q10. In general, would you say that people ARRESTED for crimes in Louisiana are: [FLIP LIST: almost always guilty, guilty most of the time, innocent most of the time, or almost always innocent] of the crimes for which they are arrested?

	Guilty	Innocent	Always guilty	Most guilty	Most innocent	Always innocent	DK/Ref
<b>Total</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>
Men	74%	9	20%	54	8	1	18
Women	73%	12	23%	50	8	4	15
18-34	71%	16	12%	59	13	3	13
35-54	72%	10	24%	48	9	1	17
55+	77%	8	25%	52	4	4	15
White	79%	6	25%	54	4	2	14
African American	62%	18	15%	47	15	3	19
<HS/HS	75%	11	24%	51	10	1	14
Some college	75%	8	19%	56	6	2	17
College grad	71%	10	23%	48	5	5	19
Less than \$25,000	75%	14	21%	54	13	1	11
\$25,000-\$50,000	79%	9	29%	50	6	3	12
\$50,000 or more	76%	8	19%	57	5	3	17
Liberal	74%	10	23%	51	9	1	16
Moderate	78%	10	23%	55	8	2	12
Conservative	73%	11	22%	51	7	4	15
Democrat	72%	13	20%	52	10	3	15
Republican	84%	6	26%	58	2	4	10
Independent	68%	12	20%	48	11	1	19
Hardest hit parishes	73%	9	20%	53	5	4	18
Rest of state	73%	11	22%	51	9	2	15

## Rights for Arrested Individuals

Please tell me if you think each of the following is a right for individuals arrested for a crime in the U.S. Q14. Being told what the charges against them are; Q15. To be presumed innocent until proven guilty; Q11. Having a lawyer to represent them; Q12. Having a lawyer appointed and paid for by the court if they cannot afford one; Q13. Speedy trial

	[% saying "Yes, is a right"]				
	Being told charges	Presumed innocent	Having a lawyer	Lawyer appt'd paid for by court	Speedy trial
<b>Total</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>83%</b>
Men	96%	96%	90%	86%	84%
Women	98%	96%	97%	87%	82%
18-34	98%	94%	95%	91%	84%
35-54	97%	96%	95%	86%	83%
55+	97%	97%	93%	86%	84%
White	98%	98%	93%	86%	88%
African American	95%	92%	96%	90%	72%
<HS/HS	95%	94%	94%	86%	76%
Some college	99%	97%	95%	90%	89%
College grad	99%	98%	94%	84%	90%
Less than \$25,000	94%	92%	96%	89%	79%
\$25,000-\$50,000	97%	98%	95%	87%	83%
\$50,000 or more	99%	98%	93%	86%	89%
Liberal	97%	97%	95%	89%	84%
Moderate	100%	96%	95%	91%	90%
Conservative	96%	96%	94%	84%	80%
Democrat	95%	95%	95%	89%	79%
Republican	99%	99%	92%	81%	89%
Independent	97%	94%	94%	89%	86%
Hardest hit parishes	97%	97%	93%	89%	83%
Rest of state	97%	96%	94%	86%	83%

## Louisiana Government Doing A Good Job Providing Legal Representation

Q16. The state of Louisiana is constitutionally required to create a system to pay lawyers to represent low-income people arrested for crimes who cannot afford legal help on their own. Do you think the Louisiana government is doing a good job, fair job, or poor job providing legal defense for low-income people who cannot afford a lawyer?

	Good job	Fair job	Poor job	DK/ Ref
<b>Total</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>
Men	25%	43	18	15
Women	21%	39	19	21
18-34	18%	52	19	12
35-54	21%	42	21	16
55+	27%	34	16	23
White	26%	39	14	21
African American	18%	42	28	11
<HS/HS	23%	44	16	16
Some college	22%	36	23	19
College grad	22%	38	19	21
Less than \$25,000	24%	40	22	15
\$25,000-\$50,000	19%	41	22	18
\$50,000 or more	24%	41	17	17
Liberal	19%	42	25	14
Moderate	23%	45	17	15
Conservative	25%	38	17	21
Democrat	22%	41	22	15
Republican	29%	40	9	22
Independent	19%	42	23	16
Hardest hit parishes	18%	37	23	22
Rest of state	24%	41	17	17

## Tools for Public Defenders

Please tell me if you think each of the things in this list should be guaranteed by the government to low-income people accused of a crime, is important but should not be guaranteed, is not very important, or is not at all important for someone accused of a crime. Here's the first one:

[RANDOMIZE] Q20. Resources to obtain DNA testing and other laboratory services; Q18.

Resources to hire investigators to check on evidence and find witnesses; Q21. A lawyer with a small enough case load to provide the time necessary to prepare a defense for each person; Q22. To have their case go to trial within weeks of being arrested; Q17. A lawyer with experience in defending people accused of similar crimes; Q19. Resources to hire expert witnesses

	[% saying "Guaranteed"]					
	DNA Testing	Hire invest- igators	Small enough case load	Case go to trial within weeks	Lawyer with experience	Hire expert witnesses
<b>Total</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>35%</b>
Men	59%	48%	43%	48%	38%	33%
Women	60%	45%	45%	42%	41%	36%
18-34	61%	47%	44%	48%	42%	36%
35-54	60%	47%	47%	40%	42%	35%
55+	58%	44%	42%	46%	37%	34%
White	57%	40%	39%	40%	33%	29%
African American	65%	59%	58%	52%	53%	47%
<HS/HS	62%	52%	49%	49%	45%	39%
Some college	63%	46%	46%	46%	46%	38%
College grad	53%	37%	35%	33%	25%	24%
Less than \$25,000	52%	52%	49%	55%	44%	38%
\$25,000-\$50,000	63%	43%	43%	36%	41%	33%
\$50,000 or more	60%	41%	42%	40%	35%	31%
Liberal	64%	54%	50%	41%	45%	39%
Moderate	67%	43%	51%	41%	43%	38%
Conservative	54%	42%	38%	45%	36%	31%
Democrat	62%	52%	54%	45%	44%	38%
Republican	52%	34%	31%	41%	29%	22%
Independent	62%	47%	42%	44%	40%	38%
Hardest hit parishes	61%	44%	42%	42%	37%	37%
Rest of state	59%	47%	45%	45%	41%	34%

## Proposals for Reform

There are a number of proposals to change how the system of public defenders works in Louisiana. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a good idea or not a good idea. Do you feel strongly or somewhat that this is a [good/not good] idea? [RANDOMIZE] Q28. Establish a statewide oversight board to ensure and equal level of justice from parish to parish in Louisiana; Q24. Set statewide standards for a minimum level of resources that should be available to all public defenders, such as access to expert witnesses, investigators and DNA testing when appropriate; Q23. Set statewide standards to limit the number of cases public defenders can undertake at one time; Q25. Set salary guidelines so public defenders and prosecutors receive about the same salaries; Q27. Use state funds to provide formal training and professional development for public defenders; Q26. Decide the budget for public defenders without the influence of law enforcement or the prosecutor's office.

[% saying "Strongly good idea"]

	Statewide oversight board	Statewide minimum resources	Limits on number of cases	Salary guideline	State fund formal training	Decide budget w/o influence
<b>Total</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Men	60%	58%	54%	50%	41%	39%
Women	66%	63%	64%	47%	37%	28%
18-34	62%	55%	53%	34%	38%	34%
35-54	64%	64%	68%	53%	42%	33%
55+	66%	62%	56%	52%	35%	31%
White	60%	56%	59%	50%	31%	31%
African American	73%	73%	64%	45%	54%	34%
<HS/HS	70%	64%	57%	51%	40%	35%
Some college	62%	67%	67%	53%	45%	31%
College grad	57%	51%	59%	39%	30%	29%
Less than \$25,000	66%	68%	57%	46%	42%	32%
\$25,000-\$50,000	75%	61%	59%	56%	40%	35%
\$50,000 or more	59%	57%	67%	44%	36%	33%
Liberal	67%	74%	64%	58%	49%	36%
Moderate	62%	61%	58%	50%	28%	31%
Conservative	64%	56%	60%	45%	38%	31%
Democrat	67%	70%	69%	54%	45%	35%
Republican	62%	47%	52%	43%	27%	23%
Independent	61%	59%	53%	43%	36%	37%
Hardest hit parishes	64%	67%	60%	37%	45%	28%
Rest of state	64%	59%	60%	52%	36%	33%

## Criticisms of Public Defense System

Now please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. The first statement is... Is that strongly or somewhat? [RANDOMIZE] Q31. We need to spend more resources on catching and punishing criminals, not on trying to help them escape punishment. Q30. Giving public defenders more money and resources will result in more stalling tactics, longer trials, and justice will suffer. Q29. The police do not arrest people for crimes unless they have a lot of evidence, so most people who are arrested and charged with crimes are guilty.

	Spend more catching/ punishing criminals, not helping escape punishment		Giving public defenders more money results in more stalling, justice will suffer		Police do not arrest people for crimes unless have a lot of evidence	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
<b>Total</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>55</b>
Men	87%	11	52%	44	49%	48
Women	88%	7	38%	52	33%	60
18-34	82%	15	46%	52	40%	58
35-54	91%	8	42%	52	35%	61
55+	87%	8	45%	43	45%	47
White	88%	8	44%	48	45%	49
African American	87%	11	41%	54	28%	70
<HS/HS	91%	7	44%	47	41%	55
Some college	90%	9	45%	49	38%	60
College grad	82%	13	42%	51	37%	52
Less than \$25,000	89%	8	45%	47	38%	58
\$25,000-\$50,000	92%	8	42%	53	39%	58
\$50,000 or more	83%	12	48%	47	44%	52
Liberal	79%	16	43%	50	32%	65
Moderate	89%	7	42%	52	45%	50
Conservative	91%	8	47%	47	42%	54
Democrat	88%	8	41%	52	31%	64
Republican	91%	9	48%	47	49%	47
Independent	84%	11	49%	44	42%	53
Hardest hit parishes	86%	11	36%	57	32%	62
Rest of state	88%	9	47%	46	42%	53

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## Public Defenders

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Q32. Most public defenders in Louisiana are not very good lawyers. [Now please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.]

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know/ Refused
<b>Total</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>24</b>
Men	38%	42	20
Women	30%	44	25
18-34	37%	47	16
35-54	34%	44	22
55+	32%	41	28
White	29%	45	26
African American	44%	41	16
<HS/HS	41%	43	16
Some college	32%	40	28
College grad	21%	48	32
Less than \$25,000	43%	38	19
\$25,000-\$50,000	32%	44	24
\$50,000 or more	30%	47	23
Liberal	38%	35	27
Moderate	32%	45	23
Conservative	33%	45	22
Democrat	39%	44	18
Republican	24%	49	28
Independent	37%	37	25
Hardest hit parishes	32%	45	23
Rest of state	34%	42	23

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## Values in the Criminal Justice System

Now please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. The first statement is... Is that strongly or somewhat? [RANDOMIZE] Q36. The quality of justice a person receives should NOT be determined by how much money a person has; Q34. Providing competent legal representation is necessary to prevent innocent people from going to jail; Q35. Providing competent legal representation is one of our most fundamental rights in the U.S.; Q33. Ensuring competent legal representation for all is necessary for our legal system to function fairly and effectively; Q37. Public defenders provide a check on police brutality and corruption, misconduct by prosecutors, police, or lab technicians, or other abuses.

[% saying "Strongly agree"]

	Quality of justice not determined by money	Competent reps. necessary to keep innocent people from going to jail	Competent reps. a fundamental right	Competent reps. necessary for legal system	Public defenders provide check on brutality and corruption
<b>Total</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>43%</b>
Men	85%	77%	69%	65%	47%
Women	90%	81%	73%	74%	40%
18-34	94%	79%	64%	66%	37%
35-54	88%	83%	73%	74%	41%
55+	86%	77%	74%	69%	49%
White	90%	77%	72%	70%	42%
African American	84%	84%	67%	69%	44%
<HS/HS	84%	80%	72%	67%	45%
Some college	92%	82%	74%	73%	47%
College grad	92%	76%	69%	74%	37%
Less than \$25,000	86%	82%	65%	65%	48%
\$25,000-\$50,000	89%	81%	73%	75%	44%
\$50,000 or more	90%	79%	75%	71%	37%
Liberal	92%	85%	74%	69%	45%
Moderate	91%	81%	76%	71%	48%
Conservative	86%	77%	68%	70%	39%
Democrat	87%	83%	74%	70%	48%
Republican	88%	74%	66%	72%	39%
Independent	89%	79%	71%	68%	41%
Hardest hit parishes	85%	81%	67%	65%	41%
Rest of state	89%	79%	72%	71%	44%

## Problems in the Louisiana Criminal Justice System

Here are some statements about how the public defenders system works in Louisiana. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a serious problem that needs immediate action, is a problem but not immediate, is not much of a problem, or not at all a problem. Here's the first one: [RANDOMIZE] Q41B. *[Split sample; N=301]* The current system cannot meet the need. In some places, defendants may wait months in jail before being appointed a lawyer and getting a hearing. In a case in Calcasieu Parish, a man was in prison for a year and a half before seeing a lawyer.; Q38. There are no restrictions on the number of cases public defenders can take. Many times these lawyers represent thousands of people a year. Often public defenders meet their clients in the courtroom for only a few minutes before their trial starts; Q40B. *[Split sample; N=301]* Public defenders' budgets are generally only one-third of the budgets prosecutors receive. Louisiana government continues to increase the budget for the prosecutors' office but the public defenders' budget is not keeping up; Q39. Lawyers defending those accused of crimes often do not have enough money to hire an investigator, expert witnesses, or to conduct DNA testing.

[% saying "Serious problem that needs immediate action"]

	System cannot meet the need	No restrictions on number of cases	Budgets only 1/3 of prosecutors	Not enough money for resources
<b>Total</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>55%</b>
Men	80%	65%	54%	52%
Women	83%	75%	61%	57%
18-34	89%	63%	60%	50%
35-54	85%	77%	59%	60%
55+	75%	69%	60%	54%
White	77%	65%	52%	47%
African American	91%	84%	73%	73%
<HS/HS	86%	71%	64%	63%
Some college	82%	74%	62%	52%
College grad	77%	68%	47%	45%
Less than \$25,000	86%	72%	69%	62%
\$25,000-\$50,000	85%	73%	62%	59%
\$50,000 or more	78%	71%	51%	47%
Liberal	86%	79%	67%	64%
Moderate	83%	70%	60%	52%
Conservative	80%	68%	54%	53%
Democrat	84%	79%	70%	64%
Republican	76%	59%	51%	41%
Independent	85%	70%	54%	57%
Hardest hit parishes	86%	70%	59%	58%
Rest of state	81%	71%	59%	54%

## Sheriffs Reporting Revenue

Q42. Right now, sheriffs throughout Louisiana are not required to report revenues from traffic tickets or federal grants. Some people say we need to require sheriffs to report this income so that the legislature can budget taxpayer money appropriately. Others say they should not have to report this income to the state legislature because it does not come from state funds. With whom do you agree more? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Report	Do not report	Strong report	Smwt report	Smwt not report	Strong not report	DK/REF
<b>Total</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
Men	75%	19	67%	8	7	12	7
Women	77%	17	62%	15	10	7	7
18-34	75%	21	54%	21	16	5	3
35-54	78%	15	68%	10	7	8	7
55+	75%	17	65%	10	6	11	8
White	73%	21	62%	11	9	12	7
African American	80%	13	66%	14	9	4	7
<HS/HS	77%	16	64%	13	8	8	8
Some college	79%	16	66%	13	6	10	5
College grad	71%	23	62%	9	13	10	6
Less than \$25,000	76%	18	58%	18	10	8	6
\$25,000-\$50,000	78%	15	67%	11	7	8	7
\$50,000 or more	77%	18	66%	11	8	10	6
Liberal	78%	17	68%	10	7	10	4
Moderate	78%	16	64%	14	8	8	6
Conservative	76%	20	65%	11	10	10	5
Democrat	79%	14	69%	10	7	7	6
Republican	71%	24	59%	12	9	15	5
Independent	77%	17	60%	17	10	7	6
Hardest hit parishes	75%	18	62%	13	9	9	8
Rest of state	76%	18	64%	12	9	9	6

## Spending on Legal Defense for Low-Income People

Q43. Now, in Louisiana, do you think the state government should be spending more or spending less on legal defense for low-income people accused of a crime who cannot afford a lawyer, or should the government keep the funding about where it is now?

	Spend more	Same	Spend less	DK/ Ref
<b>Total</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>
Men	39%	39	6	16
Women	43%	37	5	15
18-34	47%	36	7	10
35-54	43%	34	6	16
55+	37%	42	4	17
White	36%	42	6	16
African American	55%	28	4	12
<HS/HS	42%	38	6	15
Some college	44%	36	5	15
College grad	39%	39	6	16
Less than \$25,000	41%	43	6	10
\$25,000-\$50,000	47%	34	3	16
\$50,000 or more	39%	40	7	14
Liberal	53%	27	4	17
Moderate	41%	40	6	13
Conservative	37%	41	7	15
Democrat	49%	34	5	13
Republican	25%	51	7	16
Independent	48%	30	7	16
Hardest hit parishes	43%	29	7	21
Rest of state	41%	40	5	14

# **Appendix C: Questionnaire**

## Louisiana Justice Coalition Voter Survey

Interviewing conducted July 17 through July 28, 2006.  
N = 609 registered voters

Margin of sampling error is  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points.  
Data have been weighted by race.

Percents may add to 99% or 101% due to rounding.  
\* indicates less than 1% , -- indicates zero.

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Hello, may I please speak to \_\_\_\_\_? Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_,  
and I am an interviewer with BRS, an opinion research company.

We are conducting a completely confidential survey of voters in Louisiana. We are not selling anything and we will not ask you for a contribution. (IF NECESSARY ARRANGE FOR A CALL BACK AND RECORD DATE AND TIME. REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY)

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Q1. Do you think things in the state of Louisiana are generally going in the right direction or are they headed off on the wrong track?	RIGHT DIRECTION	35%
	WRONG TRACK	49
	DK/REFUSED	15

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On a one to ten scale where ten means EXTREMELY important and one means NOT important at all, please tell me how important each of the following issues is to you personally for state government to address. How important is [READ ITEM] on the one to ten scale? [RANDOMIZE Q2-Q7]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	DK/ REF
Q2. Improving public schools	*%	*	1	1	2	3	5	9	5	73	1
Q3. Combating crime	2%	*	*	1	3	2	3	10	6	71	1
Q4. Creating more jobs for people who live in Louisiana	1%	*	1	1	4	2	6	11	8	65	1
Q5. Improving access to health care	2%	*	1	1	6	2	6	12	6	62	1
Q6. Keeping taxes low	2%	*	1	3	12	5	6	14	6	48	1
Q7. Restoring the coastal areas	2%	1	*	1	6	2	5	11	6	63	1

Q8. Given everything we must do in society, do you favor or oppose state government using taxpayer dollars to provide lawyers to represent low-income people accused of crimes? Do you [favor/oppose] it strongly or somewhat?	STRONGLY FAVOR	18%
	SOMEWHAT FAVOR	24
	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	19
	STRONGLY OPPOSE	32
	DK/REFUSED	7

Q9. Do you agree more that in the Louisiana justice system, [ROTATE: a rich person usually gets treated better than a poor person, OR/ a poor person gets treated better than a rich person, OR] that rich and poor usually get treated equally? IF NOT EQUALLY: Do you agree strongly or somewhat that a [rich/poor] person gets treated better?	STRONGLY RICH BETTER	54%
	SOMEWHAT RICH BETTER	15
	BOTH EQUALLY	18
	SOMEWHAT POOR BETTER	2
	STRONGLY POOR BETTER	4
DK/REFUSED	7	

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Q10. In general, would you say that people ARRESTED for crimes in Louisiana are: [FLIP LIST: almost always guilty, guilty most of the time, innocent most of the time, or almost always innocent] of the crimes for which they are arrested?	ALMOST ALWAYS GUILTY	22%
	GUILTY MOST OF THE TIME	52
	INNOCENT MOST OF THE TIME	8
	ALMOST ALWAYS INNOCENT	3
	DK/REFUSED	16

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Please tell me if you think each of the following is a right for individuals arrested for a crime in the U.S. The first one is: [RANDOMIZE Q11-Q15]

	Yes, is a right	No, not a right	DK	REF
Q11. Having a lawyer to represent them	94%	5	1	*
Q12. Having a lawyer appointed and paid for by the court if they cannot afford one	87%	11	3	*
Q13. Speedy trial	83%	12	5	*
Q14. Being told what the charges against them are	97%	2	1	*
Q15. To be presumed innocent until proven guilty	96%	3	1	*

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Q16. The state of Louisiana is constitutionally required to create a system to pay lawyers to represent low-income people arrested for crimes who cannot afford legal help on their own. Do you think the Louisiana government is doing a good job, fair job, or poor job providing legal defense for low-income people who cannot afford a lawyer?	GOOD JOB	23%
	FAIR JOB	40
	POOR JOB	19
	DON'T KNOW	17
	REFUSED	1

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Please tell me if you think each of the things in this list should be guaranteed by the government to low-income people accused of a crime, is important but should not be guaranteed, is not very important, or is not at all important for someone accused of a crime. Here's the first one: [RANDOMIZE Q17-Q22]

	Guar- anteed	Impt. not guar.	Not very impt.	Not at all impt.	DK	REF
Q17. A lawyer with experience in defending people accused of similar crimes.	40%	46	6	3	4	1
Q18. Resources to hire investigators to check on evidence and find witnesses.	46%	44	5	2	2	--
Q19. Resources to hire expert witnesses.	35%	47	9	4	4	*
Q20. Resources to obtain DNA testing and other laboratory services.	60%	35	2	1	2	--
Q21. A lawyer with a small enough case load to provide the time necessary to prepare a defense for each person.	44%	45	5	2	2	1
Q22. To have their case go to trial within weeks of being arrested.	44%	40	9	3	4	*

There are a number of proposals to change how the system of public defenders works in Louisiana. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a good idea or a not a good idea. Is it a good idea or not a good idea to... Do you feel strongly or somewhat that this is a [good/not a good] idea? [RANDOMIZE Q23-Q28]

	<b>Strong good idea</b>	<b>Smwt good idea</b>	<b>Smwt not good</b>	<b>Strong not good</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>REF</b>
Q23. Set statewide standards to limit the number of cases public defenders can undertake at one time.	60%	22	6	9	2	*
Q24. Set statewide standards for a minimum level of resources that should be available to all public defenders, such as access to expert witnesses, investigators and DNA testing when appropriate.	61%	27	4	4	4	--
Q25. Set salary guidelines so public defenders and prosecutors receive about the same salaries.	48%	25	8	10	8	*
Q26. Decide the budget for public defenders <u>without</u> the influence of law enforcement or the prosecutor's office.	32%	28	12	17	11	*
Q27. Use state funds to provide formal training and professional development for public defenders.	38%	25	9	21	6	--
Q28. Establish a statewide oversight board to ensure an equal level of justice from Parish to Parish in Louisiana.	64%	20	5	7	3	1

Now please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. The first statement is... Is that strongly or somewhat? [RANDOMIZE Q29-Q37]

	<b>Strong agree</b>	<b>Smwt agree</b>	<b>Smwt disagr.</b>	<b>Strong disagr.</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>REF</b>
Q29. The police do not arrest people for crimes unless they have a lot of evidence, so most people who are arrested and charged with crimes are guilty.	20%	20	23	32	5	1
Q30. Giving public defenders more money and resources will result in more stalling tactics, longer trials, and justice will suffer.	27%	16	21	28	7	1
Q31. We need to spend more resources on catching and punishing criminals, not on trying to help them escape punishment.	76%	12	5	4	3	1
Q32. Most public defenders in Louisiana are not very good lawyers.	18%	16	21	22	23	1
Q33. Ensuring competent legal representation for all is necessary for our legal system to function fairly and effectively.	70%	22	2	2	3	1
Q34. Providing competent legal representation is necessary to prevent innocent people from going to jail.	80%	14	3	3	1	1
Q35. Providing competent legal representation is one of our most fundamental rights in the U.S.	71%	19	3	4	2	1
Q36. The quality of justice a person receives should NOT be determined by how much money a person has.	88%	6	1	3	1	*
Q37. Public defenders provide a check on police brutality and corruption, misconduct by prosecutors, police, or lab technicians, or other abuses.	43%	23	10	12	12	1

Here are some statements about how the public defenders system works in Louisiana. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a serious problem that needs immediate action, is a problem but not immediate, is not much of a problem, or not at all a problem. Here's the first one: [RANDOMIZE Q38-Q41]

	Imm- ediate	Not imm- ediate	Not much prob	Not at all prob	DK	REF
Q38. There are no restrictions on the number of cases public defenders can take. Many times these lawyers represent thousands of people a year. Often public defenders meet their clients in the courtroom for only a few minutes before their trial starts.	71%	17	5	2	5	1
Q39. Lawyers defending those accused of crimes often do not have enough money to hire an investigator, expert witnesses, or to conduct DNA testing.	55%	27	7	3	7	*
Q40A. <i>[Split sample; N=308]</i> Public defenders' budgets are generally only one-third of the budgets prosecutors receive.	46%	28	10	4	11	--
Q40B. <i>[Split sample; N=301]</i> Public defenders' budgets are generally only one-third of the budgets prosecutors receive. Louisiana government continues to increase the budget for the prosecutors' office but the public defenders' budget is not keeping up.	59%	24	6	4	8	--
Q41A. <i>[Split sample; N=308]</i> The current system cannot meet the need. In some places, defendants may wait months in jail before being appointed a lawyer and getting a hearing.	65%	21	7	2	5	--

	Imm- ediate	Not imm- ediate	Not much prob	Not at all prob	DK	REF
Q41B. [Split sample; N=301] The current system cannot meet the need. In some places, defendants may wait months in jail before being appointed a lawyer and getting a hearing. In a case in Calcasieu Parish, a man was in prison for a year and a half before seeing a lawyer.	82%	10	2	2	3	*

Q42. Right now, sheriffs throughout Louisiana are not required to report revenues from traffic tickets or federal grants. Some people say we need to require sheriffs to report this income so that the legislature can budget taxpayer money appropriately. Others say they should not have to report this income to the state legislature because it does not come from state funds. With whom do you agree more? Is that strongly or somewhat?	STRONGLY REPORT INCOME	64%
	SOMEWHAT REPORT INCOME	12
	SOMEWHAT NOT REPORT	9
	STRONGLY NOT REPORT	9
	DON'T KNOW	7
	REFUSED	--

Q43. Now, in Louisiana, do you think the state government should be spending more or spending less on legal defense for low-income people accused of a crime who cannot afford a lawyer, or should the government keep the funding about where it is now?	SPEND MORE	41%
	ABOUT THE SAME	38
	SPEND LESS	6
	DON'T KNOW	14
	REFUSED	1

Now, I have some questions for statistical purposes only.

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Q44. In terms of your political outlook, do you usually think of yourself as: very conservative, somewhat conservative, middle of the road, somewhat liberal, or very liberal?	VERY CONSERVATIVE	22%
	SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE	26
	MIDDLE OF THE ROAD	26
	SOMEWHAT LIBERAL	13
	VERY LIBERAL	7
	DK/REFUSED	5

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Q45. Do you consider yourself to be a [ROTATE: Democrat, a Republican,] an independent, or something else?	DEMOCRAT	41%
	REPUBLICAN	28
	INDEPENDENT	25
	SOMETHING ELSE	1
	DK/REFUSED	5

PARTY REGISTRATION (FROM SAMPLE)	DEMOCRAT	56%
	REPUBLICAN	23
	INDEPENDENT	19

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Q46. Did you happen to have a chance to vote in the 2004 elections for President and Congress?	YES	86%
	NO	13
	DK/REFUSED	1

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Q47. What was the last grade of school you completed?	LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL	11%
	HIGH SCHOOL GRAD	36
	SOME COLLEGE/ ASSOCIATES	25
	COLLEGE GRADUATE	18
	POST-GRADUATE	10
	DK/REFUSED	*

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Q48. In what year were you born? Are you between...	18-24	8%
	25-34	12
	35-44	17
	45-54	23
	55-64	18
	65+	21
	DK/REFUSED	1

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Q49. Would you say you are white, black or African American, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, or something else?	WHITE	66%
	BLACK/ AFRICAN AMERICAN	30
	HISPANIC	1
	ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	1
	SOMETHING ELSE	1
	DK/REFUSED	1

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Q50. Stop me when I come to the category in which your total HOUSEHOLD INCOME fell before taxes in 2005. Your best estimate is fine. [READ CATEGORIES]	LESS THAN \$25,000	27%
	\$25,000 UP TO \$50,000	29
	\$50,000 UP TO \$75,000	13
	\$75,000 UP TO \$100,000	9
	\$100,000 OR MORE	8
	DK/REFUSED	14

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GENDER	MALE	40%
	FEMALE	60

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