2008 Quality of Life Study - Orleans and Jefferson Parishes

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2008 Quality of Life Study

ORLEANS AND JEFFERSON PARISHES

CONDUCTED BY THE UNO SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER

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July 8, 2008
Methodology

- Telephone survey of 300 registered voters in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes
- Margin of error
  - Full sample - ± 5.7%
  - Orleans Parish (n = 109) - ± 9.4%
  - Jefferson Parish (n = 191) - ± 7.1%
- Sample is representative of voting age population in terms of race and gender
- Interviewing took place between June 25 and June 28, 2008.
Overall Satisfaction

Jefferson residents’ satisfaction remains high while satisfaction among Orleans residents has returned to the pre-Katrina level.

Question: How satisfied are you with life in Orleans Parish?

Orleans Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>April 2006</th>
<th>October 2006</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Very satisfied/Satisfied</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: How satisfied are you with life in Jefferson Parish?

Jefferson Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>April 2006</th>
<th>October 2006</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Very satisfied/Satisfied</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Worry About the Future

Question: Looking ahead, how worried are you about what will happen to you in the next five years – very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

• While worry about the future continues to decline among Jefferson residents, among Orleans residents, worries have remained level since October 2006.
Question: Over the next five years, do you think (Orleans/Jefferson) Parish will become a better or worse place to live, or won’t there be much of a change?

- Regardless of Parish of residence, the majority of respondents believe that their Parish will become a better place to live over the next five years.
  - Among respondents “very worried” about the next five years, 42% believe that life in the Parish will get worse (results not presented).
Evaluation of Government Services

Orleans Residents

- Overall level of government services
- Control of traffic congestion
- Availability of public transportation within the parish
- Police protection
- Availability of housing
- Availability of medical care
- Control of litter and control of trash
- Drainage and flood control
- Conditions of your local streets & roads
- Control of abandoned housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>October 2006</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall level of government services</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of traffic congestion</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of public transportation within the parish</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police protection</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of housing</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of medical care</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of litter and control of trash</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage and flood control</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions of your local streets &amp; roads</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of abandoned housing</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Orleans residents see improvement in police protection, availability of housing and control of litter and trash.
- They perceive declines in the quality of drainage and flood control and control of abandoned housing.
Jefferson residents generally see their government services as improving.

*Drainage and flood control* remains a concern, however.
Biggest Problem

• As has been true in previous studies, crime remains the issue of top concern both to Orleans and Jefferson residents.
The Crime Problem

Question: Now thinking about crime and safety...Would you say that the amount of crime in (Orleans/Jefferson) Parish has increased, decreased, or remained about the same over the past year?

Question: How safe do you feel around your home during the night?

• Despite the perception of increasing crime, most residents feel safe around their home.
The Economy

Question: Now I'd like to ask you two questions about the economy in Orleans/Jefferson Parish. Is each of the following very good, good, fair, poor, or very poor?

Opportunities for employment

Orleans
- Very good: 4%
- Good: 28%

Jefferson
- Very good: 15%
- Good: 34%

New Jobs and Industry

Orleans
- Very good: 8%
- Good: 27%

Jefferson
- Very good: 13%
- Good: 27%

• Neither residents of Orleans nor Jefferson parishes are exceptionally optimistic about prospects for employment or the likelihood of new jobs and industry coming to their Parish.
Likelihood of Leaving Area

Intervention: How likely is it that you will leave Orleans Parish within the next two years – very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

Question: How likely is it that you will leave Jefferson Parish within the next two years – very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

Question: How likely is it that you will leave Orleans Parish within the next two years – very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

• The percentage of residents likely to move over the next two years has declined since October 2006.
Where Will They Go?

Question: If you leave Orleans/Jefferson Parish, where are you most likely to go?

• Residents indicating that they are at least “somewhat likely” to move are most likely to move outside of Louisiana.

Likelihood of Leaving

Outside LA . . . 42%
St. Tammany . . . 19%
Baton Rouge area . . . 2%
Hammond area . . . 1%
Other Louisiana . . . 16%
Don’t Know . . . 20%

• Residents indicating that they are at least “somewhat likely” to move are most likely to move outside of Louisiana.
• Orleans residents express much higher approval of the City Council than they do Mayor Ray Nagin.
Evaluation of Public Officials

Orleans Residents by Race

% "Approve/Strongly Approve"

- Mayor Ray Nagin
  - African-American: 49%
  - White: 11%

- New Orleans City Council
  - African-American: 75%
  - White: 66%

- Mayor Ray Nagin’s approval among Orleans whites is extremely low.
- The racial gap in approval is less evident for the City Council than for the Mayor.
Evaluation of Public Officials

Jefferson Residents

Parish President Aaron Broussard

- October 2006: 53%
- 2008: 61%

Sheriff Newell Norman

- 2008: 90%

- Sheriff Newell Norman’s approval ratings are reminiscent of those of his predecessor.
- Aaron Broussard’s ratings have improved slightly since October 2006.
The Reform Effort

Question: I'm going to read you the names of a couple of people associated with efforts toward governmental reform in the Metro New Orleans area, and for both, please tell me whether you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar with the name.

Orleans Residents

Robert Cerasoli: 28% Very familiar, 19% Somewhat familiar, 53% Not very familiar, 17% Not at all familiar

Jim Letten: 53% Very familiar, 17% Somewhat familiar, 20% Not very familiar, 10% Not at all familiar

Jefferson Residents

Robert Cerasoli: 20% Very familiar, 15% Somewhat familiar, 44% Not very familiar, 15% Not at all familiar

Jim Letten: 44% Very familiar, 15% Somewhat familiar, 20% Not very familiar, 11% Not at all familiar

• Given the obstacles he has had to overcome, it is not surprising that Inspector General Robert Cerasoli is less well known than U.S. Attorney Jim Letten.
The Reform Effort

FAMILIAR RESPONDENTS

Question: In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job (Name) is doing? Is that strongly or not very strongly?

• Approval of both Cerasoli and Letten is very high.
• Relatively lower ratings for Robert Cerasoli reflect a high percentage of “don’t know” responses and not disapproval.
The Reform Effort

Question: What would you say are the chances that people such as Inspector General Cerasoli will be successful in bringing real reform to local government?

- Only a little over one-third (37%) of respondents rate the chances of the success of reform efforts as “excellent” or “good.”