



Appeals Court Race Poll Results (Ouachita Parish)

For this poll for Section 2 of the 1st District of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, a sample of likely households was chosen from the population registered to vote in the Ouachita Parish precincts. There were 400 completed responses to the poll questions.

ANALYSIS

JMC Analytics and Polling was commissioned to conduct this poll for a group of private subscribers.

To put the poll results in proper context, the Ouachita Parish precincts cast 60% of the district vote in last year's special election for Appeals Court, and in Ouachita, Judge Marchman had a 62-38% lead over Judge "Jimbo" Stephens. In the other parishes (where the remaining 40% of the vote was cast), Stephens led 72-28% and won the five-parish race 52-48%.

In the initial/uninformed Ouachita Parish ballot test, Marchman had a 36-24% lead over Stephens, and 40% were undecided. When information about Judge Marchman's lawsuit against a fellow district judge was provided to poll respondents, her lead evaporated, and in the informed ballot test, Stephens had a one-point (32-31%) lead. **Since it was Judge Marchman's 24-point lead in the Ouachita Parish precincts that made her competitive in last year's special election, a tie in Ouachita would eliminate her only possible path to victory in this year's race.** Curiously, for both the uninformed and informed ballot test, her standing among women was weaker than among men.

POLL RESULTS

If the election for Appeals Court Judge were held today, which candidate would you support? *(Party affiliations of candidates mentioned. Marchman - Republican, Stephens- Independent)*

Marchman 36%

Stephens 24%

Undecided 40%

In 2016, Judge Sharon Marchman alleged in a lawsuit that fellow district judge Wilson Rambo intentionally bumped into her as he exited the elevator at the Parish Courthouse. This allegation was shown to be false from security video footage published by the *Monroe News-Star*.

Based on the information above, do you favor or oppose having stiffer penalties for elected officials who file lawsuits based on false or misleading accusations?

Favor 38%

Oppose 15%

Undecided 47%

Given the information above about the false accusations, if the election for Appeals Court Judge were held today, which candidate would you support? *(Party affiliations of candidates mentioned)*

Stephens 32%

Marchman 31%

Undecided 38%

To ensure our survey responses are most accurate, are you male or female?

Female 55%

Male 45%

POLLING METHODOLOGY

For this poll of the 1st District of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, a sample of likely households was chosen from the population registered to vote in the Ouachita Parish precincts in the district for a “hybrid” automated (for landlines)/live (for cell phones) poll, where 70% of the phone numbers were landlines and 30% of the phone numbers were cell phones. There were 400 completed responses to poll questions.

The survey was conducted July 16-17. The margin of error, with a 95% confidence interval, was 4.9%. The demographic breakdown of the respondents was 84-14% white/black (2% “other”), while the party registration of respondents was 52-29% Republican/Democratic (19% Independents). The geographic breakdown of the respondents was as follows: 42% from northern Ouachita Parish and 58% from western Ouachita Parish *(The explanation of the boundaries of these regions is graphically depicted in Exhibit A at the end of the poll analysis).*

Appendix A: Ouachita Parish regions

