



## Statewide Poll Results

### POLLING METHODOLOGY

- Likely voters in Louisiana, conducted January 14-18, 2023 (4.0% MOE with 95% confidence interval)
- Sample size: 605 (89% cell phones (texted), 11% landlines - “hybrid” poll)
- Race/party: 67% white, 28% black, 5% “Other”/40% Democratic, 38% Republican, 22% Independents
- Gender: 53% female, 47% male
- Age: 10% 18-34 years old, 31% 35-54 years old, 24% 55-64 years old, 34% 65+ years old
- Geography (Nielsen media market): Alexandria 5%, Baton Rouge 21%, Lafayette 14%, Lake Charles 5%, Monroe 8%, New Orleans 36%, Shreveport 11% (*Explanation is graphically depicted in Exhibit A*).

### POLL RESULTS

Question 1: What is the most important issue in Louisiana right now?

<b>Crime and/or policing</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Economy</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Healthcare/public health</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Natural environment/climate</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Taxes</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>None of these are most important</b>	<b>3%</b>

		Party			Total
		DEM	OTHER	REP	
Most important issue	01-Economy	20%	26%	36%	27%
	02-Healthcare	9%	8%	2%	6%
	03-Crime	43%	37%	39%	40%
	04-Education	14%	19%	12%	14%
	05-Environment/climate	9%	5%	2%	5%
	06-Taxes	1%	3%	5%	3%
	07-None of these	4%	4%	3%	3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

		Victim of crime						
		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	Total	
Most important issue	01-Economy	29%	23%	28%	28%	22%	27%	
	02-Healthcare	5%	2%	9%	5%	15%	6%	
	03-Crime	41%	49%	44%	39%	30%	40%	
	04-Education	12%	19%	8%	16%	17%	14%	
	05-Environment/climate	5%	4%	7%	6%	2%	5%	
	06-Taxes	4%	2%		2%	11%	3%	
	07-None of these	5%		3%	4%	2%	3%	
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	Total
Most important issue	01-Economy	26%	28%	22%	27%
	02-Healthcare	6%	6%	11%	6%
	03-Crime	45%	38%	50%	40%
	04-Education	13%	15%		14%
	05-Environment/climate	4%	6%	6%	5%
	06-Taxes	2%	4%		3%
	07-None of these	3%	3%	11%	3%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 2: The system of police, courts, jails, and prisons is sometimes called the criminal justice system. Generally speaking, how would you rate Louisiana's criminal justice system?

**Needs major improvements 75%**  
**Needs minor improvements 15%**  
**Works well as is 4%**  
**Undecided 7%**

		Party			Total
		DEM	OTHER	REP	Total
Criminal justice system	01-Works as is	2%	5%	6%	4%
	02-Minor Improvements	13%	9%	20%	15%
	03-Major Improvements	82%	75%	67%	75%
	04-Uncecided	3%	11%	7%	7%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		Victim of crime					Total
		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	
Criminal justice system	01-Works as is	4%	9%	1%	6%		4%
	02-Minor Improvements	17%	11%	7%	15%	20%	15%
	03-Major Improvements	70%	72%	87%	74%	74%	75%
	04-Undecided	9%	9%	5%	6%	7%	7%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	
Criminal justice system	01-Works as is	6%	4%		4%
	02-Minor Improvements	16%	14%	17%	15%
	03-Major Improvements	73%	75%	72%	75%
	04-Undecided	6%	7%	11%	7%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 3: Which factor has had the biggest effect on the crime rate in Louisiana?

<b>Social problems, related to mental health and substance abuse</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Poor home environment</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Economic problems related to unemployment</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Law enforcement problems</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Recent criminal justice legislation</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>The COVID-19 pandemic</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>6%</b>

		Party			Total
		DEM	OTHER	REP	
Affect crime rate	01-Social Problems	35%	34%	32%	34%
	02-Economic Problems	20%	17%	12%	16%
	03-Home Environment	15%	23%	29%	22%
	04-Criminal Justice Legislation	7%	8%	11%	9%
	05-Law enforcement problems	13%	8%	10%	11%
	06-The COVID-19	4%	4%	2%	3%
	07-Undecided	6%	8%	6%	6%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		Victim of crime						
		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	Total	
Affect crime rate	01-Social Problems	33%	38%	33%	34%	28%	34%	
	02-Economic Problems	15%	13%	17%	17%	17%	16%	
	03-Home Environment	25%	13%	19%	22%	20%	22%	
	04-Criminal Justice Legislation	11%	9%	10%	7%	7%	9%	
	05-Law enforcement problems	9%	17%	10%	10%	13%	11%	
	06-The COVID-19	1%	4%	3%	4%	9%	3%	
	07-Undecided	6%	6%	7%	6%	7%	6%	
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	Total
Affect crime rate	01-Social Problems	34%	33%	39%	34%
	02-Economic Problems	13%	17%	11%	16%
	03-Home Environment	20%	23%		22%
	04-Criminal Justice Legislation	10%	8%		9%
	05-Law enforcement problems	9%	11%	17%	11%
	06-The COVID-19	4%	2%	28%	3%
	07-Undecided	9%	5%	6%	6%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 4: Which of the following statements comes closest to your point of view about people convicted of nonviolent offenses?

**It does not matter whether a people convicted of a nonviolent crime serves a longer sentence. What matters most is that when they complete their time, they are less likely to reoffend.** **70%**

**Longer sentences for nonviolent crimes have made us safer and we should not reduce prison sentences for anyone. As long as these criminals are behind bars, they cannot reoffend.** **26%**

**Left blank** **4%**

		Party			Total
		DEM	OTHER	REP	Total
Nonviolent offenses	01-Less Likely to reoffend	73%	77%	63%	70%
	02-Longer Sentences	22%	17%	36%	26%
	03-Left Blank	5%	6%	1%	4%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	Victim of crime 03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	Total
Nonviolent offenses	01-Less Likely to reoffend	66%	79%	76%	70%	63%	70%
	02-Longer Sentences	32%	17%	20%	25%	30%	26%
	03-Left Blank	2%	4%	5%	4%	7%	4%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	
Nonviolent offenses	01-Less Likely to reoffend	66%	72%	50%	70%
	02-Longer Sentences	29%	25%	39%	26%
	03-Left Blank	4%	3%	11%	4%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 5: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *We should make it easier for people who have previously served time in prison to obtain employment:*

**Strongly agree** 49%  
**Somewhat Agree** 34%  
**Neutral/no opinion** 9%  
**Somewhat Disagree** 6%  
**Strongly disagree** 2%

		DEM	Party OTHER	REP	Total
Obtain employment	01-Strongly agree	64%	50%	33%	49%
	02-Somewhat agree	24%	35%	44%	34%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	7%	9%	11%	9%
	04-Somewhat disagree	4%	6%	8%	6%
	05-Strongly Disagree	2%	1%	3%	2%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		Victim of crime					Total
		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	
Obtain employment	01-Strongly agree	44%	62%	49%	50%	50%	49%
	02-Somewhat agree	37%	26%	31%	36%	22%	34%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	9%	4%	12%	6%	24%	9%
	04-Somewhat disagree	7%	6%	8%	5%	4%	6%
	05-Strongly Disagree	3%	2%		3%		2%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	
Obtain employment	01-Strongly agree	47%	50%	56%	49%
	02-Somewhat agree	36%	34%	11%	34%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	8%	8%	28%	9%
	04-Somewhat disagree	7%	6%	6%	6%
	05-Strongly Disagree	2%	2%		2%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

**Question 6: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Louisiana should automatically expunge or seal the criminal records of people convicted of less-serious offenses who have served their sentence and have not committed a new crime for a period of years so they have better chances of finding employment:***

**Strongly agree 44%**  
**Somewhat Agree 33%**  
**Neutral/no opinion 8%**  
**Somewhat Disagree 8%**  
**Strongly disagree 7%**

		Party			Total
		DEM	OTHER	REP	
Expunge record	01-Strongly agree	56%	44%	31%	44%
	02-Somewhat agree	25%	28%	45%	33%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	8%	8%	7%	8%
	04-Somewhat disagree	6%	13%	8%	8%
	05-Strongly Disagree	5%	8%	9%	7%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		Victim of crime					Total
		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	
Expunge record	01-Strongly agree	39%	40%	48%	47%	43%	44%
	02-Somewhat agree	36%	38%	24%	35%	24%	33%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	9%	6%	7%	3%	28%	8%
	04-Somewhat disagree	9%	9%	12%	8%	2%	8%
	05-Strongly Disagree	7%	6%	9%	7%	2%	7%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	
Expunge record	01-Strongly agree	42%	45%	44%	44%
	02-Somewhat agree	30%	35%	17%	33%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	6%	7%	33%	8%
	04-Somewhat disagree	12%	7%		8%
	05-Strongly Disagree	10%	6%	6%	7%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 7: Should people charged with misdemeanor crimes be held in jail while awaiting their trial, or should they remain in the community while awaiting their trial?

**Remain in the community** **67%**  
**Held in jail** **19%**  
**Have No Opinion** **14%**

		Party			Total
		DEM	OTHER	REP	
Misdemeanor held in jail	01-Remain in community	71%	66%	63%	67%
	02-Held in jail	15%	20%	22%	19%
	03-No Opinion	14%	14%	15%	14%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	Victim of crime 03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	Total
Misdemeanor	01-Remain in community	67%	68%	65%	69%	54%	67%
held in jail	02-Held in jail	21%	15%	22%	18%	11%	19%
	03-No Opinion	11%	17%	13%	13%	35%	14%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	Total
Misdemeanor held in jail	01-Remain in community	61%	70%	50%	67%
	02-Held in jail	23%	18%		19%
	03-No Opinion	16%	12%	50%	14%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

**Question 8: Should people charged with minor crimes like trespassing or public intoxication generally be held in jail while awaiting their trial, or remain in the community while awaiting their trial?**

**Remain in the community 77%**  
**Held in jail 14%**  
**Have No Opinion 9%**

		DEM	Party OTHER	REP	Total
Minor crimes held in jail	01-Remain in community	77%	83%	73%	77%
	02-Held in jail	13%	10%	17%	14%
	03-No Opinion	10%	8%	10%	9%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	Victim of crime 03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	Total
Minor crimes	01-Remain in community	75%	81%	83%	79%	61%	77%
held in jail	02-Held in jail	17%	9%	10%	14%	13%	14%
	03-No Opinion	9%	11%	7%	8%	26%	9%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	
Minor crimes held in jail	01-Remain in community	74%	79%	50%	77%
	02-Held in jail	15%	13%	11%	14%
	03-No Opinion	11%	8%	39%	9%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

**Question 9: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Any jail or prison that receives taxpayer money should be subject to independent oversight to ensure that the funds are being used appropriately.***

**Strongly agree 80%**  
**Somewhat Agree 13%**  
**Neutral/no opinion 4%**  
**Somewhat Disagree 1%**  
**Strongly disagree 1%**

		Party			Total
		DEM	OTHER	REP	
Independent oversight	01-Strongly agree	80%	76%	82%	80%
	02-Somewhat agree	12%	15%	14%	13%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	7%	5%	2%	4%
	04-Somewhat disagree	0%	2%	1%	1%
	05-Strongly Disagree	1%	2%	1%	1%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		Victim of crime					Total
		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	
Independent oversight	01-Strongly agree	84%	79%	76%	83%	54%	80%
	02-Somewhat agree	14%	15%	15%	10%	22%	13%
	03-Neutral/no opinion		2%	6%	4%	22%	4%
	04-Somewhat disagree	1%		3%	1%		1%
	05-Strongly Disagree	1%	4%		2%	2%	1%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	
Independent oversight	01-Strongly agree	77%	83%	33%	80%
	02-Somewhat agree	15%	13%	17%	13%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	4%	3%	39%	4%
	04-Somewhat disagree	2%	1%		1%
	05-Strongly Disagree	2%	0%	11%	1%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 10: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Rather than being arrested, people with mental health and/or substance abuse issues who are accused of low-level crimes should be diverted to treatment instead of imprisonment.*

<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Neutral/no opinion</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>4%</b>

		Party			Total
		DEM	OTHER	REP	
Diversion not imprisonment	01-Strongly agree	60%	51%	36%	49%
	02-Somewhat agree	25%	36%	39%	33%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	8%	4%	4%	6%
	04-Somewhat disagree	3%	7%	14%	8%
	05-Strongly Disagree	3%	2%	6%	4%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

		Victim of crime					Total
		01-Yes (Property and/or financial)	02-Yes (violent)	03-Yes (Property and/or financial and violent)	04-No	05-Dont recall	
Diversion not imprisonment	01-Strongly agree	43%	66%	55%	50%	39%	49%
	02-Somewhat agree	30%	23%	30%	38%	28%	33%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	6%	2%	6%	3%	22%	6%
	04-Somewhat disagree	15%	9%	6%	4%	11%	8%
	05-Strongly Disagree	6%		3%	5%		4%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Involved in law enforcement			Total
		01-Yes	02-No	03-Dont Know	
Diversion not imprisonment	01-Strongly agree	44%	51%	44%	49%
	02-Somewhat agree	37%	32%	11%	33%
	03-Neutral/no opinion	7%	4%	39%	6%
	04-Somewhat disagree	8%	9%		8%
	05-Strongly Disagree	4%	4%	6%	4%
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%

Question 11: For demographic purposes, what is your age?

<b>18-34 years of age</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>35-54 years of age</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>55-64 years of age</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>65 years old or over</b>	<b>34%</b>

Question 12: To ensure that our survey responses are most accurate, are you male or female?

<b>Female</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>47%</b>

Question 13: Have you, or has someone in your household, been the victim of a crime in your lifetime?

<b>Yes, property and/or financial crime(s)</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Yes, violent crime(s)</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Yes, crime(s) both property/financial and violent</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Do not recall</b>	<b>8%</b>

Question 14: How would you describe your overall political viewpoint?

<b>Very conservative</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Somewhat conservative</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Somewhat liberal</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Very liberal</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>6%</b>

Question 15: Are you, or is someone in your immediate family, involved in law enforcement and/or corrections work—whether active or retired?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>3%</b>

## **SUMMARY**

JMC Analytics and Polling was commissioned to conduct this poll for the Justice Action Network. There are two takeaways from this poll: (1) attitudes have changed about how the criminal justice system should handle non-violent offenders, and (2) voters are unhappy with the current functioning of the criminal justice system.

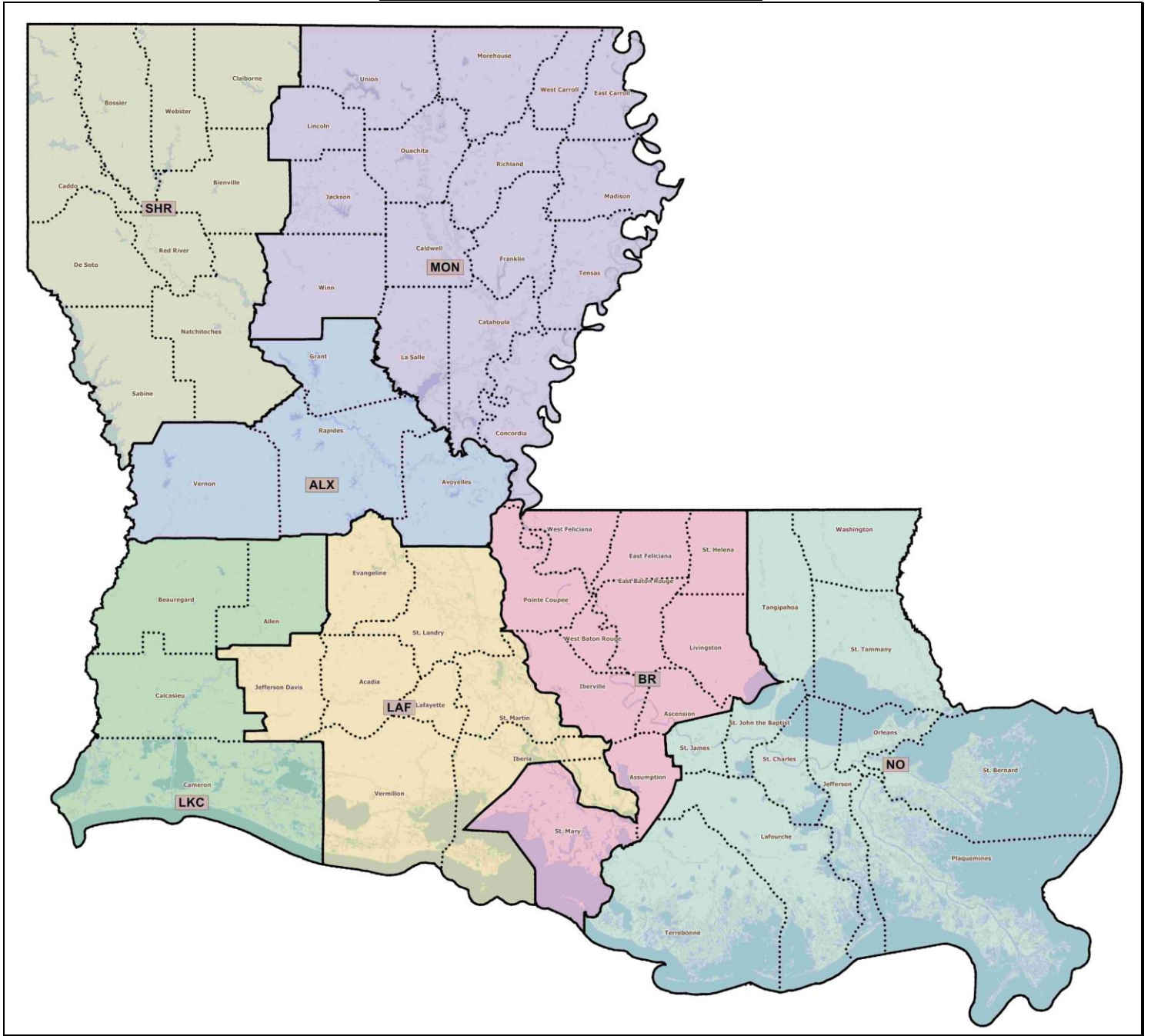
Even with voters' being concerned about crime (at a 40% plurality, it ranks as the most important issue on voters' minds), they take a different approach as to how non-violent offenders should be handled by the criminal justice system. The most popular statement (by an 82-12% margin) is that those with mental health/substance issues should be diverted to treatment instead of imprisonment. Similarly, by an 83-8% margin, respondents believe that for those who have previously served time in prison, it should be easier for them to obtain employment. Along similar lines, voters by a 77-15% margin agree that non violent offenders who have served their time and who have stayed out of trouble should have their record expunged/sealed.

Respondents also believe that nonviolent offenders shouldn't be treated the same way as those convicted of violent offenses: by large (77-14% and 67-19%) margins, voters believe those charged with minor and/or misdemeanor crimes should be allowed to remain in the community while awaiting their trial, as opposed to their being held in jail.

Finally, while voters take a more nuanced approach as to how the criminal justice system should handle nonviolent offenders, they are not happy with the current criminal justice system in Louisiana: 75% believe major improvements should be made, while another 15% favor minor improvements. Only 4% are satisfied with how the system currently functions.

In summary, while voters are satisfied with the 2017 criminal justice reform package that was passed into law, they are willing to consider other changes with regards to how the law handles nonviolent offenders.

## Appendix A: Louisiana regions



(ALX=Alexandria, BR=Baton Rouge, LAF=Lafayette, LKC=Lake Charles, MON=Monroe, NO=New Orleans, SHR=Shreveport)