

## **Survey of Louisiana Voters**

### **Overview**

Baselice & Associates, Inc. was retained to conduct survey research for the purpose of studying attitudes and opinions of voters in Louisiana. This telephonic survey was conducted among N=504 randomly selected voters on July 12-14, 2011. The margin of error for a sample of this size is  $\pm 4.4\%$  at the .95 test level.

### **Position on Education Reforms**

Only three percent of voters would you rate the job being done by public schools throughout Louisiana as “excellent”. And another 21% rate the job being done as “good.” With these ratings, it is not surprising that a large majority of the electorate (90%) would you like to see public schools in Louisiana improve through educational reforms.

After hearing about various reform ideas and policies, the desire for seeing public schools in Louisiana improve through educational reforms increased to 94%.

### **First-Tier Reform Ideas and Elements**

While most ideas generated majority support or response in one direction, the regression analysis showed certain items correlate better than others with: 1) the desire for educational reform, and 2) the rating of public schools throughout Louisiana. The ideas and concepts that correlated most are below.

92% favor rewarding schools that grow academically.

91% favor requiring local school boards to be more accountable for the academic achievement of students in their districts.

90% believe that school districts be able to dismiss teachers who are persistently ineffective.

67% favor charter schools in Louisiana, and 56% favor more charter schools.

55% oppose granting tenure to teachers after they have been on the job for three years. Furthermore, 83% prefer that teachers have their tenure renewed every few years based on their performance (if they had to choose) versus 11% who prefer that teachers be granted tenure for life after three years on the job.

## **Second-Tier Reform Ideas and Elements**

The following items are the next most highly correlated reform ideas.

73% favor providing solutions for failing schools that are at risk of being taken over by the state.

83% favor giving principals more flexibility at dismissing ineffective teachers.

69% favor basing half of a teacher's evaluation on student progress.

82% think teachers should be allowed to enter into a voluntary program within their school districts in which they can earn extra pay by accepting more vigorous, challenging and accountable conditions.