Louisiana Opinion

Attitude toward the death penalty

"In general, do you favor or oppose the use of the death penalty?"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **STATEWIDE**
  - Age 18-29: 63% favor, 22% oppose, 15% no opinion
  - Age 30-49: 61% favor, 21% oppose, 18% no opinion
  - Age 50+: 62% favor, 20% oppose, 18% no opinion

- **WHITE**
  - Sex: Male 67%, Female 59%
  - Age: Under 25 67%, 25-49 61%, 50+ 66%
  - Race: White 77%, Non-white 61%
  - Income: Under $10,000 56%, $10,000-$20,000 43%, $20,000-$40,000 24%, $40,000+ 11%
  - Religion: Catholic 73%, Other 27%

- **INCOME**
  - Under $10,000: 54% favor, 36% oppose, 10% no opinion
  - $10,000-$20,000: 53% favor, 34% oppose, 13% no opinion
  - $20,000-$40,000: 51% favor, 36% oppose, 13% no opinion
  - $40,000+: 49% favor, 38% oppose, 13% no opinion

- **UNIONS**
  - Union household: 70% favor, 20% oppose, 10% no opinion
  - Non-union household: 66% favor, 27% oppose, 7% no opinion

- **POLITICAL PARTY**
  - Democrat: 64% favor, 24% oppose, 12% no opinion
  - Republican: 52% favor, 43% oppose, 5% no opinion
  - Independent: 61% favor, 28% oppose, 11% no opinion

- **POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**
  - Conservative: 74% favor, 19% oppose, 7% no opinion
  - Moderate: 71% favor, 22% oppose, 7% no opinion
  - Liberal: 67% favor, 33% oppose, 10% no opinion

- **STATE AREA**
  - North: 64% favor, 24% oppose, 12% no opinion
  - Southeast: 61% favor, 26% oppose, 13% no opinion
  - South Central: 60% favor, 26% oppose, 14% no opinion
  - Baton Rouge: 63% favor, 23% oppose, 14% no opinion
  - New Orleans: 69% favor, 23% oppose, 8% no opinion

- **MARITAL STATUS**
  - Single: 57% favor, 36% oppose, 7% no opinion
  - Married: 74% favor, 19% oppose, 7% no opinion

- **EDUCATION**
  - High school: 60% favor, 30% oppose, 10% no opinion
  - College: 61% favor, 29% oppose, 10% no opinion

- **RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE**
  - Catholic: 73% favor, 17% oppose, 10% no opinion
  - Other: 51% favor, 44% oppose, 5% no opinion

- **SEX**
  - Male: 67% favor, 22% oppose, 11% no opinion
  - Female: 59% favor, 30% oppose, 11% no opinion

- **RACE**
  - White: 77% favor, 19% oppose, 4% no opinion
  - Non-white: 61% favor, 30% oppose, 9% no opinion

**More humane death penalty**

"Which form of the death penalty is more humane — the electric chair or lethal injection?" (Asked only of those who favor the death penalty.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Injection</th>
<th>Same</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **STATEWIDE**
  - Age 18-29: 29% chair, 38% injection, 33% same, 6% no opinion
  - Age 30-49: 28% chair, 39% injection, 33% same, 6% no opinion
  - Age 50+: 27% chair, 38% injection, 35% same, 9% no opinion

- **RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE**
  - Catholic: 23% chair, 50% injection, 27% same, 10% no opinion
  - Other: 23% chair, 39% injection, 38% same, 10% no opinion

- **INCOME**
  - Under $10,000: 39% chair, 35% injection, 26% same, 10% no opinion
  - $10,000-$20,000: 34% chair, 41% injection, 25% same, 10% no opinion
  - $20,000-$40,000: 32% chair, 43% injection, 25% same, 10% no opinion
  - $40,000+: 28% chair, 47% injection, 25% same, 10% no opinion

- **UNIONS**
  - Union household: 20% chair, 58% injection, 22% same, 10% no opinion
  - Non-union household: 23% chair, 52% injection, 25% same, 10% no opinion

- **POLITICAL PARTY**
  - Republican: 28% chair, 51% injection, 21% same, 10% no opinion
  - Independent: 25% chair, 62% injection, 13% same, 10% no opinion

- **POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**
  - Conservative: 23% chair, 50% injection, 27% same, 10% no opinion
  - Liberal: 21% chair, 45% injection, 34% same, 10% no opinion

- **STATE AREA**
  - North: 21% chair, 53% injection, 26% same, 10% no opinion
  - Southeast: 21% chair, 53% injection, 26% same, 10% no opinion
  - South Central: 21% chair, 53% injection, 26% same, 10% no opinion
  - Baton Rouge: 25% chair, 53% injection, 26% same, 10% no opinion
  - New Orleans: 25% chair, 53% injection, 26% same, 10% no opinion

Most favor death by lethal injection

e Capital City Press

Most Louisiana voters in a recent survey favor the death penalty, and most of those think lethal injection would be more humane than electrocution now used by the state, the survey said.

The statewide poll, commissioned by the Baton Rouge Times and Advocate, showed that 66 percent of all the people questioned favored execution by lethal injection instead of the death penalty as it was practiced by the state for more than 150 years. The poll was conducted by Brady & Associates Inc. which polled 1,002 voters between Dec. 5 and Dec. 18.

"The typical Louisiana voter is therefore nearly three times as likely to favor the death penalty as he is to oppose it," said Brady.

Voters who earn more than $40,000 a year were the strongest supporters of the capital punishment — with 77 percent in favor.

The majority of those favoring the death penalty came from non-white voters — with 59 percent opposed.

The survey takes the question: "In general, do you favor or oppose the use of the death penalty?"

Respondents were separated into 11 demographic categories. These categories included: age, race, sex, marital status, education, religious preference, income, union membership, political party, political philosophy and geographical area.

The Dec. 14 execution of convicted Baton Rouge security guard was being conducted. Williams was convicted of the 1979 shotgun killing of a Baton Rouge security guard and was the first person in Baton Rouge since 1979 to be executed in Louisiana.

"Among those who favor the death penalty this is the highest among whites, while it is higher among non-whites," Brady said.

"The black, male, over $20,000 a year, white than it is among any other demographic group," Brady said.

The poll showed 72 percent of Catholics polled favored the death penalty, compared to 63 percent of Protestants.

Brady found 68 percent of the Baton Rouge residents who favored the death penalty. Those figures were generally similar in other regions of the state. The death penalty was favored by 64 percent of the residents in the northern part of the state and by 69 percent in New Orleans.

A slight majority of those favoring the death penalty, 53 percent, believe lethal injection is more humane than the electric chair. About one in 10 voters, 11 percent, feel these two methods of executions are about the same, Brady said.

Only two groups believe the electric chair is more humane than lethal injection — males and those who earn less than $10,000 per year, Brady said.

A 1979 survey asked for voters' attitudes toward the death penalty for first-degree murder. In that study, 71 percent approved of the use of the death penalty for that purpose, Brady said. The present statewide poll shows a marked correlation in the respondents' attitude toward the death penalty in general.

The results of these two questions are therefore not directly comparable. Results indicate, however, that a solid majority of Louisiana voters do support the death penalty, yet they may favor a change to lethal injection, Brady said.