

PAR

A N A L Y S I S

PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LA., INC.

The Gist of It

Bush won Louisiana's 10 electoral votes with a 54% popular vote majority. He carried 37 of the 64 parishes, while Dukakis carried 20 parishes; seven parishes did not give a majority to any candidate.

Louisiana voted for the Republican presidential candidate for the third consecutive time. Since 1948, the state has voted for the Republican candidate in six of the 11 presidential elections and the Democratic candidate only three times.

A survey of sample precincts showed that blacks strongly supported Dukakis, while white voters were almost as strong in their support of Bush.

Statewide, 73% of Louisiana's registered voters voted in the presidential election. Higher voter participation by Republicans and whites compared to Democrats and blacks may have benefited Bush.

The percentage of Louisiana voters registered as Democrats declined steadily over the past 10 years--from 92% in 1978 to 75.1% in 1988. At the same time, Republican registration grew from 4.4% to 16.4% of total registered voters.

Republican George Bush captured Louisiana's 10 electoral college votes with 54.3% of the popular vote, defeating Democratic challenger Michael Dukakis and four other candidates. Bush is expected to receive 426 electoral votes compared to Dukakis' 112. (The electoral college votes in January.)

No other statewide election occurred in Louisiana on November 8, although a state constitutional amendment was voted on at the October 1 primary.

Voter Registration

The U.S. Bureau of the Census estimated that approximately 3.18 million Louisiana residents were of voting age (18 and older) in November 1988.

Of these, 70.3% were registered to vote. This is a slightly smaller percentage than in 1984 when 71.9% of Louisiana's voting-age population

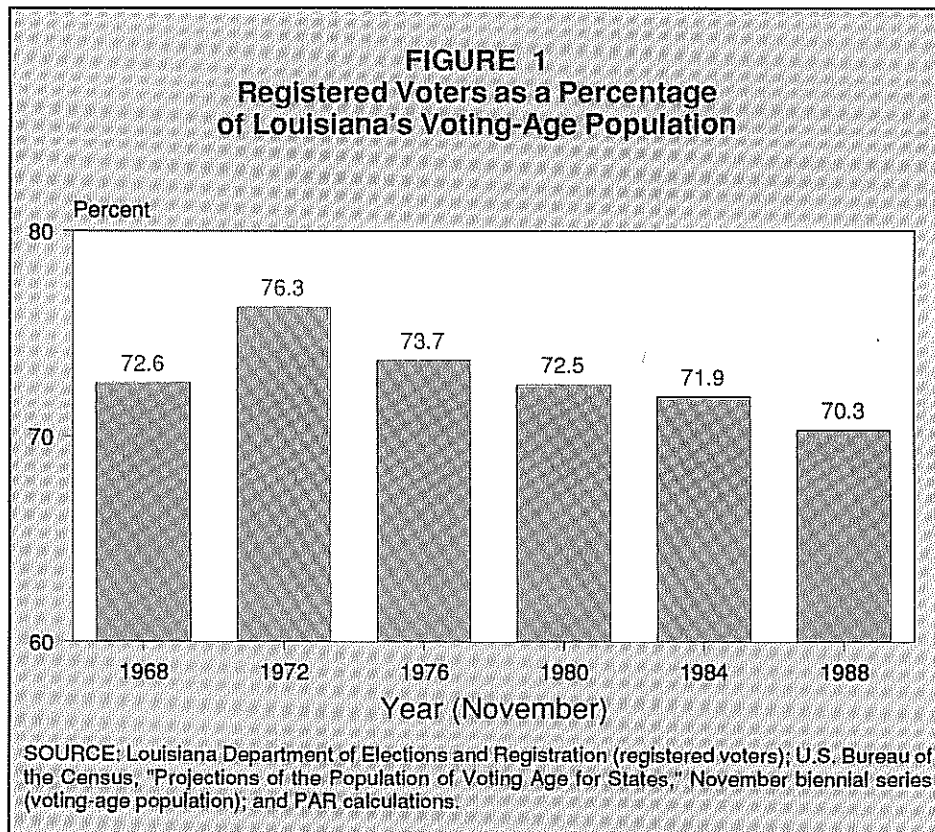


TABLE 1
Trend in Age Distribution of Voting-Age Population

Age Groups	Louisiana					U. S.				
	Percent of Voting-Age Population*					Percent of Voting-Age Population*				
	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988
18-24	20.4%	20.6%	20.0%	18.5%	16.0%	18.4%	18.7%	18.2%	16.7%	14.5%
25-44	36.7	37.8	39.9	43.0	45.1	36.0	36.9	38.8	41.5	43.5
45-64	29.4	27.5	26.2	24.7	24.1	30.6	29.1	27.4	25.6	25.2
65+	13.5	14.0	13.8	13.8	14.8	15.0	15.3	15.6	16.2	16.8

* May not add to 100% due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Projections of the Population of Voting Age for States*, (November biennial series).

was registered. The voting-age population increased by 1% between 1984 and 1988, but the number of registered voters decreased by 1.3%.

register and vote in a presidential election. (See Figure 1.)

As Table 1 shows, in Louisiana and nationally, the 25 to 44 age group has

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Alaska has the youngest voting-age population, with 18% between 18 to 24 years old, almost 55% between 24 and 44, and a median age of 35.8.

The oldest median age is in Florida where half of the voting-age population is above 45. Louisiana has a relatively low median age, 38.9. Nationally, the median age is 40.5.

Trends in Party Affiliation

There has been a steady decline in the percentage of Louisiana voters registered as Democrats during the past 10 years. (See Table 2.)

In 1978, Democrats accounted for 92% of all registered voters compared to only 75.1% in 1988—a decline of 16.9 percentage points. During the same period, Republican registration grew from 4.4% to 16.4% (an increase of 12 percentage points). The percentage of independents (no party affiliation) and voters affiliated with another political party also grew—from 3.6% of the registered voters to 8.4%.

Since 1978, the state's number of registered voters increased by 22.6%. However, the number of registered Democrats increased by only one tenth of a percent, while the number of Republicans increased 359%. Voters registered as independent or affiliated with another political party also increased—by 183%.

Much of the increase in Republican registration occurred after the 1979 election of Louisiana's first Republican governor in more than a century. The open primary system, which since 1975 has allowed registered voters to participate in state primary elections regardless of party affiliation, also has contributed to the decline in Democratic registration.

Trends in Black Registration

Black registered voters continue to increase both in number and as a per-

TABLE 2
Trend in Party Affiliation of Louisiana Registered Voters, 1978-1988

Year	Total Registered Voters	Democrats		Republicans		Others	
		Number Registered	Percent of Total	Number Registered	Percent of Total	Number Registered	Percent of Total
1978	1,821,026	1,674,767	92.0%	79,900	4.4%	66,359	3.6%
1979	1,936,804	1,741,470	89.9	98,211	5.1	97,123	5.0
1980	2,015,402	1,744,465	86.6	149,903	7.4	121,034	6.0
1981	1,942,941	1,673,576	86.1	151,445	7.8	117,920	6.1
1982	1,965,422	1,674,164	85.2	163,849	8.3	127,409	6.5
1983	2,135,771	1,782,301	83.5	195,136	9.1	158,334	7.4
1984	2,262,101	1,822,372	80.6	256,062	11.3	183,667	8.1
1985	2,149,261	1,712,560	79.7	266,530	12.4	170,171	7.9
1986	2,179,317	1,704,570	78.2	293,990	13.5	180,757	8.3
1987	2,191,428	1,697,127	77.4	305,763	14.0	188,538	8.6
1988	2,231,857	1,677,218	75.1	366,929	16.4	187,710	8.4

SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration.

Louisiana registered voters as a percentage of the voting-age population have declined steadily since 1972. That was the first year that those 18 to 20 years old were allowed to

been increasing its share of the voting-age population since 1972. This group is now almost totally composed of the "Baby Boomers" (those born between 1946 and 1964).

TABLE 3
Trend in Louisiana Black Registered Voters, 1964-1988

Year	Total Registered Voters	Number Blacks Registered*	Percent Black Registrants of Total	Percent Increase of Black Registrants Over Prior Four Years
1964	1,207,785	164,601	13.6%	—
1968	1,476,209	309,950	21.0	88.3%
1972	1,784,890	397,158	22.3	28.1
1976	1,866,117	420,697	22.5	5.9
1980	2,015,402	465,005	23.1	10.5
1984	2,262,101	560,732	24.8	20.6
1988	2,231,857	582,504	26.1	3.9

* It should be noted that since 1976, race cannot be required for registration and, therefore, some registrants did not indicate their race.

SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration.

centage of registered voters. (See Table 3.)

Black registration increased by 3.9% from 1984 to 1988--the smallest percentage increase between presidential elections during the last 20 years.

Blacks made up 26.1% of the state's registered voters in October 1988.

This is slightly less than the percentage blacks comprise of the state's voting-age population, 27.5%.

However, the difference between these two measures was closer than in 1980 when blacks were 23.1% of the registered voters but 27.3% of the voting-age population.

One reason for the lower growth rate in recent years is that most eligible blacks already are registered.

By Parish

The majority of voters in every parish were registered as Democrats. St. Tammany had the smallest percentage of Democrats, 55.6%, and the largest percentage of Republicans, 31.1%, and independents, 13.4%.

Blacks comprised a majority of the registered voters in three of the state's parishes: East Carroll, Madison and Orleans. (See Table 4.)

TABLE 4
Characteristics of Voter Registration,* October 1988

Parish	Total Registered	Percent Black	Party Affiliation					
			Democrats	Percent	Republicans	Percent	Others	Percent
Acadia	34,353	17.5%	30,555	88.9%	2,730	7.9%	1,068	3.1%
Allen	12,471	18.9	11,152	89.4	875	7.0	444	3.6
Ascension	31,243	21.9	25,833	82.7	3,036	9.7	2,374	7.6
Assumption	13,920	31.4	12,611	90.6	810	5.8	499	3.6
Avoynes	22,933	23.0	20,330	88.6	1,434	6.3	1,169	5.1
Beauregard	16,100	12.1	12,524	77.8	2,048	12.7	1,528	9.5
Bienville	10,369	41.2	9,294	89.6	786	7.6	289	2.8
Bossier	39,332	14.0	24,487	62.3	9,923	25.2	4,922	12.5
Caddo	123,446	29.7	82,340	66.7	29,176	23.6	11,930	9.7
Calcasieu	88,586	20.2	69,776	78.8	11,764	13.3	7,046	8.0
Caldwell	6,707	15.7	5,645	84.2	761	11.3	301	4.5
Cameron	6,301	5.8	5,482	87.0	358	5.7	461	7.3
Catahoula	7,705	23.3	6,822	88.5	645	8.4	238	3.1
Clafborne	9,540	41.9	7,814	81.9	1,153	12.1	573	6.0
Concordia	12,777	32.9	10,736	84.0	1,319	10.3	722	5.7
DeSoto	14,715	36.0	12,188	82.8	1,325	9.0	1,202	8.2
East Baton Rouge	192,237	26.9	128,666	66.9	44,211	23.0	19,360	10.1
East Carroll	6,115	55.8	5,099	83.4	603	9.9	413	6.8
East Feliciana	10,730	31.9	8,986	83.7	1,053	9.8	691	6.4
Evangeline	21,977	24.7	20,492	93.2	1,152	5.2	333	1.6
Franklin	13,533	26.1	11,853	87.6	1,352	10.0	328	2.4
Grant	10,364	13.5	8,615	83.1	1,107	10.7	642	6.2
Iberia	36,985	26.7	29,265	79.1	5,168	14.0	2,552	6.9
Iberville	19,703	44.5	18,216	92.5	851	4.3	636	3.2
Jackson	9,493	27.4	8,055	84.9	1,032	10.9	406	4.3
Jefferson	214,693	12.3	135,748	63.2	55,862	26.0	23,083	10.8
Jefferson Davis	18,007	17.2	15,014	83.4	1,546	8.6	1,447	8.0
Lafayette	86,780	18.5	66,827	65.5	18,991	21.9	10,962	12.6
Lafourche	42,570	8.6	35,845	84.2	3,989	9.4	2,736	6.4
LaSalle	9,593	7.8	8,096	84.4	961	10.0	536	5.6
Lincoln	20,195	35.0	14,002	69.3	4,262	21.1	1,931	9.6
Livingston	37,061	5.8	29,349	79.2	4,120	11.1	3,592	9.7
Madison	7,803	50.5	5,921	75.9	1,292	16.6	590	7.6
Morehouse	16,713	34.1	12,812	76.7	2,510	15.0	1,391	8.3
Natchitoches	20,199	33.9	16,243	80.4	2,365	11.7	1,591	7.9
Orleans	257,400	53.6	197,531	76.7	38,674	15.0	21,195	8.2
Ouachita	68,586	25.5	44,815	65.3	16,249	23.7	7,522	11.0
Plaquemines	14,617	19.1	12,140	83.1	1,668	11.4	809	5.5
Pointe Coupee	14,596	39.7	13,196	90.4	854	5.9	546	3.7
Rapides	68,262	22.7	50,246	73.6	11,963	17.5	6,053	8.9
Red River	6,647	33.9	5,739	86.3	451	6.8	457	6.9
Richland	11,785	30.9	9,390	79.7	1,687	14.3	708	6.0
Sabine	13,252	14.4	11,320	85.4	1,258	9.5	674	5.1
St. Bernard	42,200	4.1	35,646	84.5	4,498	10.7	2,056	4.9
St. Charles	23,549	23.1	17,727	75.3	3,882	16.5	1,940	8.2
St. Helena	7,789	49.8	6,898	88.6	509	6.5	382	4.9
St. James	13,555	46.6	12,478	92.1	605	4.5	472	3.5
St. John	21,819	36.5	17,125	78.5	2,715	12.4	1,979	9.1
St. Landry	48,184	39.5	41,860	86.9	4,127	8.6	2,197	4.6
St. Martin	25,532	31.5	22,948	89.9	1,765	6.9	819	3.2
St. Mary	33,695	29.2	25,486	75.6	4,685	13.9	3,524	10.5
St. Tammany	72,933	8.7	40,547	55.6	22,648	31.1	9,738	13.4
Tangipahoa	45,648	24.5	35,810	78.4	5,672	12.4	4,166	9.1
Tensas	4,699	48.5	3,944	83.9	620	13.2	135	2.9
Terrebonne	44,132	15.5	32,354	73.3	7,499	17.0	4,279	9.7
Union	12,881	25.3	10,663	82.8	1,677	13.0	541	4.2
Vermilion	30,340	12.7	26,255	86.5	2,043	6.7	2,042	6.7
Vernon	19,980	9.0	15,342	76.8	2,431	12.2	2,207	11.0
Washington	26,965	26.4	23,507	87.2	2,142	7.9	1,316	4.9
Webster	23,172	27.7	18,646	80.5	2,826	12.2	1,700	7.3
West Baton Rouge	11,457	35.2	10,015	87.4	742	6.5	700	6.1
West Carroll	6,994	14.0	5,676	81.2	1,048	15.0	270	3.9
West Feliciana	5,564	43.7	4,567	82.1	557	10.0	440	7.9
Winn	10,375	25.1	8,654	83.4	864	8.3	857	8.3
Total	2,231,857	26.1%	1,677,218	75.1%	366,929	16.4%	187,710	8.4%

* Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration.

Voter Participation

Only 73% of Louisiana's registered voters voted in this year's presidential election. This was the smallest turnout since the 1976 presidential election when only 68.8% voted, continuing a downward trend in statewide voter participation in the presidential election. (See Figure 2.) The percentage of the voting-age population voting was 51.3%.

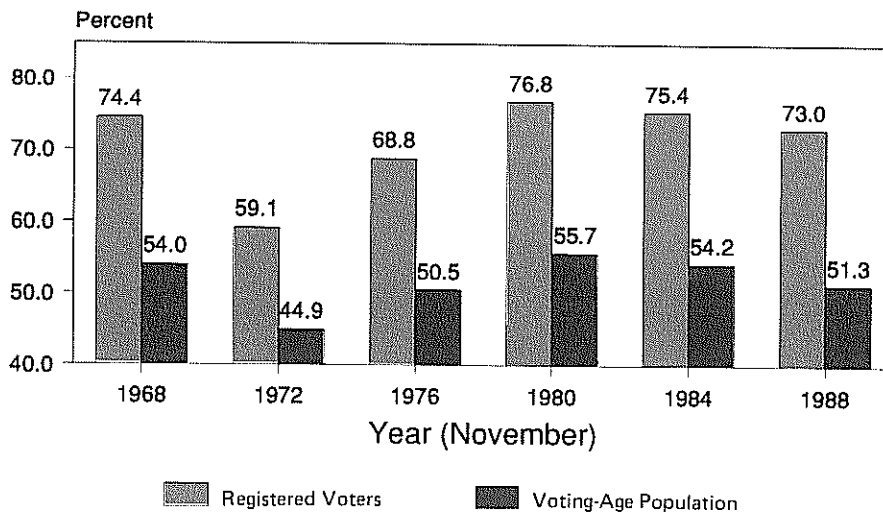
There often has been discussion as to whether Saturday or Tuesday statewide elections elicit greater voter turnout.

As Table 5 shows, voter participation rates are similar whether the election is held on Saturday or Tuesday. Since 1975, the highest participation rate was 76.8% with the second highest, 75.7%; the first occurred in a Tuesday election and the second in a Saturday election.

By Parish

Among the parishes, St. James had the highest rate of voter participation (79.1%), while East Carroll had the lowest (56.6%). (See Table 6.) In the 1984 presidential election, voter participation rates ranged among the parishes from 82.7% in Pointe Coupee to 59.8% in Cameron. Fifty-six of the 64 parishes had a lower voter participation rate in the 1988 presidential election than in the 1984 election.

FIGURE 2
Percentage of State's Voting-Age Population
and Registered Voters Voting in Presidential Elections



SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration (registered voters); Official Promulgation, Secretary of State (vote); U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Projections of the Population of Voting Age for States," November biennial series (voting-age population); and PAR calculations.

Vote for President

Bush won a majority in Louisiana with 883,702 votes, or 54.3%. (See Table 7.) His percentage of the vote was not as high as Reagan's in 1984, but surpassed that of Carter in 1976 and Reagan in 1980. (See Table 8.)

Louisiana now has voted for the Republican presidential candidate three elections in a row and the winning candidate in seven of the last 11 presidential elections.

Bush carried 37 of the state's 64 parishes. (See Table 9.) By comparison, Reagan carried 54 parishes in 1984.

Of the top five parishes where Bush received his largest share of a parish-wide vote, four were urban parishes.

LaSalle Parish gave Bush the highest percentage of a parishwide vote (71.7%), followed by St. Tammany, Bossier, Ouachita and Jefferson parishes. Sixteen parishes gave

were carried by Carter in 1980. Orleans Parish gave Dukakis his largest majority, 63.6%, as it also did Mondale.

Seven parishes did not give a majority to any candidate.

Differences in voter participation between Democrats and Republicans may have benefited Bush.

PAR looked at 50 precincts it identified as heavily Republican and compared voter participation in these precincts to that in a sample of 136 predominately Democratic precincts (in which 80% or more of the registered voters were Democrats). The Republican precincts had 40% or more voters registered as Republicans.

Voter participation in the Republican precincts was better than in the Democratic precincts. Ninety-six percent of the Republican precincts had voter participation rates of 70% or more, compared to only 50% of the Democratic precincts.

None of the Republican precincts had a voter participation rate of less than 60%, while 11% of the sample Democratic precincts did.

The four minor party candidates received 27,040 votes, or 1.7%, of the statewide vote. David Duke of the In-

Bush over 60% of their vote. However, in 1984 Reagan received 60% or more of the vote in 36 parishes. Support for Bush was greatest in the northern and southeastern portions of the state, as it was for Reagan in 1984.

Of the 20 parishes carried by Dukakis, nine were among the 10 that were the only parishes to give a majority to Mondale in 1984 and also

TABLE 5
Louisiana Voter Participation
in Saturday vs. Tuesday Statewide Elections

Day	Date	Type of Election*	Percent of Registered Voters Who Voted
Saturday	11/01/75	P—Gubernatorial	66.9%
Tuesday	11/02/76	G—Presidential	68.8
Saturday	10/27/79	P—Gubernatorial	70.5
Saturday	12/03/79	G—Gubernatorial	70.8
Tuesday	11/04/80	G—Presidential	76.8
Saturday	10/22/83	P—Gubernatorial	75.7
Tuesday	11/06/84	G—Presidential	75.4
Saturday	10/24/87	P—Gubernatorial	71.1
Tuesday	11/08/88	G—Presidential	73.0

* Elections for U.S. senators also are statewide but were not included since turnout in these elections has been consistently lower than in presidential and gubernatorial elections.
 SOURCE: PAR calculations.

dependent Populist Party led the minority candidates with 18,612 votes.

Following were Ron Paul of the Libertarian Party with 4,115 votes.

Lenora Fulani of the New Alliance Party with 2,355 votes, and Lyndon Larouche, Jr. of the National Economic Recovery Party with 1,958 votes.

Urban Vote

Bush received a slightly higher percentage of the urban vote, 55.6%, than the statewide vote. Table 10 details the vote for president in Louisiana's eight metropolitan areas (Metropolitan Statistical Areas, or MSAs, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget).

Bush carried all but one of the state's eight metropolitan areas: Lake Charles, which Dukakis carried by 52.9%.

However, Bush would not have carried the Orleans metropolitan area had it not been for the large majorities he received in the parishes of Jefferson and St. Tammany, which canceled out his poor showing in Orleans and St. John parishes.

A similar situation occurred in the Baton Rouge area where East Baton Rouge and Livingston parishes overcame Bush's defeat in Ascension and West Baton Rouge parishes.

Bush's percentage of the vote in all but the Houma/Thibodaux, Lake Charles and New Orleans MSAs exceeded his statewide percentage.

Bush polled his largest share of an urban vote in the Monroe area, 67.3%.

Racial Vote

To find out which candidate black or white voters favored, PAR examined the vote in 68 all or predominately black and 68 all or predominately white sample precincts, based on voter registration information.

The chosen precincts are well distributed geographically and represent an urban-rural mix of parishes.

As Table 11 shows, blacks strongly supported Dukakis while white voters were almost as strong in their support of Bush.

TABLE 6
Voter Participation by Parish, 1988 Presidential Election

Parish	Total Registered	Number Voting	Percent of Registrants Voting	Rank*
Acadia	34,353	23,110	67.3%	52
Allen	12,471	8,989	72.1	29
Ascension	31,243	23,240	74.4	16
Assumption	13,920	9,995	71.8	30
Avoyelles	22,933	15,600	68.0	48
Beauregard	16,100	11,284	70.1	39
Bienville	10,369	7,537	72.7	24
Bossier	39,332	30,085	76.5	7
Caddo	123,446	94,402	76.5	8
Calcasieu	88,586	64,100	72.4	28
Caldwell	6,707	4,559	68.0	51
Cameron	6,301	4,070	64.6	59
Catahoula	7,705	4,950	64.2	61
Claiborne	9,540	7,007	73.4	20
Concordia	12,777	8,761	68.6	46
DeSoto	14,715	10,516	71.5	32
East Baton Rouge	192,237	147,584	76.8	5
East Carroll	10,415	6,950	66.8	64
East Feliciana	10,730	7,349	68.5	47
Evangeline	21,977	15,400	70.1	40
Franklin	13,533	8,876	65.6	58
Grant	10,364	7,245	69.9	42
Iberia	36,985	28,331	76.6	6
Iberville	19,703	14,836	75.3	12
Jackson	9,493	7,249	76.4	10
Jefferson	214,693	166,370	77.5	2
Jefferson Davis	18,007	12,791	71.0	35
Lafayette	86,780	61,658	71.1	34
Lafourche	42,570	32,179	75.6	11
LaSalle	9,593	6,359	66.3	55
Lincoln	20,195	14,657	72.6	26
Livingston	37,061	25,743	69.5	43
Madison	7,803	4,911	62.9	63
Morehouse	16,713	12,140	72.6	25
Natchitoches	20,199	13,733	68.0	50
Orleans	257,400	183,800	71.4	33
Ouachita	68,586	50,292	73.3	21
Plaquemines	14,617	10,293	70.4	38
Pointe Coupee	14,596	10,930	74.9	15
Rapides	68,262	48,891	71.6	31
Red River	6,647	4,586	69.0	44
Richland	11,785	8,315	70.6	37
Sabine	13,252	8,541	64.5	60
St. Bernard	42,200	31,736	75.2	13
St. Charles	23,549	17,995	76.4	9
St. Helena	7,789	5,153	66.2	57
St. James	13,555	10,719	79.1	1
St. John	21,819	16,219	74.3	17
St. Landry	48,184	35,457	73.6	18
St. Martin	25,532	18,129	71.0	36
St. Mary	33,695	22,318	66.2	56
St. Tammany	72,933	54,823	75.2	14
Tangipahoa	45,648	30,688	67.2	53
Tensas	4,699	3,290	70.0	41
Terrebonne	44,132	32,212	73.0	22
Union	12,881	9,369	72.7	23
Vermilion	30,340	21,966	72.4	27
Vernon	19,980	12,761	63.9	62
Washington	26,965	18,094	67.1	54
Webster	23,172	17,805	76.8	3
West Baton Rouge	11,457	8,801	76.8	4
West Carroll	6,994	4,797	68.6	45
West Feliciana	5,564	4,089	73.5	19
Winn	10,375	7,057	68.0	49
Total	2,231,857	1,628,202	73.0%	

* In cases of ties, calculations were extended to determine rank.
SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration, and Official Promulgation, Secretary of State.

TABLE 7
Statewide Vote for President

Candidate	Number of Votes	Percent of Total*
Dukakis	717,460	44.1%
Bush	883,702	54.3
Others	27,040	1.7

* May not add to 100% due to rounding.
SOURCE: Official Promulgation, Secretary of State.

Dukakis received 90% or more of the vote in 39 of the 68 black precincts and at least 60% of the vote in every black precinct sampled. Bush received less than 30% of the vote in every sample black precinct and less than 10% of the vote in 49 predominately black precincts.

Bush received the majority of the vote in all but six of the 68 white precincts. By contrast, Mondale received less than 30% of the vote in 44 of the 68 white precincts.

There was a difference in voter participation in the black and white sample precincts. None of the black precincts had a voter participation rate higher than 80%, while 10 of the sample white precincts did.

Sixty-six of the white precincts had voter participation rates higher than 60% compared to only 50 of the black precincts. Two of the black precincts had a participation rate lower than 50%, while the lowest participation rate in the white precincts was 59.1%.

TABLE 8
Louisiana's Choice in
Presidential Elections, 1948-88

Year	Candidate	Party	Percent of Votes
1948	Thurmond	State's Rights	48.1%
1952	Stevenson	Democratic	52.9
1956	Eisenhower*	Republican	53.3
1960	Kennedy*	Democratic	50.4
1964	Goldwater	Republican	56.8
1968	Wallace	American	48.3
1972	Nixon*	Republican	65.2
1976	Carter*	Democratic	51.5
1980	Reagan*	Republican	51.2
1984	Reagan*	Republican	60.3
1988	Bush*	Republican	54.3

* Elected.
SOURCE: Official Promulgation, Secretary of State.

Constitutional Amendment

One constitutional amendment was voted on at the October 1 primary election, although none were on the November general election ballot.

The amendment would have permitted selective five-year property tax abatements on improvements to hous-

ing for low and moderate income families.

The vote on the amendment was 65.5% against and 34.5% for. This was in contrast to last year, when all five of the proposed constitutional amendments passed. (See Table 12.)

This year's proposed amendment passed in only one parish--Lafayette.

TABLE 9
Vote for President by Parish*

Parish	Total	Dukakis		Bush		Others	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Acadia	23,110	11,510	49.8%	11,319	49.0%	281	1.2%
Allen	8,989	5,204	57.9	3,674	40.9	111	1.2
Ascension	23,240	12,147	52.3	10,726	46.2	367	1.6
Assumption	9,995	5,610	56.1	4,017	40.2	368	3.7
Avozelles	15,600	7,353	47.1	7,659	49.1	588	3.8
Beauregard	11,284	4,704	41.7	6,466	57.3	114	1.0
Bienville	7,537	3,705	49.2	3,680	48.8	152	2.0
Bossier	30,085	9,035	30.0	20,807	69.2	243	0.8
Caddo	94,402	39,204	41.5	54,498	57.7	700	0.7
Calcasieu	64,100	33,832	52.9	29,649	46.3	619	0.8
Caldwell	4,559	1,423	31.2	2,997	65.7	139	3.0
Cameron	4,070	2,257	55.5	1,775	43.6	38	0.9
Catahoula	4,950	1,816	36.7	2,862	57.8	172	3.5
Claiborne	7,007	3,158	45.1	3,756	53.6	93	1.3
Concordia	8,761	3,461	39.5	5,037	57.5	263	3.0
DeSoto	10,516	5,366	51.0	5,022	47.8	128	1.2
East Baton Rouge	147,584	59,270	40.2	86,791	58.8	1,523	1.0
East Carroll	3,460	1,809	52.3	1,536	44.4	115	3.3
East Feliciana	7,349	3,659	49.8	3,527	48.0	163	2.2
Evangeline	15,400	7,693	50.0	7,437	48.3	270	1.8
Franklin	8,876	3,043	34.3	5,520	62.2	313	3.5
Grant	7,245	2,628	36.3	4,402	60.8	215	3.0
Iberia	28,331	12,166	42.9	15,438	54.5	727	2.6
Iberville	14,836	8,678	58.5	5,855	39.5	303	2.0
Jackson	7,249	2,842	39.2	4,251	58.6	156	2.2
Jefferson	166,370	53,035	31.9	110,942	66.7	2,393	1.4
Jefferson Davis	12,791	6,799	53.2	5,851	45.7	141	1.1
Lafayette	61,658	24,133	39.1	36,648	59.4	877	1.4
Lafourche	32,179	15,013	46.7	16,152	50.2	1,014	3.2
LaSalle	6,859	1,622	23.6	4,559	71.7	178	2.8
Lincoln	14,657	5,427	37.0	8,853	60.4	377	2.6
Livingston	25,743	9,659	37.5	15,779	61.3	305	1.2
Madison	4,911	2,416	49.2	2,334	47.5	161	3.3
Morehouse	12,140	4,496	37.0	7,335	60.4	309	2.5
Natchitoches	13,733	6,151	44.8	7,224	52.6	358	2.6
Orleans	183,800	116,851	63.6	64,763	35.2	2,186	1.2
Ouachita	50,292	15,429	30.7	33,858	67.3	1,005	2.0
Plaquemines	10,293	3,997	38.8	6,084	59.1	212	2.1
Pointe Coupee	10,930	6,308	57.7	4,333	39.6	289	2.6
Rapides	48,891	17,928	36.7	29,977	61.3	986	2.0
Red River	4,586	2,254	49.1	2,266	49.4	66	1.4
Richland	8,316	2,833	34.1	5,226	62.9	256	3.1
Sabine	8,541	3,532	41.4	4,767	55.8	242	2.8
St. Bernard	31,736	11,406	35.9	19,609	61.8	721	2.3
St. Charles	17,995	7,973	44.3	9,685	53.8	337	1.9
St. Helena	5,153	3,013	58.5	2,005	38.9	134	2.6
St. James	10,719	6,707	62.6	3,799	35.4	213	2.0
St. John	16,219	9,366	57.7	7,464	46.0	389	2.4
St. Landry	35,457	19,091	53.8	15,790	44.5	576	1.6
St. Martin	18,129	10,148	56.0	7,541	41.6	440	2.4
St. Mary	22,318	10,364	46.4	11,540	51.7	414	1.9
St. Tammany	54,823	15,638	28.5	38,334	69.9	851	1.6
Tangipahoa	30,688	13,527	44.1	16,669	54.3	492	1.6
Tensas	3,290	1,556	47.3	1,645	50.0	89	2.7
Terrebonne	32,212	12,686	39.4	18,745	58.2	781	2.4
Union	9,369	3,210	34.3	5,900	63.0	259	2.8
Vermilion	21,966	12,180	55.4	9,224	42.0	562	2.6
Vernon	12,761	4,998	39.2	7,453	58.4	310	2.4
Washington	18,094	8,369	46.3	9,374	51.8	351	1.9
Webster	17,805	7,434	41.8	10,204	57.3	167	0.9
West Baton Rouge	8,801	4,686	53.2	3,972	45.1	143	1.6
West Carroll	4,797	1,607	33.5	3,077	64.1	113	2.4
West Feliciana	4,089	2,146	52.5	1,854	45.3	89	2.2
Winn	7,057	2,699	38.2	4,166	59.0	193	2.7
Total	1,628,202	717,460	44.1%	883,702	54.3%	27,040	1.7%

* Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
SOURCE: Official Promulgation, Secretary of State.

TABLE 10
Vote for President in Metropolitan Statistical Areas^a

MSA ^b	Total Votes	Dukakis		Bush		Others ^c	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alexandria	48,891	17,928	36.7%	29,977	61.3%	986	2.0%
Rapides	48,891	17,928	36.7	29,977	61.3	986	2.0
Baton Rouge	205,368	85,762	41.8	117,268	57.1	2,338	1.1
Ascension	23,240	12,147	52.3	10,726	46.2	367	1.6
East Baton Rouge	147,584	59,270	40.2	86,791	58.8	1,523	1.0
Livingston	25,743	9,659	37.5	15,779	61.3	305	1.2
West Baton Rouge	8,801	4,686	53.2	3,972	45.1	143	1.6
Houma/Thibodaux	64,391	27,699	43.0	34,897	54.2	1,795	2.8
Lafourche	32,179	15,013	46.7	16,152	50.2	1,014	3.2
Terrebonne	32,212	12,686	39.4	18,745	58.2	781	2.4
Lafayette	79,787	34,281	43.0	44,189	55.4	1,317	1.7
Lafayette	61,658	24,133	39.1	36,648	59.4	877	1.4
St. Martin	18,129	10,148	56.0	7,541	41.6	440	2.4
Lake Charles	64,100	33,882	52.9	29,649	46.3	519	0.8
Calcasieu	64,100	33,882	52.9	29,649	46.3	519	0.8
Monroe	50,292	15,429	30.7	33,858	67.3	1,005	2.0
Ouachita	50,292	15,429	30.7	33,858	67.3	1,005	2.0
New Orleans	470,943	213,269	45.3	250,797	53.3	6,877	1.5
Jefferson	166,370	53,035	31.9	110,942	66.7	2,393	1.4
Orleans	183,800	116,851	63.6	64,763	35.2	2,186	1.2
St. Bernard	31,736	11,406	35.9	19,609	61.8	721	2.3
St. Charles	17,995	7,973	44.3	9,686	53.8	337	1.9
St. John	16,219	8,366	51.6	7,464	46.0	389	2.4
St. Tammany	54,823	15,638	28.5	38,334	69.9	851	1.6
Shreveport	124,487	48,239	38.8	75,305	60.5	943	0.8
Bossier	30,086	9,035	30.0	20,807	69.2	243	0.8
Caddo	94,402	39,204	41.5	54,498	57.7	700	0.7
Total MSAs	1,108,259	476,539	43.0%	615,940	55.6%	15,780	1.4%
Total Rural	519,943	240,921	46.3%	267,762	51.5%	11,260	2.2%
Total State	1,628,202	717,460	44.1%	883,702	54.3%	27,040	1.7%

a May not add to 100% due to rounding.
 b A city of 50,000 population or an urbanized area of 50,000 population and a total metropolitan population of 100,000.
 c Includes candidates Duke, Paul, Larouche and Fulani.
 SOURCE: Official Promulgation, Secretary of State.

As usual, voter participation was low.

Only 27.5% of registered voters voted on this year's amendment.

TABLE 11
Percentage of Vote Received by Dukakis and Bush in Selected Black and White Precincts*

Percent of Vote	Dukakis		Bush	
	Number of White Precincts	Number of Black Precincts	Number of White Precincts	Number of Black Precincts
0-9.9%	1	—	—	49
10-19.9	17	—	—	11
20-29.9	26	—	—	7
30-39.9	11	—	1	1
40-49.9	8	—	5	—
50-59.9	4	—	7	—
60-69.9	1	1	14	—
70-79.9	—	9	24	—
80-89.9	—	19	16	—
90 and over	—	39	1	—

* Sixty-eight predominately white and 68 predominately black (70% white or 70% black and greater) precincts distributed throughout the state were selected.
 SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration (to identify precincts), and Official Promulgation, Secretary of State.

Comments

Changes in the Louisiana population may affect party affiliation and voting patterns in future years.

As Table 13 shows, certain age groups register to vote more than others.

The 45 to 64 and over 65 age groups comprise a larger proportion of registered voters than they do of the total voting-age population.

Dominance of the Democratic Party in Louisiana is changing. The Republican Party clearly has been the main beneficiary of the change in party affiliation of Louisiana's voters.

Since 1948, the state voted for the Republican candidate in six of the 11 presidential elections and gave a majority to the Democratic candidate only three times, despite the state's usual preference for Democrats in state and local elections.

Also, of the state's eight U.S. representatives, four are Republicans.

Amendments to Louisiana's constitution continue to be approved or defeated by a small number of Louisiana citizens.

For example, in 1987 an amendment to give the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rather than the Legislature the power to decide components and objectives of a minimum education program for K-12 schools was passed with 385,267 "yes" votes. This represented approximately 12% of the voting-age population and 17.6% of registered voters.

TABLE 12
Voting on Proposed Amendments
to 1974 Louisiana Constitution

Date	Number of Amendments		Average Percent of Registrants Voting
	Proposed	Approved	
November 7, 1978	1	1	29.9%
October 27, 1979	3	3	37.5
November 4, 1980	4	4	55.7
September 11, 1982	8	4	24.9
October 22, 1983	3	3	44.2
November 6, 1984	5	0	53.7
September 27, 1986	7	2	39.3
November 21, 1987	5	5	32.3
October 1, 1988	1	0	27.5
Total	37	22	

SOURCE: Official Promulgation, Secretary of State.

TABLE 13
Age Distribution
of Registered Voters
vs. Voting-Age Population

Age Group	Percent of Registered Voters*	Percent of Voting-Age Population
18-44	56.7%	61.1%
45-64	27.1	24.1
65+	16.0	14.8

* Age of 0.2% unknown.

SOURCE: Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration and U.S. Bureau of the Census, Projections of the Population of Voting Age, for States: November 1988.

Primary author of this report is Suzette DuBois Meiske, Senior Research Associate, assisted by Sylvia Hutchinson, Research Assistant

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baton Rouge, La.
Permit No. 330

Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, Inc.
4664 Jamestown Avenue, No. 300 · P.O. Box 14776
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4776 · (504) 926-8414

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

PAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. William L. Senn, Jr., Chairman Harry McCall, Jr., First Vice Chairman
Tom Brown, Secretary Dan Borne', Treasurer
Larry Adcock Charles E. Brown Duane Cowart Marc Dupuy Jay Handelman
Tommy James Katherine Jeter Florence Jones F. Walker Lockett, Jr.
Roy O. Martin, Jr. James A. Richardson Charles Sellers Duke Shackelford
Virginia Shehee James E. Taussig II Roland M. Toups Billy R. Vehnekamp D. Brent Wood
Mark C. Drennen, President