

# 2015 Coastal Restoration Issues & Gubernatorial Campaign Topics Poll

PREPARED FOR THE RESTORE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA COALITION

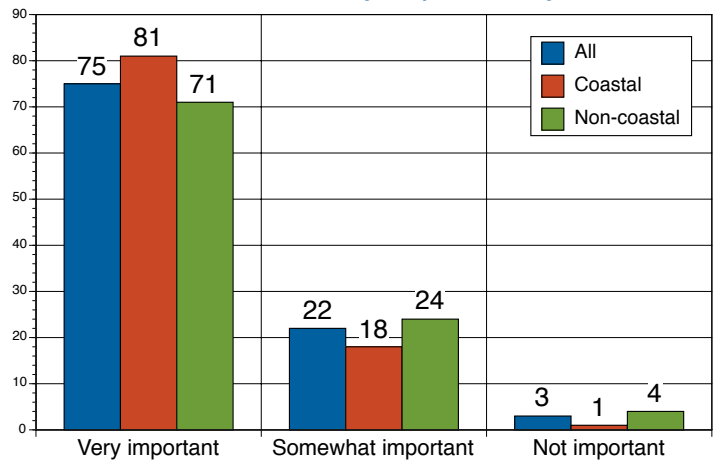
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A poll of likely voters in Louisiana was conducted in July 2015 to capture opinions on the importance of Louisiana coastal areas and wetlands, efforts to protect and restore Louisiana coastal areas and wetlands, and voter expectations of the new Governor with respect to commitment to and funding of coastal restoration efforts.

## GENERAL OPINIONS ON COASTAL RESTORATION

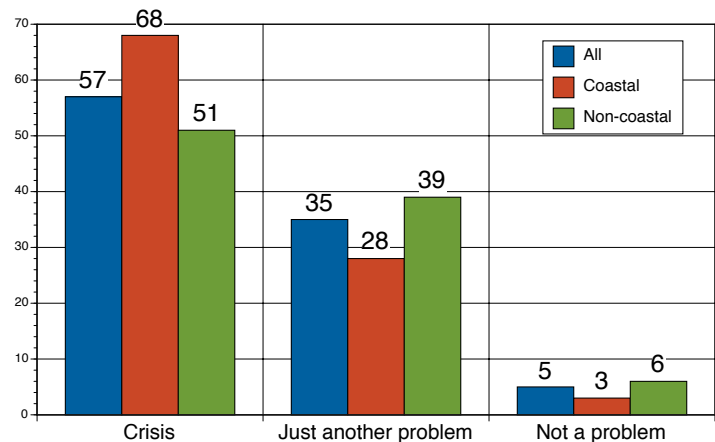
Nearly all Louisiana voters in coastal and non-coastal areas were personally attuned to the importance of Louisiana's coastal areas and wetlands. A majority (75%) said Louisiana's coastal areas are "very important" to them personally and another 22 percent said they are "somewhat important" to them personally.

How important are Louisiana's coastal areas and wetlands to you personally?



A majority of voters (57%) are of the opinion that Louisiana is facing a crisis situation and needs to take action to protect the state's coastal areas and wetlands.

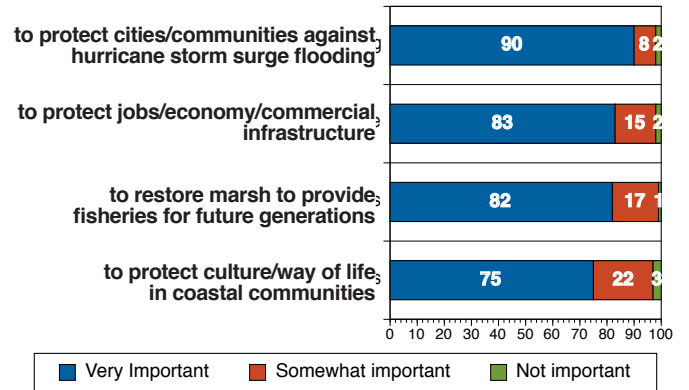
Is the need to do something to protect Louisiana's coastal areas and wetlands a crisis, just another problem or not a problem.



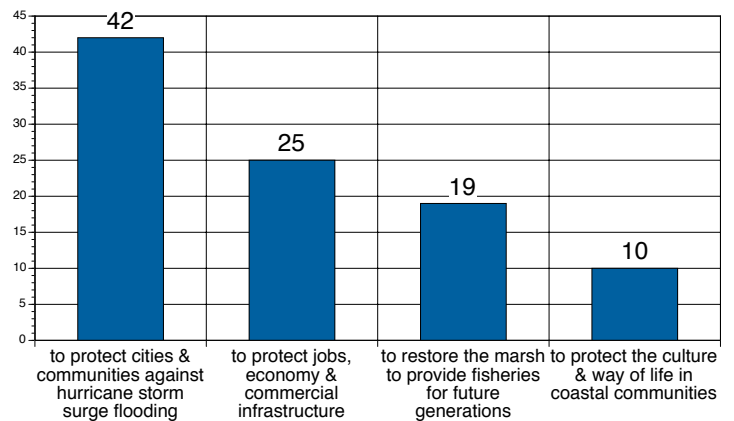
(Chart totals may not total 100% due to rounding.)

Voters identified many good reasons why it is important to restore coastal Louisiana. Protecting people from hurricane storm surge flooding topped the list.

### How important are the following reasons why we should restore coastal Louisiana:



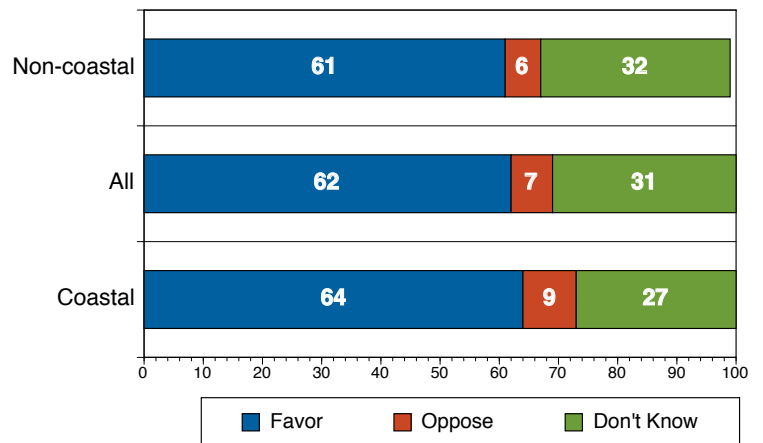
### Which of these reasons is most important to you?



### COASTAL MASTER PLAN

A majority of voters (62%) favored the state's coastal restoration master plan. Only 7 percent said they oppose the master plan, while many (31%) are undecided.

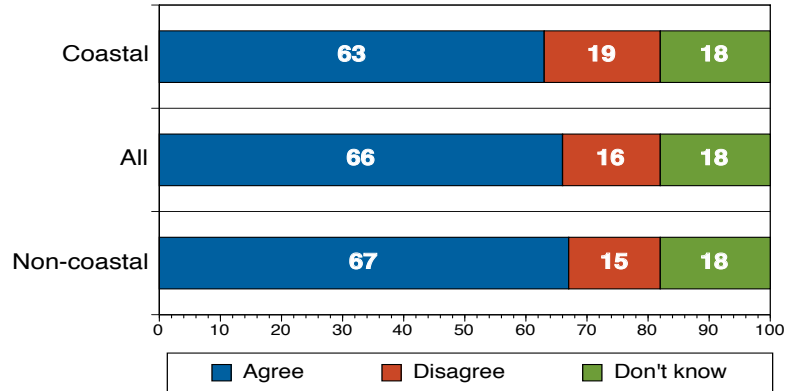
### Do you favor or oppose the state's coastal restoration master plan?



(Chart totals may not total 100% due to rounding.)

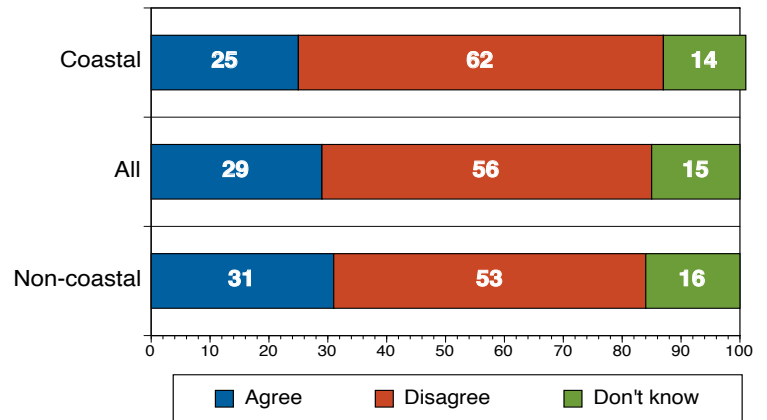
A majority of voters (66%) believe the state's coastal restoration master plan is based on sound science and engineering, and lays out a solution to the problem.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The scientists, engineers and other experts who prepared the master plan know what needs to be done to protect and restore coastal Louisiana.



A majority of voters (56%) realize more money will be needed to restore coastal Louisiana than is currently available.

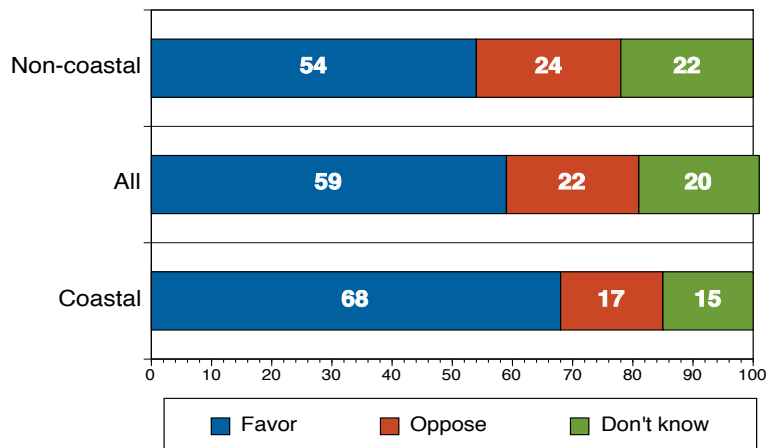
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: There is currently enough money available to do what needs to be done to protect and restore coastal Louisiana.



### DIVERSIONS

Prior to hearing a series of competing positions people have on river diversions, a majority of voters (59%), said they favor using river diversions to build new land in coastal Louisiana.

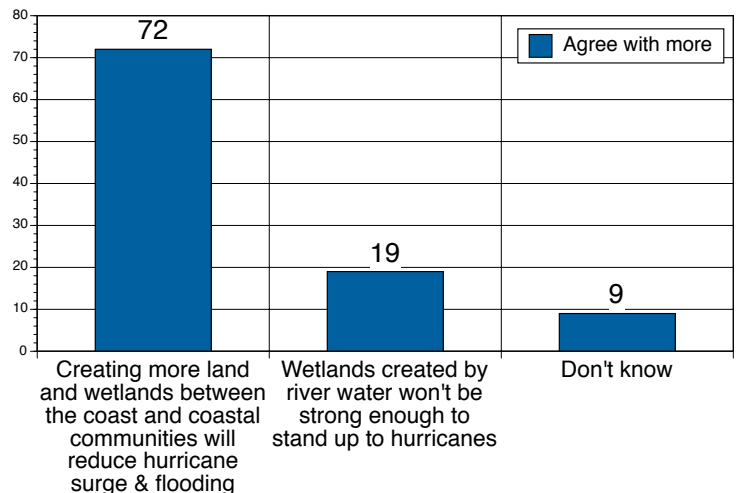
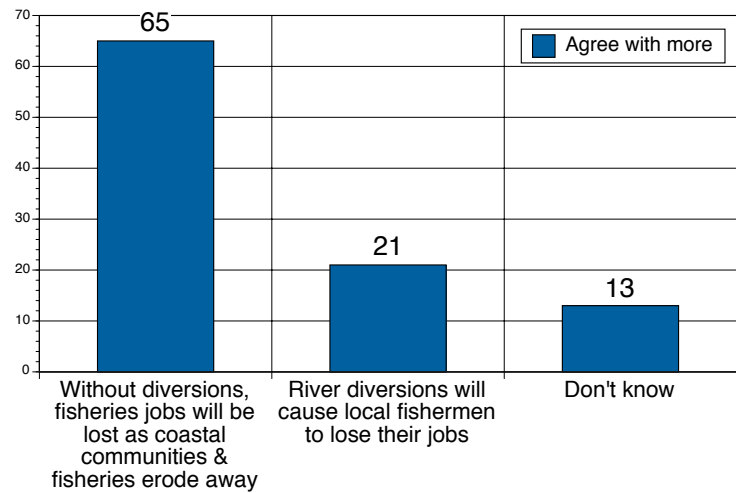
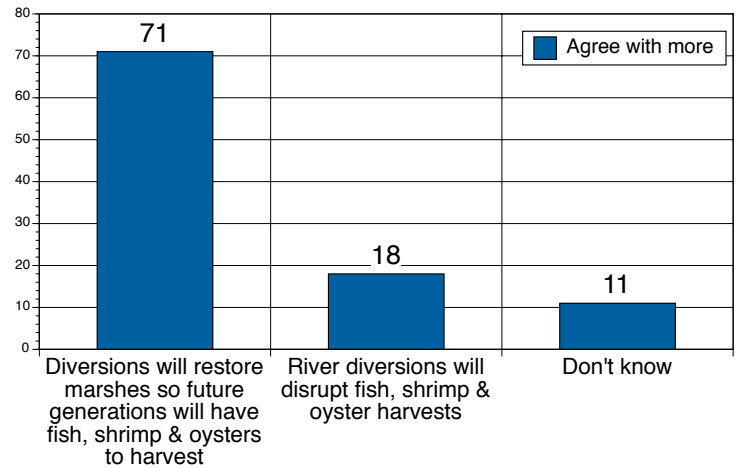
Based on what you know at this time, do you favor or oppose using river diversions to build new land in coastal Louisiana.



(Chart totals may not total 100% due to rounding.)

A majority of voters agreed more with positions people have for favoring river diversions than positions people have for opposing river diversions. Most voters consider the long-term benefits created by river diversions to outweigh the short-term problems and disruptions.

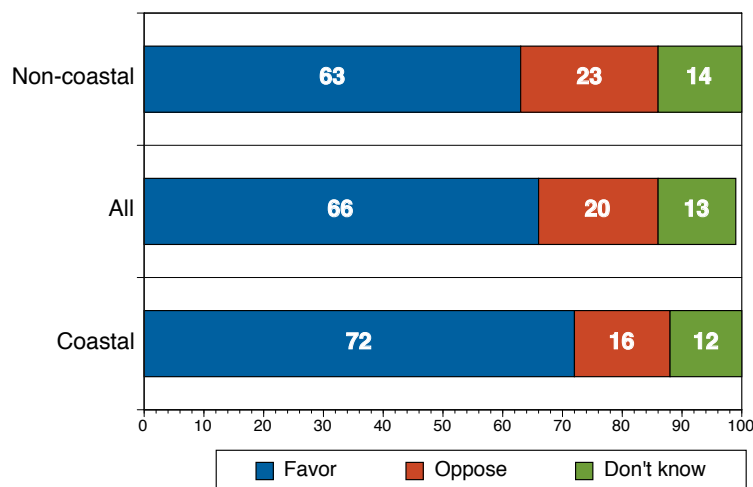
Please tell me which of the following positions that people have on river diversions you agree with more:



(Chart totals may not total 100% due to rounding.)

Exposure to the competing positions people have on diversions led to an increase in the majority of voters who said they favor using river diversions to build new land in coastal Louisiana. The proportion of those who previously were undecided dropped appreciably and the proportion of those who previously were opposed dropped slightly.

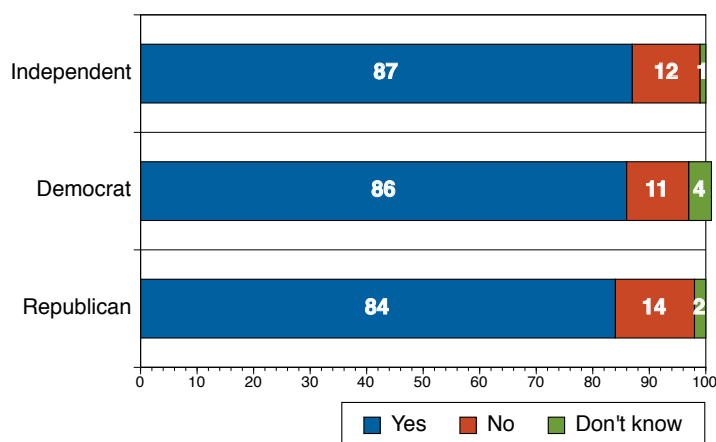
Now that we've talked some more, do you favor or oppose using river diversions to build new land in coastal Louisiana?



### EXPECTATIONS OF NEW GOVERNOR

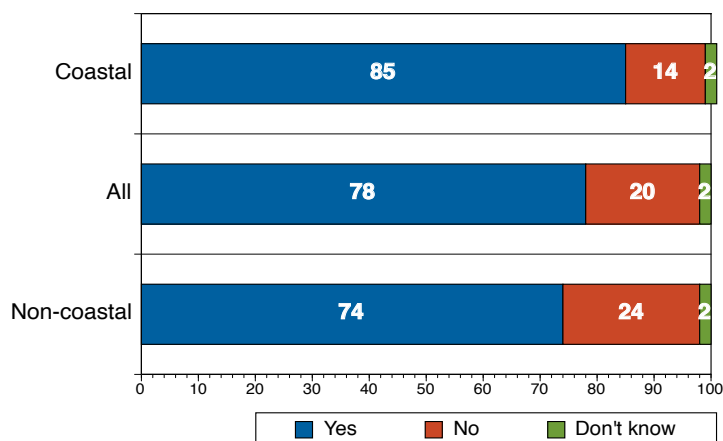
Coastal restoration is a high-priority issue that cuts across party lines. Regardless of political affiliation, a majority of voters said the restoration of coastal Louisiana should be a high priority for the new governor.

This year, voters will elect a new governor. In your opinion, should the restoration of coastal Louisiana be a high priority for the new governor?



A majority of voters view coastal restoration as a priority and as important as other issues facing the state.

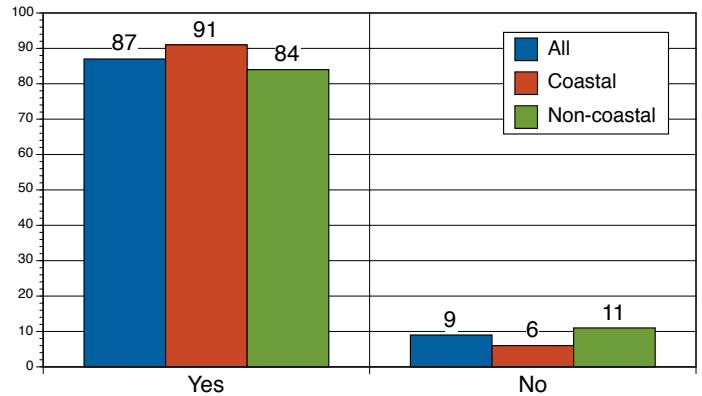
Is protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana as important as other issues facing Louisiana?



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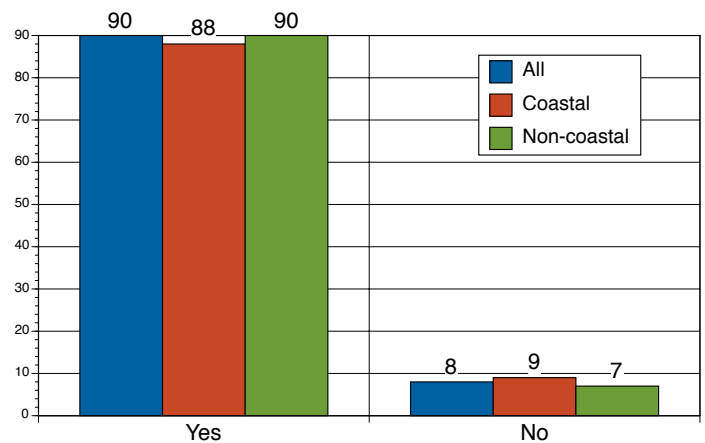
Voters want coastal restoration projects funded, and they want the new governor to obtain the necessary funding.

Should the new governor work to identify and secure additional funding for future projects identified in the master plan?



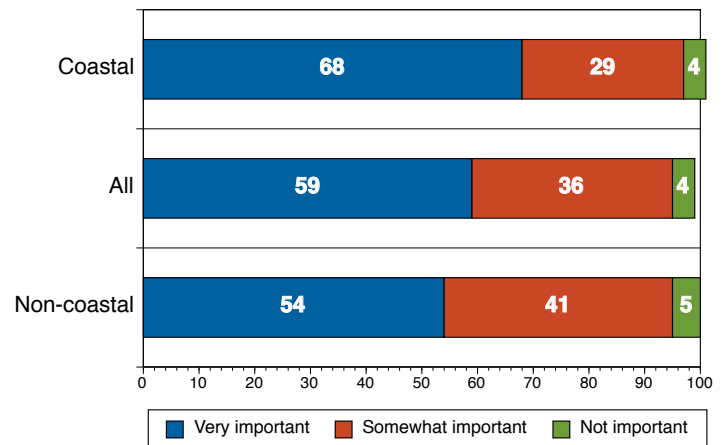
Voters want the new governor to ensure the money Louisiana has now for coastal restoration remains dedicated to that purpose and is not spent on something else.

Should the new governor ensure those funds currently dedicated to coastal restoration are not spent on something else?



Voters want to see action taken to restore coastal Louisiana and feel it is important the new governor commit to move quickly.

How important is it to you that the new governor commit to move quickly and get started building coastal restoration projects?

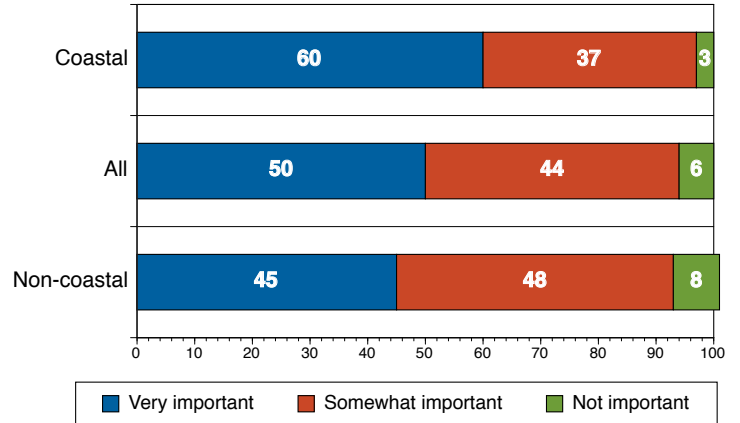


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A gubernatorial candidate's commitment to protect and restore coastal Louisiana is important to nearly all voters in deciding for whom they will vote.

In deciding for whom to vote for governor, how important will a candidates commitment to protect and restore coastal Louisiana be to you?



### ABOUT THE POLL

This statewide Louisiana poll was developed and conducted by Southern Media & Opinion Research, Inc. The poll was funded by the National Audubon Society on behalf of The Restore The Mississippi River Delta Coalition. The poll was designed to address likely Louisiana voters' opinions on the importance of Louisiana coastal areas and wetlands, efforts to protect and restore Louisiana coastal areas and wetlands, and on voter expectations of the new, incoming Governor with respect to commitment to and funding of coastal restoration efforts. Interviews for this statewide poll were completed by telephone with 917 likely Louisiana voters from Monday, July 27, through Thursday, July 30, 2015. The overall sample error for the statistics presented from the sample of 917 likely voters (base sample of 600 statewide with an oversample of 317 within coastal parishes) is not greater than plus or minus 4.0 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence.

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