

Statewide Survey of Louisiana Registered Voters

95% Believe in God and 33% Believe Aliens Visit Earth

Those who believe that aliens visit Earth are more likely to believe that Donald Trump was the rightful winner of the 2020 U.S. presidential election.



A statewide survey¹ of Louisiana registered voters was conducted on January 19, 2021 (Inauguration Eve), that asked 633 Louisiana voters about their religious beliefs, their beliefs in extraterrestrial life, and whether or not they believed that Joe Biden was rightfully elected in the 2020 U. S. presidential election. *“The Effect of Conspiratorial Thinking and Motivated Reasoning on Belief in Election Fraud* (Edelson et al, 2017), finds that a general disposition toward conspiratorial thinking also influences beliefs in election fraud. This survey was conducted and analyzed by Dr. Anthony Licciardi, a political scientist at the University of New Orleans Survey Research Center and Dr. Joshua E. Lambert a postdoctoral fellow researcher at the University of Central Florida.

In the wake of the January 6, 2021 U. S. Capitol insurrection led by the likes of self-described “alien” Jacob Chansley, the myriad accusations of President Donald Trump about election fraud, and on the verge of Joe Biden’s inauguration as the 46th president of the United States of America, the timing seemed just right for this survey.

¹ Data for this survey were collected via interactive voice response (IVR) survey of Louisiana voters. Survey respondents were randomly selected from the Louisiana Secretary of State’s voter file. The sample of 633 respondents was collected by telephone IVR on Tuesday January 19, 2021 and yields a margin of error of +/- 3.9% with 95% confidence.

Readers should be cautious in making narrow inferences about sub-categorical cross tabulations of survey results. While a poll of 633 random respondents yields a +/- 3.9% margin of error, sub-categorical group samples by race, age, sex, and partisanship are smaller than the total sample size, thus, leading to wider margins of error when they are reported in cross tabulations.

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Table 1 is a crosstabulation of how partisanship intersects with voters' beliefs in God. Ninety-five percent of Louisiana voters say that they do believe in God. Ninety-eight percent of Republicans believe, 97% of non-partisans believe, and 92% of Democrats believe in God.

		DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?			Total
		YES	NO	DK	
PARTYID	DEMOCRAT	91.6	7.9%	0.4%	100.0%
	REPUBLICAN	98.0%	2.0%		100.0%
	OTHER PARTY	96.9%	1.3%	1.9%	100.0%
Total		95.4%	4.0%	0.6%	100.0%

Eighty-nine percent (89%) of respondents said they are Christians, 4% Jewish, and 7% claim to be another religion or to have no religious identity.

Table 2 is a crosstabulation of how partisanship intersects with voters' belief that extraterrestrials have visited Earth. The table shows that 40% of non-partisans believe that aliens have visited earth, followed by Democrats at 33%, and Republicans at 27%.

PARTYID * ETVISIT Crosstabulation

% within PARTYID

		ETVISIT			Total
		YES	NO	DK	
PARTYID	DEMOCRAT	33.3%	53.5%	13.2%	100.0%
	REPUBLICAN	26.6%	62.2%	11.2%	100.0%
	OTHER PARTY	39.9%	38.7%	21.5%	100.0%
Total		32.4%	53.0%	14.6%	100.0%

When voters were asked if they believe that life exists in the universe besides on Earth, 69% of Democrats said yes, 60% of non-partisans said yes, and 50% of republicans said yes.

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Table 3 shows how partisanship intersects with voters' opinions about whether they believe that Joe Biden was rightfully elected in the 2020 U. S. presidential election. Eighty-three percent of Republicans do not believe Biden was rightfully elected, 44% of non-partisans do not believe, and 24% of Democrats do not believe Biden was rightfully elected in the 2020 US presidential election. Respondents were asked to self-identify how they thought of themselves as partisans in this survey.

PARTYID * BIDEN Crosstabulation

% within PARTYID

		BIDEN			Total
		YES	NO	DK	
PARTYID	DEMOCRAT	75.1%	23.6%	1.3%	100.0%
	REPUBLICAN	11.6%	82.6%	5.8%	100.0%
	OTHER PARTY	36.4%	43.8%	19.8%	100.0%
Total		41.0%	51.3%	7.8%	100.0%

In the November 3, 2020 U. S. presidential election in Louisiana, Donald Trump received 58% of the votes to Joe Biden's 40%.

Table 4 reveals that the respondents who believed that extraterrestrials visit the Earth "believers" are less likely to believe that Joe Biden was rightfully elected. Fifty-eight percent of believers say that Joe Biden was not rightfully elected, 50% of non-believers say he was not rightfully elected, and 42% of those who are not sure about extraterrestrial visits to Earth do not believe that Biden was rightfully elected.

ETVISIT * BIDEN Crosstabulation

% within ETVISIT

		BIDEN			Total
		YES	NO	DK	
ETVISIT	YES	34.6%	57.6%	7.8%	100.0%
	NO	44.2%	49.9%	6.0%	100.0%
	DK	43.0%	41.9%	15.1%	100.0%
Total		40.9%	51.2%	7.9%	100.0%

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Tables 5 reveals a gender gap in the belief that extraterrestrials visit the Earth where men are more than twice as likely to believe at 45%. Women are twice as likely as men to say they do not know if aliens visit earth at 20%.

		DO ET VISIT EARTH?			Total
		YES	NO	DK	
SEX	MALE	45.3%	46.7%	8.0%	100.0%
	FEMALE	22.0%	58.1%	19.9%	100.0%
Total		32.5%	52.9%	14.5%	100.0%

Interestingly, the gender gap vanishes in Table 6 where there is no statistical difference in men and women's opinions on who rightfully won the 2020 U. S. presidential election. Both sexes believe that Joe Biden was not the rightful winner. Fifty-one percent and 52% of women and men respectively say that Joe Biden was not the rightful winner.

		BIDEN RIGHTFULLY ELECTED?			Total
		YES	NO	DK	
SEX	MALE	41.1%	51.6%	7.3%	100.0%
	FEMALE	41.0%	50.9%	8.1%	100.0%
Total		41.1%	51.2%	7.7%	100.0%

Table 8 demonstrates a reduced precipice between race and the belief in ET visitation to Earth. Black voters are the most likely to believe at 37% while 31% of white voters believe in extraterrestrial visits to Earth. Other races fall in between at 33%.

		DO ET VISIT EARTH?			Total
		YES	NO	DK	
RACE	BLACK	37.1%	48.0%	14.9%	100.0%
	WHITE	30.5%	56.3%	13.2%	100.0%
	OTHER RACE	32.4%	43.2%	24.3%	100.0%
Total		32.7%	52.9%	14.4%	100.0%

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Table 9 reveals diametrically opposed cleavages and racial gaps on the topic of whether Joe Biden was the rightful winner of the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Whites are twice as likely to say that Biden was not the rightful winner and Black voters are almost twice as likely to say Biden was the rightful winner.

		BIDEN RIGHTFULLY ELECTED?			Total
		YES	NO	DK	
RACE	BLACK	57.4%	34.7%	7.9%	100.0%
	WHITE	31.7%	62.7%	5.6%	100.0%
	OTHER RACE	48.6%	21.6%	29.7%	100.0%
Total		40.9%	51.3%	7.7%	100.0%

Conclusion

Once upon a time there was a general consensus of who the rightful winners of U. S. presidential elections were. Not everyone liked the results, but constant and unrelenting haranguing over illegitimate presidencies was virtually nonexistent. Whether it is the claim of Russian interference in 2016 or vast fraudulent mail-in ballots in 2020, neither side of the American political duopoly are ready to be intellectually honest with themselves. They are team oriented, dug-in, and not budging.

While a specific belief in extraterrestrial visits to Earth may not be directly causing a belief in election fraud, these two ideas are conspiracy oriented. There are likely endogenous causal indicators that are absent in this model. Future studies might include experiments that capture the opinions of voters who have been diagnosed with mental health conditions. Extant literature provides a linkage between mental health issues and conspiratorial thinking (Bowes, S. M., et al., Journal of Personality, 2020). Perhaps, in the end, the belief in wide spread voter fraud and conspiracies in general may be a function of and are better explained by the underlying mental health conditions of individuals.

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Appendix

Survey script

1- Do you consider yourself to be a religious person?

	%
YES	90.3%
NO	8.3%
DK	1.5%

2- Do you believe in God?

	%
YES	95.4%
NO	4.1%
DK	0.5%

3- What religion do you identify as?

	%
CHRISTIAN	88.9%
JEWISH	4.0%
MUSLIM	0.1%
HINDU	0.5%
OTHER	6.5%

4- Do you believe that there is life in the universe other than on Earth?

	%
YES	59.6%
NO	25.3%
DK	15.0%
Total	100.0%

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5- Do you believe that extraterrestrials have visited the Earth?

	%
YES	32.5%
NO	53.0%
DK	14.5%

6- Do you believe that Joe Biden is the rightful winner of the 2020 Us presidential election?

	%
YES	40.9%
NO	51.3%
DK	7.8%

7- Are you male or female?

	%
MALE	45.3%
FEMALE	54.7%

8- What is your age?

	%
18-34	25.4%
35-64	50.8%
65+	23.8%

9- What is your race?

	%
BLACK	31.8%
WHITE	62.4%
OTHER RACE	5.9%

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10- With which political party do you identify?

	%
DEMOCRAT	36.0%
REPUBLICAN	38.2%
OTHER PARTY	25.8%