2022 EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND
JUSTICE SURVEY
Since its creation, the driving principle of Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has been to foster cross-system dialogue and collaboration among law enforcement, justice, municipal, and community leaders of East Baton Rouge Parish. As a collective of individuals devoted to enhancing public safety, reducing crime, and ensuring that justice is impartial and effective for all residents, the CJCC prioritizes utilizing data and evidence-based solutions to inform and guide our efforts.

To gather input from a wider range of East Baton Rouge Parish residents, we conducted a community safety and justice survey in 2022. While feedback from those who work within the justice system or have experienced it directly or indirectly is important, we believe that it is equally critical to gauge the general public’s views on their safety, comprehension of the justice process, and ideas for improving the local justice system. Moving forward, we will use the results from the surveys to continually hone our annual and long-term strategic goals.

I encourage you to attend our monthly CJCC Engage meetings, where we encourage open dialogue about how we can further improve public safety and our local justice system. These open meetings are an opportunity for you to share your views with us and learn more about the CJCC. You can find a schedule of meetings and additional information on the CJCC at www.ebrcjcc.org.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Csonka
Executive Director
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Survey & Methodology

The CJCC commissioned LJR Custom Strategies to conduct the EBR Community Safety and Justice Survey. The Survey is designed to determine how residents perceive safety in their community, their perception towards various justice agencies in EBR, and to gauge their general understanding of how the local justice system works while identifying areas that need to be improved.

The results of the Survey will be used as a road map to identify and address the community’s concerns relating to their safety and improve policies and procedures of the East Baton Rouge criminal justice system.

Sample Size: 500 East Baton Rouge Parish residents

When conducted: The phone survey was conducted from August 12 – 21 in 2022 via landline and cellphone.

Sampling Error: +/- 4.9%

The Survey was paid for with grant funds provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.
Survey Respondents’ Geographic Location

19% EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

NORTH / NE
Zip Codes: 70714, 70739, 70748, 70770, 70777, 70791, 70818, 70819, 70722, and 70875

CITY
Zip Codes: 70801, 70802, 70804, 70805, 70806, 70807, 70808, 70811, 70812, 70814, 70815,

SOUTH / SE
Zip Codes: 70776, 70769, 70809, 70810, 70816, 70817, 70820, 70826, and 70836

*26% OF THE RESPONDENTS REPRESENT UNDERSERVED ZIP CODES
70801, 70802, 70805, 70806, 70807, 70811, and 70812
Who was Surveyed

Survey Population
500

Method of Communication
68% Responded via a cellphone
32% Responded via a landline

RACE
- People of Color
- White People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>People of Color</th>
<th>White People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>16% / 18%</td>
<td>26% / 26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underserved</td>
<td>21% / 20%</td>
<td>37% / 36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Men of Color</th>
<th>Women of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North/NE</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South/SE</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underserved</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Justice Involvement

**VICTIM OF A CRIME**
- **18%** said yes
- **2%** said DK/unsure
- **80%** said no

Respondents who have been a victim of a crime in East Baton Rouge Parish or who has someone in their immediate household who has.

**ACCUSED / ARRESTED**
- **9%** said yes
- **2%** said DK/unsure
- **89%** said no

Respondents who have been accused or arrested of a crime in East Baton Rouge Parish or who have someone in their immediate household who has.

There is a 20% increase from 2020 to 2022 of those that reported no.

There is a 13% increase from 2020 to 2022 of those that reported no.
Respondents are not confident in the direction of things in their neighborhoods, however, they do not indicate that they feel less safe than they did in 2020.

87% of white women and upper/upper middle-class respondents express that their neighborhoods are quite safe.

In underserved zip codes, working and lower class, crime victim households and accused/arrested households feel the least safe.

These findings are extremely consistent with 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working / Lower Class</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Victims</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accused / Arrested</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neighborhood Safety

DIRECTION OF NEIGHBORHOODS
Groups most likely to say their neighborhood is moving in the wrong direction include those who say their neighborhood is not safe, those who have had police interaction in the past year, and those who live in a household where someone has been a victim of a crime.

GENDER

16% Men RIGHT DIRECTION
33% Men WRONG DIRECTION
51% Men DK/UNSURE

22% Women RIGHT DIRECTION
28% Women WRONG DIRECTION
50% Women DK/UNSURE

PARISH GOING IN THE RIGHT OR WRONG DIRECTION BY YEAR

37% / 17% / 46% in 2020
19% / 31% / 50% in 2022

15 YEARS
Only residents who have moved to Baton Rouge in the past fifteen years offer a more optimistic look.
Feelings Towards Justice System Organizations

While positive sentiments towards both the Sheriff’s Office and Police Department have dropped slightly since 2020, there is still little negative sentiments toward either and both remain universally known.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EBR Sheriff’s Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>62% / 54%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>9% / 10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK/Unsure</td>
<td>29% / 36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Police Department</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>61% / 54%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>11% / 12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK/Unsure</td>
<td>28% / 34%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>District Attorney’s Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>47% / 29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>11% / 12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK/Unsure</td>
<td>42% / 59%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Defender’s Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>36% / 27%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>11% /</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK/Unsure</td>
<td>53% / 60%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CJCC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>10% / 18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>6% / 8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK/Unsure</td>
<td>84% / 76%</td>
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Feelings Towards The Justice System

The Sheriff’s Office and Police Department received high favorability ratings, which indicates that the public believes law enforcement is performing their job well.

68% INDICATE POSITIVE FEELINGS TOWARDS LAW ENFORCEMENTS

FAIRNESS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agree that the Justice System treats <em>people like them</em> fairly</td>
<td>62% / 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree that the Justice System treats <em>people</em> fairly</td>
<td>58% / 50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LAW ENFORCEMENT PAY

A majority believe that increasing law enforcement pay will help reduce crime in Baton Rouge.
Justice System Findings

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL PEOPLE

94% SAID THEY AGREE
4% SAID DK/UNSURE
2% SAID THEY DISAGREE

IT IS MORE DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE IN POVERTY TO NAVIGATE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

67% AGREE
71% AGREE

Two thirds agree that navigating the justice system is more difficult for people in poverty.

A majority of respondents remain willing to engage in opportunities to connect with the justice system.
Breaking the Law

**SHOULD PEOPLE WHO BREAK THE LAW GO TO JAIL?**

- **60%** said they agree
- **32%** said DK/Unsure
- **8%** said they disagree

Underserved Zip Codes, Unsafe Neighborhood Residents, Accused/Arrest Households, and Middle Class respondents are the least likely to agree.

The strongest agreement comes from residents who have lived in EBR for less than 25 years and upper/upper middle class respondents.

**71%** of upper middle-class agreed that people who break the law should be sent to jail or prison.

**WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- **67%** are willing to work with law enforcement to make their neighborhood safer.
- **55%** are willing to participate in a community discussion about their neighborhood with local justice leaders.
In 2020, 52% of respondents from accused/arrest households said mental health or substance abuse played a role in arrest. For 2020, the percentage has dropped 33%.

*Asked only of respondents who have or who have a household member accused or arrested in EBR Parish.
Support for a new tax initiative to construct a correctional facility in East Baton Rouge Parish, be it for adults or juveniles, currently falls far short of majority support.

The tax’s strongest supporters are upper/upper-middle class (50%) and white men (47%). Its lowest support comes from underserved zips (26%) and working/lower class respondents (29%).

The average daily population at the Parish Prison has decreased by 47% since 2017. This ongoing trend will enable us to construct a smaller and safer correctional facility in EBR.
Bail Findings

**ABILITY TO PAY BAIL**

- **YES**
  - 37%
- **NO**
  - 22%
- **DK/UNSURE**
  - 41%

Believe inability to pay bail is reason to remain in jail

Believe ability to pay bail is reason to be released from jail

**ENDING THE PRACTICE OF KEEPING PEOPLE CHARGED WITH NONVIOLENT CRIME IN JAIL BEFORE TRIAL**

- **20%** said strongly oppose
- **32%** said strongly support
- **48%** said DK/refuse

Bail Findings

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Top Priorities from the Survey

On a scale from 1 to 10, respondents were asked to rank priorities for the CJCC.

9.10
HOLDING PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE FOR CRIMES
White, middle-class voters outside of the city place an even higher priority on holding people accountable for crimes.

8.93
IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT ENGAGEMENT
North/NE and underserved zips respondents place the highest priority on improving law enforcement engagement, and this priority has risen since 2020.

8.67
BUILDING MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN JUSTICE AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
Men have consistently ranked these partnerships quite high, and this has remained unchanged since 2020.

8.67
BREAKING CYCLES OF REPEAT ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS
This is a high priority among respondents who are interacting with the justice system and live outside the city.
Who is the CJCC?
The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is a 501(c)3 organization comprised of leaders from the justice system, government, law enforcement, and community in East Baton Rouge Parish. CJCC members have a shared vision of establishing a fair and efficient justice process and improving public safety.

What do we do?
We foster meaningful and inclusive partnerships that support impactful improvements to the justice process. The CJCC identifies opportunities to increase public safety, develop alternatives to incarceration, reduce racial disparities, and consolidate justice system data to inform and educate the public.
CJCC Strategic Goals

- Improve Public Safety
- Increase Fairness and Efficiency of the Justice System
- Strengthen and Expand Community Engagement
- Consolidate Justice Data
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