

Louisiana: The Support for David Duke

Data from the Voter Research and Surveys Exit Poll at the Run-Off, November 16, 1991

Social Groups' Stands on Duke... And Bush

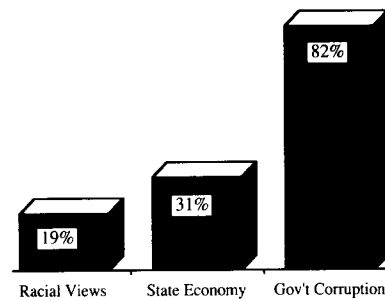
	% Duke for Governor	Duke for President? ²		% Approve Bush
		% Definitely Vote for him	% Consider Voting for him	
By Race				
White	55	19	31	68
Black	4	6	3	43
By Education				
Less than H.S.	40	26	14	45
High School Grad	46	18	26	59
Some College	43	14	26	64
College Grad	33	13	21	64
Post Grad Study	23	6	12	60
By Age				
18-29	39	17	22	67
30-39	38	13	21	61
40-44	36	10	23	66
45-49	38	17	19	55
50-59	41	13	26	56
60+	42	18	22	49
Other Groups				
Cajuns	56	24	32	59
Louisiana Natives	39	15	22	61
Fundamentalists	50	14	30	62
Weekly Church-Goer	40	13	25	64
Have Someone in Family Unemployed	31	15	18	53
By Perception of One's Economic Position¹				
Better Today	34	13	20	71
Worse Today	41	16	23	45
About the Same	43	16	24	62
By Party				
Democrat	28	12	16	49
Republican	56	17	30	81
Independent	50	17	28	64

The Story of the Louisiana Vote

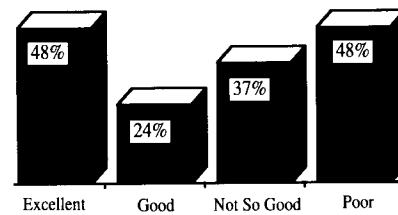
David Duke got a vastly higher share (93%) of the vote of those who said blacks should not get hiring preferences, than of those who said they should (among whom he got just 7%). But in most regards, Duke and Edwards backers as groups were not very different in actual policy stands or evaluations. For example, Duke's vote share was about the same among supporters and opponents of abortion, among Bush supporters and opponents, and among those who said the Louisiana economy was excellent, and those who said it was poor.

As the Table shows, Duke's backing came disproportionately from lower-status whites. While his voters, against the backdrop of the campaign, were notably inclined to identify themselves as hiring preference opponents, when asked what issues had mattered most to them they picked (from a short list provided in the exit poll questionnaire) "government corruption" far more than "candidates' views on racial matters." Duke backers are outsiders, more angry at "the government" than at blacks, seemingly motivated by a desire to find someone to stand up for them against establishment forces which appear at best indifferent to them.

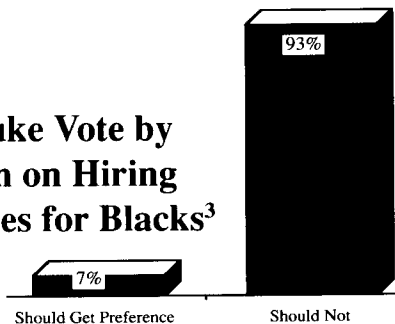
The Duke Vote By Response To: "What Issues Mattered Most to You?"⁵



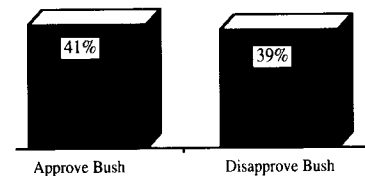
The Duke Vote by Views on the State's Economy⁶



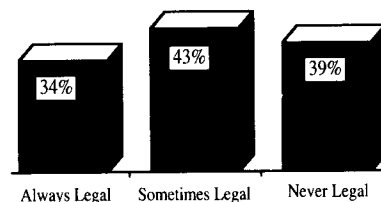
The Duke Vote by Position on Hiring Preferences for Blacks³



The Duke Vote by Bush Approval



The Duke Vote by Position on Abortion⁴



¹"Compared to four years ago, is your family's financial situation: better today, worse today, or about the same?"

²"If David Duke ran for president in 1992, would you: definitely vote for him, consider voting for him, or not vote for him?"

³"Do you think blacks and other minorities should receive preference in hiring to make up for past inequalities, or not?"

⁴"Which of these statements comes closest to your view about abortion: it should be legal in all circumstances; it should be legal only in some circumstances; it should not be legal in any circumstances?"

⁵"What was most important in deciding your vote today: candidates' views on racial matters, condition of Louisiana's economy, government corruption, or something else?"

⁶"These days, do you think the condition of Louisiana's economy is: excellent, good, not so good, poor?"