

Capital Survey Research Center

CONFIDENCE IN STATE and LOCAL INSTITUTIONS SURVEY

March 7-8, 12-15, 2007
453 Registered Voters
SME +/- 4.6%

Introduction

The Confidence in State and Local Institutions survey was designed to measure the level of confidence that Alabama registered voters have in state and local institutions and organizations.

Only churches receive a majority rating of “Great Confidence” followed by the medical profession and law enforcement. When “Great Deal of Confidence” and “Some Confidence” are combined, the rankings remain relatively the same.

While there are no extremely high “No Confidence” ratings, the highest “No Confidence” ratings are given to the Christian Coalition, unions and the legal profession. The lowest ratings of “No Confidence” are again given to local small businesses, doctors, banks, community colleges and churches.

When “Low Confidence” and “No Confidence” ratings are combined, the legal profession, nursing homes and the Alabama Legislature receive the highest combined ratings.

Since 1999, while confidence ratings for the medical profession and state government have remained statistically constant, ratings for all other state and local institutions and organizations have declined. The largest decline in confidence ratings, 15% or over, occurred for local private schools and the Christian Coalition, followed by declines of ten points or more for universities, the Alabama Supreme Court, Child Day Care Centers and unions.

Overall, while confidence ratings for both state and national institutions and organizations have declined since 1999, confidence ratings for state institutions and organizations are generally higher across the board than are ratings for national institutions and organizations.

While state government and, in particular, the Legislature, are conventionally disparaged, both have substantial majority combined “Great Deal of Confidence” and “Some Confidence” ratings.

Confidence in State and Local Institutions and Organizations

	GDC	SC	LC	NC	DK
Churches	53%	35%	6%	3%	3%
Doctors and the medical profession	43%	45%	8%	3%	1%
Local Law Enforcement	40%	44%	10%	5%	2%
Local Small Businesses	39%	48%	8%	1%	4%
Local Banks	38%	48%	10%	3%	2%
Community and Technical Colleges	35%	41%	11%	3%	9%
Local Public Schools	33%	38%	18%	8%	4%
Alabama Retirement Systems	29%	29%	16%	6%	22%
Local Private Schools	29%	32%	12%	6%	22%
Professors and universities	28%	47%	12%	4%	9%
Your local City Government	22%	45%	18%	10%	5%
Your Local Newspaper	21%	48%	18%	8%	5%
Your Local School Board	21%	41%	22%	9%	8%
Day Care Centers for Children	20%	42%	10%	5%	22%
Public Schools Statewide	20%	43%	21%	6%	10%
Alabama State Department of Education	19%	44%	24%	7%	6%
State Government	17%	51%	21%	8%	3%
Your County Government	17%	48%	22%	8%	5%
Statewide Newspapers	17%	45%	13%	9%	17%
Alabama Christian Coalition	17%	34%	17%	13%	19%
Alabama Supreme Court	16%	48%	16%	7%	12%
Nursing Homes for the Elderly	15%	39%	26%	11%	9%
Alabama Legislature	13%	45%	25%	11%	6%
Lawyers and the Legal profession	12%	40%	31%	14%	3%
Unions	10%	24%	15%	16%	36%

Great Deal of Confidence (GDC)
 Some Confidence (SC)
 Little Confidence (LC)
 No Confidence (NC)
 Don't Know (DK)

Combined “Great Deal of Confidence” and “Some Confidence” Ratings

	1999	2003	2007	+/-
	GDC/SC	GDC/SC	GDC/SC	
Churches	92%	93%	88%	-4
Doctors and the medical profession	89%	90%	88%	-1
Local Small Businesses	93%	86%	87%	-6
Local Banks	88%	87%	86%	-2
Professors and universities	87%	79%	75%	-12
Local Public Schools	76%	71%	71%	-5
Your Local Newspaper	77%	72%	69%	-8
State Government	67%	67%	68%	+1
Your local City Government	70%	65%	67%	-3
Your County Government	69%	65%	65%	-4
Alabama Supreme Court	76%	70%	64%	-12
Alabama State Department of Education	70%	63%	63%	-7
Your Local School Board	70%	60%	62%	-8
Day Care Centers for Children	75%	67%	62%	-13
Local Private Schools	79%	63%	61%	-18
Alabama Legislature	62%	59%	58%	-4
Nursing Homes for the Elderly	63%	58%	54%	-9
Lawyers and the Legal profession	55%	54%	52%	-3
Alabama Christian Coalition	66%	56%	51%	-15
Unions	44%	47%	34%	-10

Great Deal of Confidence (GDC)
Some Confidence (SC)

Combined “Low Confidence” and “No Confidence” Ratings

LC/NC

Lawyers and the Legal profession	45%
Nursing Homes for the Elderly	37%
Alabama Legislature	36%
Alabama State Department of Education	31%
Unions	31%
Your Local School Board	31%
Your County Government	30%
Alabama Christian Coalition	30%
State Government	29%
Your local City Government	28%
Public Schools Statewide	27%
Your Local Newspaper	26%
Local Public Schools	26%
Alabama Supreme Court	23%
Alabama Retirement Systems	22%
Statewide Newspapers	22%
Local Private Schools	18%
Professors and universities	16%
Local Law Enforcement	15%
Day Care Centers for Children	15%
Community and Technical Colleges	14%
Local Banks	13%
Doctors and the medical profession	11%
Local Small Businesses	9%
Churches	9%

Little Confidence (LC)

No Confidence (NC)

“No Confidence” Ratings

	NC
Alabama Christian Coalition	17%
Unions	16%
Lawyers and the Legal profession	14%
Nursing Homes for the Elderly	11%
Alabama Legislature	11%
Your local City Government	10%
Your Local School Board	9%
Statewide Newspapers	9%
Your Local Newspaper	8%
Your County Government	8%
State Government	8%
Local Public Schools	8%
Alabama State Department of Education	7%
Alabama Supreme Court	7%
Alabama Retirement Systems	6%
Public Schools Statewide	6%
Local Private Schools	6%
Local Law Enforcement	5%
Day Care Centers for Children	5%
Professors and universities	4%
Churches	3%
Community and Technical Colleges	3%
Local Banks	3%
Doctors and the medical profession	3%
Local Small Businesses	1%
No Confidence (NC)	

Demographics

Party I. D.

Democrat	37.3%
Republican	31.7%
Independent	26.3%
Don't Know	4.7%

Age

18-24	2.5%
25-34	3.7%
35-50	23.9%
51-64	33.7%
65 or Older	36.0%

Education

Less than HS	8.3%
HS Graduate	24.4%
Some college	27.9%
College Graduate	19.1%
Graduate Degree	19.4%

Gender

Male	44.3%
Female	55.7%

Race

Black / A-A	20.0%
White / Caucasian	78.0%
Other	2.0%

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