

## **Alabamians and their Local Communities Media Release Points Volume 2, no. 2**

**Ask-Alabama Poll, Winter 2005**  
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### **Significant Findings**

**1. Over 70% of Alabamians have confidence that their local elected officials are leading their communities in a positive way, and few respondents (16%) believe that the quality of life in their local community is deteriorating.**

- a. 71% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their local elected officials are moving their community in a positive direction.
- b. 85% believe that their city or town has improved or retained its quality of life during the past year.

*Alabamians have a generally positive view about their communities in which they live and the directions that their communities are taking. They have faith in their local leadership to do the right thing and to steer their communities in a way that benefits the public.*

**2. The public wants our leaders at the local level to give their unwavering to education, law enforcement, honesty in government, and job creation.**

- a. 80% assign the issue of local public education an urgent or high priority.
- b. 77% identified crime and law enforcement in their local community as an urgent or high priority.
- c. 74% believe that honesty of local elected officials is an urgent or high priority.
- d. 73% assign the issue of local job availability an urgent or high priority.

*The public is quite clear on the need for local officials in Alabama to pay attention to basic services as the most effective program for promoting and enhancing their communities. Schools, economic opportunity, an open and honest administration, and a safe and secure community are the core features that residents believe their local leaders must address. The public is most concerned about issues that affect their children, families and basic security. Comparison with past polls underscores that the public is consistent in their prioritization of schools, jobs, honesty in government, and security.*

**3. Minorities are more likely than non-minorities to assign an *urgent* priority to local issues such as *Senior Services, Accessibility of Health Care, Business/Commercial Development, Jobs, and Respect for Racial and Ethnic Diversity.***

<b>Issue</b>	<b>% Urgent Total</b>	<b>% Urgent Minority</b>	<b>%Urgent Non-minority</b>
a. Job Availability	31%	53%	25%
b. Health Care Availability	27%	50%	22%
c. Senior Services	18%	32%	14%
d. Respect for Diversity	19%	41%	13%
e. Business Growth	17%	34%	13%

*In Alabama, one size does not fit all. Different constituencies have different needs and priorities. Minorities in Alabama look to their local officials for support and assistance in resolving such issues as securing jobs and assuring access to health care. Minorities, not surprisingly, are also much more concerned about creating a community climate conducive of, and supportive of, diversity and respect for Alabama’s various ethnic and religious communities.*

**Poll Facts**

Dates of Survey: January 24 – February 3, 2005  
 Sample Size: 624 Alabama residents  
 Estimated Margin of Error: +/- 4%  
 Type of Survey: Random telephone survey of Alabamians 19 or older