#Competitiveness

##Overall

In the 1,153 election races in Louisiana, in 2014 and 2016, there was little competition. The typical race saw just 2 candidates vying for each seat, and 90% of races had 3 or fewer candidates:

(The 1+ and 2+ indicate races with multiple seats open; e.g. 3 candidates competing for 2 seats results in 3/2 = 1.5 candidates per seat.)

##Most Competitive

The federal-level races were generally more competitive than the local races, with roughly 5 times as many candidates per seat as the state- and local-level races:

The federal-level races were 8 of the top 11 races with the most candidates:

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| **Level** | **Position** | **Number of Candidates** |
| Federal | U. S. Senator (2016) | 24 |
| Federal | Presidential Electors (2016) | 13 |
| Federal | U. S. Representative-6th Congressional District (2014) | 12 |
| Local | Mayor-President-Metro Council, City of Baton Rouge (2016) | 12 |
| Federal | U. S. Representative-3rd Congressional District (2016) | 12 |
| Federal | U. S. Representative-5th Congressional District (2014) | 9 |
| Federal | U. S. Representative-4th Congressional District (2016) | 8 |
| Federal | U. S. Senator (2014) | 8 |
| Federal | U. S. Representative-1st Congressional District (2016) | 7 |
| Local | Mayor-City of Shreveport (2014) | 7 |
| Local | City Marshal-City Court, City of Hammond-Tangipahoa (2014) | 7 |

## Least Competitive

There were only 8 state-level races (less than 1% of the 1153 total races), making it difficult to draw any generalizations. Of the 1130 local-level races, the least competitive were the races for aldermen and council members, where an average of 2.26 candidates ran per seat – compared to an average of 2.58 candidates per seat, across all races:

This lack of competitiveness in the local government races was especially visible in those races where multiple seats were available:

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| **Position** | **Number of Candidates** |
| Aldermen-Town of Lecompte (5 to be elected)-Rapides (2014) | 1.2 |
| Councilmen-Town of Berwick (5 to be elected)-St. Mary (2014) | 1.2 |
| Aldermen-Town of Port Barre (5 to be elected)-St. Landry (2014) | 1.2 |
| Aldermen-Town of Clarks (5 to be elected)-Caldwell (2014) | 1.2 |
| Aldermen-Town of Tullos (5 to be elected)-Lasalle (2014) | 1.2 |
| Aldermen-Town of Abita Springs (5 to be elected)-St. Tammany (2014) | 1.2 |
| Aldermen-Town of Urania (5 to be elected)-Lasalle (2014) | 1.2 |
| Aldermen-Town of Cullen (5 to be elected)-Webster (2016) | 1.2 |
| Council Members-Town of Leonville (5 to be elected)-St. Landry (2014) | 1.2 |

(The full list includes a total of 98 elections, where the average number of candidates per seat is only 1.8.)

There were a few noticeable exceptions to this rule, where the alderman/council member race was hotly contested, particularly in East Baton Rouge and Opelousas-St. Landry:

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| **Position** | **Number of Candidates** |
| Councilman-Metro District 12-East Baton Rouge (2016) | 6 |
| Councilman-Metro District 5-East Baton Rouge (2016) | 5 |
| Councilman-Metro District 7-East Baton Rouge (2016) | 5 |
| Councilman-Metro District 9-East Baton Rouge (2016) | 5 |
| Councilman-Metro District 10-East Baton Rouge (2016) | 5 |
| Councilman-District E, City of Bogalusa-Washington (2014) | 5 |
| Council Member-Division B, City of Westlake-Calcasieu (2014) | 5 |
| Alderman-District B, Town of Farmerville-Union (2016) | 5 |
| Alderman-District E, City of Opelousas-St. Landry (2014) | 5 |
| Alderman at Large-City of Opelousas-St. Landry (2014) | 5 |

## Remaining Questions

Can we compare urban/rural divide on competitiveness?

Margin of victory aspect: What are the races that have the largest margin of victory?

What are the ones that have the smallest? What can we see in the constituents - any outliers?