

The View from Mainstream America:
The Catholic Voter in Summer 2004

A National Opinion Survey of
Likely Catholic Voters

Conducted for
Catholics for a Free Choice

July 2004

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I. Introduction

Over the past three decades, the attitudes of Catholic voters across the United States have been a reliable indicator of the attitudes and preferences of the nation as a whole concerning politics in presidential elections. From 1972 through 2000, Catholic voters as a voting group have swung from one party to another to support the candidate who received the most votes nationally.

As one quarter of the electorate, American Catholics represent more than an important voting group. They consistently present us with a snapshot of mainstream American public opinion. That was true when Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC) asked Belden Russonello & Stewart (BRS) in October 2000 to conduct a national survey of Catholic voters. It remains true in July 2004, as we report the results of BRS' 2004 survey of Catholic voters, again conducted for Catholics for a Free Choice.

This year's survey investigates many topics, including Catholic voter attitudes toward the war in Iraq, domestic issues that matter to voters, presidential preference, social issues such as abortion, stem cell research, and marriage of same-sex couples, as well as what these voters think about Catholic bishops' involvement in political issues. Some questions track attitudes from our 2000 survey.

The 2004 survey, conducted from June 2 through 11 among 2,239 Catholics who are likely voters, includes an oversample of Hispanics (366 total Hispanics). The survey has a margin of sampling error for the entire survey of plus or minus 2.1 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for results of the Hispanic subsample is plus or minus 5.2 percentage points. Knowledge Networks carried out the survey's sampling and interviewing using the random digit dial method to create a sample that then administers the questionnaire online. A complete, detailed methodology can be found in an appendix of this report.

II. Executive Summary

The Catholics for Free Choice 2004 Catholic Voter Survey reveals a Catholic electorate in America that is more complex than many observers have noted and, at the same time, retains its special place as a key swing voting block and an indicator of presidential preference for the entire nation.

The Catholic vote is defined by special characteristics:

- The Catholic vote is more Hispanic (15%) and less African American (two percent) than the entire electorate: four percent of the national electorate is Hispanic and 10% are African American.¹
- The Catholics vote is more urban, more northeastern, and less southern, and it is somewhat more identified with the Democratic Party than is the rest of the country. Thirty-six percent of Catholics are Democrats, compared to 31% of the nation.²
- It is more a cultural voting group than a religious one. Catholics are making their political choices based on a candidate's position on the war in Iraq, terrorism, and family security issues such as jobs and health care. As a group, they mirror the nation's generally prochoice position on abortion and support for stem cell research and the death penalty. They are not taking their political cues from the Catholic bishops.

Catholics represent a quarter of the national vote and for the last three decades their overall preference has changed several times between the Democratic and Republican candidate for president. But as Catholic voters have swung, so has the nation. Candidates who win the popular vote win the Catholic vote. They are an extremely important group to watch carefully.

Five broad points stand out from the Catholic Voter Survey of 2004.

1. Catholic voter preference in the presidential election is evenly divided, and resolving the situation in Iraq drives the Catholic vote.

- Six months before the presidential election in November 2004, the presidential race is dead even among likely Catholic voters: 40% for

¹ Numbers for the electorate taken from exit polling by VNS 2000.

² ABC News Poll; June 3, 2003.

President George W. Bush, 40% for Senator John Kerry, 2% for Ralph Nader, and 18% undecided.

- The race is even among Catholic voters in a block of key swing states: Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington.

At this point, the best predictor in determining Catholic voting intentions is level of confidence in President Bush's ability to resolve the conflict in Iraq.

As the US hands back governing power to Iraq, Catholic voters are divided but lean more toward keeping US troops "in Iraq as long as necessary to establish democracy and stability" (54%) than toward "bringing the troops home within six months, even if democracy and stability are not established" (45%).

Similarly, Catholics are divided over whether President Bush is up to the job of resolving the situation in Iraq. Catholic voters' confidence in the president to resolve the war mirrors their division on policy: 54% have confidence in Bush to resolve the war in Iraq (30% great deal, 24% some), while 46% are not confident (24% very little, 22% not much) in the president. Hispanic Catholics are among the most likely to want the troops home (54%) and to lack confidence in the president on this issue (59% have "not much" or "very little" confidence.)

Confidence in the president to resolve the war in Iraq overshadows all other predictors of the vote.

92% of those who say they have a "great deal" of confidence in Bush on this issue are intending to vote for him.

87% of Catholics who have "very little" confidence in the president intend to vote for Kerry.

2. The Catholic vote is secular and does not take direction from the Catholic bishops.

By several measurements, Catholic voters make it very clear that they do not mix religion and politics. For example, the survey shows:

- By more than two to one (70% to 30%), Catholic voters say the views of Catholic bishops are not important to them in deciding for whom to vote. Looking at those who feel strongly, seven percent say the views of the

- bishops are “very important” to them, while 40% say they are “not at all important.”
- Eight in ten (83%) Catholic voters do not believe that politicians who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote on issues the way Catholic bishops recommend.
 - Three-quarters (76%) disapprove of Catholic bishops denying communion to Catholics who support legal abortion and nearly eight in ten (78%) believe that politicians who are Catholic and who support legal abortion should not be denied communion.

Closer look at church-goers

Taking a closer look at the four in ten Catholic voters (39%) who attend church at least once a week adds further evidence that the Catholic vote is more cultural than religious. A plurality – but not a majority – of these active Catholics call themselves politically conservative, and they often take more conservative positions on issues than the rest of the Catholic electorate. For example, they are somewhat less pro-choice on abortion and more supportive of President Bush.

When we consider both church attendance and political ideology together, we find it is political beliefs that are driving attitudes on the election and on issues, not attendance at Mass. Catholic frequent church-goers who call themselves political conservatives make up 18% of the Catholic vote overall, while frequent church-goers who call themselves moderates are 15%, and those who identify as liberals count six percent overall.

Political ideology is a better predictor of presidential preference than is church attendance. Of those who are frequent church-goers, President Bush is winning among Conservatives (72% Bush, 15% Kerry, 12% undecided), but challenger John Kerry currently leads among both moderates (42% Kerry, 29% Bush, 28% undecided) and liberals (78% Kerry, 8% Bush, 11% undecided).

3. Catholic voters continue to support legal abortion and to depart from church positions on other issues.

Catholic voters part company with the position of the Catholic church on a number of issues. For example, majorities of Catholic voters hold prochoice views on abortion.

- Six in ten Catholic voters (61%) agree that it should be legal for a woman to have an abortion. Over half of Catholic voters (53%) describe themselves as “prochoice.” Three-quarters (74%) do not believe Catholics have a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion.
- Just over one in 10 (13%) of all likely Catholic voters feel strongly opposed to legal abortion and would definitely vote against a candidate who favored legal abortion. On the other side, one in 10 (10%) Catholics feels strongly that abortion should be legal and would definitely vote against a candidate who disagreed on this issue.

Looking at the attitudes of Catholic voters on a number of other social issues reveals they represent mainstream American thinking. On some issues, majorities will depart from the positions of the Catholic church, while on others they will find themselves in agreement.

- Majorities of Catholic voters disagree with the church on several issues covered in the survey: allowing scientists to use stem cells from very early human embryos to find cures for diseases (72% support), the death penalty (71% support), and physician-assisted suicide (53% support).
- Catholic voters, however, are more in line with the church on the issues of gay marriage, school vouchers, and school prayer. Six in ten (64%) of Catholic voters oppose making gay and lesbian marriages legal. Three-quarters (74%) support school prayer and over half (56%) support school vouchers to help parents pay for the cost of tuition to private or religious schools.

4. Catholic voters’ priorities are security, jobs, and health care.

The priorities of Catholic voters reflect concerns about protecting the US from terrorism and resolving the war in Iraq, as well as bread and butter issues of personal economic security.

The issues Catholic voters want the next president to address include protecting American jobs, protecting Social Security, and improving health care. Catholic voters next place a high priority on improving education, improving Medicare, promoting moral values in the country, fighting crime, cutting taxes, protecting civil liberties, and protecting the environment. Of less salience to Catholic voters are advancing gay rights, abortion, and promoting human rights around the world.

The importance of Social Security, Medicare, and education to Catholic voters is underscored by their more than two-to-one support for canceling some of the recent tax cuts to preserve Social Security and Medicare (74% support canceling tax cuts; 26% oppose) and to improve education (68% support canceling tax cuts; 31% oppose).

5. Catholic Hispanic voters defy easy labels.

The Catholic Hispanic vote represents millions of Americans and is a growing force in American political and cultural life. In many ways these voters are quite similar to other Catholic voters in their thinking, but in many other ways they have their own characteristics.

As a group, Hispanic Catholics are younger, likely to have fewer years of formal schooling, and have lower annual incomes than Catholic voters overall. Politically, Hispanic Catholics identify more with the Democratic Party, but they are less likely to become politically involved. The Hispanic Catholic vote is primarily a large city vote.

In the presidential race, Hispanics support Kerry over Bush 47% to 30%, with 20% undecided.

On Iraq, Hispanic Catholic voters want to bring US troops home more so than does any other demographic group.

Like other Catholics, they are highly concerned about terrorism, but they elevate two issues – improving health care and public education – above other issues, including jobs and social security. They place cutting taxes lower on their list of priorities than do other Catholic voters.

Hispanic voters reflect the overall Catholic voter sentiment on a number of social issues: they are just as supportive of legal abortion (62% agree), in favor of stem cell research (71%), opposed to legal marriage for same sex couples (63%), and supportive of prayer in public schools (73%).

Hispanic Catholics are less supportive of the death penalty (58%) and doctor assisted suicide (42%) than are other Catholics. On the other hand, Hispanics are more likely to favor the US providing assistance to developing countries (69%), including funding voluntary family planning in developing countries (49% support).

Just like other Catholics, healthy majorities of Hispanic Catholic voters reject the idea of the Catholic bishops influencing the positions of political candidates,

their own decisions on issues such as abortion, or the denial of communion to Catholics who disagree with church views.

In summary the 2004 survey reveals an overall Catholic vote that is reliably mainstream – highly concerned about the war in Iraq, divided about the best course of action, but also feeling strongly about the need for our leaders to concentrate on jobs and health care, Social Security, and public schools. It is a vote that is prochoice, but sees little urgency to make this an issue for the next president.

Catholic voters may listen to the words of the bishops on Sundays, but they do not want those words influencing policies or behaviors on the first Tuesday in November. Nor do they approve of the church using the sacrament of communion as a lever for political issues.

Like many other Americans, their political identification as conservative or liberal will predict what they decide on issues and on their choice for president. Moderate Catholic voters will be predictably less predictable. Watching these voters make up their minds as they weigh the issues and candidates will tell us a great deal about where American public opinion as a whole is headed.

III. Findings

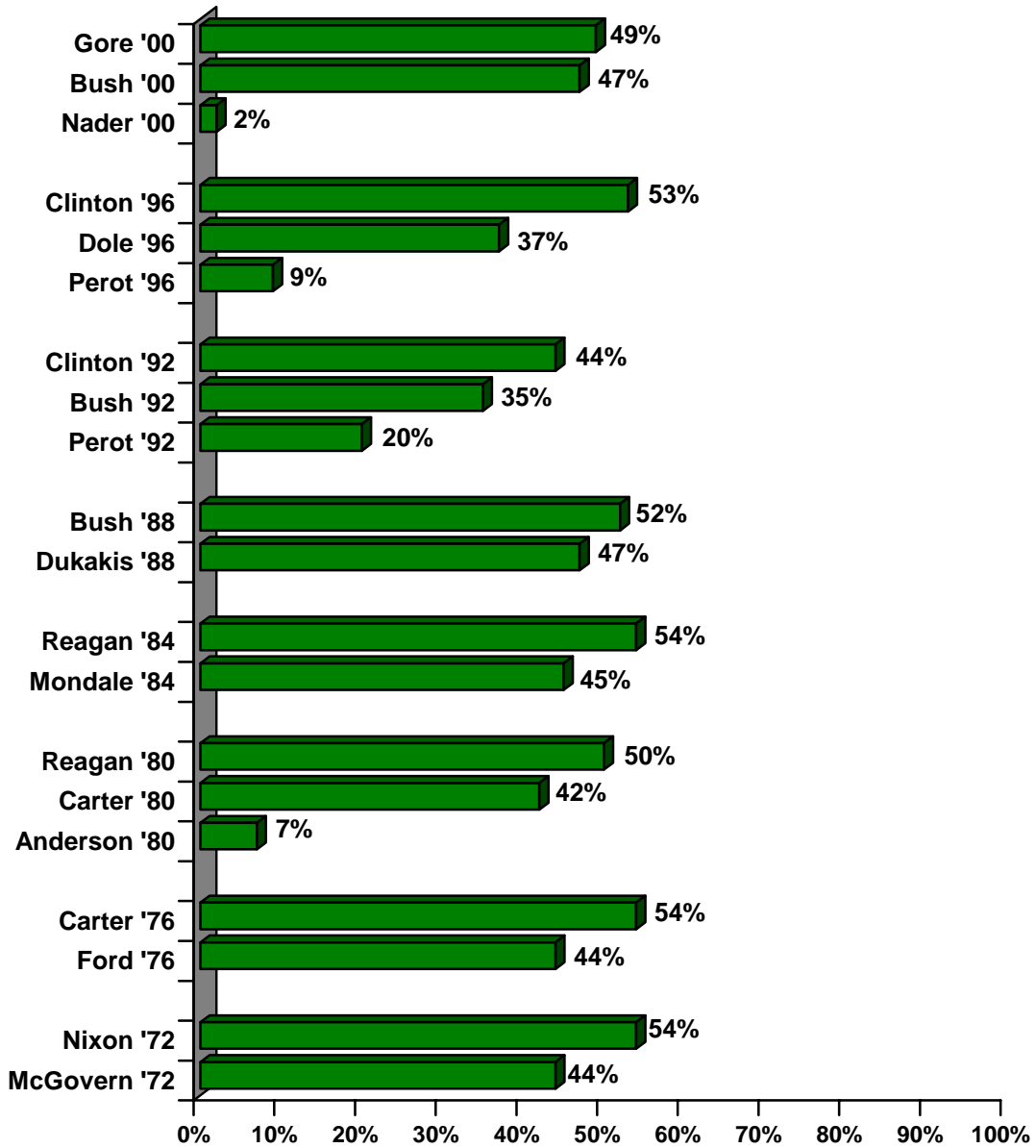
1. Presidential Politics

A. The Catholic Vote

Traditionally, Catholic voters have represented a quarter of the total presidential vote and have switched from one party's candidate for president to another's as times change. However, one thing about the Catholic vote has remained constant over the last 27 years (we looked at the elections from 1972 to present) – whoever wins the most Catholic votes wins the most votes nationwide. Exit polls have shown that Catholics voted mostly for Richard Nixon in 1972, Jimmy Carter in '76, Ronald Reagan in '80 and '84, George Bush in '88, and Bill Clinton in '92 and '96. In the presidential election of 2000, Catholics comprised 26% of the voters and they favored Democrat Al Gore by the slight margin of 2 percentage points over Republican George W. Bush (49% to 47%). Although it was close, Vice President Al Gore won the Catholic vote, just as he did the popular vote nationwide.

How goes the Catholic vote, so goes the country.

Catholic Vote in Presidential Elections*



* Data for the 1996 and 2000 elections were collected by Voter News Service (VNS) based on questionnaires completed by voters leaving polling places across the country on election day. Data for 1992 were based on surveys conducted by Voter Research and Surveys. Data for 1972 through 1988 were based on surveys conducted by The New York Times and CBS News.

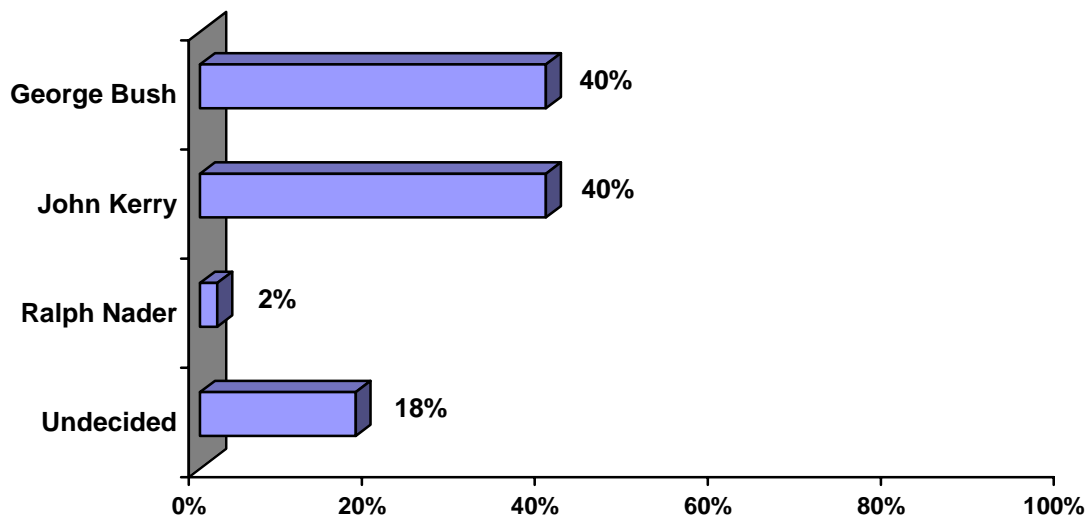
B. 2004 Presidential Election

The vote

At this time, the Catholic vote is evenly divided between President George W. Bush and Senator John F. Kerry: 40% are for Bush and 40% for Kerry. Ralph Nader receives 2%, and 18% are undecided. The survey reveals identical numbers among Catholics in 15 battleground states³.

When initial support is combined with voters who are still undecided but leaning towards a candidate, Bush garners 47% and Kerry receives 49% of the Catholic vote.

Catholic Likely Voters' Presidential Preference



Q1. If the election for president were held today, would you vote for: the Republican George W. Bush, the Democrat John Kerry, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or are you undecided?⁴

Kerry is leading among:

- Democrats (76%); and
- Liberals (76%).

³ Battleground states: Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington.

⁴ The Green Party decided not to endorse Ralph Nader after the fielding of this survey.

As well as:

- Moderates (44%);
- Hispanics (47%), especially Hispanics born in the US (49%) and those of Mexican descent (51%);
- Lower and middle income Catholics (44% of <\$30K; 49% of \$30K-\$50K);
- Those with a college education or more (44%);
- Non-married (single 45%; divorced, separated, or widowed 49%);
- Those who live in cities (small 47%; large 46%); and
- Those who occasionally or never attend church (44% and 46%).

Bush leads among Catholic voters who are:

- Republicans (80%); and
- Conservatives (72%).

As well as:

- White men (45%);
- Catholics in the South (47%);
- Upper-income Catholics (48% of \$75K+);
- Married (44%);
- Those who live outside the cities: suburbs (46%), towns (45%), rural areas (45%); and
- Those who are frequently church-goers (46%).

The survey reveals considerable differences in vote preference when looking age and gender:

Bush's support is strongest among Baby Boomer (age 40-58) men (47% Bush; 38% Kerry) and Generation X-plus (age 18-39) women (43% Bush; 37% Kerry).

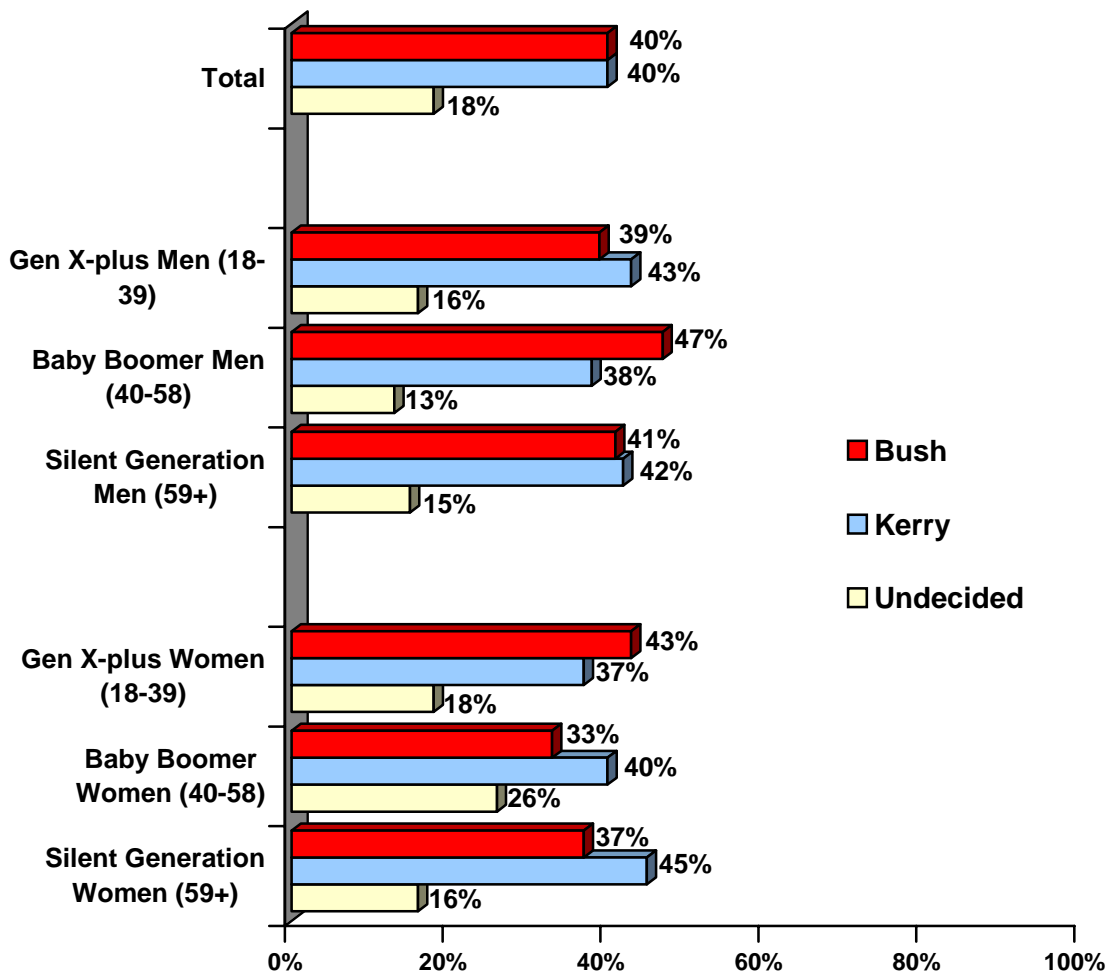
Kerry's support is driven by Silent Generation (age 59 and older) women (45% Kerry; 37% Bush) and Generation X-plus (age 18-39) men (43% Kerry; 39% Bush).

Baby Boomer (age 40-58) women lean in support of Kerry but are also among the most likely group to be undecided at the moment (40% Kerry; 33% Bush; 26% undecided).

Men of the Silent Generation (age 59 and older) are split (41% Bush; 42% Kerry).

Regression analysis finds that among the demographic and lifestyle characteristics, political party and political ideology are the strongest predictors of the presidential vote. Regression also shows that voters who are upper educated or Hispanic are likely Kerry voters, while Catholics who are married are likely Bush voters.

Catholics' Presidential Choice: Gender by Age



Q1. If the election for president were held today, would you vote for: the Republican George W. Bush, the Democrat John Kerry, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or are you undecided?

Presidential Choice Among Catholics

Q1. If the election for the president were held today, would you vote for the Republican George W. Bush, the Democrat John Kerry, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader?

	Bush	Kerry	Nader	Undecided
Total	40%	40	2	18
Men	43%	41	2	15
Women	38%	40	2	20
18-39	41%	40	2	17
40-58	40%	39	1	19
59+	39%	44	1	16
White	43%	38	1	17
Hispanic	30%	47	2	20
White men	45%	39	1	14
White women	41%	38	2	19
<HS/HS	36%	39	1	23
Some college	44%	38	2	16
College grad+	40%	44	1	14
<\$30K	34%	44	2	20
\$30-\$50K	31%	49	2	18
\$50K-\$75K	44%	37	2	17
\$75K+	48%	37	1	13
Married	44%	37	1	17
Single	34%	45	4	17
Other	31%	49	1	19
Frequent church-goers	46%	35	1	18
Occasional church-goers	38%	44	2	16
Never attend church	31%	46	3	20
Large city	34%	46	1	19
Small city	35%	47	3	15
Suburb	46%	36	2	16
Town	45%	33	*	21
Rural	45%	36	2	17
Northeast	40%	43	1	16
Midwest	38%	39	2	20
South	47%	36	3	14
West	35%	43	1	21
Liberal	11%	76	3	10
Moderate	27%	44	2	27
Conservative	72%	16	*	11
Democrat	8%	76	1	15
Independent	31%	35	4	30
Republican	80%	10	1	10
Battleground states	40%	40	2	18

Frequent church-goers and the presidential election

Of Catholic voters who are frequent church-goers – go to religious services once a week or more – President Bush enjoys the predicted lead. His strength is greatest among those who self-identify as “conservative,” while Senator Kerry wins the support of “liberal” and “moderate” frequent church-goers.

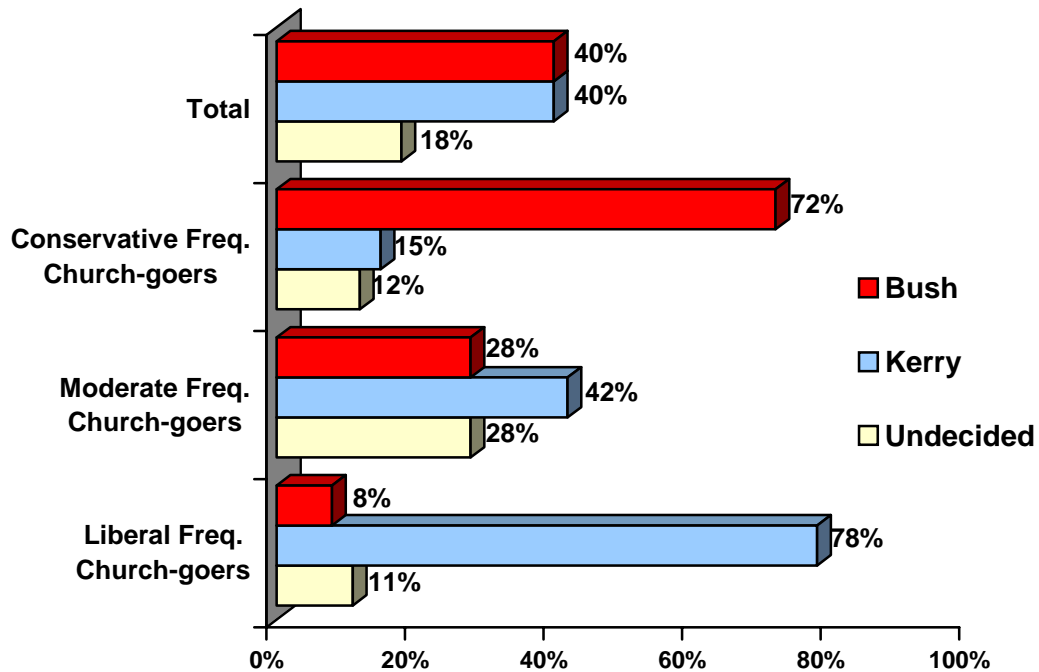
Four in ten Catholic voters (39%) say they attend church at least once a week:

- Two in ten Catholic voters (18%) say they attend church at least once a week and self-identify as “conservative.”
- 15% are frequent church-goers and say they are politically “moderate.”
- Six percent are frequent church-goers and identify as “liberal.”

Looking at the vote by political ideology and church attendance, a sizable proportion of Catholic voters in the pews are likely to favor Kerry.

- Conservative frequent church-goers: 72% Bush; 15% Kerry; 12% undecided.
- Moderate frequent church-goers: 28% Bush; 42% Kerry; 28% undecided.
- Liberal frequent church-goers: 8% Bush; 78% Kerry; 11% undecided.

Catholics' Presidential Choice: Ideology by Church Attendance



Q1. If the election for president were held today, would you vote for: the Republican George W. Bush, the Democrat John Kerry, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or are you undecided?

2. Influence of the Church

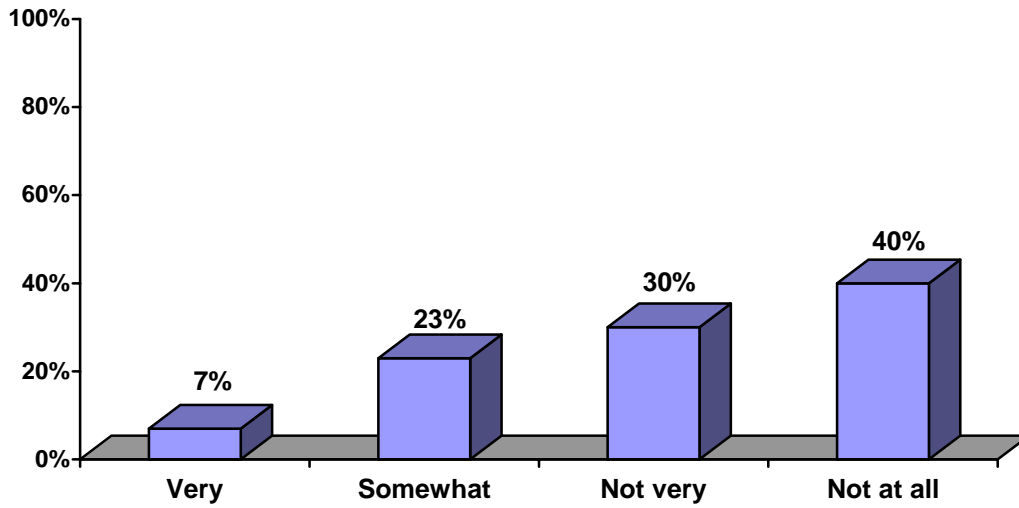
The CFFC survey asked a number of questions to measure the degree to which Catholic voters are influenced in their political views by the positions of the Catholic church. Catholic voters report the Catholic church has very little influence on their voting behavior.

- Only 7% of Catholic voters say the views of Catholic bishops in the US are “very important for you in deciding who to vote for” in the coming election. Even among frequent church-goers, only 15% say the bishops’ views are “very” important in deciding for whom to vote.
- More than eight in ten Catholic voters (83%) do not believe that politicians who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote on issues the way Catholic bishops recommend.
- Considerable majorities disapprove of denying communion to Catholic politicians who support legal abortion (78%) or to other Catholics who support legal abortion (76%).

Across the board, majorities of Catholic voters do not believe Catholic bishops should deny communion either to politicians or to other Catholics who support legal abortion.

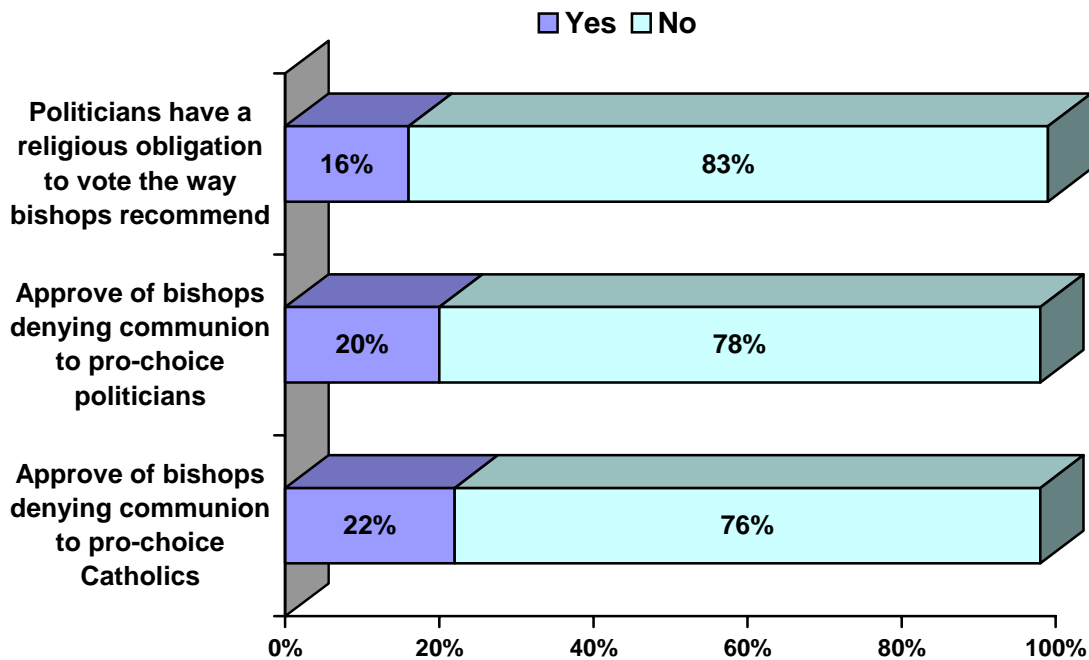
Specifically, regular church-goers who receive communion reject the bishops denying communion. And a majority of Catholic voters who are prolife also disapprove of the recent calls by bishops to deny communion based on a politician’s or individuals’ views on abortion.

Catholic Bishops and Vote Choice



Q18. How important are the views of the Catholic bishops in the US for you in deciding whom to vote for?

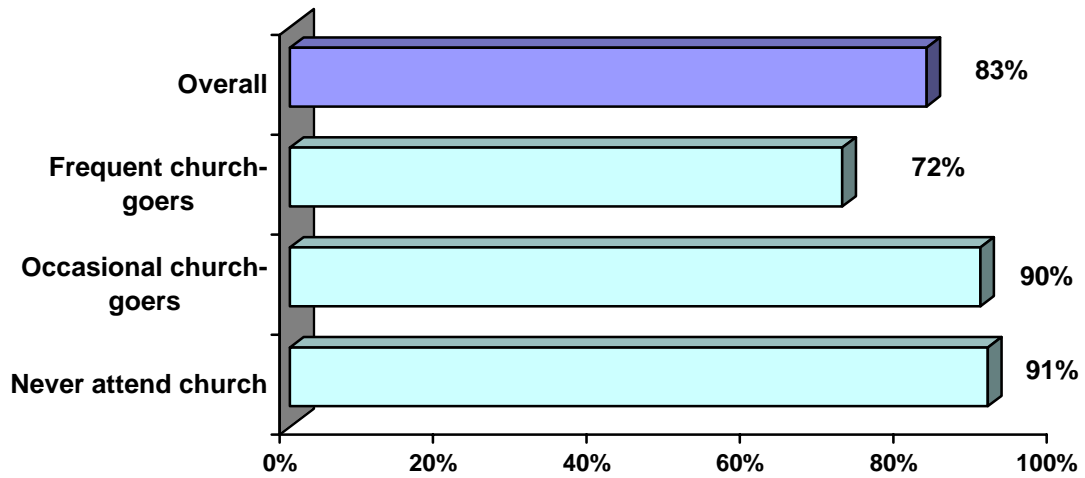
Catholics Views on the Influence of the Church



Q19. Do you believe that politicians who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote on issues the way Catholic bishops recommend? Q21. Do you believe that politicians who are Catholic and who support legal abortion should be denied communion? Q22. Do you approve or disapprove of Catholic bishops denying communion to Catholics who support legal abortion?

Should Catholic Politicians Vote on Issues the Way Bishops Recommend?

(Percent saying "no")



Q19. Do you believe that politicians who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote on issues the way Catholic bishops recommend?

Denying Communion

Q21. Do you believe that politicians who are catholic and who support legal abortion should be denied communion? Q22. Do you approve or disapprove of Catholic bishops denying communion to Catholics who support legal abortion?

	To Catholic politicians who support legal abortion		To Catholics who support legal abortion	
	Yes	No	Approve	Disapprove
Total	20%	78	22%	76
Frequent church-goers	32%	63	35%	61
Occasional church-goers	13%	86	15%	85
Never attend church	9%	91	10%	89
Freq. church-goers and always receive communion	33%	65	35%	63
Agree with legal abortion	5%	93	7%	92
Disagree with legal abortion	44%	53	47%	50
Liberal	5%	95	5%	94
Moderate	13%	84	14%	83
Conservative	37%	60	41%	57
Democrat	9%	90	10%	89
Independent	15%	83	18%	79
Republican	34%	63	37%	60
Vote for Bush	34%	63	38%	61
Vote for Kerry	8%	91	9%	90
Undecided	15%	81	17%	79

3. Issues of Importance

A. Priorities

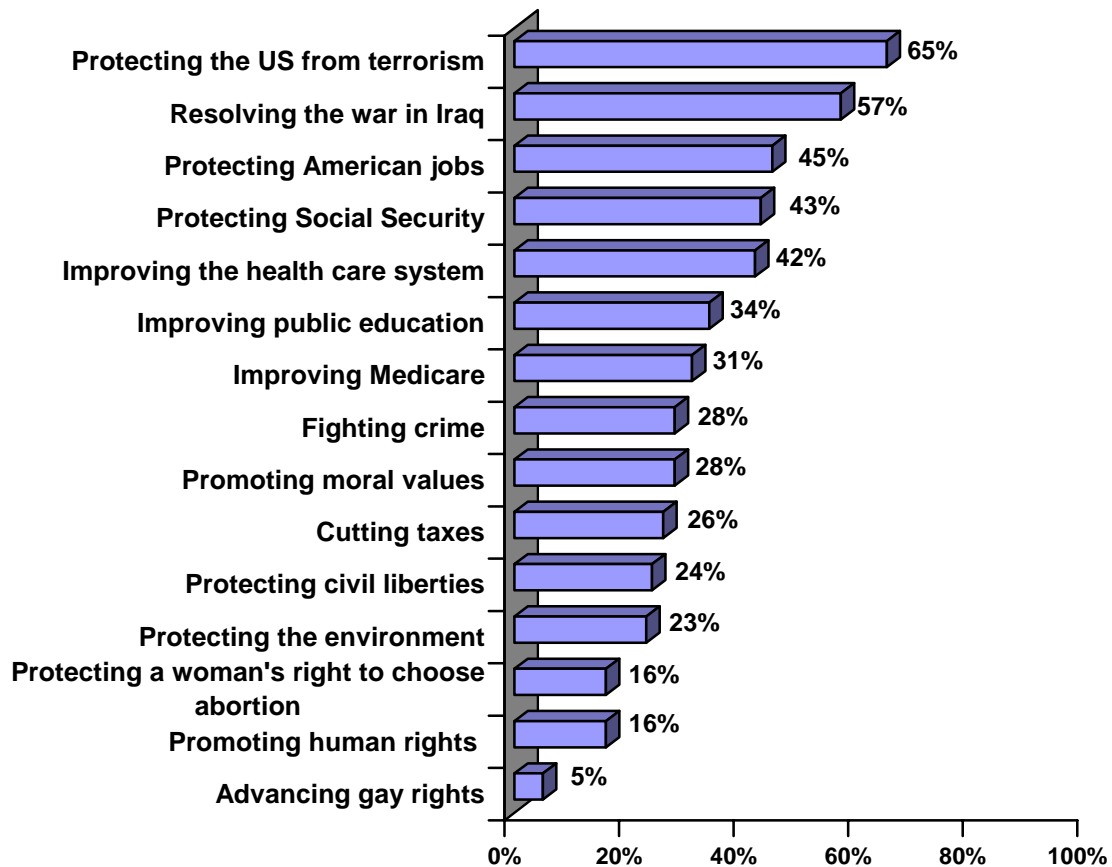
In the current election environment, Catholic voters are most likely to want the next president to give top priority to fighting terrorism and resolving the war in Iraq. In a list of fifteen priorities, these two issues represent the first of four tiers of priorities. Two-thirds of these voters (65%) rate protecting the US from terrorism as top priority and 57% give top priority to resolving the war in Iraq.

Other top concerns that Catholic voters want the next president to address include protecting American jobs (45%) and Social Security (43%) and improving the health care system (42%).

Middle-tier issues for these voters include improving public education (34%), improving Medicare (31%), fighting crime (28%), promoting moral values in the country (28%), cutting taxes (26%), protecting civil liberties (24%), and protecting the environment (23%).

Less salient issues include protecting a woman's right to choose abortion (16%), promoting human rights around the world (16%), and advancing gay rights (5%). These issues fell into the bottom tier of priorities for Catholic voters.

Priorities for the Next President (% saying "7" highest priority)



Q3a-o. Using this 1 to 7 scale, how high a priority would you personally want the next president to give to each of these issues? (1 means lowest priority and 7 means highest priority)

B. War in Iraq

Priorities for the next president

Protecting the US from terrorism and finding a resolution in Iraq are the top priorities among Catholic voters as they consider the next president. Sixty-five percent of these voters place top priority on protecting the US from terrorism (65%), and 57% say resolving the war in Iraq should be a top priority for the next president. Much farther down the list, one quarter of Catholic voters (24%) report protecting civil liberties should be a top priority.

Majorities across all subgroups place terrorism at the top of issues for the next president to address. However, some demographic groups feel more strongly about protecting the US from terrorism than their counterparts:

- Women, especially Silent Generation and Baby Boomer women;
- Silent Generation Catholics;
- Hispanics;
- Less educated (high school diploma or less);
- Republicans; and
- Conservatives.

Those most likely to rate resolving the war in Iraq as top priority are:

- Silent Generation Catholics;
- Hispanics;
- Less educated (high school diploma or less);
- Low income (<\$30K);
- Widowed, separated, or divorced;
- Democrats; and
- Liberals.

Catholics who place strong priority on protecting civil liberties include:

- Hispanics, especially those born outside the US;
- Low income (<\$30K);
- Democrats; and
- Liberals.

Priorities

(% saying "7" highest priority)

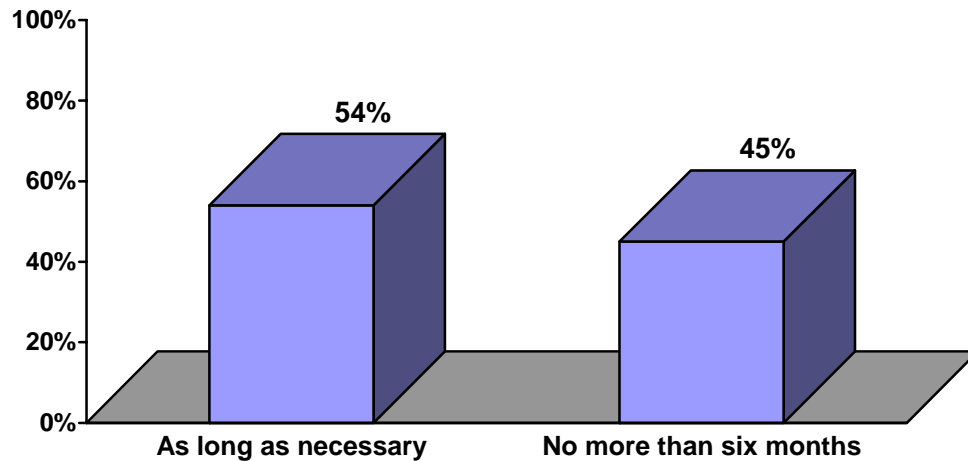
Q3a-3o. Using this 1 to 7 scale, how high a priority would you personally want the next president to give to each of these issues? (1 means lowest priority and 7 means highest priority.)

	Protect US From Terrorism	Resolving the War In Iraq	Protecting Civil Liberties
Total	65%	57%	24%
Men	62%	56%	23%
Women	68%	59%	26%
18-39	58%	49%	22%
40-58	66%	57%	24%
59+	75%	72%	28%
Men 18-39	57%	50%	23%
Men 40-58	61%	54%	21%
Men 59+	71%	70%	25%
Women 18-39	59%	49%	20%
Women 40-58	72%	60%	28%
Women 59+	78%	73%	31%
White	64%	55%	20%
Hispanic	72%	69%	43%
Hispanics born in US	69%	66%	36%
Foreign-born Hispanics	78%	72%	55%
<HS/HS	72%	66%	29%
Some college	70%	57%	24%
College grad+	55%	51%	20%
<\$30K	67%	67%	35%
\$30-\$50K	66%	58%	25%
\$50K-\$75K	63%	55%	21%
\$75K+	62%	50%	16%
Married	65%	57%	21%
Single	57%	52%	28%
Other	73%	67%	31%
Liberal	54%	61%	37%
Moderate	64%	59%	24%
Conservative	73%	54%	18%
Democrat	59%	63%	29%
Independent	62%	56%	24%
Republican	73%	53%	19%
Vote for Bush	75%	53%	17%
Vote for Kerry	55%	62%	31%
Undecided	65%	56%	24%

Resolving the situation in Iraq

Even though the war in Iraq is a top priority for Catholic voters, there is no strong mandate among these voters for what should be done next in Iraq. When forced to choose between two opposite positions, Catholic voters are divided but lean more toward keeping US troops “in Iraq as long as necessary to establish democracy and stability” (54%) than “bringing the troops home within six months, even if democracy and stability are not established” (45%).

Troops Should Stay in Iraq...



Q5. Even if you do not agree completely with either of these two statements, which one better describes your view: A) US troops should stay in Iraq as long as necessary to establish democracy and stability; or B) We should bring the troops home within six months, even if democracy and stability are not established.

Catholics who believe we should leave troops in Iraq until democracy and stability are established are much more likely to be:

- Men, especially white men, Gen X-plus men; and college-educated men;
- Upper income (\$75K+);
- Married;
- Frequent church-goers;
- Republicans; and
- Conservatives.

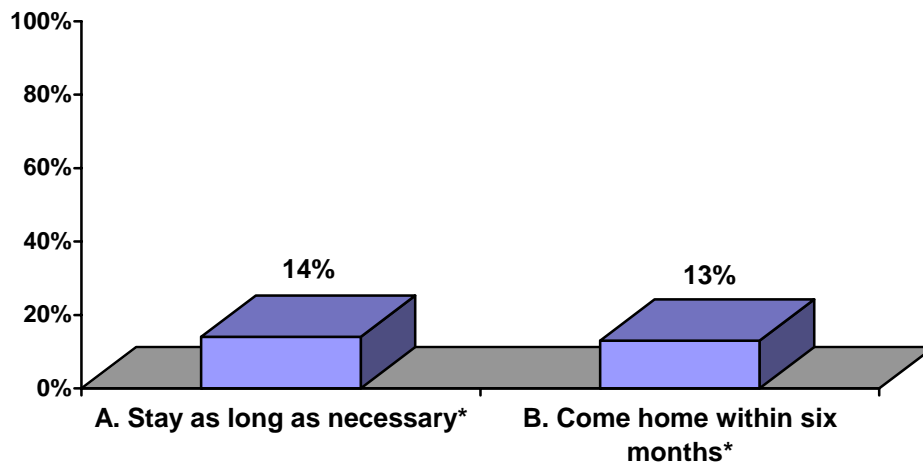
Bringing the troops home within the next six months wins a majority among:

- Women age 40 and over, especially Hispanic women;
- Lower income (<\$30K);
- Democrats;
- Liberals;
- Moderates; and
- Undecided voters.

When asked how they would react if a candidate for president took a position on the situation in Iraq “different from yours,” 29% of those wanting to pull the troops out within six months say they would “definitely” vote against the candidate, and 25% of those wanting to keep US troops in Iraq as long as necessary say the same. This leaves the political potential about even. Fourteen percent of Catholic voters both want the troops to stay as long as necessary say they would definitely vote against a candidate with a different position as theirs on Iraq, and 13% of Catholic voters both want to bring the troops home within six months would definitely vote against a candidate who took a different position.

Percentage That Would Definitely Vote Against a Candidate who Disagreed that US Troops in Iraq Should...

(% of Catholics overall)



* A: Say US troops should stay in Iraq as long as necessary to establish democracy and stability, and would definitely vote against a candidate they disagreed with. B: Say we should bring the troops home within six months, even if democracy and stability are not established, and would definitely vote against a candidate they disagreed with.

Troops Should Stay in Iraq...

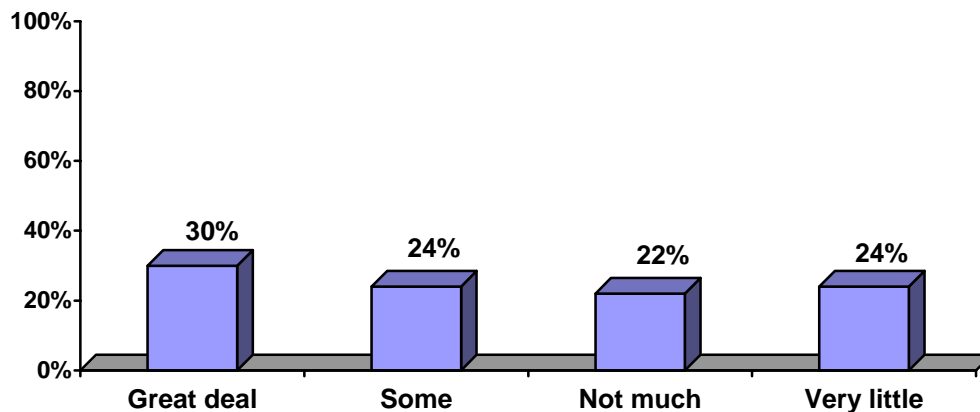
Q5. Even if you do not agree completely with either of these two statements, which one better describes your view: A) US troops should stay in Iraq as long as necessary to establish democracy and stability; or B) We should bring the troops home within six months, even if democracy and stability are not established.

	As long as necessary	Six months
Total	54%	45
Men	60%	40
Women	49%	50
Men 18-39	62%	38
Men 40-58	60%	40
Men 59+	56%	43
Women 18-39	53%	46
Women 40-58	44%	54
Women 59+	47%	52
White	57%	42
Hispanic	44%	54
White men	62%	38
Hispanic men	52%	47
White women	52%	47
Hispanic women	37%	59
Men <college	58%	42
Men college +	63%	37
Women <college	46%	52
Women college+	52%	47
<\$30K	44%	55
\$30-\$50K	50%	49
\$50K-\$75K	56%	44
\$75K+	64%	36
Married	57%	42
Single	52%	48
Other	44%	56
Frequent church-goers	57%	42
Occasional church-goers	53%	46
Never attend church	47%	52
Liberal	38%	62
Moderate	47%	53
Conservative	72%	27
Democrat	34%	65
Independent	52%	47
Republican	76%	24
Vote for Bush	80%	19
Vote for Kerry	33%	67
Undecided	43%	54

Confidence in President Bush to resolve Iraq

Catholic voters' confidence in President Bush to resolve the war mirrors their division on policy for Iraq: 54% have a "great deal" or "some" confidence in him (30% "great deal"), and 46% report "not much" or "very little confidence" (24% "very little") to resolve the war in Iraq.

Confidence in President Bush to Resolve War in Iraq



Q4. How much confidence do you have in President Bush to resolve the war in Iraq: A great deal of confidence, some confidence, not much confidence, very little confidence?

Those most likely to have a "great deal" of confidence are:

- Baby Boomer men;
- Upper income (\$75K+);
- Republicans; and
- Conservatives.

Catholic voters who express "very little" confidence tend to be:

- Hispanics;
- Non-married (single, or widowed, separated, or divorced);
- Non-church attenders;
- Liberals; and
- Democrats.

Confidence in President Bush to Resolve War in Iraq

Q4. How much confidence do you have in President Bush to resolve the war in Iraq: A great deal of confidence, some confidence, not much confidence, very little confidence?

	Confident	Not confident	Great deal	Some	Not much	Very little
Total	54%	46	30%	24	22	24
Men 18-39	53%	46	28%	25	23	23
Men 40-58	60%	39	35%	25	18	21
Men 59+	52%	47	30%	22	23	24
Women 18-39	55%	44	32%	23	22	22
Women 40-58	49%	51	25%	24	25	26
Women 59+	49%	50	25%	24	23	27
White	57%	42	32%	25	20	22
Hispanic	40%	59	19%	21	31	28
<\$30K	46%	54	24%	22	28	26
\$30K-\$50K	49%	50	25%	24	22	28
\$50K-\$75K	57%	43	30%	27	20	23
\$75K+	62%	38	37%	25	20	18
Married	57%	42	32%	25	22	20
Single	47%	52	26%	21	23	29
Other	47%	53	22%	25	22	31
Frequent church-goers	57%	42	32%	25	21	21
Occasional church-goers	52%	48	28%	24	24	24
Never	47%	52	26%	21	21	31
Lib. freq. church-goers	20%	81	5%	15	31	50
Mod. freq. church-goers	45%	53	17%	28	29	24
Con. freq. church-goers	79%	19	53%	26	11	8
Liberal	21%	80	5%	16	32	48
Moderate	48%	52	20%	28	27	25
Conservative	79%	20	55%	24	11	9
Democrat	22%	77	6%	16	34	43
Independent	51%	49	20%	31	26	23
Republican	86%	13	60%	26	8	5
Vote for Bush	96%	4	67	29	3	1
Vote for Kerry	12%	88	1	11	37	51
Undecided	54%	45	11	43	31	14

War in Iraq and the presidential election

Of all the issues presented in the survey, the most important factor in determining how Catholics will vote in November is their confidence in President Bush’s ability to resolve the conflict in Iraq. Confidence in the president to resolve the war in Iraq overshadows all other predictors of the vote⁵.

92% of those who say they have a “great deal” of confidence in Bush are intending to vote for him.

87% of Catholics who have “very little” confidence in the president intend to vote for Kerry.

DEMOGRAPHICS & ISSUES	PREDICT	VOTE PREFERENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Confidence in Bush to resolve Iraq war ➤ Troops stay in Iraq 	→	Bush
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of confidence in Bush to resolve Iraq war 	→	Kerry

C. Abortion

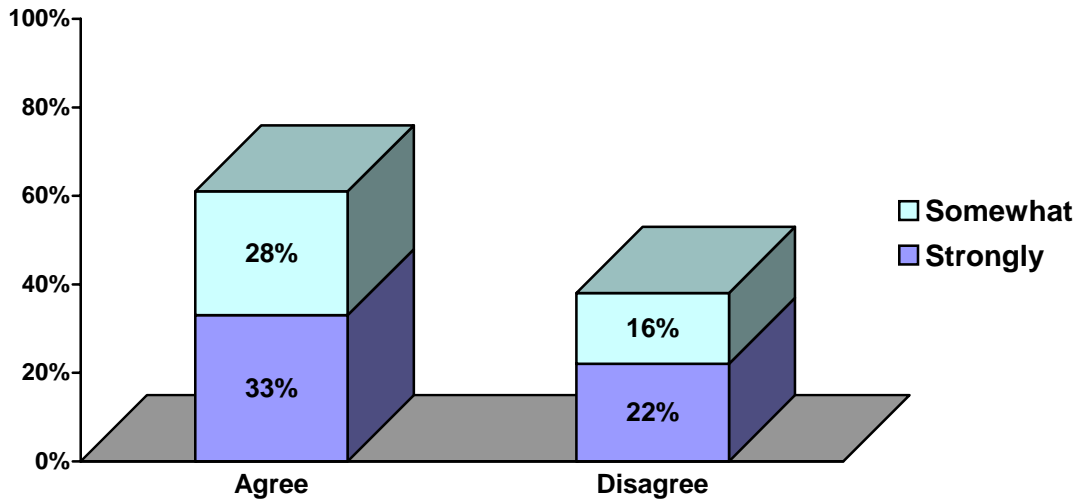
Catholic voters support legal abortion

Like the rest of the nation, Catholic voters are more likely to call themselves prochoice (53%) than prolife (45%) on abortion, and Catholic voters support legal abortion, 61% to 38%, with more feeling strongly in favor of legal abortion (33%) than opposed (22%).

Abortion is an all-important voting issue only to 27% of Catholic voters who say they would “definitely vote against” a candidate for president if the candidate had a different position from theirs on abortion; 38% say they would “maybe vote against” such a candidate; 34% say the candidate’s position would not change their vote or they did not know.

⁵ Included in the analysis are Q3a-o (issues priorities), Q4 (voters’ confidence in Bush to resolve war), Q5 (troops stay in Iraq or come home within six months), and the following demographics: gender, age, race, education, income, marital status, church service attendance, area of residence (e.g., urban, rural), ideology, party, and identifying as prochoice *v.* prolife.

Abortion Should Be Legal



Q6. Do you agree or disagree that it should be legal for a woman to have an abortion?

When those who feel strongly on either side are asked how they would react if a candidate for president took a position on abortion “different from yours,” we find 10% of Catholic voters overall strongly favor legal abortion and would definitely vote against a candidate with the opposite view as theirs and 13% of Catholic voters overall strongly oppose legal abortion and would definitely vote against a candidate who differed with their view.

A majority of nearly every subgroup of Catholic voters agrees that abortion should be legal. The anti-legal abortion position only holds a majority among conservatives, Republicans, and conservative and moderate Catholics who attend church every week.

Catholics who are most likely to agree that abortion should be legal include:

- Baby Boomer women;
- Women with a college education or more;
- Catholics who do not attend church;
- Liberals;
- Moderates;
- Democrats; and
- Independents.

Opposition to legal abortion wins a majority only among Catholics who are both frequent church-goers and conservative or moderate, and Republicans.

Abortion Should Be Legal

Q6. Do you agree or disagree that it should be legal for a woman to have an abortion?

	Agree	Disagree	Agree		Disagree	
			Strngly	Smwt	Smwt	Strngly
Total	61%	38	33%	28	16	22
Women 18-39	61%	39	35%	26	15	24
Women 36-58	71%	28	44%	27	13	15
Women 59+	50%	48	25%	25	17	31
Women <college	59%	40	32%	27	16	24
Women college +	66%	33	42%	24	13	20
Liberal	82%	18	56%	26	12	6
Moderate	68%	31	36%	32	16	15
Conservative	42%	58	17%	25	20	38
Freq attend mass Lib.	72%	28	34%	38	15	13
Freq attend mass Mod.	45%	54	17%	28	24	30
Freq attend mass Cons.	21%	79	6%	15	21	58
Democrat	73%	26	45%	28	14	12
Independent	66%	33	33%	33	17	16
Republican	47%	53	22%	25	19	34
Vote for Bush	46%	54	20%	26	19	35
Vote for Kerry	77%	23	48%	29	13	10
Undecided	62%	38	28%	34	21	17

Abortion, voting and the Catholic church

Three quarters of Catholic voters (74%) do not believe that Catholics have a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion. Only one-quarter (24%) feels this obligation exists.

Except conservatives who frequently attend church, a majority of all Catholic voters does not believe voters who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion.

Those who are more likely than others to reject the idea that they, as Catholics, have a religious obligation to vote for against candidates who support abortion include:

- College-educated women;
- Democrats;
- Liberals; and
- Moderates.

Hispanics born in the US and those of Mexican descent are more likely than Hispanics born outside the US and of non-Mexican descent to reject the idea that voters have a religious obligation to vote against prochoice politicians.

Religious Obligation to Vote Against Prochoice Candidates?

Q20. Do you believe voters who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion?

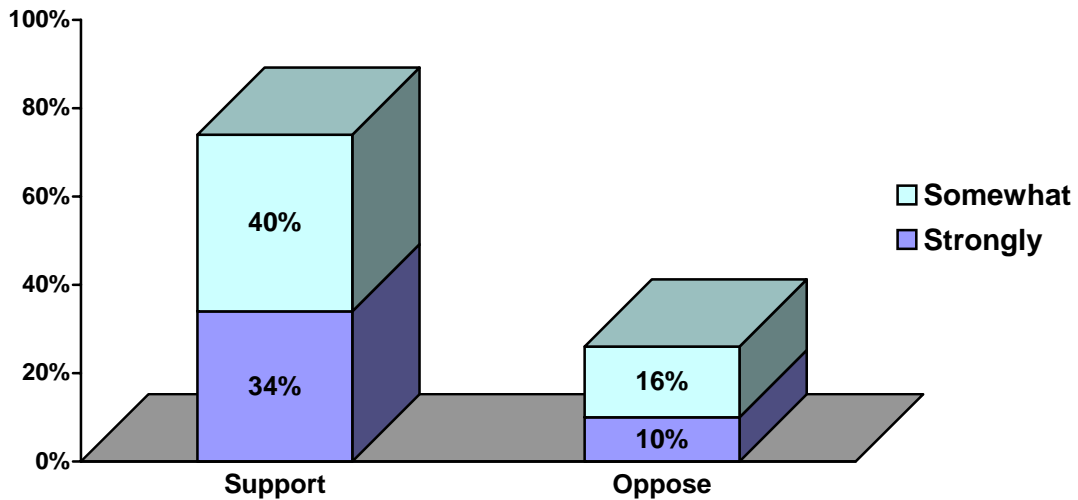
	Yes	No	Refused
Total	24%	74	2
White	24%	75	1
Hispanic	25%	67	7
Hispanics born in US	21%	74	4
Foreign-born Hispanics	31%	56	13
Mexican Hispanics	21%	73	6
Other Hispanics	31%	61	7
Women <college	25%	72	3
Women college +	19%	80	1
Frequent church-goers	39%	58	3
Occasional church-goers	16%	83	1
Never attend church	11%	88	1
Liberal	6%	93	1
Moderate	16%	82	2
Conservative	45%	54	2
Lib. frequent church-goers	6%	92	2
Mod. frequent church-goers	26%	70	4
Cons. frequent church-goers	61%	37	3
Democrat	12%	87	1
Independent	20%	78	2
Republican	39%	58	2
Vote for Bush	41%	57	1
Vote for Kerry	10%	89	1
Undecided	18%	78	4

D. Tax Cuts, Social Security, Medicare, and Education

After the war in Iraq and fighting terrorism, the group of issues Catholic voters want the next president to address includes protecting Social Security (43%) and Medicare (31%), improving public education (34%), and cutting taxes (26%).

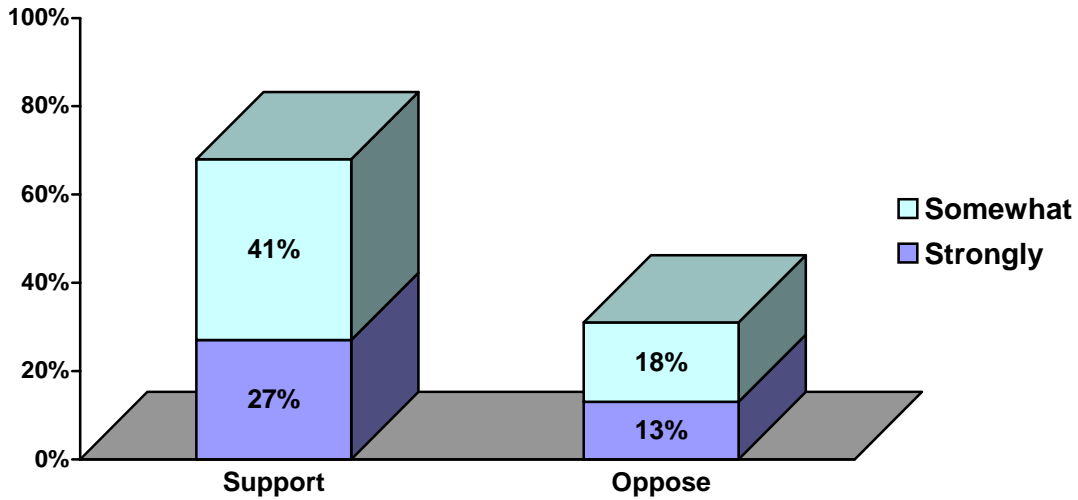
The high priority Catholics place on these issues is underscored by the findings that majorities support canceling some of the tax cuts to use the money to protect Social Security and improve Medicare (74%) or to use the money to improve public education (68%).

Canceling Tax Cuts to Protect Social Security and Medicare



Q12. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to protect Social Security and improve Medicare. Do you support or oppose each of the following:

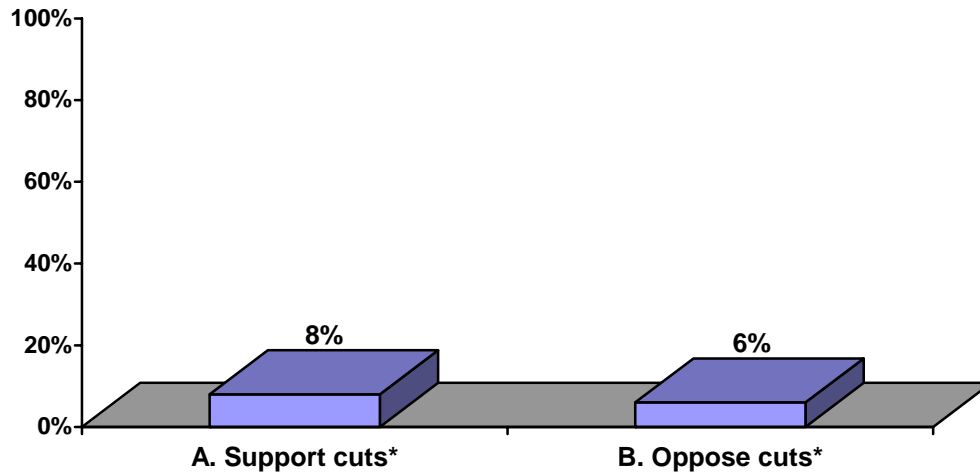
Canceling Tax Cuts to Improve Public Education



Q13. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to improve public education. Do you support or oppose each of the following:

Combining these questions on tax cuts, two in ten (19%) of those who feel strongly about canceling some of the tax cuts either for Social Security and Medicare, or for improving education say they would “definitely vote against” a candidate who disagreed with their position. This represents eight percent of the Catholic electorate. On the other side, four in ten (44%) Catholic voters who strongly oppose canceling tax cuts for these programs say they would “definitely” vote against a candidate with the opposite view. They represent six percent of the overall Catholic electorate. Therefore, the political potential is about even on taking a position on canceling the tax cuts.

Two Sides of Tax Cuts as a Voting Issue



* A. Strongly support canceling some tax cuts to protect Social Security and Medicare or improve public education, and will definitely vote against the candidate they disagree with. B. Strongly oppose canceling some tax cuts to protect Social Security and Medicare or improve public education, and will definitely vote against the candidate they disagree with.

Catholic voters who place high priority on protecting Social Security tend to be:

- Silent Generation Catholics;
- Hispanics, especially those born outside the US;
- Those with a high school diploma or less;
- Lower income (<\$30K);
- Widowed, separated, or divorced;
- Democrats;
- Moderates; and
- Undecideds.

Medicare is a top concern among:

- Silent Generation Catholics, especially women;
- Hispanics; especially born outside the US;
- Those with a high school diploma or less;
- Low income (<\$30K);
- Widowed, separated or divorced;
- Democrats;
- Moderates; and
- Undecideds.

Improving education is important for many subgroups, especially:

- Silent Generation women;
- Women without a college degree;
- Hispanics, especially those born outside the US;
- Lower income (<\$30K);
- Liberals;
- Democrats; and
- Undecideds.

The opposition to canceling some tax cuts to protect Social Security and Medicare or education does not gain a majority of any demographic sub-group.

Catholic voters who placed a higher priority on cutting taxes than their counterparts are:

- Hispanics, especially born outside the US;
- Less educated (those with a high school diploma or less);
- Lower income (<\$30K); and
- Republicans.

Catholic voters who feel more strongly than others about the need to cancel some tax cuts to protect Social Security and Medicare are:

- Silent Generation Catholics;
- Hispanics, especially men;
- Catholics with a high school diploma or less;
- Low income (<\$30K);
- Widowed, separated or divorced;
- Those who never attend church;
- Liberals; and
- Democrats.

Issue Priorities
 (% saying "highest priority")

Q3a,e,f,h. Using this 1 to 7 scale, how high a priority would you personally want the next president to give to each of these issues? (1 means lowest priority and 7 means highest priority)

	Soc. Sec.	Education	Medicare	Cut taxes
Total	43%	34%	31%	26%
Men	41%	30%	28%	24%
Women	45%	38%	34%	27%
18-39	28%	35%	21%	23%
40-58	45%	31%	30%	28%
59+	66%	36%	50%	27%
Men 18-39	30%	33%	22%	20%
Men 36-58	40%	26%	25%	27%
Men 59+	64%	29%	45%	24%
Women 18-39	26%	37%	19%	25%
Women 36-58	50%	36%	36%	29%
Women 59+	68%	42%	53%	29%
White	40%	27%	27%	23%
Hispanic	58%	63%	50%	38%
Hispanics born in US	51%	57%	42%	31%
Foreign-born Hispanics	69%	75%	65%	51%
<HS/HS	62%	42%	49%	37%
Some college	43%	32%	29%	26%
College grad+	30%	30%	20%	17%
Women <college	54%	40%	41%	33%
Women college +	28%	34%	21%	18%
<\$30K	54%	48%	46%	34%
\$30K-\$50K	48%	34%	34%	21%
\$50K-\$75K	39%	30%	25%	25%
\$75K+	31%	25%	19%	22%
Married	43%	34%	30%	26%
Single	36%	31%	26%	24%
Other	51%	39%	42%	29%
Frequent church-goers	44%	35%	35%	25%
Occasional church-goers	41%	32%	27%	26%
Never attend church	49%	35%	36%	26%
Liberal	46%	45%	33%	19%
Moderate	50%	36%	37%	26%
Conservative	34%	25%	24%	30%
Democrat	52%	42%	40%	22%
Independent	43%	30%	30%	23%
Republican	35%	28%	24%	31%
Vote for Bush	34%	25%	22%	31%
Vote for Kerry	49%	40%	36%	19%
Undecided	50%	40%	37%	28%

Those more likely to strongly favor repealing some tax cuts to improve public education include:

- College-educated women;
- Hispanics, especially born outside the US;
- Low income (<\$30K);
- Democrats; and
- Liberals.

Cancel Tax Cuts to Protect Social Security and Improve Medicare

Q12. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to protect Social Security and improve Medicare. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	74%	26	34%	40	16	10
Men	72%	28	34%	38	16	12
Women	76%	23	33%	43	15	8
18-39	68%	33	23%	45	23	10
40-58	76%	23	34%	42	13	10
59+	82%	18	51%	31	8	10
White	72%	28	31%	41	17	11
Hispanic	82%	16	42%	40	9	7
White men	69%	31	32%	37	17	14
Hispanic men	85%	14	46%	39	8	6
<HS/HS	79%	20	40%	39	12	8
Some college	73%	26	33%	40	17	9
College grad+	71%	29	29%	42	17	12
Women <college	77%	22	35%	42	15	7
Women college+	76%	24	30%	46	16	8
<\$30K	80%	19	46%	34	14	5
\$30K-\$50K	80%	20	39%	41	12	8
\$50K-\$75K	73%	26	31%	42	15	11
\$75K+	66%	33	23%	43	20	13
Married	72%	27	30%	42	16	11
Single	72%	28	34%	38	20	8
Other	83%	17	46%	37	8	9
Freq. church-goers	74%	26	33%	41	14	12
Occ. church-goers	74%	26	32%	42	17	9
Never attend church	79%	20	44%	35	13	7
Liberal	91%	8	51%	40	6	2
Moderate	82%	17	34%	48	14	3
Conservative	55%	44	23%	32	22	22
Democrat	89%	10	48%	41	8	2
Independent	80%	20	34%	46	13	7
Republican	55%	45	19%	36	26	19
Vote for Bush	56%	44	19%	37	24	20
Vote for Kerry	89%	11	47%	42	8	3
Undecided	82%	16	35%	47	12	4

Cancel Tax Cuts to Improve Public Education

Q13. **Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to improve public education.**
 Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	68%	31	27%	41	18	13
White	66%	34	24%	42	20	14
Hispanic	80%	18	41%	39	9	9
Hisp. born in US	81%	19	36%	45	11	8
Foreign-born Hisp.	80%	18	50%	30	6	12
Men <college	64%	34	25%	39	20	14
Men college +	60%	39	28%	32	21	18
Women <college	74%	26	25%	49	15	11
Women college +	74%	25	33%	41	15	10
<\$30K	77%	23	34%	43	14	9
\$30K-\$50K	74%	26	27%	47	17	9
\$50K-\$75K	64%	35	25%	39	20	15
\$75K+	63%	37	23%	40	20	17
Liberal	86%	13	45%	41	7	6
Moderate	75%	24	27%	48	18	6
Conservative	50%	49	16%	34	24	25
Democrat	85%	15	39%	46	10	5
Independent	70%	29	26%	44	19	10
Republican	51%	49	16%	35	25	24
Vote for Bush	49%	51	14%	35	26	25
Vote for Kerry	86%	14	41%	45	10	4
Undecided	74%	25	24%	50	19	6

E. Crime and Death Penalty

As a top priority for the next administration, fighting crime is important for 28% of Catholic voters. Those most likely to place high priority on crime are:

- Silent Generation Catholics;
- Hispanic, especially those born outside the US;
- Less educated Catholics;
- Widowed, separated, or divorced; and
- Undecided.

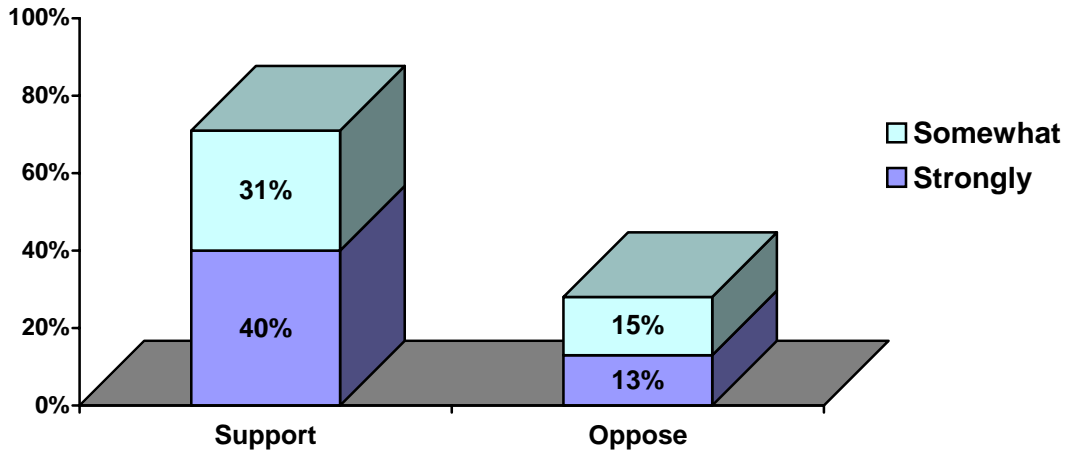
Priority to Fighting Crime
(% saying "highest priority")

Q3c. **Fighting crime:** Using this 1 to 7 scale, how high a priority would you personally want the next president to give to each of these issues? (1 means lowest priority and 7 means highest priority)

Total	28%
18-39	24%
40-58	27%
59+	35%
White	23%
Hispanic	50%
Hispanics born in US	43%
Foreign-born Hispanics	63%
<HS/HS	40%
Some college	29%
College grad+	18%
Married	27%
Single	23%
Other	37%
Vote for Bush	27%
Vote for Kerry	26%
Undecided	34%

Seven in ten Catholic voters (71%) support the death penalty for convicted murderers, with four in ten (40%) expressing strong support.

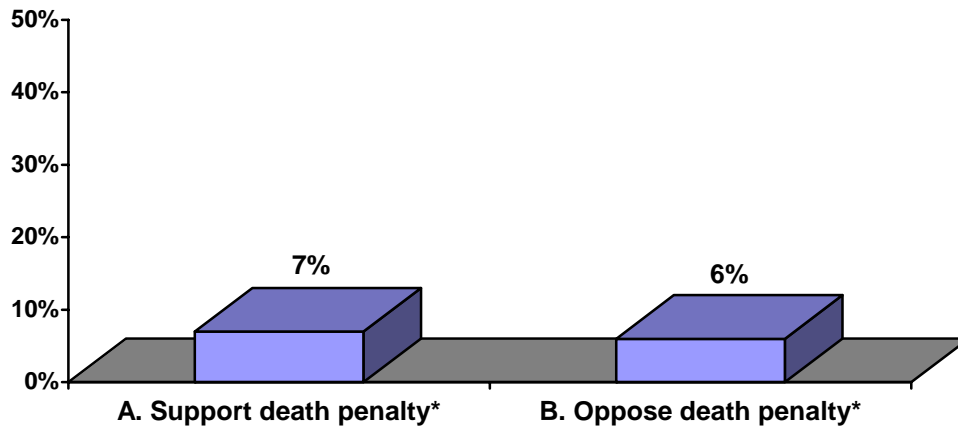
Support the Death Penalty



Q7. The death penalty for persons convicted of murder: Do you support or oppose each of the following?

When asked how they would react if a candidate for president disagrees with their position on the death penalty, 26% of Catholics who strongly oppose the death penalty say they would definitely vote against a candidate with a different view. This amounts to six percent of the Catholic electorate. Seventeen percent of the strong supporters of the death penalty say they would definitely vote against a candidate they disagreed with. This amounts to seven percent of the Catholic electorate. Therefore, there is little political advantage on either side of the death penalty.

Two Sides of the Death Penalty as a Voting Issue



* A: Strongly support the death penalty and will definitely vote against a candidate with a different position.
B: Strongly oppose the death penalty and will definitely vote against a candidate with a different position.

The death penalty for persons convicted of murder is more strongly supported by some Catholics than by others. The strong supporters include:

- Men;
- Less educated Catholics;
- Catholics who attend church only occasionally or never;
- Conservatives; and
- Republicans.

Opposition to the death penalty does not win a majority of any subgroup.

Support for the Death Penalty

Q7. The death penalty for persons convicted of murder. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

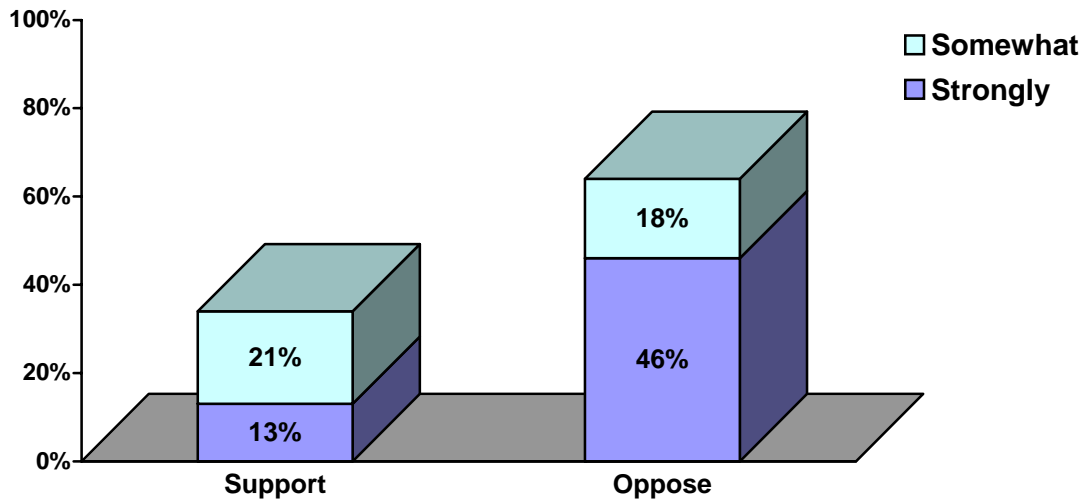
	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	71%	28	40%	31	15	13
Men	75%	24	46%	29	12	12
Women	67%	33	34%	33	18	15
White	73%	26	41%	32	15	11
Hispanic	58%	39	36%	22	15	24
<HS/HS	72%	26	45%	27	13	13
Some college	76%	25	44%	32	15	10
College grad+	65%	34	32%	33	17	17
Freq. church-goers	60%	40	30%	30	19	21
Occ. church-goers	77%	23	46%	31	14	9
Never attend church	85%	16	50%	35	9	7
Liberal	55%	43	25%	30	20	23
Moderate	76%	24	40%	36	15	9
Conservative	75%	24	48%	27	12	12
Democrat	67%	33	34%	33	19	14
Independent	68%	30	34%	34	15	15
Republican	77%	23	50%	27	12	11
Vote for Bush	79%	20	52%	27	10	10
Vote for Kerry	64%	36	30%	34	18	18
Undecided	72%	26	36%	36	19	7

F. Gay Rights and Legalizing Gay Marriage

Catholic voters overwhelmingly agree that advancing gay rights is not a priority they want the next president to focus on. Only five percent rate it as a top priority, and 42% rate the issue as the lowest priority in a list of fifteen issues.

When asked their opinion of legalizing gay marriage, 64% of Catholic voters oppose and 34% support. A near majority of Catholic voters (46%) strongly oppose.

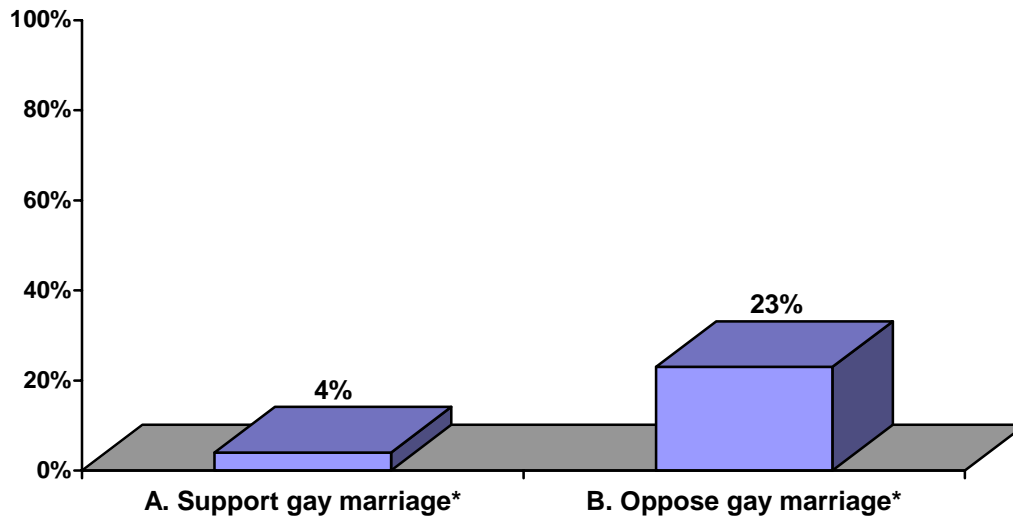
Making Gay and Lesbian Marriage Legal



Q15. Making gay and lesbian marriage legal. Do you support or oppose each of the following:

Of all the issues tested in terms of single-issue voting, legalizing marriage between same-sex couples has the greatest potential to be an issue to affect the votes of some Catholics. Those in opposition are much more likely to vote according to a candidate's position on this issue than those who support marriage. Almost a quarter (23%) of the Catholic electorate feels strongly against legal gay marriage and says it would "definitely" vote against a candidate who disagreed. On the other side, 4% of Catholic voters both strongly support gay marriage and say they would "definitely" vote against a candidate with the opposite view.

Two Sides of Gay Marriage as a Voting Issue



* A. Strongly support making gay and lesbian marriage legal and will definitely vote against the candidate they disagree with. B. Strongly oppose making gay and lesbian marriage legal, and will definitely vote against the candidate they disagree with.

The strongest opponents of making gay and lesbian marriages legal are:

- Men;
- Silent Generation Catholics, especially men;
- Less educated Catholics;
- Frequent church-goers;
- Rural residents;
- Conservatives;
- Republicans; and
- Catholic voters living in the battleground states.

While liberals are the only demographic group where a majority supports legalizing marriage of same-sex couples, the idea wins more than four in ten among:

- Gen X-plus Catholics;
- Large-city residents;
- Liberals; and
- Democrats.

Legalize Gay and Lesbian Marriage

Q15. Making gay and lesbian marriage legal. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	34%	64	13%	21	18	46
Men	31%	68	12%	19	17	51
Women	38%	61	14%	24	19	42
18-39	41%	58	19%	22	20	38
40-58	37%	63	13%	24	17	46
59+	21%	77	4%	17	15	62
Men 18-39	41%	57	19%	22	18	39
Men 40-58	29%	71	9%	20	17	54
Men 59+	18%	81	5%	13	13	68
Women 18-39	42%	59	19%	23	22	37
Women 40-58	45%	54	17%	28	17	37
Women 59+	24%	73	4%	20	17	56
White men	31%	68	12%	19	17	51
Hispanic men	28%	68	11%	17	16	52
White women	38%	61	14%	24	19	42
Hispanic women	39%	57	22%	17	17	40
<HS/HS	27%	72	9%	18	14	58
Some college	36%	65	12%	24	19	46
College grad+	40%	58	18%	22	20	38
Married	31%	68	11%	20	19	49
Single	50%	49	23%	27	16	33
Other	30%	68	9%	21	16	52
Freq. church-goers	22%	77	9%	13	15	62
Occ. church-goers	42%	56	16%	26	20	36
Never attend church	47%	51	16%	31	15	36
Large city	41%	59	18%	23	20	39
Small city	35%	64	13%	22	18	46
Suburb	32%	65	11%	21	19	46
Town	37%	62	14%	23	13	49
Rural	23%	76	6%	17	16	60
Liberal	65%	34	32%	33	14	20
Moderate	38%	61	11%	27	21	40
Conservative	13%	85	4%	9	16	69
Democrat	46%	54	20%	26	20	34
Independent	43%	55	15%	28	17	38
Republican	17%	81	5%	12	17	64
Bush vote	16%	82	5%	11	16	66
Vote for Kerry	52%	48	23%	29	18	30
Undecided	37%	62	9%	28	23	39
Battleground states	27%	71	8%	19	19	52

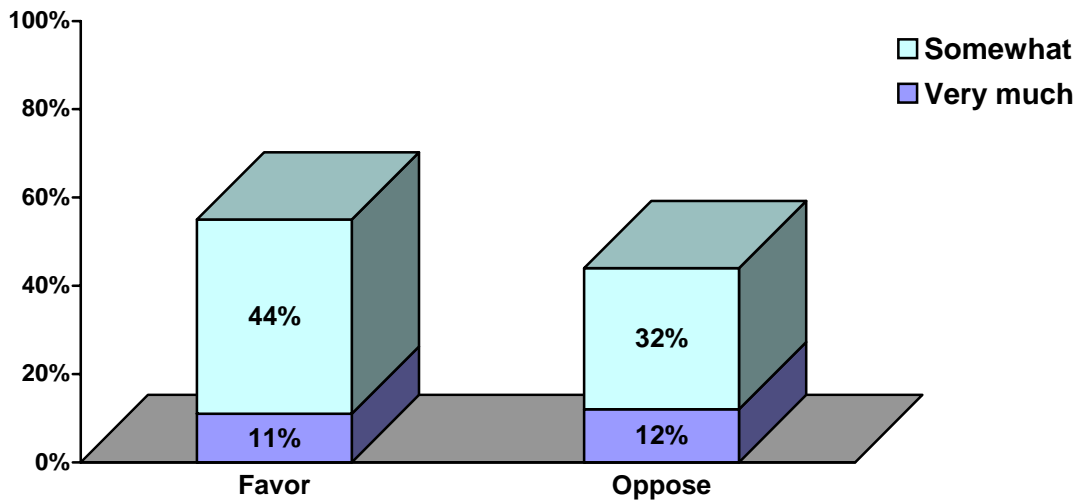
G. US Aid to Other Countries

On foreign aid issues, Catholic voters support the US giving economic assistance to other countries generally, but they oppose funding voluntary family planning programs and a majority believes we should consider cutting back on humanitarian aid because of demands in the US.

Support for economic assistance

On giving economic assistance to foreign countries, voters lean in support of foreign economic aid, 55% to 44%.

US Giving Foreign Economic Assistance



Q23. Are you generally in favor or opposed to the United States giving economic assistance to help other countries?

Catholic voters more likely to support foreign assistance to other countries include:

- Gen X-plus men;
- Hispanics, particularly foreign-born Hispanics;
- College educated Catholics;
- Upper income;
- Single adults;
- Frequent church-goers; and
- Liberals.

US Giving Foreign Economic Assistance

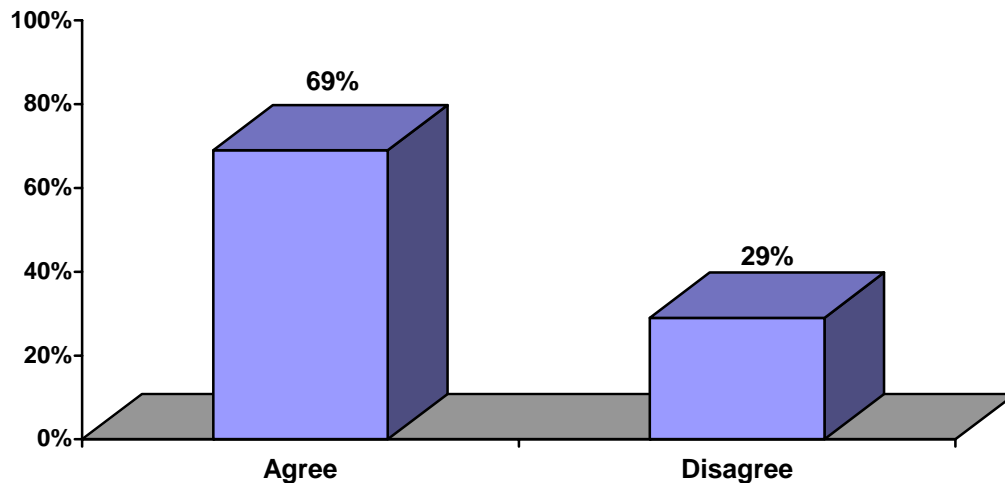
Q23. Are you generally in favor or opposed to the United States giving economic assistance to help other countries?

			Favor		Oppose	
	Favor	Oppose	Very Much	Smwt	Smwt	Very Much
Total	55%	44	11%	44	32	12
Men 18-39	61%	38	12%	49	27	11
Men 40-58	52%	48	11%	41	30	18
Men 59+	57%	44	11%	46	34	10
Women 18-39	55%	45	11%	44	35	10
Women 40-58	51%	48	8%	43	34	14
Women 59+	55%	44	10%	45	36	8
White	53%	47	8%	45	34	13
Hispanic	69%	30	20%	49	22	8
Hisp. born in US	64%	35	12%	52	25	10
Foreign-born Hisp.	79%	19	35%	44	14	5
<HS/HS	46%	53	10%	36	36	17
Some college	51%	49	7%	44	34	15
College grad+	66%	34	15%	51	28	6
<\$30K	53%	48	15%	38	34	14
\$30K-\$50K	53%	47	10%	43	34	13
\$50K-\$75k	51%	49	9%	42	33	16
\$75K+	62%	38	10%	52	30	8
Married	54%	45	10%	44	33	12
Single	60%	40	13%	47	29	11
Other	53%	47	9%	44	33	14
Freq. church-goers	61%	39	14%	47	31	8
Occ. church-goers	53%	48	9%	44	33	15
Never attend church	45%	55	6%	39	39	16
Liberal	65%	34	18%	47	25	9
Moderate	49%	51	6%	43	36	15
Conservative	56%	44	11%	45	32	12
Vote for Bush	54%	45	9	46	33	12
Vote for Kerry	59%	41	14	45	29	12
Undecided	46%	53	6	40	39	14

Reservations toward foreign aid

When sustaining humanitarian assistance for developing countries is juxtaposed with addressing domestic needs, 69% of Catholic voters agree we need to focus on the needs at home and should cut back on assistance.

US Should Cut Back on Humanitarian Assistance



Q24. Do you agree or disagree that the United States has so many needs at home right now; we should cut back on the humanitarian assistance we give to developing countries?

Catholics most likely to agree that we should cut back on humanitarian assistance to focus on US needs include:

- Lower educated Catholics;
- Lower income;
- Those who occasionally or never attend church;
- Moderates;
- Democrats; and
- Independents.

Even Hispanic Catholics who are strongly in favor of economic assistance are likely to support cutting some assistance because of domestic demands.

US Should Cut Back on Humanitarian Assistance

Q24. Do you agree or disagree that the United States has so many needs at home right now, we should cut back on the humanitarian assistance we give to developing countries?

	Agree	Disagree
Total	69%	29
White	70%	29
Hispanic	68%	28
<HS/HS	80%	19
Some college	72%	27
College grad+	59%	40
<\$30K	73%	25
\$30K-\$50K	73%	26
\$50K-\$75K	71%	28
\$75K+	61%	39
Frequent church-goers	64%	35
Occasional church-goers	72%	27
Never attend church	77%	21
Liberal	64%	35
Moderate	77%	22
Conservative	65%	34
Democrat	74%	25
Independent	72%	27
Republican	63%	35
Vote for Bush	65%	34
Vote for Kerry	71%	27
Undecided	75%	22

Catholics most likely to oppose funding voluntary family planning are:

- Rural residents;
- Conservatives; and
- Republicans.

On the other side, about half of the following subgroups support such funding:

- Gen X-plus Catholics;
- Hispanics, especially those *not* of Mexican descent;
- Those with a college degree or more;
- Singles; and
- Liberals.

Support for Funding Voluntary Family Planning in Developing Countries

Q10. The US providing funding for voluntary family planning in developing countries. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	41%	59	9%	32	32	27
18-39	47%	52	10%	37	30	22
40-58	36%	63	8%	28	33	30
59+	38%	61	8%	30	34	27
White	39%	61	7%	32	33	28
Hispanic	49%	48	17%	32	30	18
Mexican Hispanics	47%	50	15%	32	30	20
Other Hispanics	56%	45	21%	35	28	17
<HS/HS	37%	62	10%	27	34	28
Some college	36%	64	6%	30	34	30
College grad+	48%	52	11%	37	30	22
Married	38%	61	8%	30	33	28
Single	50%	50	12%	38	31	19
Other	39%	60	8%	31	31	29
Large city	45%	54	11%	34	31	23
Small city	40%	60	9%	31	33	27
Suburb	41%	59	8%	33	32	27
Town	38%	62	8%	30	35	27
Rural	36%	64	6%	30	30	34
Liberal	55%	45	17%	38	28	17
Moderate	40%	59	6%	34	35	24
Conservative	32%	67	7%	25	32	35
Democrat	45%	54	10%	35	30	24
Independent	43%	56	10%	33	32	24
Republican	33%	66	6%	27	35	31
Vote for Bush	32%	67	5%	27	34	33
Vote for Kerry	49%	51	13%	36	31	20
Undecided	38%	60	6%	32	33	27

H. Other Social Issues

This survey also covered a number of other social issues, from prayer in school to stem cell research to physician-assisted suicide. Majorities of Catholics support school prayer and school vouchers, as well as allowing scientists to conduct stem cell research and physicians to assist in the suicide of a terminally ill patient.

Catholic voters, however, are generally opposed to allowing the children of illegal immigrants attend public school.

Prayer in classroom

Three-quarters of Catholic voters (74%) support allowing public schools to start each day with a prayer in the classroom. Four in ten (39%) express strong support, whereas only nine percent strongly oppose.

Some Catholics are more likely than others to strongly favor school prayer:

- Silent Generation Catholics;
- Those with a high school diploma or less;
- Catholics who attend church frequently;
- Town and rural residents;
- Republicans; and
- Conservatives.

Support for Prayer in Public Schools

Q11. Allowing public schools to start each day with a prayer in the classrooms. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	74%	25	39%	35	16	9
18-39	68%	32	31%	37	20	12
40-58	75%	25	38%	37	16	9
59+	83%	16	55%	28	10	6
<HS/HS	86%	13	53%	33	9	4
Some college	77%	23	41%	36	13	10
College grad+	62%	36	27%	35	23	13
Attend mass freq.	83%	16	53%	30	10	6
Occasionally	68%	31	31%	37	20	11
Never	65%	35	27%	38	19	16
Large city	71%	28	34%	37	16	12
Small city	72%	27	39%	33	19	8
Suburb	72%	27	35%	37	18	9
Town	77%	22	48%	29	13	9
Rural	82%	18	48%	34	10	8
Liberal	53%	46	25%	28	25	21
Moderate	74%	25	35%	39	16	9
Conservative	86%	14	53%	33	10	4
Democrat	69%	31	37%	32	19	12
Independent	72%	28	32%	40	16	12
Republican	81%	18	47%	34	13	5
Vote for Bush	84%	15	50%	34	11	4
Vote for Kerry	62%	38	29%	33	22	16
Undecided	79%	19	37%	42	13	6

School vouchers

Catholic voters lean in favor of school vouchers to help parents pay for tuition costs in private or religious schools with tax revenue. Fifty-six percent favors compared to 43% opposed.

Catholics who express strongest support of school vouchers include:

- Frequent church-goers;
- Conservatives; and
- Republicans.

Most likely opponents of school vouchers include:

- Catholics who never attend church;
- Liberals; and
- Democrats.

Support for School Vouchers

Q8. School vouchers, which give parents money from tax revenues to help pay tuition costs, for their children to go to private costs, for their children to go to private or religious school instead of public school. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	56%	43	24%	32	22	21
Frequent church-goers	66%	34	33%	33	18	16
Occ. church-goers	52%	48	19%	33	25	23
Never attend church	46%	54	14%	32	26	28
Liberal	47%	53	17%	30	25	28
Moderate	49%	50	16%	33	26	24
Conservative	69%	30	36%	33	16	14
Democrat	50%	50	16%	34	25	25
Independent	52%	48	21%	31	26	22
Republican	66%	33	33%	33	17	16
Vote for Bush	66%	34	34%	32	18	16
Vote for Kerry	47%	53	14%	33	26	27
Undecided	55%	43	22%	33	24	19

Stem cell research

A large majority of Catholic voters (72%) supports “allowing scientists to use stem cells obtained from very early human embryos to find cures for serious diseases such as Alzheimer’s, diabetes, and Parkinson’s.”

Strong support for this research outnumbers strong opposition by nearly three to one – 34% express strong support to just 12% of Catholic voters who strongly oppose.

Majorities of Catholics across demographic groups support stem cell research, including Bush supporters and conservative Catholics.

Specifically, those most likely to express strong support include:

- Those who do not attend church; and
- Liberals.

Even Catholics who attend church frequently are more likely to support than oppose stem cell research (56% to 42%).

Support for Stem Cell Research for Serious Diseases

Q16. Allowing scientists to use stem cells obtained from very early human embryos, to find cures for serious diseases such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, and Parkinson's. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	72%	26	34%	38	14	12
Attend mass freq.	56%	42	24%	32	20	22
Occasionally	82%	17	39%	43	11	6
Never	83%	16	46%	37	9	7
Liberal	86%	13	48%	38	7	6
Moderate	76%	22	35%	41	14	8
Conservative	60%	39	24%	36	18	21
Democrat	79%	20	39%	40	12	8
Independent	73%	26	36%	37	18	8
Republican	66%	33	28%	38	14	19
Vote for Bush	64%	35	27%	37	16	19
Vote for Kerry	81%	18	42%	39	11	7
Undecided	69%	28	30%	39	19	9

Physician-assisted suicide

On the issue of allowing physicians to assist in the suicide of a terminally-ill patient, Catholics are more likely to stand with other Americans than with the position of US Catholic bishops. A small majority (53%) of Catholic voters support “making it legal for doctors to assist in the suicide of a terminally ill patient.”

Opinions on physician-assisted suicide divide along lines of age, politics, and time in church. Catholics most likely to support than oppose physician-assisted suicide include:

- Baby Boomers;
- Whites;
- Those who occasionally or never attend church;
- Democrats; and
- Liberals.

A majority of the following Catholics oppose physician-assisted suicide:

- Silent Generation women;
- Hispanics;
- Those who attend church frequently;
- Conservatives; and
- Republicans.

Support for Physician-Assisted Suicide

Q9. Making it legal for doctors to assist in the suicide of a terminally ill patient. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	53%	45	18%	35	21	24
18-39	52%	47	16%	36	25	22
40-58	60%	39	22%	38	18	21
59+	46%	54	15%	31	21	33
Men 18-39	54%	44	18	36	23	21
Men 40-58	60%	39	21	39	18	21
Men 59+	51%	48	15	36	20	28
Women 18-39	49%	49	14%	35	27	22
Women 40-58	59%	40	22%	37	18	22
Women 59+	42%	57	15%	27	21	36
White	56%	44	19%	37	22	22
Hispanic	42%	53	15%	27	19	34
Attend mass freq.	32%	66	9%	23	24	42
Occasionally	64%	35	22%	42	21	14
Never	77%	22	31%	46	14	8
Liberal	65%	33	24%	41	20	13
Moderate	57%	43	19%	38	24	19
Conservative	43%	57	14%	29	20	37
Democrat	58%	42	20%	38	22	20
Independent	57%	41	19%	38	22	19
Republican	46%	54	15%	31	21	33
Vote for Bush	46%	54	16%	30	21	33
Vote for Kerry	61%	38	20%	41	21	17
Undecided	53%	45	17%	36	24	21

Educating children of illegal citizens

Voters in the survey were asked whether they support or oppose allowing children of parents who are in the US illegally to attend public schools. Catholics generally oppose this policy 56% to 44%. Strong positions on the issue are two to one in opposition: 29% strongly oppose to 15% strongly in favor.

Catholic voters more likely to oppose such policy tend to be:

- Baby Boomer men;
- Rural and town residents;
- Conservatives; and
- Republicans.

Those in support of educating children whose parents are here illegally, include:

- Silent Generation women;
- Hispanics, especially born outside the US;
- College-educated women;
- Large city residents; and
- Liberals.

Support for Educating Children of Illegal Citizens

Q14. Allowing children of parents who are in the US illegally to attend public schools. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
Total	44%	56	15%	29	27	29
Men 18-39	45%	55	16%	29	28	27
Men 40-58	32%	68	9%	23	30	38
Men 59+	43%	57	14%	29	29	28
Women 18-39	47%	52	18%	29	27	25
Women 40-58	45%	55	14%	31	26	29
Women 59+	52%	47	19%	33	23	24
White	37%	62	10%	27	30	32
Hispanic	74%	26	42%	32	15	11
Hisp. born in US	70%	30	35%	35	17	13
Foreign-born Hisp.	82%	16	55%	27	8	8
Men <college	38%	62	13%	25	27	35
Men college +	42%	57	13%	29	30	27
Women <college	44%	56	14%	30	26	30
Women college+	53%	45	21%	32	25	20
Large city	52%	48	22%	30	24	24
Small city	48%	52	18%	30	23	29
Suburb	40%	59	10%	30	30	29
Town	35%	65	10%	25	32	33
Rural	34%	65	9%	25	30	35
Liberal	61%	39	27%	34	23	16
Moderate	44%	56	12%	32	28	28
Conservative	34%	66	12%	22	29	37
Democrat	51%	49	19%	32	26	23
Independent	45%	55	15%	30	28	27
Republican	35%	65	11%	24	29	36
Vote for Bush	33%	67	9%	24	29	38
Vote for Kerry	53%	47	21%	32	26	21
Undecided	45%	54	14%	31	27	27

4. The Hispanic Catholic Vote

The Catholic Hispanic vote represents millions of Americans, and is a growing force in American political and cultural life. In many ways, these voters are quite similar in their thinking as other Catholic voters, but in many other ways they have their own characteristics.

The presidential vote

At this point in the presidential campaign, the preference of Hispanic voters reflects their general Democratic Party affiliation. Forty-seven percent of Hispanic Catholic voters are supporting Democrat John Kerry, while 30% support Republican George W. Bush, 2% support Ralph Nader and 20% are undecided.

The margin for Kerry widens among Hispanics when those leaning toward a candidate are included. Support rises to 59% for Kerry and 34% for Bush. US born Hispanics (63% Kerry; 33% Bush) and those of Mexican descent (64% Kerry; 30% Bush) exhibit higher levels of support for Kerry than do other Hispanic Catholics.

Party Identification

Q28. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or something else?

	Catholics Overall	Hispanic Catholics
Democrat	36%	47%
Republican	35	32
Independent	27	18
Something else	1	2
DK/REF	1	1

War in Iraq

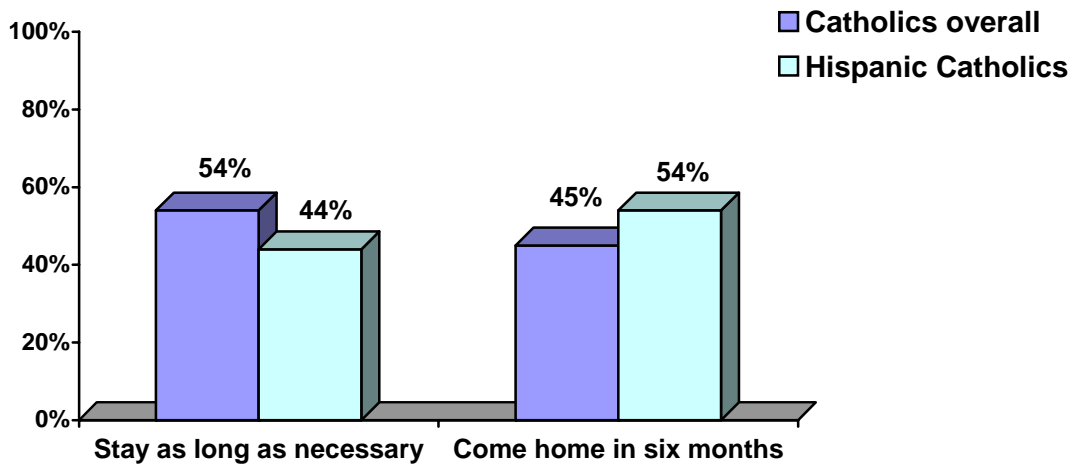
A key issue in this election for Hispanic Catholics is their views on the war in Iraq. They are among the most concerned with the current situation in Iraq; they hold a greater desire than most for the troops to come home, and they hold a lower level of confidence in President Bush's handling of the situation.

Hispanics are among the most likely Catholic voters to want the troops home within six months. A slight majority of Hispanics (54%) say the troops should be

brought home and 44% think they should stay as long as necessary. These results are the reverse image of Catholics overall, 45% of whom say the troops brought home and 54% who think they should stay.

Among Hispanic Catholic voters, those who feel most strongly about bringing the troops home are Hispanic women (59%).

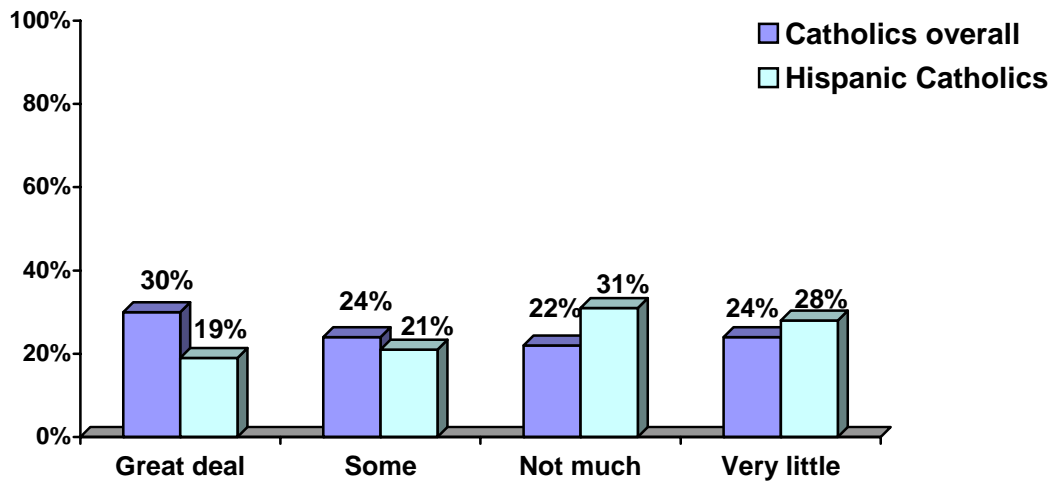
Troops in Iraq



Q5. Even if you do not agree completely with either of these two statements, which one better describes your view: A) US troops should stay in Iraq as long as necessary to establish democracy and stability; or B) We should bring the troops home within six months, even if democracy and stability are not established.

Hispanic Catholic voters also express less confidence than Catholic voters overall in President Bush's ability to resolve the situation. Fifty-nine percent "do not have much" or "very little" confidence and 40% have a "great deal" or "some confidence." Hispanic voters are much less likely to have a "great deal" of confidence in Bush to resolve the war in Iraq (19%) than other Catholics (30%).

Confidence in President Bush to Resolve War in Iraq



Q4. How much confidence do you have in President Bush to resolve the war in Iraq: A great deal of confidence, some confidence, not much confidence, very little confidence?

Abortion

Hispanics' views on abortion are very similar to those of Catholic voters overall. Sixty-two percent of Hispanic Catholic voters agree that abortion should be legal and 36% disagree, while 61% of Catholic voters overall agree with legal abortion and 38% disagree.

Among Hispanics certain sub-groups express particularly strong support for legal abortion:

- US-born Hispanics (69%);
- Hispanic women (67%); and
- Hispanics of Mexican descent (65%).

Two-thirds of Hispanic Catholic voters (67%) do not feel a religious obligation to vote against candidates who support legal abortion. Hispanics born in the US (74%), those of Mexican descent and women (73% each) are particularly likely to feel this way.

Other issues

Priorities: On the list of priorities for the next president, Hispanic Catholics score all fifteen more highly than do Catholics overall. Next to terrorism and the war in Iraq, their priorities are first improving education, then health care, protecting Social Security, and jobs.

Canceling tax cuts: More than eight in ten Hispanic Catholic voters support canceling some tax cuts and using the money to protect Social Security and improve Medicare (82%; 42% strongly) or to improve public education (80%; 41% strongly). Hispanics support these programs equally across all groups, with foreign-born Hispanics demonstrating higher levels of strong support for canceling tax cuts to improve public education (80% support; 51% strongly).

Support for Canceling Tax Cuts Among Hispanics

Q12-Q13. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Cancel tax cuts for Social Security and Medicare		Cancel tax cuts for public education	
	Support: (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Support	Support: (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Support
Total Catholics	74%	34%	68%	27%
All Hispanics	82%	42%	80%	41%
Hispanic men	85%	46%	83%	44%
Hispanic women	80%	39%	78%	39%
Hisp born in US	83%	40%	81%	36%
Frgn-born Hisp	81%	48%	80%	50%
Mexican Hisp	82%	43%	85%	44%
Other Hisp	83%	42%	76%	40%

Education issues: Nearly three quarters of Hispanics support allowing children of illegal immigrants to attend public schools (74%; 42% strongly) and allowing prayer in school (73%; 43% strongly). A majority of Hispanics (57%; 24% strongly) supports school vouchers, paid for with tax dollars, to send children to private and religious schools.

Support for allowing the children of parents who are in the US illegally to attend public schools receives higher support from Hispanics (74% support and 26% oppose) than Catholics generally (44% support and 56% oppose). Among Hispanics, support is steady: 55% of foreign-born Hispanics and 48% of

Hispanics of Mexican decent strongly support allowing children of illegal immigrants to attend public school.

For both prayer in school and school vouchers, the distinctions among Hispanics are greatest when looking at those who strongly support the policies. Forty-eight percent of Hispanics of Mexican decent strongly support prayer in school, as do 47% of Hispanic men. School vouchers finds strong support among foreign-born Hispanics (67%; 35% strongly).

Support for School-Related Issues among Hispanics

Q14, Q11, Q8. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	School for children of ill. immigrants		Prayer in public school classrooms		School vouchers for private or rel. schls	
	Support: (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Support	Support: (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Support	Support: (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Support
Total Catholics	44%	15%	74%	39%	56%	24%
All Hispanics	74%	42%	73%	43%	57%	24%
Hispanic men	73%	40%	76%	47%	58%	24%
Hispanic women	74%	44%	71%	39%	58%	25%
Hisp born in US	70%	35%	72%	41%	53%	19%
Frgn-born Hisp	82%	55%	76%	46%	67%	35%
Mexican Hisp	81%	48%	77%	48%	56%	22%
Other Hisp	70%	37%	71%	37%	61%	28%

Stem cell research and physician assisted suicide: Seven in ten Hispanics support allowing stem-cell research (71%; 37% strongly). Foreign-born Hispanics (74%; 48% strongly) and Hispanics of non-Mexican descent (76%; 42%strongly) exhibit particularly strong support for stem cell research.

About four in ten Hispanics support legalizing physician assisted suicide (42%).

Death Penalty: A smaller majority of Hispanics (58%) than Catholics overall (71%) support the death penalty for persons convicted of murder. Foreign-born Catholics are particularly less likely to support the death penalty (50%) and those of non-Mexican descent (53%).

Issues Among Hispanics

Q16, Q7, Q9. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Stem cell research		Death penalty		Physician assisted suicide	
	Support: (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Support	Support: (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Support	Support: (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Support
Total Catholics	72%	34%	71%	40%	53%	18%
All Hispanics	71%	37%	58%	36%	42%	15%
Hispanic men	75%	35%	57%	36%	41%	12%
Hispanic women	69%	40%	60%	37%	44%	19%
Hisp born in US	71%	32%	64%	40%	46%	14%
Frgn-born Hisp	74%	48%	50%	31%	38%	18%
Mexican Hisp	69%	33%	63%	41%	45%	18%
Other Hisp	76%	42%	53%	31%	40%	12%

Gay marriage: Hispanic Catholics oppose making marriage of gay couples legal. Nearly two-thirds (64%) oppose, with 46% feeling strongly negative. Hispanic men are most likely to opposed marriage for gays and lesbians (68%; 52% strongly).

Opposition to Gay Marriage

Q15. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Gay marriage	
	Oppose (Strg+Smwt)	Strongly Oppose
Total Catholics	64%	46%
All Hispanics	63%	46%
Hispanic men	68%	52%
Hisp women	57%	40%
Hisp born in US	64%	45%
Frgn-born Hisp	60%	47%
Mexican Hisp	64%	46%
Other Hisp	60%	45%

US aid to other nations: Almost seven in ten (69%) Hispanics are “very much” or “somewhat” in favor foreign assistance, while 30% are “very much” or “somewhat” opposed. Foreign-born Hispanics (79%) and those who are not of Mexican descent (78%) are particularly likely to favor foreign assistance.

However, Catholic Hispanics, like all Catholics, are generally more likely to agree that we should cut back on humanitarian assistance to developing countries because of our needs at home (68%) than disagree with such cuts (28%).

On the issue of funding for voluntary funding for family planning in developing countries, Hispanics are split: 49% support and 48% oppose. Foreign-born Hispanics are more likely to support funding for family planning (61%).

Influence of the church

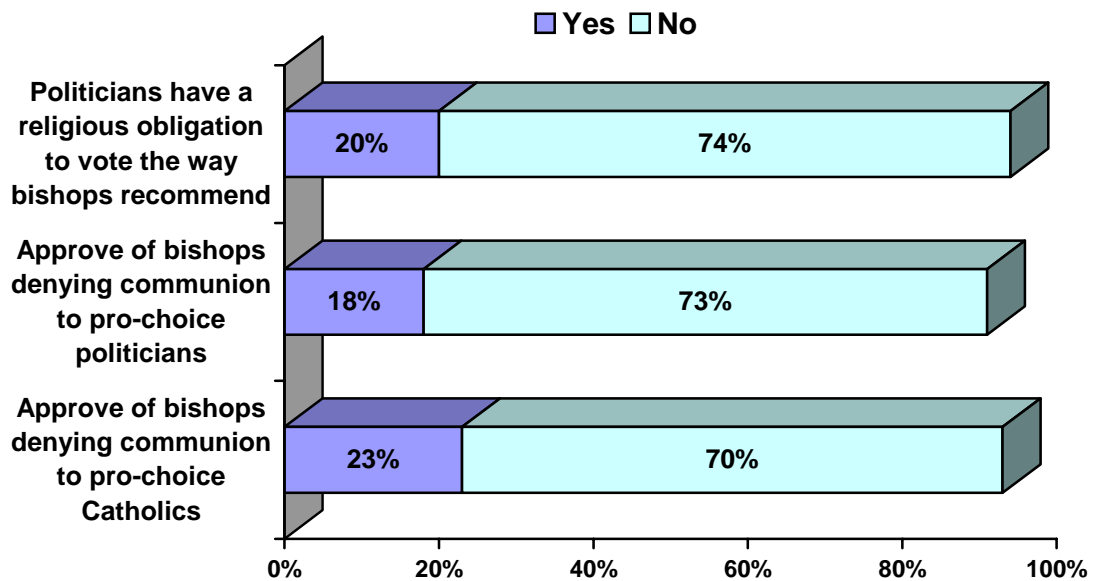
Hispanic Catholics, like other Catholics, disapprove of political involvement by the Catholic church.

Only 11% of Hispanic Catholic voters say the views of Catholic bishops in the US are “very important for you in deciding who to vote for” in the coming election. Another 20% report “somewhat” important and 66% say the views of the bishops are unimportant. Hispanics born in the United States (72%) and Hispanic men (71%) are most likely to say the views of the bishops are “not very” or “not at all” important to their vote.

Almost three quarters of Hispanic Catholic voters (74%) do not believe that politicians who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote on issues the way Catholic bishops recommend.

Similarly, a large majority disapproves of denying communion to Catholic politicians who support legal abortion (73%) or to other Catholics who support legal abortion (70%). US-born Hispanics (79%) and Hispanics of Mexican descent (80%) are particularly likely to feel prochoice Catholic politicians should not be denied communion. US-born Hispanics are also more likely to disapprove of the denial of communion to prochoice Catholics generally (77%).

Hispanics' Views on the Influence of the Church



Q19. Do you believe that politicians who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote on issues the way Catholic bishops recommend? Q21. Do you believe that politicians who are Catholic and who support legal abortion should be denied communion? Q22. Do you approve or disapprove of Catholic bishops denying communion to Catholics who support legal abortion?

Appendix A: Methods

Methods

The Belden Russonello & Stewart national survey of Catholics, conducted for Catholics for Free Choice, interviewed 2,239 self-described Catholic registered likely voters in the 2004 presidential election, with an oversample of 100 Hispanic Catholic likely voters for a total of 366 Hispanic interviews. The interviews took place from June 2 to 10, 2004, using the Knowledge Networks Web-enabled panel for the main study and telephone interviewing for the Hispanic oversample.

The Knowledge Networks sample is derived from a random digit dial (RDD) telephone methodology that represents all US households with telephones. The company employs a complex sample stratification design that incorporates the known probabilities of selection associated with geographical location, the number of phone lines, and whether or not the phone number is listed. Persons in selected households are invited by telephone to participate in the web-enabled panel. Those who agree to participate are sent an Internet appliance and receive an Internet service connection provided by Knowledge Networks. In some cases, people who already have computers and Internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. These panelists receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online.

The oversample of Hispanic Catholic likely voters was obtained using a sample that was randomly drawn from telephone numbers across the country listed with Hispanic surnames. The interviews were conducted by telephone in both English and Spanish.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus ± 2.1 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence for the entire sample, and ± 5.2 percentage points for the oversample of Hispanics.

Data Analysis

The demographic characteristics of the sample, obtained via the selection methods described above, were matched to 2000 exit poll data. The data collected have been weighted statistically to bring age and race into their proper proportions for likely Catholic voters. The following table shows the demographic composition of the survey respondents.

Composition table of Survey Respondents

	Unweighted number	Unweighted percent	Weighted percent
Men	1083	48%	49%
Women	1156	52	51
18-29	179	8%	17%
30-44	330	15	22
45-49	477	21	25
50-59	500	22	14
60+	743	33	22
Refused	10	*	*
White	1768	79%	79%
Black	44	2	2
Hispanic	366	16	15
Asian	39	2	3
Other	11	*	1
Refused	11	*	*
<HS/HS	739	33%	28%
Some college	736	33	34
College graduate+	753	34	37
Refuse	11	*	*
<\$25K	447	20%	19%
\$25K-\$49K	537	24	22
\$50K-\$74K	507	23	23
\$75K+	573	26	28
Refused	175	8	7
Democrat	825	37%	36%
Republican	753	34	35
Independent	611	27	27
Other	25	1	1
Refused	25	1	1
Liberal	444	20%	21%
Conservative	837	37	37
Moderate	945	42	41
Refuse	13	1	1
Northeast	639	29%	29%
Midwest	605	27	27
South	528	24	24
West	467	21	20
Attend mass freq.	938	42%	39%
Occasionally	1014	45	50
Never	267	12	11
DK/Refused	20	1	1
Married	1474	66%	64%
Single	324	14	20
Other	428	19	15
Refuse	13	1	1

Appendix B: Questionnaire with Response Totals

BELDEN RUSSONELLO & STEWART
RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS

Survey of Catholic Likely Voters
For Catholics for a Free Choice

Interviewing conducted June 2 through June 10, 2004.
N = 2,239 Catholic registered voters, likely to vote in 2004 presidential election

Margin of sampling error is ± 2.1 percentage points.
Margin of sampling error for Hispanics is ± 5.2 percentage points.
The data have been weighted by race and age.

Percents may add to 99% or 101% due to rounding.
* indicates less than 1%, - indicates zero.

S1. Are you registered to vote at your current address?	Yes	100%
	No	-
	DK/REF	-

S2. Not everyone has a chance to vote in every election. Thinking about the presidential election in November, what would you say are the chances that you will vote in the election? Will you:	Definitely vote	87%
	Are you very likely to vote	13
	Will you probably vote	-
	Probably not vote	-
	Definitely not vote	-
	DK/REF	-

1. If the election for president were held today, would you vote for: [ROTATE BUSH AND KERRY]	The Republican George W. Bush	40%
	The Democrat John Kerry	40
	Green Party candidate Ralph Nader	2
	Undecided	18
	DK/REF	*

2. [IF UNDECIDED OR DK/REF, BASE N=411] Are you leaning towards: [ROTATE BUSH AND KERRY]	George Bush	41%
	John Kerry	48
	DK/REF	11

COMBINED PRESIDENTIAL VOTE	George Bush	47%
	John Kerry	49
	Ralph Nader	2
	Undecided/DK/REF	2

3. Using this 1 to 7 scale, how high a priority would you personally want the next president to give to each of these issues? (1 means lowest priority and 7 means highest priority)

[RANDOMIZE Q3a-o]

	Lowest Priority						Highest Priority	DK/ REF
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
a. Improving public education	1%	2	3	13	20	26	34	*
b. Protecting the environment	1%	2	8	20	24	21	23	*
c. Fighting crime	1%	1	4	16	26	23	28	1
d. Improving the health care system	1%	1	3	9	18	26	42	*
e. Protecting Social Security	1%	2	3	10	18	22	43	*
f. Improving Medicare	2%	2	6	15	21	24	31	*
g. Promoting moral values in the country	4%	6	8	17	19	17	28	1
h. Cutting taxes	4%	5	8	19	21	16	26	*
i. Advancing gay rights	42%	13	14	13	8	4	5	2
j. Protecting American jobs	*	1	2	8	18	26	45	*
k. Protecting a woman's right to choose abortion	24%	9	10	16	14	10	16	1
l. Promoting human rights around the world	4%	7	12	26	22	13	16	*
m. Resolving the war in Iraq	1%	1	1	6	12	21	57	*
n. Protecting the US from terrorism	*	*	1	3	10	20	65	*
o. Protecting civil liberties	1%	3	7	21	24	20	24	*

4. How much confidence do you have in President Bush to resolve the war in Iraq?	A great deal of confidence	30%
	Some confidence	24
	Not much confidence	22
	Very little confidence	24
	DK/REF	1

5. Even if you do not agree completely with either of these two statements, which one better describes your view: [ROTATE A AND B]	A) US troops should stay in Iraq as long as necessary to establish democracy and stability; or	54%
	B) We should bring the troops home within six months, even if democracy and stability are not established.	45
	DK/REF	1

6. Do you agree or disagree that it should be legal for a woman to have an abortion?	Strongly agree	33%
	Somewhat agree	28
	Somewhat disagree	16
	Strongly disagree	22
	DK/REF	*

Do you support or oppose each of the following? [RANDOMIZE Q7-Q16]

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK/REF
7. The death penalty for persons convicted of murder	40%	31	15	13	1
8. School vouchers, which give parents money from tax revenues to help pay tuition costs, for their children to go to private or religious school instead of public school	24%	32	22	21	1
9. Making it legal for doctors to assist in the suicide of a terminally ill patient	18%	35	21	24	1
10. The US providing funding for voluntary family planning in developing countries	9%	32	32	27	1
11. Allowing public schools to start each day with a prayer in the classrooms	39%	35	16	9	1
12. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to protect Social Security and improve Medicare	34%	40	16	10	1
13. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to improve public education	27%	41	18	13	1
14. Allowing children of parents who are in the US illegally to attend public schools	15%	29	27	29	1

Do you support or oppose each of the following? [RANDOMIZE Q7-Q16]

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK/REF
15. Making gay and lesbian marriage legal	13%	21	18	46	1
16. Allowing scientists to use stem cells obtained from very early human embryos, to find cures for serious diseases such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, and Parkinson's	34%	38	14	12	1

17. If a candidate for president took a position different from yours on each of these issues, would it: [RANDOMIZE a-e]

	Definitely make you vote against him	Maybe make you vote against him	Would it not change your vote	DK/REF
a. The death penalty	12%	40	47	1
b. Taxes	20%	50	30	1
c. Abortion	27%	38	34	1
d. Marriage of gay and lesbian couples	29%	34	37	1
e. Situation in Iraq	27%	47	26	1

Here are some questions about Catholics and elections.

18. How important are the views of the Catholic bishops in the US for you in deciding whom to vote for?	Very important	7%
	Somewhat important	23
	Not very important	30
	Not at all important	40
	DK/REF	1

[RANDOMIZE Q19-Q22]

19. Do you believe that politicians who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote on issues the way Catholic bishops recommend?	Yes	16%
	No	83
	DK/REF	2

20. Do you believe voters who are Catholic have a religious obligation to vote <u>against</u> candidates who support legal abortion?	Yes	24%
	No	74
	DK/REF	2

21. Do you believe that politicians who are Catholic and who support legal abortion should be denied communion?	Yes	20%
	No	78
	DK/REF	2

22. Do you approve or disapprove of Catholic bishops denying communion to Catholics who support legal abortion?	Approve	22%
	Disapprove	76
	DK/REF	2

Now thinking about another topic:

23. Are you generally in favor or opposed to the United States giving economic assistance to help other countries?	Very much in favor	11%
	Somewhat in favor	44
	Somewhat opposed	32
	Very much opposed	12
	DK/REF	*

24. Do you agree or disagree that the United States has so many needs at home right now, we should cut back on the humanitarian assistance we give to developing countries?	Agree	69%
	Disagree	29
	DK/REF	1

Demographics

25. Which of the following best describes the place where you live:	Large city	25%
	Small city	23
	Suburb	25
	Town	16
	Rural area	11
	DK/REF	*

26. Are you:	Married	61%
	Living with a life partner	3
	Widowed	5
	Separated	2
	Divorced	9
	Single, never been married	20
DK/REF	1	

27. Do you generally think of yourself as prolife or prochoice on abortion?	Pro-life	45%
	Pro-choice	53
	DK/REF	2

28. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?	Democrat	36%
	Republican	35
	Independent	27
	Something else	1
	DK/REF	1

29. [IF INDEPENDENT OR SOMETHING ELSE, BASE N=636] Do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?	Democratic Party	34%
	Republican Party	29
	Neither	35
	DK/REF	2

30. In terms of your political outlook, do you usually think of yourself as: [ROTATE ORDER]	Very conservative	9%
	Somewhat conservative	28
	Middle of the road	41
	Somewhat liberal	18
	Very liberal	3
	DK/REF	1

31. How often do you attend religious services?	More than once a week	6%
	Once a week	33
	A few times a month	14
	A few times a year	36
	Never	11
	DK/REF	1
<hr/>		
32. [IF MORE OFTEN THAN NEVER, BASE N=1952] When you go to mass do you receive communion:	Almost always	60%
	Some of the time	19
	Not very often	20
	DK/REF	1
<hr/>		
33. In the last five years, have you ever volunteered for, donated to, or contacted a political official or candidate?	Yes	31%
	No	68
	DK/REF	*
<hr/>		
34. Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Yes	15%
	No	84
	DK/REF	1
<hr/>		
35. Would you say you are:	White	79%
	Black or African American	2
	Hispanic	15
	Asian or Pacific Islander	3
	Something else	1
	DK/REF	*
<hr/>		
36. Were you born in the United States, or in another country?	United States	92%
	Another country	8
	DK/REF	*
<hr/>		

37. [IF HISPANIC/LATINO, BASE N=366] Now I want to ask you about your family's heritage. Are your ancestors: [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES]	Mexican	52%
	Puerto Rican	14
	Cuban	7
	Dominican	5
	Salvadoran	2
	From another Central American country	4
	From another South American country	9
	Spanish	8
Other	7	
DK/REF	3	
<hr/>		
38. In what year were you born? [IF REFUSED ASK CATEGORIES]	18-29 years	17%
	30-39 years	22
39. Are you between:	40-49 years	25
	50-59 years	14
	60+ years	22
	DK/REF	*
	<hr/>	
40. What was the last grade of school you completed?	Did not complete high school	5%
	High school graduate or GED	23
	Some college or associate degree	34
	College graduate with four-year degree	22
	Postgraduate study	15
	DK/REF	*
<hr/>		
41. Which category contains your <u>total household income</u> before taxes in 2003? Your best estimate is fine.	Less than \$15,000	7%
	Between \$15,000 - \$29,999	12
	Between \$30,000 - \$49,999	22
	Between \$50,000 - \$74,999	23
	Between \$75,000 - \$99,999	15
	\$100,000 or more	13
	DK/REF	7
<hr/>		
GENDER	Male	49%
	Female	51
<hr/>		
REGION	Northeast	29%
	South	27
	Midwest	24
	West	20
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