

2. Influence of the Church

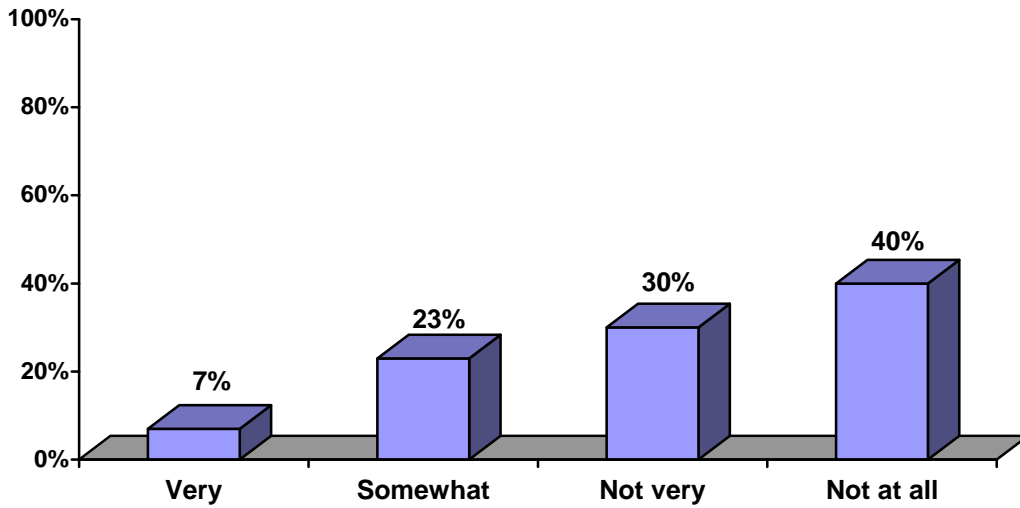
The CFFC survey asked a number of questions to measure the degree to which Catholic voters are influenced in their political views by the positions of the Catholic church. Catholic voters report the Catholic church has very little influence on their voting behavior.

- 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.

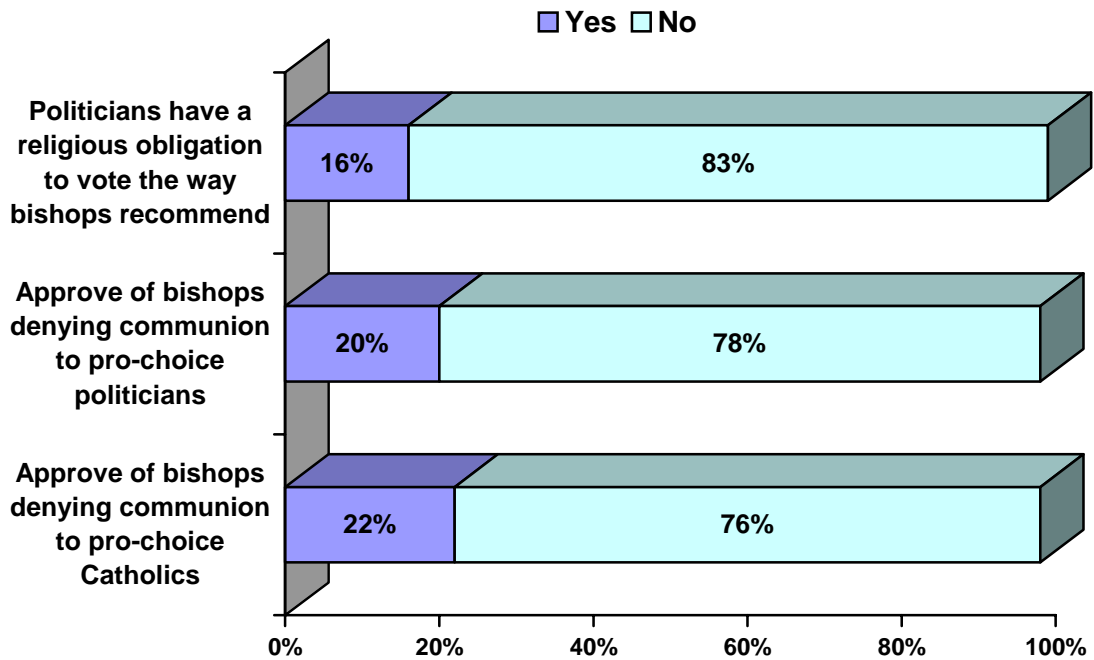
Specifically, regular church-goers who receive communion reject the bishops denying communion. And a majority of Catholic voters who are prolife also disapprove of the recent calls by bishops to deny communion based on a politician’s or individuals’ views on abortion.

Catholic Bishops and Vote Choice



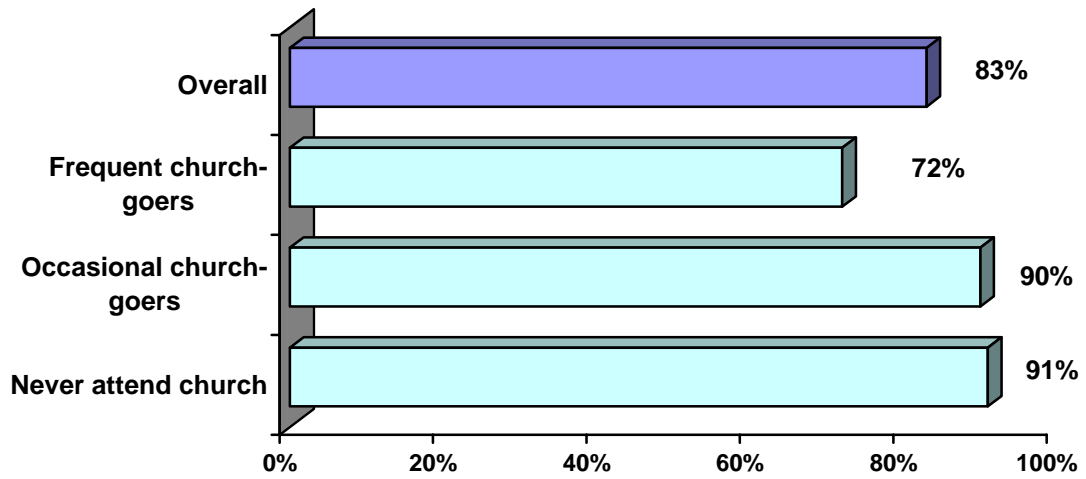
Q18. How important are the views of the Catholic bishops in the US for you in deciding whom to vote for?

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