

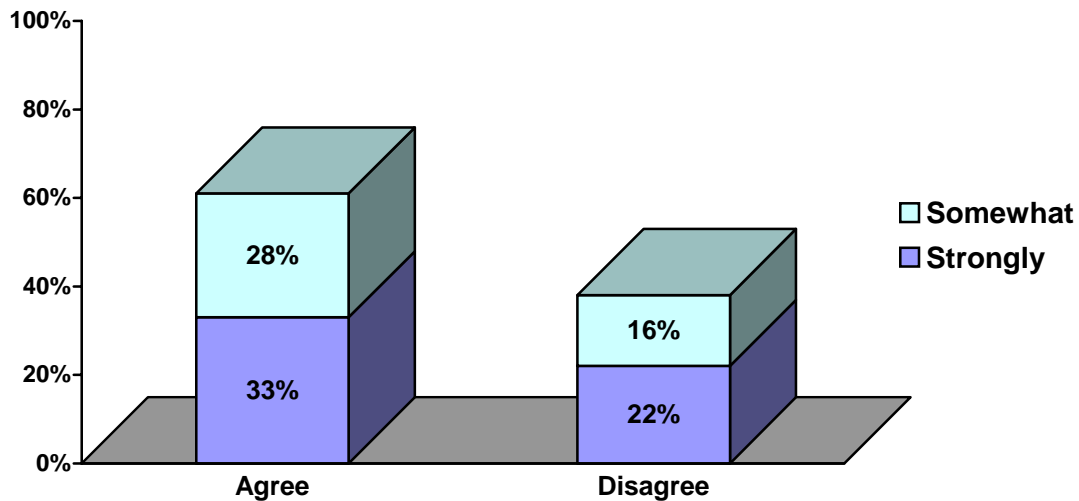
## C. Abortion

### 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.

#### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2</b>
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

---