

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.

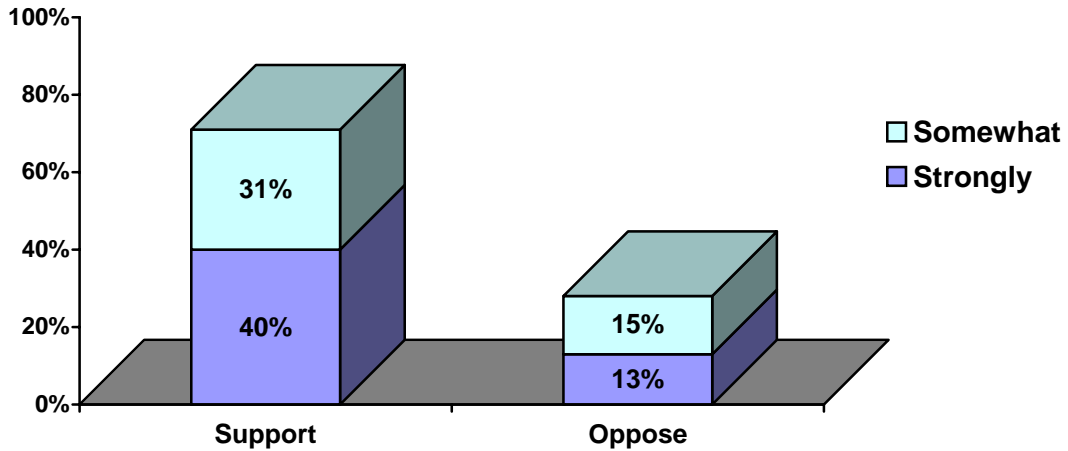
Priority to Fighting Crime (% saying "highest priority")

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.

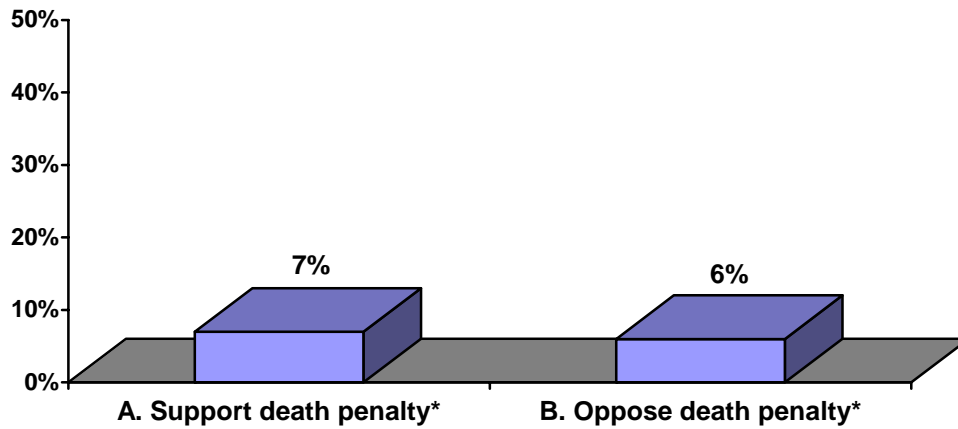
Support the Death Penalty



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