

## 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)

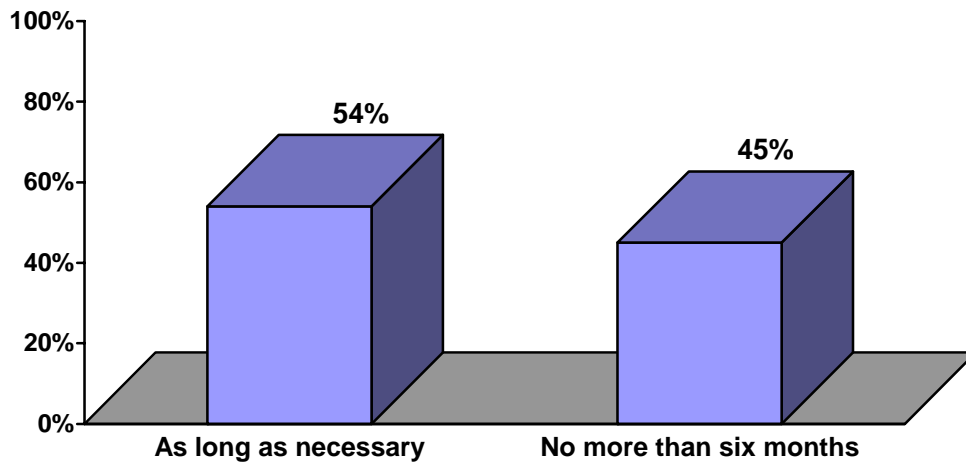
Q3a-3o. Using this 1 to 7 scale, how high a priority would you personally want the next president to give to each of these issues? (1 means lowest priority and 7 means highest priority.)

	<b>Protect US From Terrorism</b>	<b>Resolving the War In Iraq</b>	<b>Protecting Civil Liberties</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>24%</b>
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.

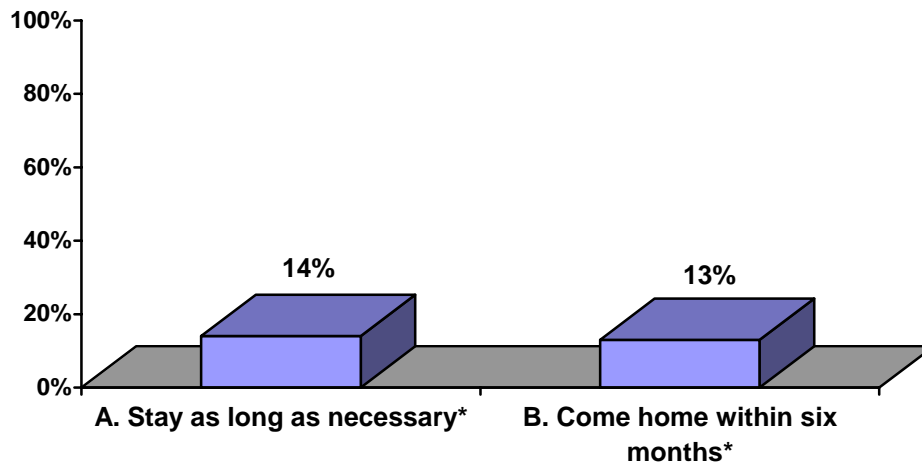
Bringing the troops home within the next six months wins a majority among:

- 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.

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### Troops Should Stay in Iraq...

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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.

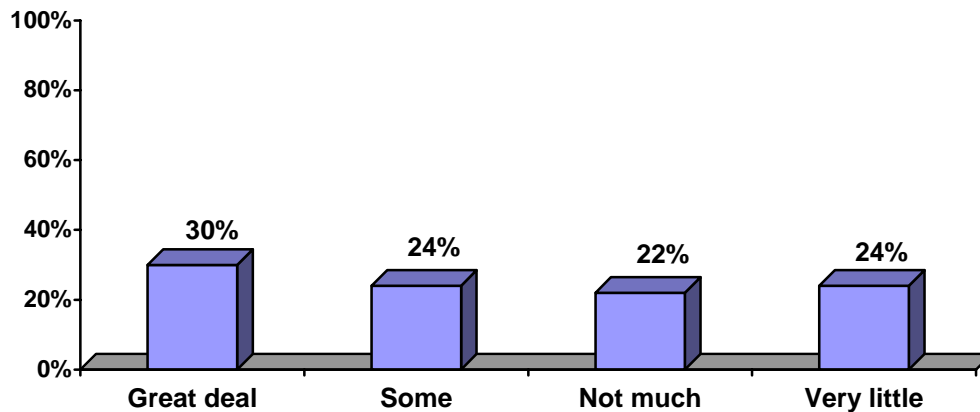
	As long as necessary	Six months
<b>Total</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>45</b>
Men	60%	40
Women	49%	50
Men 18-39	62%	38
Men 40-58	60%	40
Men 59+	56%	43
Women 18-39	53%	46
Women 40-58	44%	54
Women 59+	47%	52
White	57%	42
Hispanic	44%	54
White men	62%	38
Hispanic men	52%	47
White women	52%	47
Hispanic women	37%	59
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

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## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>
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 vote<sup>1</sup>.

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"> <li>➤ Confidence in Bush to resolve Iraq war</li> <li>➤ Troops stay in Iraq</li> </ul>	→	<b>Bush</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of confidence in Bush to resolve Iraq war</li> </ul>	→	<b>Kerry</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.