

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>
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