

3. Issues of Importance

A. Priorities

In the current election environment, Catholic voters are most likely to want the next president to give top priority to fighting terrorism and resolving the war in Iraq. In a list of fifteen priorities, these two issues represent the first of four tiers of priorities. Two-thirds of these voters (65%) rate protecting the US from terrorism as top priority and 57% give top priority to resolving the war in Iraq.

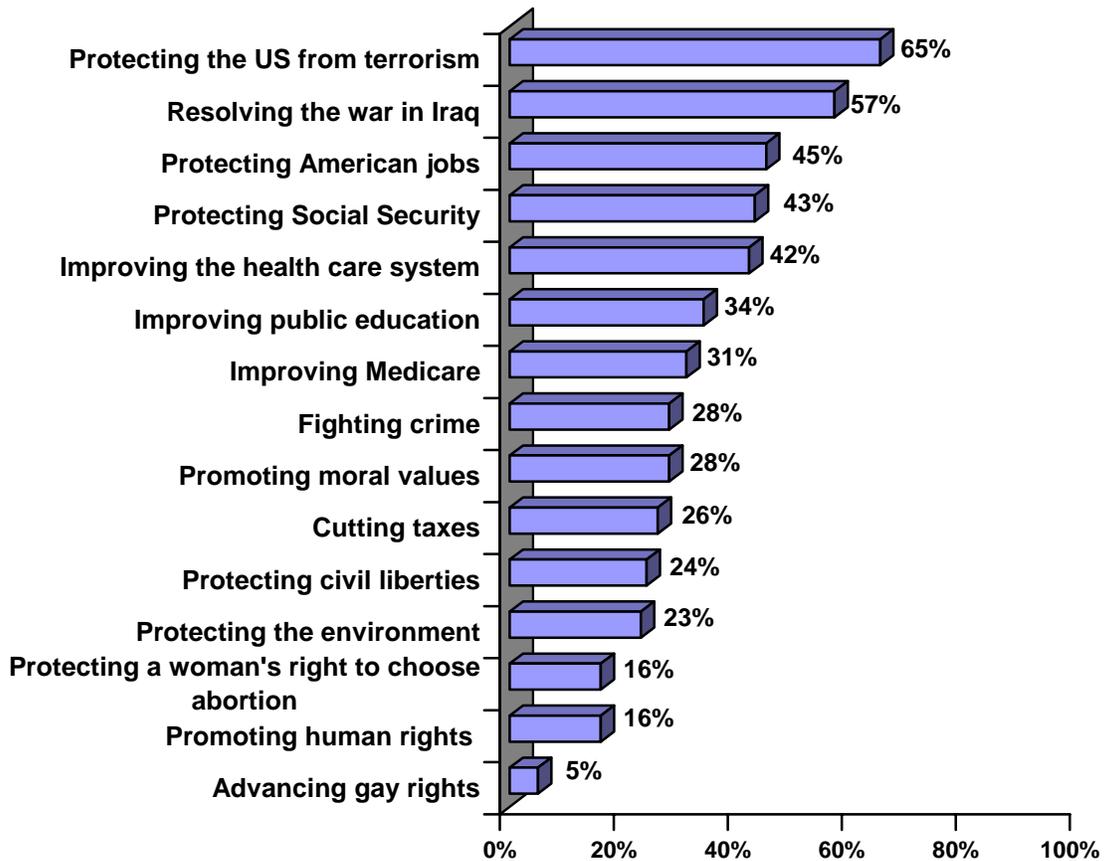
Other top concerns that Catholic voters want the next president to address include protecting American jobs (45%) and Social Security (43%) and improving the health care system (42%).

Middle-tier issues for these voters include improving public education (34%), improving Medicare (31%), fighting crime (28%), promoting moral values in the country (28%), cutting taxes (26%), protecting civil liberties (24%), and protecting the environment (23%).

Less salient issues include protecting a woman's right to choose abortion (16%), promoting human rights around the world (16%), and advancing gay rights (5%). These issues fell into the bottom tier of priorities for Catholic voters.

Priorities for the Next President

(% saying "7" highest priority)



Q3a-o. 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)