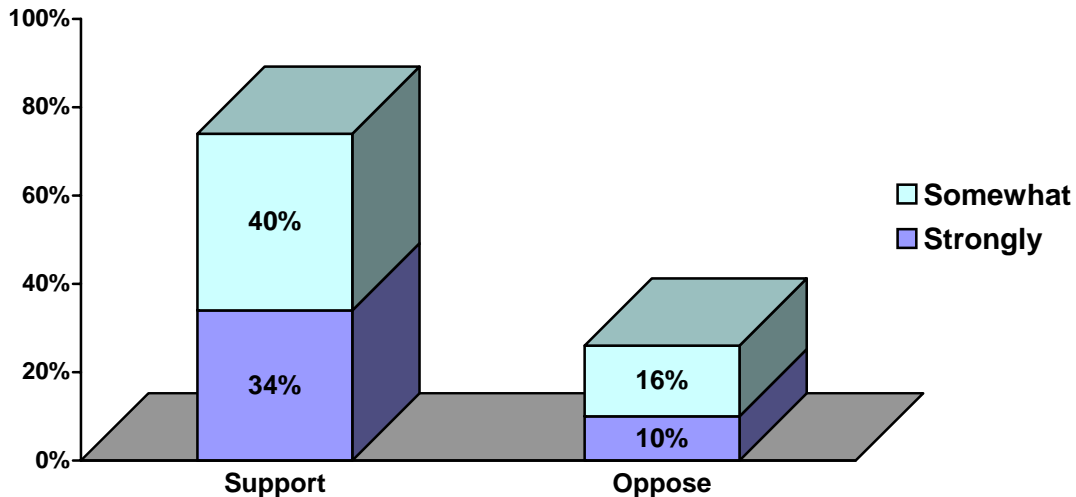


## D. Tax Cuts, Social Security, Medicare, and Education

After the war in Iraq and fighting terrorism, the group of issues Catholic voters want the next president to address includes protecting Social Security (43%) and Medicare (31%), improving public education (34%), and cutting taxes (26%).

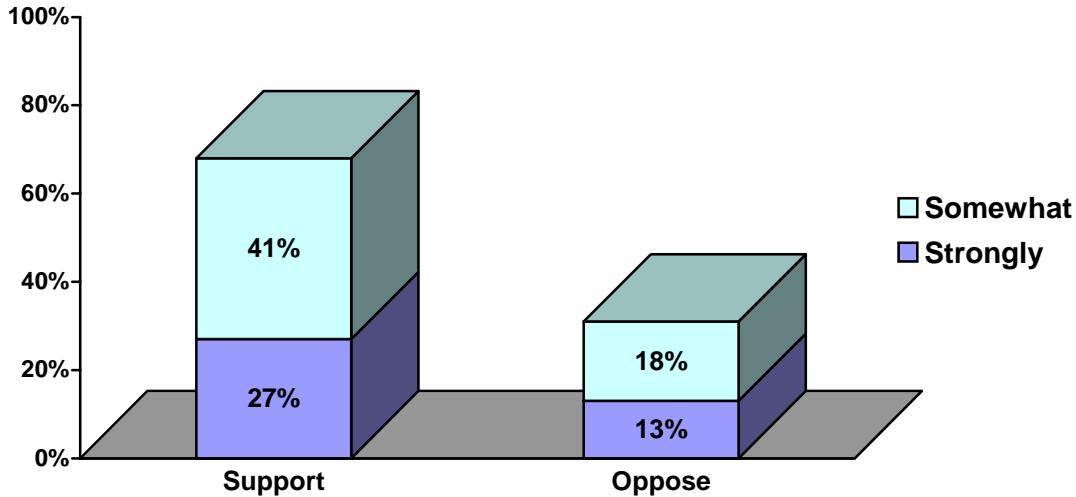
The high priority Catholics place on these issues is underscored by the findings that majorities support canceling some of the tax cuts to use the money to protect Social Security and improve Medicare (74%) or to use the money to improve public education (68%).

### Canceling Tax Cuts to Protect Social Security and Medicare



Q12. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to protect Social Security and improve Medicare. Do you support or oppose each of the following:

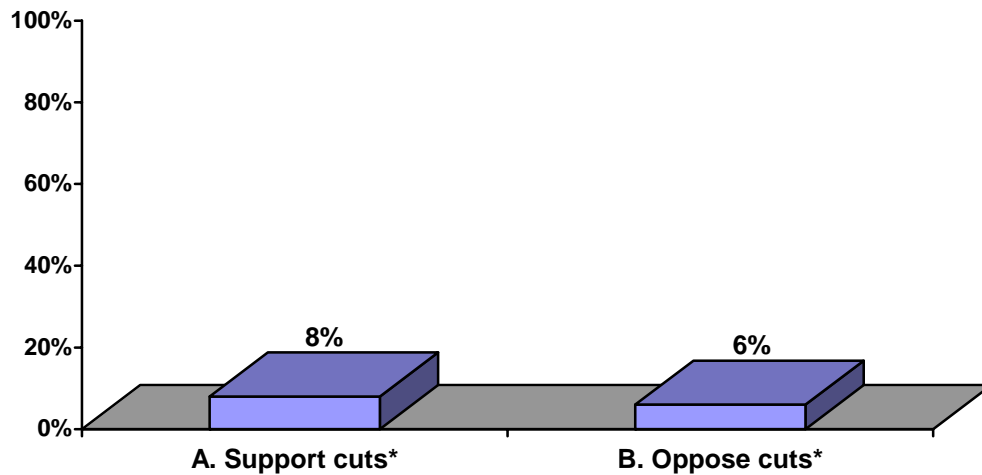
### Canceling Tax Cuts to Improve Public Education



Q13. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to improve public education. Do you support or oppose each of the following:

Combining these questions on tax cuts, two in ten (19%) of those who feel strongly about canceling some of the tax cuts either for Social Security and Medicare, or for improving education say they would “definitely vote against” a candidate who disagreed with their position. This represents eight percent of the Catholic electorate. On the other side, four in ten (44%) Catholic voters who strongly oppose canceling tax cuts for these programs say they would “definitely” vote against a candidate with the opposite view. They represent six percent of the overall Catholic electorate. Therefore, the political potential is about even on taking a position on canceling the tax cuts.

## Two Sides of Tax Cuts as a Voting Issue



\* A. Strongly support canceling some tax cuts to protect Social Security and Medicare or improve public education, and will definitely vote against the candidate they disagree with. B. Strongly oppose canceling some tax cuts to protect Social Security and Medicare or improve public education, and will definitely vote against the candidate they disagree with.

Catholic voters who place high priority on protecting Social Security tend to be:

- Silent Generation Catholics;
- Hispanics, especially those born outside the US;
- Those with a high school diploma or less;
- Lower income (<\$30K);
- Widowed, separated, or divorced;
- Democrats;
- Moderates; and
- Undecideds.

Medicare is a top concern among:

- Silent Generation Catholics, especially women;
- Hispanics; especially born outside the US;
- Those with a high school diploma or less;
- Low income (<\$30K);
- Widowed, separated or divorced;
- Democrats;
- Moderates; and
- Undecideds.

Improving education is important for many subgroups, especially:

- Silent Generation women;
- Women without a college degree;
- Hispanics, especially those born outside the US;
- Lower income (<\$30K);
- Liberals;
- Democrats; and
- Undecideds.

The opposition to canceling some tax cuts to protect Social Security and Medicare or education does not gain a majority of any demographic sub-group.

Catholic voters who placed a higher priority on cutting taxes than their counterparts are:

- Hispanics, especially born outside the US;
- Less educated (those with a high school diploma or less);
- Lower income (<\$30K); and
- Republicans.

Catholic voters who feel more strongly than others about the need to cancel some tax cuts to protect Social Security and Medicare are:

- Silent Generation Catholics;
- Hispanics, especially men;
- Catholics with a high school diploma or less;
- Low income (<\$30K);
- Widowed, separated or divorced;
- Those who never attend church;
- Liberals; and
- Democrats.

### Issue Priorities

(% saying "highest priority")

Q3a,e,f,h. 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)

	Soc. Sec.	Education	Medicare	Cut taxes
<b>Total</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>26%</b>
Men	41%	30%	28%	24%
Women	45%	38%	34%	27%
18-39	28%	35%	21%	23%
40-58	45%	31%	30%	28%
59+	66%	36%	50%	27%
Men 18-39	30%	33%	22%	20%
Men 36-58	40%	26%	25%	27%
Men 59+	64%	29%	45%	24%
Women 18-39	26%	37%	19%	25%
Women 36-58	50%	36%	36%	29%
Women 59+	68%	42%	53%	29%
White	40%	27%	27%	23%
Hispanic	58%	63%	50%	38%
Hispanics born in US	51%	57%	42%	31%
Foreign-born Hispanics	69%	75%	65%	51%
<HS/HS	62%	42%	49%	37%
Some college	43%	32%	29%	26%
College grad+	30%	30%	20%	17%
Women <college	54%	40%	41%	33%
Women college +	28%	34%	21%	18%
<\$30K	54%	48%	46%	34%
\$30K-\$50K	48%	34%	34%	21%
\$50K-\$75K	39%	30%	25%	25%
\$75K+	31%	25%	19%	22%
Married	43%	34%	30%	26%
Single	36%	31%	26%	24%
Other	51%	39%	42%	29%
Frequent church-goers	44%	35%	35%	25%
Occasional church-goers	41%	32%	27%	26%
Never attend church	49%	35%	36%	26%
Liberal	46%	45%	33%	19%
Moderate	50%	36%	37%	26%
Conservative	34%	25%	24%	30%
Democrat	52%	42%	40%	22%
Independent	43%	30%	30%	23%
Republican	35%	28%	24%	31%
Vote for Bush	34%	25%	22%	31%
Vote for Kerry	49%	40%	36%	19%
Undecided	50%	40%	37%	28%

Those more likely to strongly favor repealing some tax cuts to improve public education include:

- College-educated women;
- Hispanics, especially born outside the US;
- Low income (<\$30K);
- Democrats; and
- Liberals.

### Cancel Tax Cuts to Protect Social Security and Improve Medicare

Q12. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to protect Social Security and improve Medicare. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
<b>Total</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>
Men	72%	28	34%	38	16	12
Women	76%	23	33%	43	15	8
18-39	68%	33	23%	45	23	10
40-58	76%	23	34%	42	13	10
59+	82%	18	51%	31	8	10
White	72%	28	31%	41	17	11
Hispanic	82%	16	42%	40	9	7
White men	69%	31	32%	37	17	14
Hispanic men	85%	14	46%	39	8	6
<HS/HS	79%	20	40%	39	12	8
Some college	73%	26	33%	40	17	9
College grad+	71%	29	29%	42	17	12
Women <college	77%	22	35%	42	15	7
Women college+	76%	24	30%	46	16	8
<\$30K	80%	19	46%	34	14	5
\$30K-\$50K	80%	20	39%	41	12	8
\$50K-\$75K	73%	26	31%	42	15	11
\$75K+	66%	33	23%	43	20	13
Married	72%	27	30%	42	16	11
Single	72%	28	34%	38	20	8
Other	83%	17	46%	37	8	9
Freq. church-goers	74%	26	33%	41	14	12
Occ. church-goers	74%	26	32%	42	17	9
Never attend church	79%	20	44%	35	13	7
Liberal	91%	8	51%	40	6	2
Moderate	82%	17	34%	48	14	3
Conservative	55%	44	23%	32	22	22
Democrat	89%	10	48%	41	8	2
Independent	80%	20	34%	46	13	7
Republican	55%	45	19%	36	26	19
Vote for Bush	56%	44	19%	37	24	20
Vote for Kerry	89%	11	47%	42	8	3
Undecided	82%	16	35%	47	12	4

### Cancel Tax Cuts to Improve Public Education

Q13. Canceling some of the federal tax cuts and using the money to improve public education. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

	Support	Oppose	Support		Oppose	
			Strng	Smwt	Smwt	Strng
<b>Total</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>
White	66%	34	24%	42	20	14
Hispanic	80%	18	41%	39	9	9
Hisp. born in US	81%	19	36%	45	11	8
Foreign-born Hisp.	80%	18	50%	30	6	12
Men <college	64%	34	25%	39	20	14
Men college +	60%	39	28%	32	21	18
Women <college	74%	26	25%	49	15	11
Women college +	74%	25	33%	41	15	10
<\$30K	77%	23	34%	43	14	9
\$30K-\$50K	74%	26	27%	47	17	9
\$50K-\$75K	64%	35	25%	39	20	15
\$75K+	63%	37	23%	40	20	17
Liberal	86%	13	45%	41	7	6
Moderate	75%	24	27%	48	18	6
Conservative	50%	49	16%	34	24	25
Democrat	85%	15	39%	46	10	5
Independent	70%	29	26%	44	19	10
Republican	51%	49	16%	35	25	24
Vote for Bush	49%	51	14%	35	26	25
Vote for Kerry	86%	14	41%	45	10	4
Undecided	74%	25	24%	50	19	6