

### III. Findings

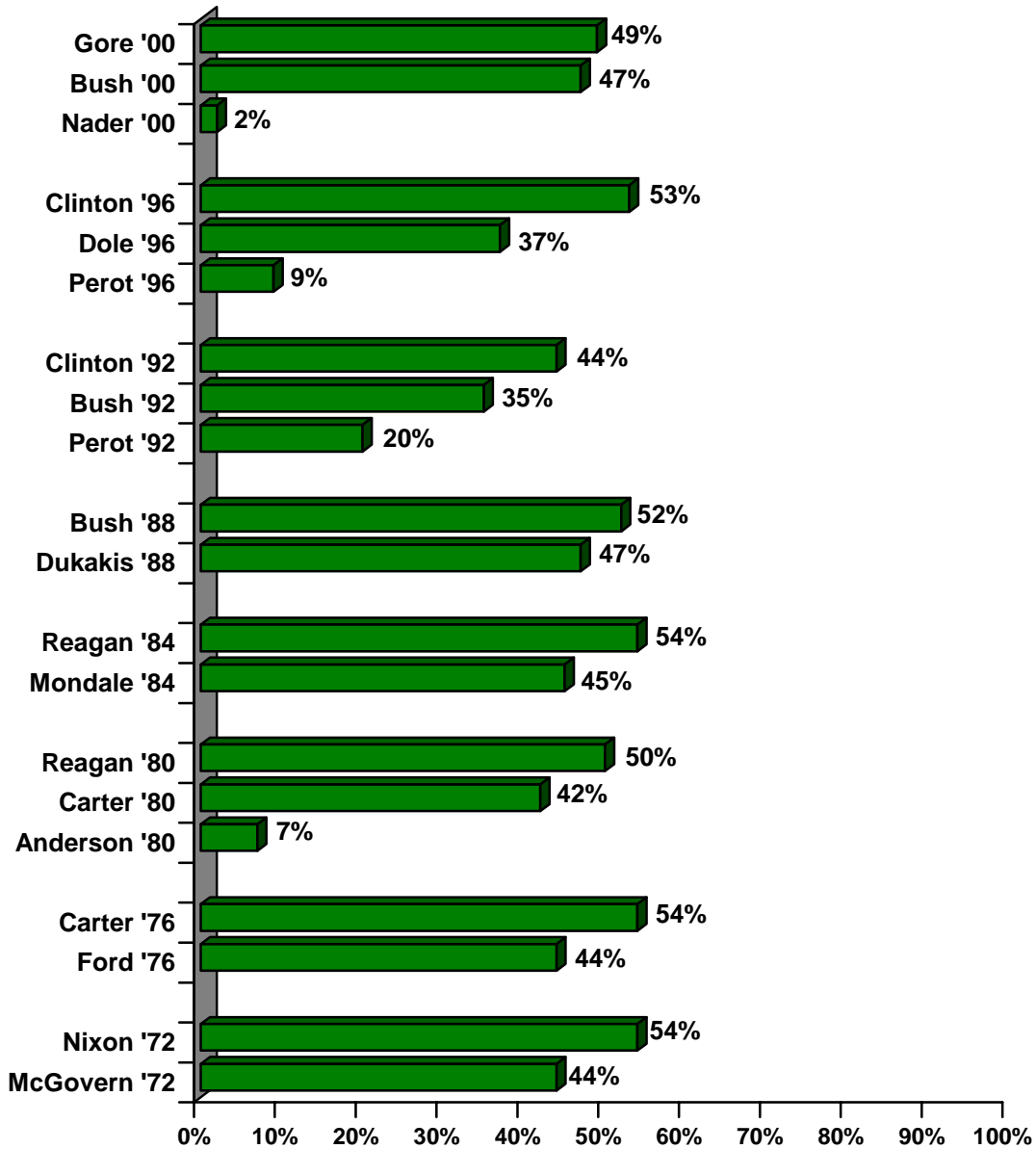
#### 1. Presidential Politics

##### A. The Catholic Vote

Traditionally, Catholic voters have represented a quarter of the total presidential vote and have switched from one party's candidate for president to another's as times change. However, one thing about the Catholic vote has remained constant over the last 27 years (we looked at the elections from 1972 to present) – whoever wins the most Catholic votes wins the most votes nationwide. Exit polls have shown that Catholics voted mostly for Richard Nixon in 1972, Jimmy Carter in '76, Ronald Reagan in '80 and '84, George Bush in '88, and Bill Clinton in '92 and '96. In the presidential election of 2000, Catholics comprised 26% of the voters and they favored Democrat Al Gore by the slight margin of 2 percentage points over Republican George W. Bush (49% to 47%). Although it was close, Vice President Al Gore won the Catholic vote, just as he did the popular vote nationwide.

How goes the Catholic vote, so goes the country.

### Catholic Vote in Presidential Elections\*



\* Data for the 1996 and 2000 elections were collected by Voter News Service (VNS) based on questionnaires completed by voters leaving polling places across the country on election day. Data for 1992 were based on surveys conducted by Voter Research and Surveys. Data for 1972 through 1988 were based on surveys conducted by The New York Times and CBS News.

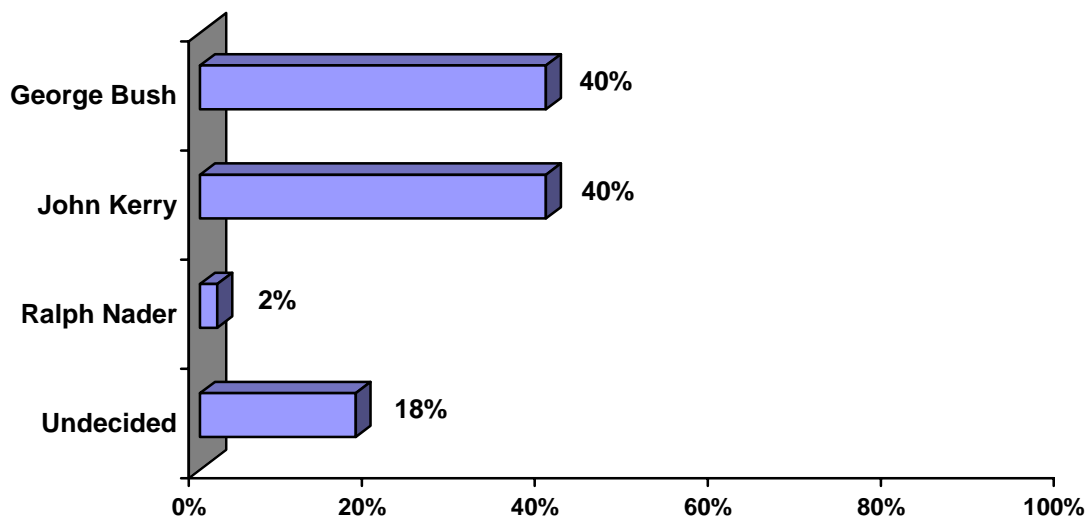
## B. 2004 Presidential Election

### The vote

At this time, the Catholic vote is evenly divided between President George W. Bush and Senator John F. Kerry: 40% are for Bush and 40% for Kerry. Ralph Nader receives 2%, and 18% are undecided. The survey reveals identical numbers among Catholics in 15 battleground states<sup>1</sup>.

When initial support is combined with voters who are still undecided but leaning towards a candidate, Bush garners 47% and Kerry receives 49% of the Catholic vote.

**Catholic Likely Voters' Presidential Preference**



Q1. If the election for president were held today, would you vote for: the Republican George W. Bush, the Democrat John Kerry, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or are you undecided?<sup>2</sup>

Kerry is leading among:

- Democrats (76%); and
- Liberals (76%).

<sup>1</sup> Battleground states: Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington.

<sup>2</sup> The Green Party decided not to endorse Ralph Nader after the fielding of this survey.

As well as:

- Moderates (44%);
- Hispanics (47%), especially Hispanics born in the US (49%) and those of Mexican descent (51%);
- Lower and middle income Catholics (44% of <\$30K; 49% of \$30K-\$50K);
- Those with a college education or more (44%);
- Non-married (single 45%; divorced, separated, or widowed 49%);
- Those who live in cities (small 47%; large 46%); and
- Those who occasionally or never attend church (44% and 46%).

Bush leads among Catholic voters who are:

- Republicans (80%); and
- Conservatives (72%).

As well as:

- White men (45%);
- Catholics in the South (47%);
- Upper-income Catholics (48% of \$75K+);
- Married (44%);
- Those who live outside the cities: suburbs (46%), towns (45%), rural areas (45%); and
- Those who are frequently church-goers (46%).

The survey reveals considerable differences in vote preference when looking age and gender:

Bush's support is strongest among Baby Boomer (age 40-58) men (47% Bush; 38% Kerry) and Generation X-plus (age 18-39) women (43% Bush; 37% Kerry).

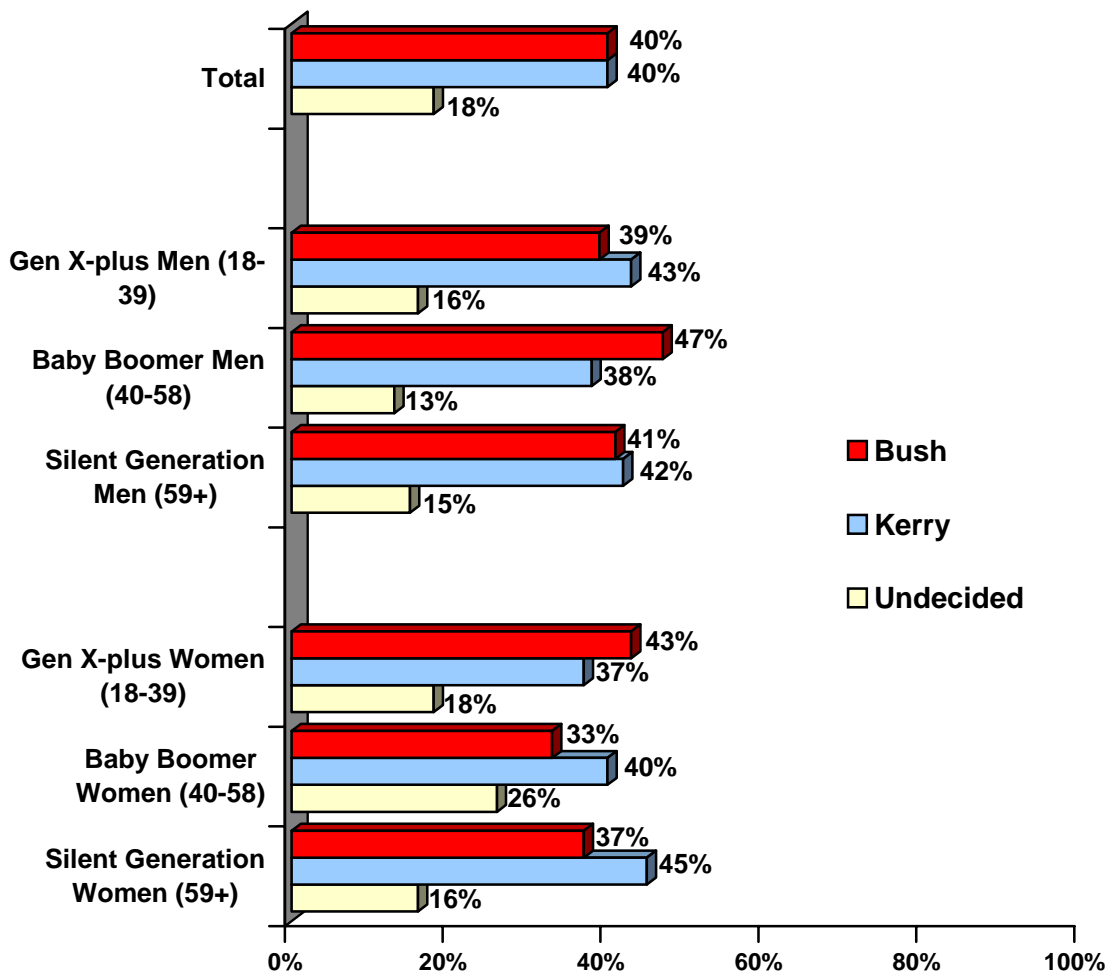
Kerry's support is driven by Silent Generation (age 59 and older) women (45% Kerry; 37% Bush) and Generation X-plus (age 18-39) men (43% Kerry; 39% Bush).

Baby Boomer (age 40-58) women lean in support of Kerry but are also among the most likely group to be undecided at the moment (40% Kerry; 33% Bush; 26% undecided).

Men of the Silent Generation (age 59 and older) are split (41% Bush; 42% Kerry).

Regression analysis finds that among the demographic and lifestyle characteristics, political party and political ideology are the strongest predictors of the presidential vote. Regression also shows that voters who are upper educated or Hispanic are likely Kerry voters, while Catholics who are married are likely Bush voters.

**Catholics' Presidential Choice: Gender by Age**



Q1. If the election for president were held today, would you vote for: the Republican George W. Bush, the Democrat John Kerry, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or are you undecided?

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### Presidential Choice Among Catholics

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Q1. If the election for the president were held today, would you vote for the Republican George W. Bush, the Democrat John Kerry, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader?

	<b>Bush</b>	<b>Kerry</b>	<b>Nader</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
Men	43%	41	2	15
Women	38%	40	2	20
18-39	41%	40	2	17
40-58	40%	39	1	19
59+	39%	44	1	16
White	43%	38	1	17
Hispanic	30%	47	2	20
White men	45%	39	1	14
White women	41%	38	2	19
<HS/HS	36%	39	1	23
Some college	44%	38	2	16
College grad+	40%	44	1	14
<\$30K	34%	44	2	20
\$30-\$50K	31%	49	2	18
\$50K-\$75K	44%	37	2	17
\$75K+	48%	37	1	13
Married	44%	37	1	17
Single	34%	45	4	17
Other	31%	49	1	19
Frequent church-goers	46%	35	1	18
Occasional church-goers	38%	44	2	16
Never attend church	31%	46	3	20
Large city	34%	46	1	19
Small city	35%	47	3	15
Suburb	46%	36	2	16
Town	45%	33	*	21
Rural	45%	36	2	17
Northeast	40%	43	1	16
Midwest	38%	39	2	20
South	47%	36	3	14
West	35%	43	1	21
Liberal	11%	76	3	10
Moderate	27%	44	2	27
Conservative	72%	16	*	11
Democrat	8%	76	1	15
Independent	31%	35	4	30
Republican	80%	10	1	10
Battleground states	40%	40	2	18

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## Frequent church-goers and the presidential election

Of Catholic voters who are frequent church-goers – go to religious services once a week or more – President Bush enjoys the predicted lead. His strength is greatest among those who self-identify as “conservative,” while Senator Kerry wins the support of “liberal” and “moderate” frequent church-goers.

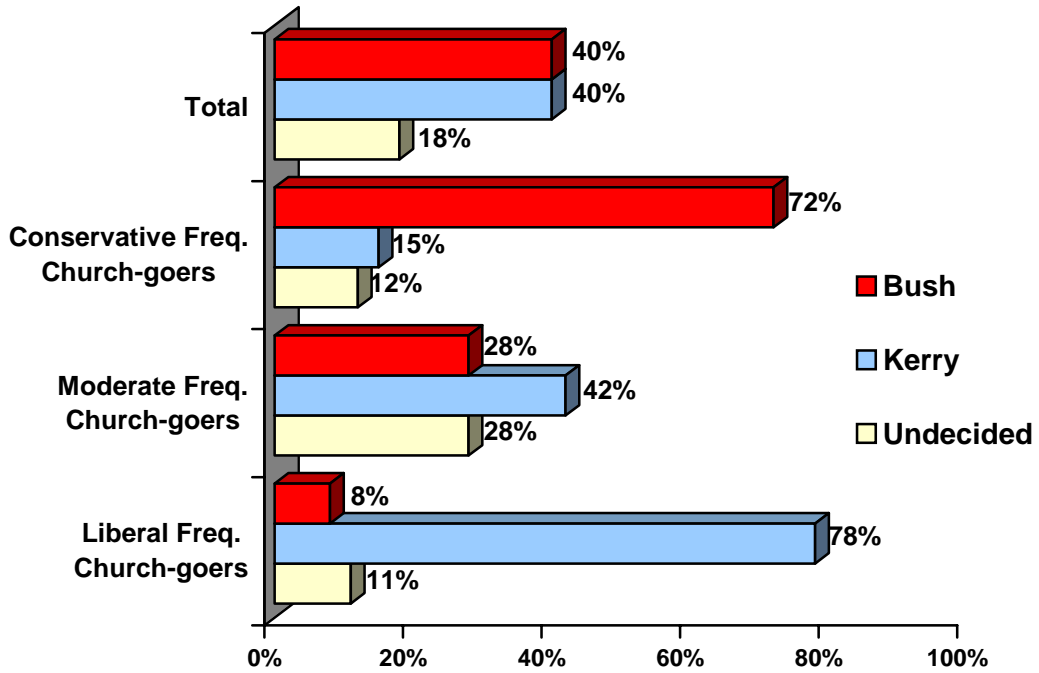
Four in ten Catholic voters (39%) say they attend church at least once a week:

- Two in ten Catholic voters (18%) say they attend church at least once a week and self-identify as “conservative.”
- 15% are frequent church-goers and say they are politically “moderate.”
- Six percent are frequent church-goers and identify as “liberal.”

Looking at the vote by political ideology and church attendance, a sizable proportion of Catholic voters in the pews are likely to favor Kerry.

- Conservative frequent church-goers: 72% Bush; 15% Kerry; 12% undecided.
- Moderate frequent church-goers: 28% Bush; 42% Kerry; 28% undecided.
- Liberal frequent church-goers: 8% Bush; 78% Kerry; 11% undecided.

### Catholics' Presidential Choice: Ideology by Church Attendance



Q1. If the election for president were held today, would you vote for: the Republican George W. Bush, the Democrat John Kerry, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, or are you undecided?