

National Survey of Catholic Voters For Catholics for Choice

September 2009

This analysis represents the findings of a national survey of 923 Catholic registered voters. Interviews were conducted September 16-21, 2009. The margin of error for this survey is ± 3.2 percentage points.

- **Lowering healthcare costs is a top priority for Catholic voters.** Catholics rate lowering healthcare costs just below improving the economy as the highest priority for President Barack Obama.
- **Catholic voters overwhelmingly support a government plan that would make health insurance available to the uninsured.** More than seven-in-ten favor a government plan for the uninsured, while only 27 percent oppose such a plan.
- **Catholic voters strongly support health insurance coverage for sexual and reproductive healthcare services.** Nearly all (95%) of Catholics believe that pre- and postnatal care should be covered by health insurance policies—whether they are government-run or private. Large majorities of Catholics also support the inclusion of HIV/AIDS testing (86 percent) and the HPV vaccine (81 percent). Well over half (63 percent) believe contraception should be covered, followed by condoms to prevent HIV/AIDS (51 percent).
- **A strong majority of Catholic voters support health insurance coverage for abortions.** Most Catholics support health insurance coverage—whether government-run or private—for abortion when a pregnancy poses a threat to the life of a woman (84 percent), when a pregnancy is due to rape or incest (76 percent), when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for the woman (73 percent) or when test results show a fetus has a severe abnormal condition (66 percent). Half of Catholics think that the plan should cover abortion whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50 percent support and 50 percent oppose).
- **Catholic voters are split on President Obama’s ideas for healthcare reform.** Fifty-two percent agree with President Obama’s healthcare plan while 48 percent disagree.
- **Catholic voters do not believe that Catholics should oppose healthcare reform if it includes abortion.** Sixty-eight percent of Catholic voters disagree that, as a Catholic, you should oppose the entire healthcare reform plan if it includes coverage for abortion.
- **Catholic voters believe the US Catholic bishops are wrong on healthcare reform.** Fifty-six percent think the bishops should not take a position on healthcare reform legislation in Congress and 68 percent disapprove of US Catholic bishops saying that all Catholics should oppose the entire healthcare reform plan if it includes coverage for abortion.
- **Catholic voters are against refusal clauses for institutions that take taxpayer dollars.** Sixty-five percent said that hospitals and clinics that take taxpayer dollars should not be allowed to refuse certain procedures or medications based on religious beliefs. On AIDS prevention, 60 percent believe that hospitals and clinics that take taxpayer dollars should be required to include condoms as part of AIDS prevention.
- **A large majority of Catholic voters believes that abortion should be legal in at least some cases.** Eighty-five percent of Catholic voters believe abortion should be legal in all (21%), most (27%) or just a few (37%) cases.