

## 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 by telephone September 16-21, 2009. The margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 3.2$  percentage points.*

- **Catholic voters say healthcare is a social justice issue.** 73 percent believe that providing healthcare for people who need it is important because it is a matter of social justice.
- **Lowering healthcare costs is a top priority for Catholic voters.** 78 percent believe improving the economy should be the highest or second highest priority for President Barack Obama, followed closely by lowering healthcare costs (58 percent).
- **Catholic voters are split on President Obama's ideas for healthcare reform.** 52 percent strongly or somewhat agree with President Obama's healthcare plan while 48 percent somewhat or strongly disagree.
- **Catholic voters overwhelmingly support a government plan that would make health insurance available to the uninsured.** More than seven-in-ten somewhat or strongly favor a government plan for the uninsured, while only 27 percent somewhat or strongly oppose such a plan.
- **Catholic voters strongly support health insurance coverage for sexual and reproductive healthcare services.** Nearly all (95%) believe that pre- and postnatal care should be covered by health insurance policies—whether they are government or private—followed closely by 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 vast majority of Catholic voters support health insurance coverage for abortions.** Over two-thirds support health insurance coverage—whether government 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) or when a pregnancy poses long-term health risks for the woman (73 percent), followed closely by when test results show a fetus has a severe abnormal condition (66 percent) or whenever a woman and her doctor decide it is appropriate (50 percent).
- **Catholic voters do not believe that Catholics should oppose healthcare reform if it includes abortion.** 68 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.** 68 percent disapprove of US Catholic bishops saying that all Catholics should oppose the entire healthcare reform plan if it includes coverage for abortion and 56 percent think the bishops should not take a position on healthcare reform legislation in Congress.
- **Catholic voters are against refusal clauses for institutions that take taxpayer dollars.** 65 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 small minority of Catholic voters believes that abortion should never be legal.** Only 14 percent believe the abortion should never be legal, while 85 percent of Catholic voters believe abortion should be legal in all, most or just a few cases.