

# Health Care and 2008 Elections

**Alliance for Health Reform**  
**July 10, 2007**

Drew Altman, Ph.D.

President and Chief Executive Officer

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

**Kaiser Analysis**

Throughout this election season, the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) will provide analysis of health care issues addressed by the presidential candidates.

- ▣ [Employer Health Benefits 2006 Annual Survey](#)
- ▣ [Resources on SCHIP and the Debate on Its Reauthorization](#)
- ▣ [Massachusetts Health Care Reform Plan](#)

**Polling**

The [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) will conduct tracking polls related to the election, including the public's views of health reform and the presidential candidates' positions on health care.

- ▣ [Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008](#)  
 This June tracking poll finds that health care remains the top domestic issue that the public wants presidential candidates to address, trailing only Iraq.
- ▣ [Massachusetts Health Reform Tracking Survey](#)  
 The poll, conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Harvard School of Public Health and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, finds support for the new health insurance law has increased.
- ▣ [Health Security Watch](#)  
 This is a set of tracking questions that together serve as a barometer for monitoring people's level of concern about their ability to access and pay for health care.

For more health policy resources, visit



**News**



- ▣ [Half of Republican Voters Support Some Type of Universal Health Care System, Survey Finds](#)
- ▣ [Democratic Presidential Candidates Discuss Domestic, International HIV/AIDS Issues During Debate](#)
- ▣ [Democratic Presidential Candidates Discuss HIV/AIDS, Katrina Recovery as Part of Debate](#)
- ▣ [Catholic Bishops Should Stop 'Harassing' Giuliani, Other Catholic Politicians, Letter to Editor Says](#)
- ▣ [New York Times Publishes Letters to the Editor Responding to Opinion Piece on Abortion-Rights Politics](#)

[View more headlines >](#)

**The Candidates**

Republican  Democrat



**Upcoming Events**

- ▣ [July 10, Washington, DC: Health Care and the '08 Election: A Preview](#)
- ▣ [July 12, Detroit: NAACP's 98th Annual Convention Featuring Presidential Candidates](#)
- ▣ [July 23, Charleston, SC: YouTube/Google and CNN Democratic Presidential Debate](#)
- ▣ [August 5, Des Moines, IA: ABC Republican Presidential Debate](#)



**Videos/Podcasts**



**Barack Obama Discusses Health Care Reform Plan**



[View this video](#)

**More Videos/Podcasts...**

- ▣ [All-American Presidential Forum with Democratic Presidential Candidates](#)
- ▣ [CNN 2008 Republican Debate Excerpts](#)
- ▣ [National Coalition on Health Care Meeting Featuring Former Gov. Thompson](#)

For more news and video coverage of health policy, visit [kaisernetwork.org](http://kaisernetwork.org)

**Additional Resources**

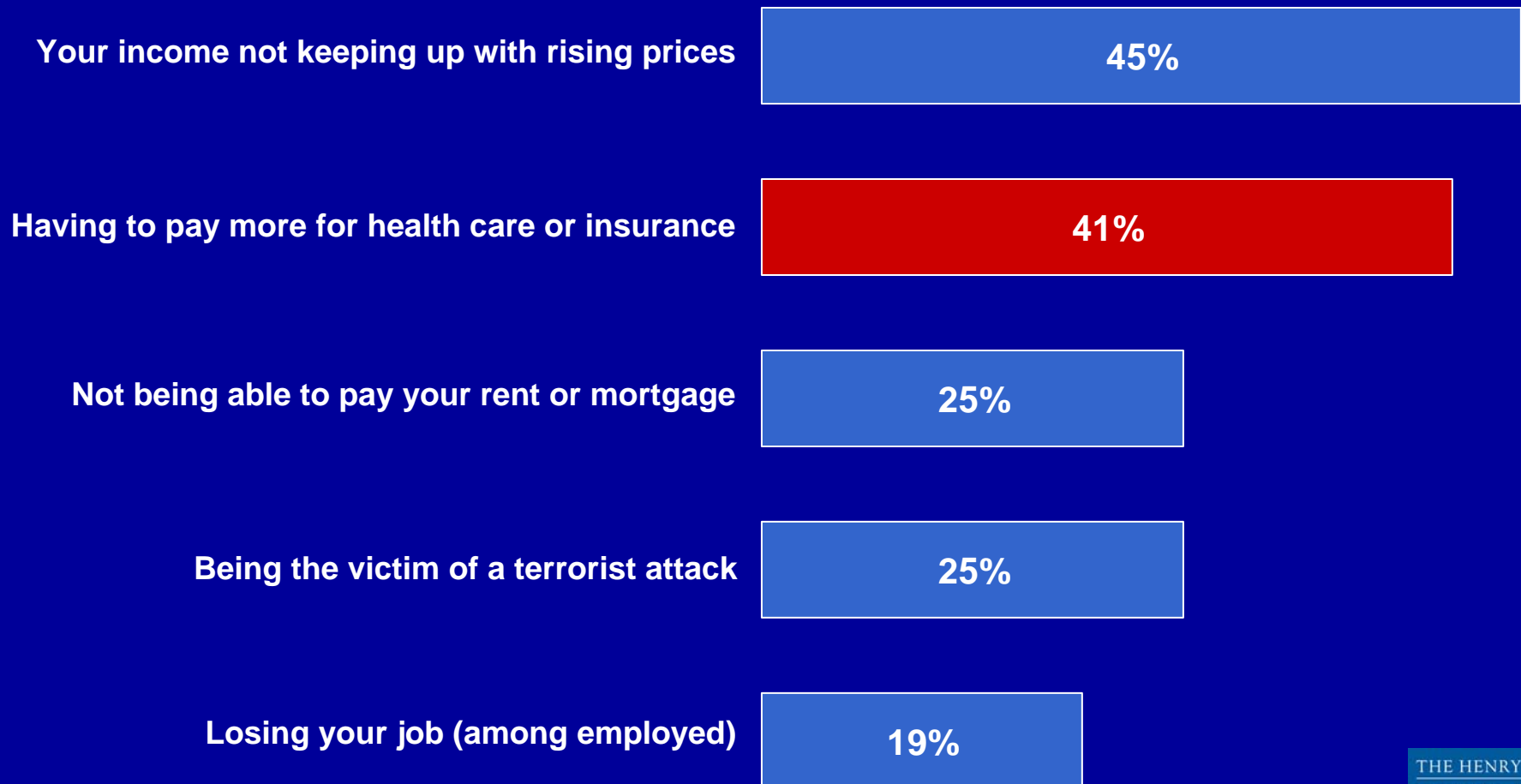
health08.org will provide links to other organizations following health care during the election season.

- ▣ [Opportunity '08](#)  
 Opportunity '08 aims to help presidential candidates and the public focus on critical issues facing the nation.
- ▣ [ONE Vote '08](#)  
 ONE Vote '08 is a bi-partisan campaign to make global health and extreme poverty foreign policy priorities in the 2008 presidential election.
- ▣ [Concord Coalition Fiscal Wake Up Tour](#)  
 The Concord Coalition is organizing a series of public forums around the country designed to focus attention on our nation's long-term fiscal challenge.

[More >](#)

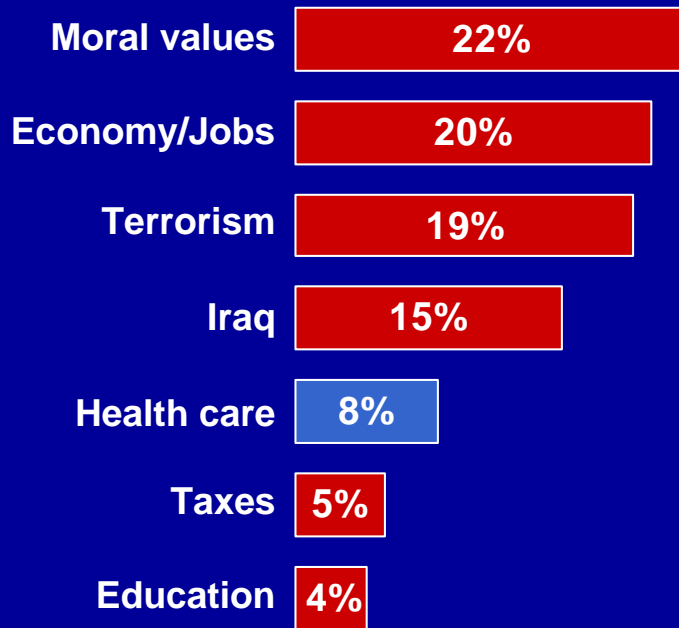
# Health Care Worries in Context with Other Worries

Percent saying they are “very worried” about each of the following...

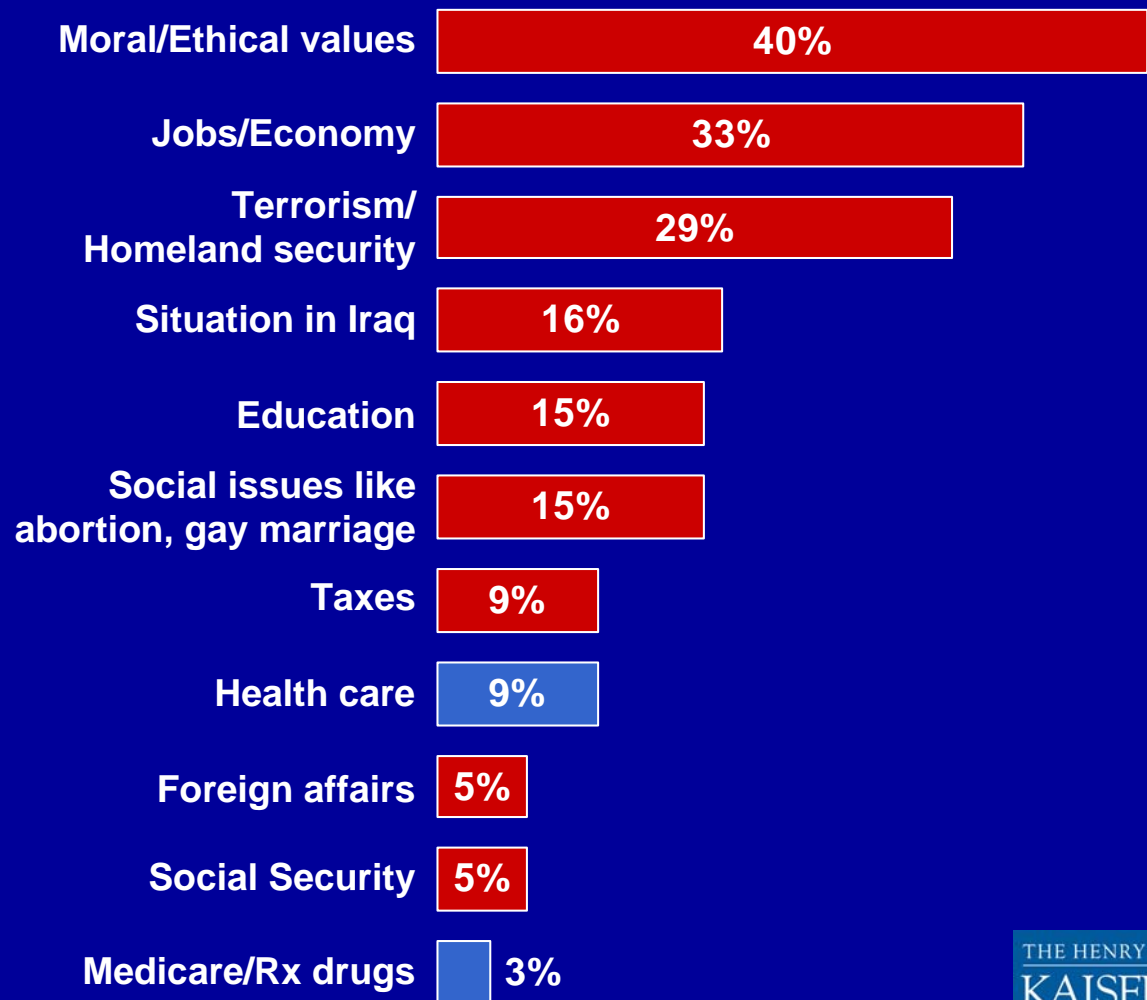


# Most Important Issue to Vote: 2004 Exit Polls

## National Election Pool



## LA Times (up to 2 responses)



# List of Issues on November 2006 Exit Polls

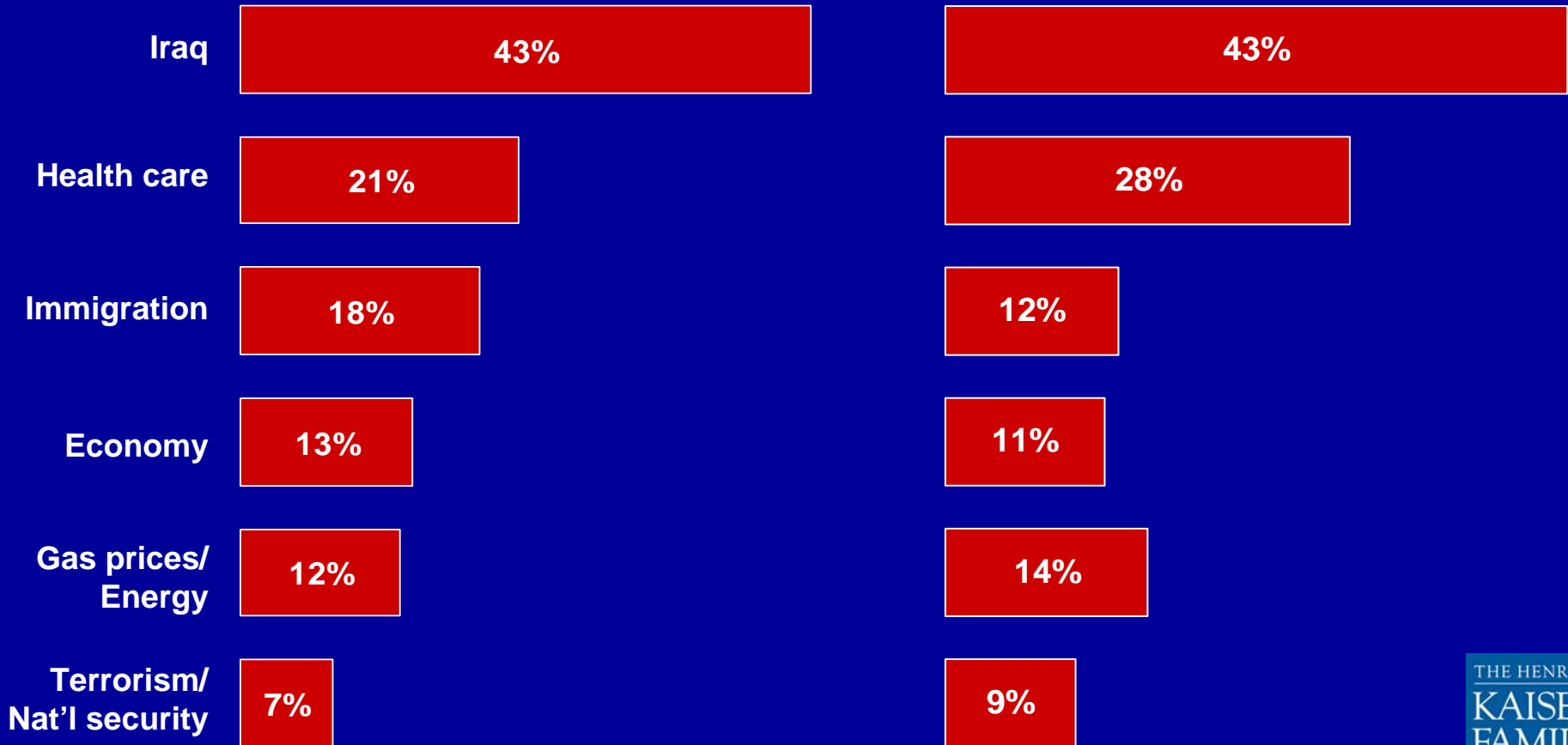
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- Iraq
- Terrorism
- Economy
- Immigration reform
- Traditional values
- Corruption/Ethics
- Saddam Hussein verdict

# Priorities for the Government and Presidential Candidates Today

Thinking about the campaign for the presidential election in 2008, what two issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? (open-ended)

What do you think is the most important problem for the government to address? Is there another problem you think is almost as important? (open-ended)



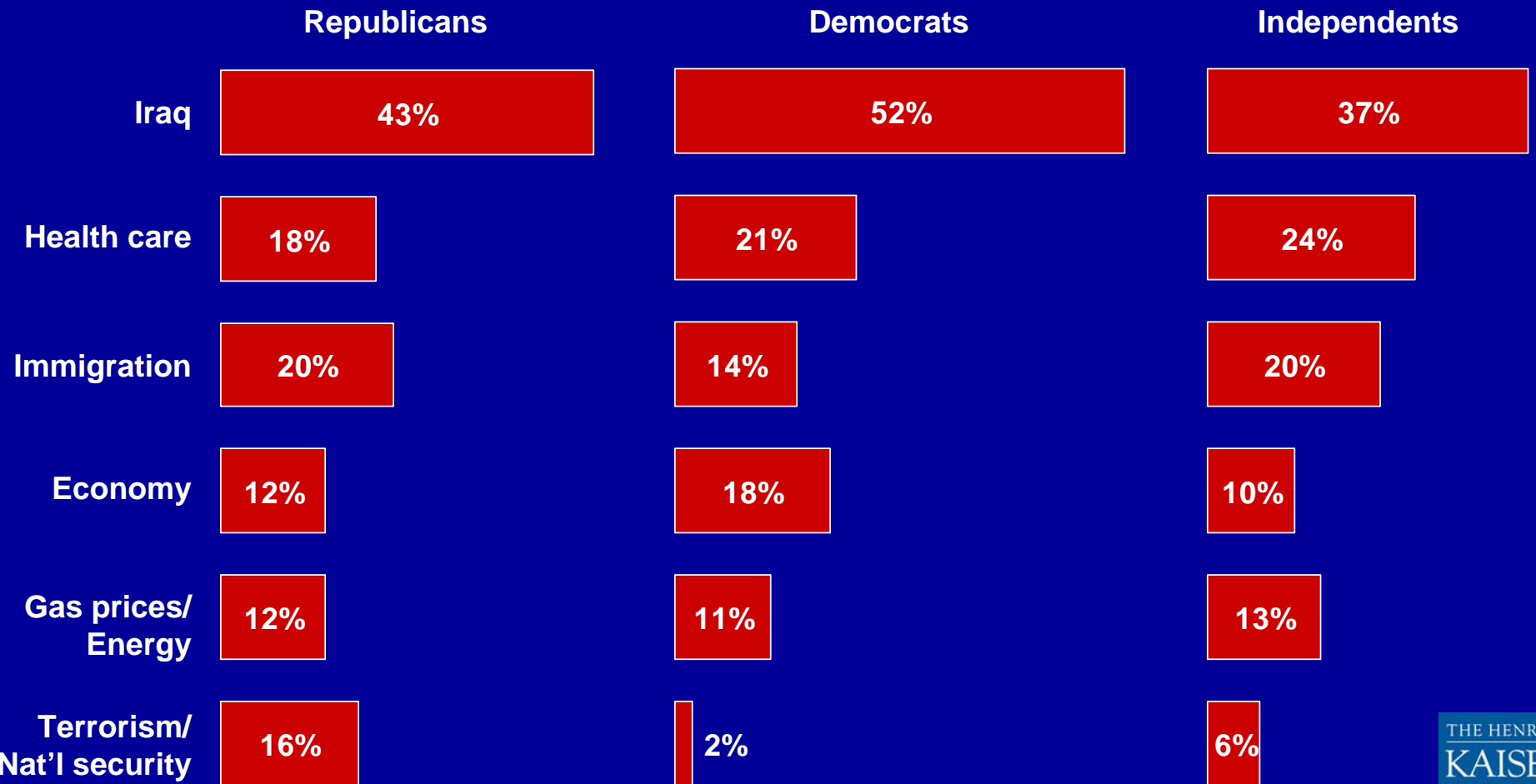
# Ranking of Health Care as an Issue in National Polls April through June 2007

Dates	6/8-11	5/31-6/5	5/18-23	4/26-29	4/23-26	4/20-23	4/20-23	4/13-15	4/9-12	3/29-4/1
Org.	NBC/ WSJ	KFF	CBS/ NYT	NPR	Gallup	Harris	NBC/ WSJ	Gallup/ USA Today	CBS News	Diageo/ Hotline
#1 Issue	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq
Health care rank	2	2	5	2	2	2	2	3	3	2

Note: includes open-ended and list-style questions about priorities for government to address, issues for candidates to discuss, most important problem facing the nation, and most important issue to your vote

# Priorities for the Presidential Candidates – by Party

Thinking about the campaign for the presidential election in 2008, what two issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? (open-ended)





# Factors Moving Health up the National Agenda

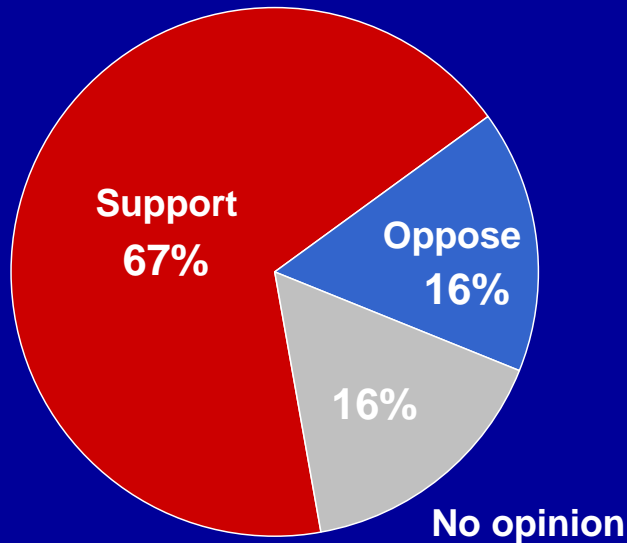
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- The pacesetter states (esp. MA and CA)
- Strange bedfellows with serious proposals
- President Bush's State of the Union proposal
- Health care issues in the Congress
- Presidential candidates talking about health

# Kaiser Poll of Massachusetts Residents – June 2007

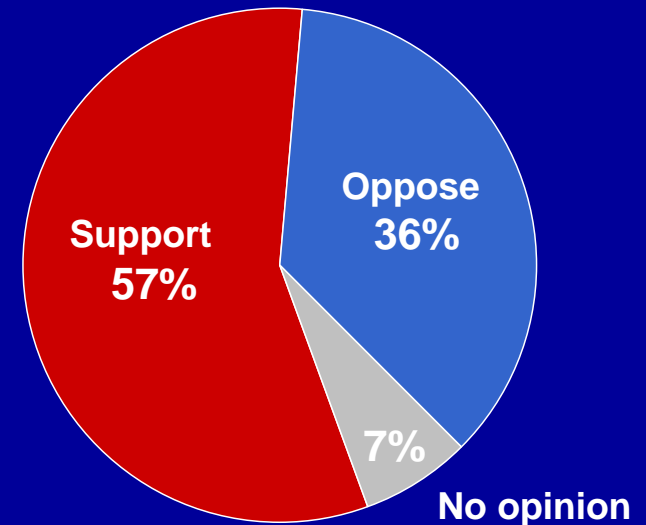
## SUPPORT FOR THE NEW LAW

(among those who have heard about the law)



## SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL MANDATE

(among total)



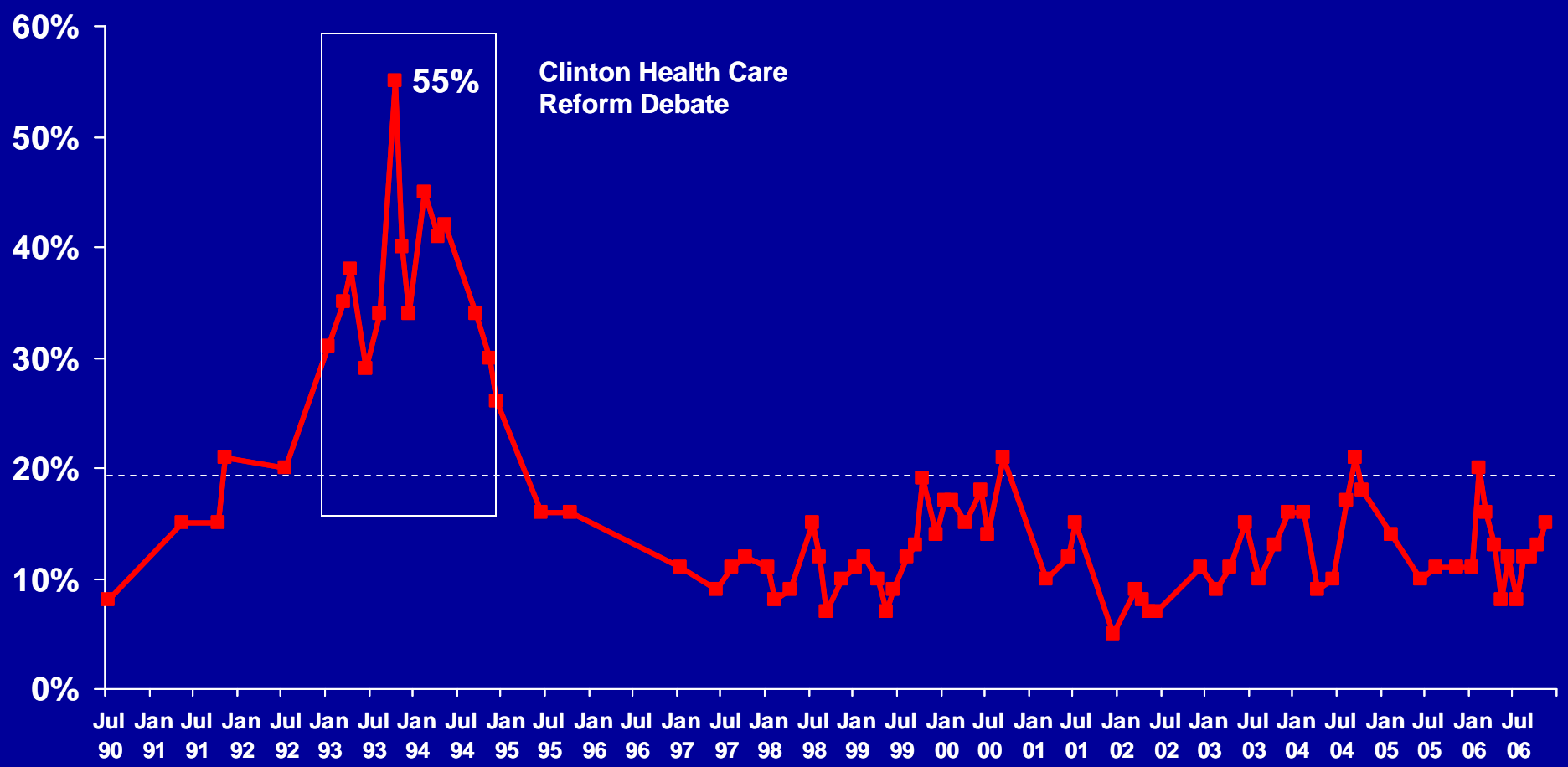
# To Have a Chance in 2009...

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- Reform efforts in key states cannot fail
- Businesses must be for real this time
- There must be a big debate about health in the presidential campaign: a mandate for reform
- A compromise on a centrist plan

# What to Look For: Take One

Percent naming health care one of two most important issues for government to address

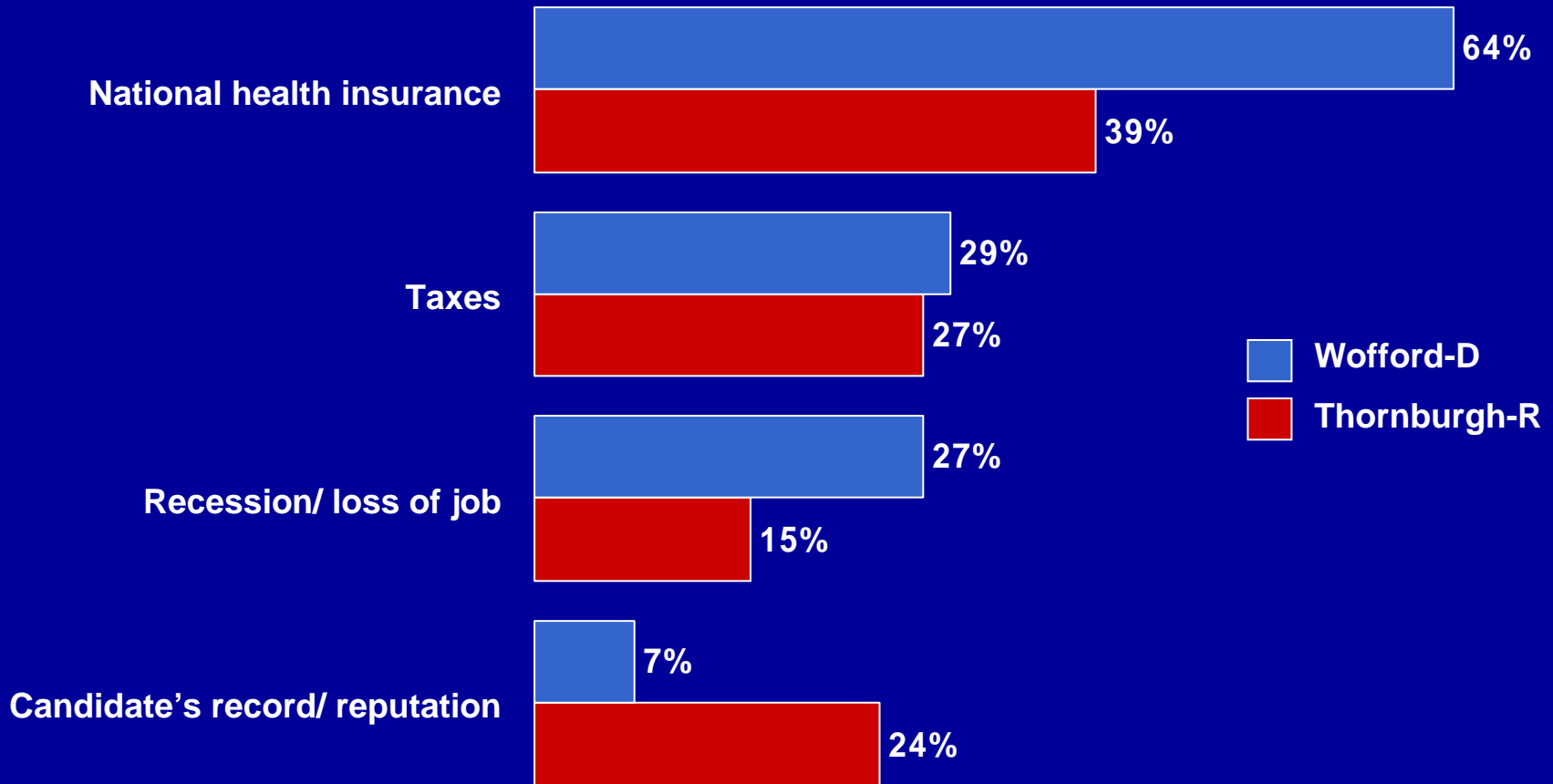


Note: "Don't know" responses were included in the base when percentages were calculated.

Source: NBC/Wall Street Journal; Harris Polls

# What to Look For: Take Two

Issues that Mattered Most to Voters in the 1991 Pennsylvania Senate Race



Note: Top four answers listed; total exceeds 100% because more than one answer was given.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard Pennsylvania Senate Race, November 5-6, 1991