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## **The Catholic Democrats, a National Advocacy Association, Releases Data Analyses on Catholic Vote**

***Catholics voting in greater numbers than the overall population and voting more heavily Democratic than other voters***

***Experts available for comment on the Catholic vote, Papal visit, and on faith and politics***

**Boston, MA** - The Catholic Democrats, a national advocacy association, released today analyses of the Catholic vote in 21 presidential primaries for which exit poll data is available. An analysis of the Catholic vote by state, compared to the overall population, indicates that Catholics are voting in greater numbers than the overall population of these states.

Additionally, Catholics are voting more heavily in the Democratic primaries than non-Catholic voters.

### **KEY NUMBERS**

#### **20 of 21**

The number of states that Catholics have turned out to vote in higher percentages than the general population.

#### **68:32**

Catholics are voting Democratic by more than a 2 to 1 margin, 68% to 32%.

[Click here for data.](#)

Historically, the Catholic vote has been critical, if not decisive, in determining the outcome of presidential elections. While there are many segments of the Catholic vote, the data suggests that Catholic voters have a changing world view in the public square.

"The Democratic Party has made extraordinary strides in reaching out to Catholics and other people of faith since the last presidential election, both within the party and on a grass roots level," said Dr Patrick Whelan, president of the *Catholic Democrats*. "Both of the Democratic presidential candidates are speaking comfortably about their faith. The biggest untold religious story of this election season has been a

significantly more authentic public portrayal of what Judeo-Christian faith is all about seeking a fuller realization of the common good, rather than the conservative vision of recent years focused on punishing people who differ from us. This is something Catholics recognize at the heart of our own tradition."

"Catholic swing voters didn't get what they thought they were voting for in 2004, with many feeling burned by a litany of damaging policies of the Bush administration that have assaulted the values of our faith," said Steve Krueger, a spokesperson for Catholic Democrats. "The voting patterns to date show that the Democratic candidates will be in a good position to appeal to those Catholics who voted Republican in the last two presidential elections." *Catholic Democrats* does not endorse either candidate in the primary process.

Catholic Democrats has a number of experts for comment on the data released today, the political implications of the Papal visit, and on faith and politics.

**Kathleen Kennedy Townsend** - Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University

**Lisa Sowle Cahill** - J. Donald Monan SJ Professor, Boston College

**William D'Antonio**, - Professor *Emeritus*, University of Connecticut, and Fellow, Life Cycle Institute, Catholic University of America

**David O'Brien** - Loyola Professor of Roman Catholic Studies, *Emeritus*, College of the Holy Cross, Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture

**Bill Roth** - National Communications Director, President, *Catholic Democrats of California*

**Steven A. Krueger** - Leadership Team, Press Secretary, *Catholic Democrats*

**Dr. Patrick Whelan** - President, *Catholic Democrats*

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#### **About Catholic Democrats**

Catholic Democrats is an association of state based groups offering a Catholic voice within the Democratic Party, and standing up for Catholic office holders who are attacked because of their faith. The Catholic Democrats are advancing the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching in the public square for the common good. For more information about Catholic Democrats please go to [www.catholicdemocrats.org](http://www.catholicdemocrats.org).

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