

What Ohioans Think About Important Issues for the 2008 Presidential Election



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



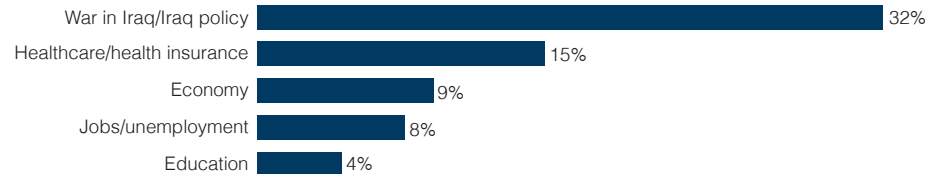
According to the June 2007 *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008*, the two top issues Americans want to hear the 2008 presidential candidates talk about are Iraq and healthcare, followed by immigration, the economy, and gas prices/energy.

The *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohioans what would be the most important issue in deciding their vote for President, if the election were held today. The war in Iraq was overwhelmingly the most important issue (32%), followed by healthcare (15%), the economy (9%), jobs (8%), and education (4%).

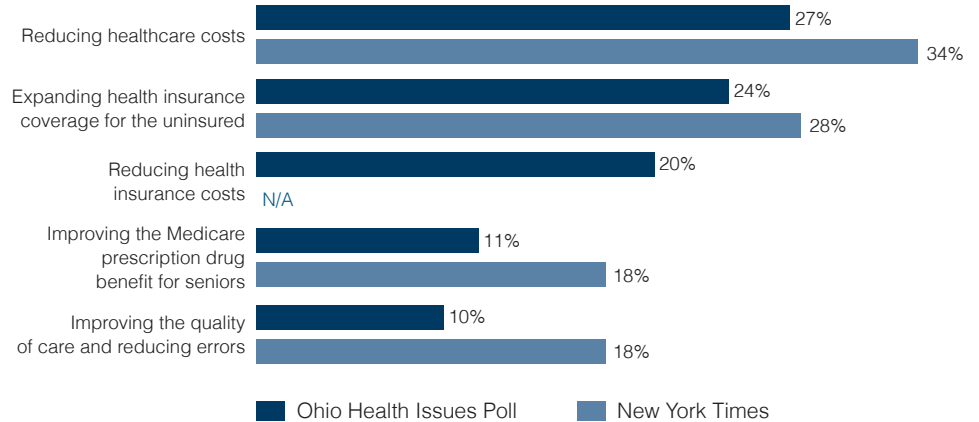
Focusing specifically on healthcare, the *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohioans which healthcare issue they would most like to hear the presidential candidates discuss over the next two years. Ohioans chose reducing health care costs (27%) and expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured (24%) as their top two healthcare issues.

These were similar to a national *New York Times* poll from March 1, 2007, which asked Americans which healthcare issues they would most like to hear the 2008 presidential candidates talk about over the next two years (see graph above and to the right).

Suppose the 2008 election for President was held today. If the presidential election were held today, what do you think would be the MOST important issue in deciding your vote for President? (Only the top five responses are shown here.)



Which one of the following healthcare issues would you MOST like to hear the 2008 presidential candidates talk about over the next two years and focus on in any health reform plan they may develop? (Only the top five responses from the *Ohio Health Issues Poll* are shown here.)



Ohioans who chose reducing healthcare costs as the healthcare issue they would most like to hear candidates discuss were:

- College graduates (36%)
- Ohioans living above 200% FPG¹ (31%)
- Men (30%)
- Ohioans ages 45–64 (30%)
- Republicans (30%)

¹ For 2006, 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) was an annual income of \$40,000 for a family of 4.

Ohioans who chose expanding coverage for the uninsured as the healthcare issue they would most like to hear candidates discuss were:

- The uninsured (35%)
- African-Americans (34%)
- Democrats (31%)
- Ohioans living below 100% FPG² (30%)

² In 2006, 100% FPG was an annual income of \$20,000 for a family of 4.