



What Ohioans Think About Issues that Will Decide their Vote for President



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



The 2007 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* found that the war in Iraq (32%) was the most important issue in Ohioans' votes for President if the election were held then. The second most important issue overall and the top domestic issue was healthcare (15%), followed by the economy (9%) and jobs (8%).

About 18 months later—and only weeks before the election—Ohioans have very different thoughts on what is important for their vote. According to the Fall 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*, Ohioans' top issues are:

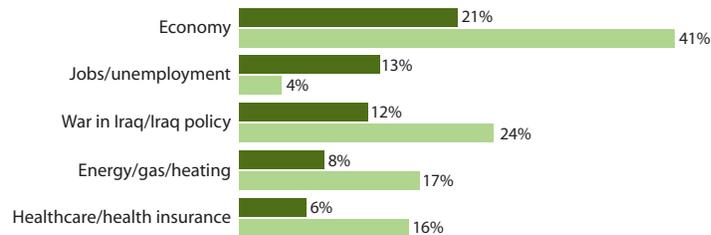
- the economy (21%)
- jobs/unemployment (13%)
- the war in Iraq (12%)
- energy, gas, and heating (8%)
- healthcare and health insurance (6%)

Ohioans' top five differ slightly from the nation's top five. The August 2008 *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008*¹ found that the most important issues were:

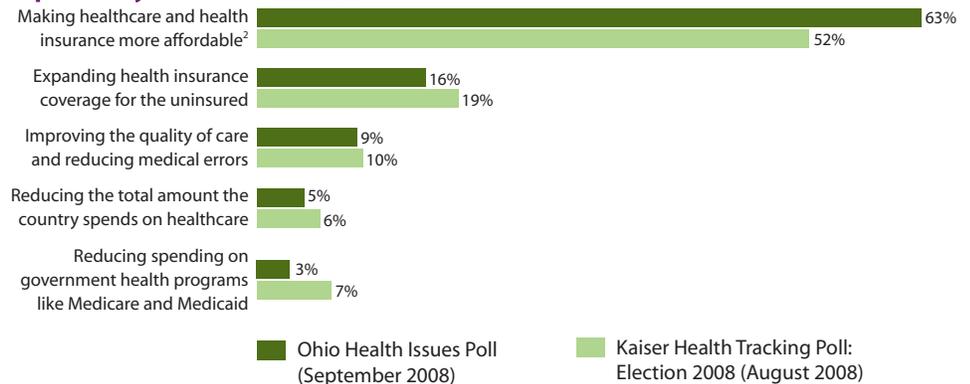
- the economy (41%)
- the war in Iraq (24%)
- energy and gas issues (17%)
- health care and health insurance (16%)
- personal characteristics of the candidates (6%), tied

¹ Data from the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll can be found at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/elections2008.cfm>

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 from the Ohio Health Issues Poll are shown here.)¹



Now thinking specifically about healthcare, which one of the following health care issues is MOST important in your vote for President?



¹ The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll allowed respondents to choose more than one issue, while the Ohio Health Issues Poll only allowed respondents to choose one issue. Therefore, the percentages from the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll do not add to 100%.

² The Ohio Health Issues Poll had "making healthcare more affordable" and "making health insurance more affordable" as two separate choices, while the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008 had them as one choice. We combined Ohio responses here for the sake of comparison to the national data. As separate items, "making healthcare more affordable" was chosen by 37% of Ohioans, and "making health insurance more affordable" was chosen by 26% of Ohioans.

with terrorism and national security (6%)²

When looking specifically at healthcare issues, there were

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minor differences between Ohioans' and national opinions. By a wide margin, the most important healthcare issue in the vote for President among Ohioans and people across the country is making healthcare and health insurance more affordable.