POLITICS

December 10, 2007

Iraq, Economy, Healthcare, Immigration Top Vote Issues

Fewer Americans mention Iraq now than earlier this year

by Joseph Carroll   l f t

PRINCETON, NJ -- When asked which issues will be most important in determining their vote for president in next year's election, Americans by a wide margin say the war in Iraq, with more than one in three mentioning the war. Other key issues include the economy, healthcare, and illegal immigration. Iraq has diminished somewhat as the top issue over the course of the year, while there has been a slight increase in the reported importance of immigration. The poll finds slight variations by partisanship and region in regard to which issues will be most important in influencing votes.

The Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2007, poll asked Americans to name, in their own words, what will be the most important issues they will take into account when deciding whom to vote for in next year's presidential election. Thirty-six percent of Americans say Iraq, with the economy (16%), healthcare (15%), and illegal immigration (10%) mentioned next most often. Between 3% and 6% of Americans mention homeland security or military defense, taxes, the honesty and integrity of the candidate, abortion, domestic issues, Social Security reform, and international affairs.

The full results to the question are in the accompanying graph.

Looking ahead to next year's presidential election, what will be the most important issues that you will take into account when deciding whom to vote for? (OPEN-ENDED)

2007