

# The Real Health Reform Debate We Need to Have



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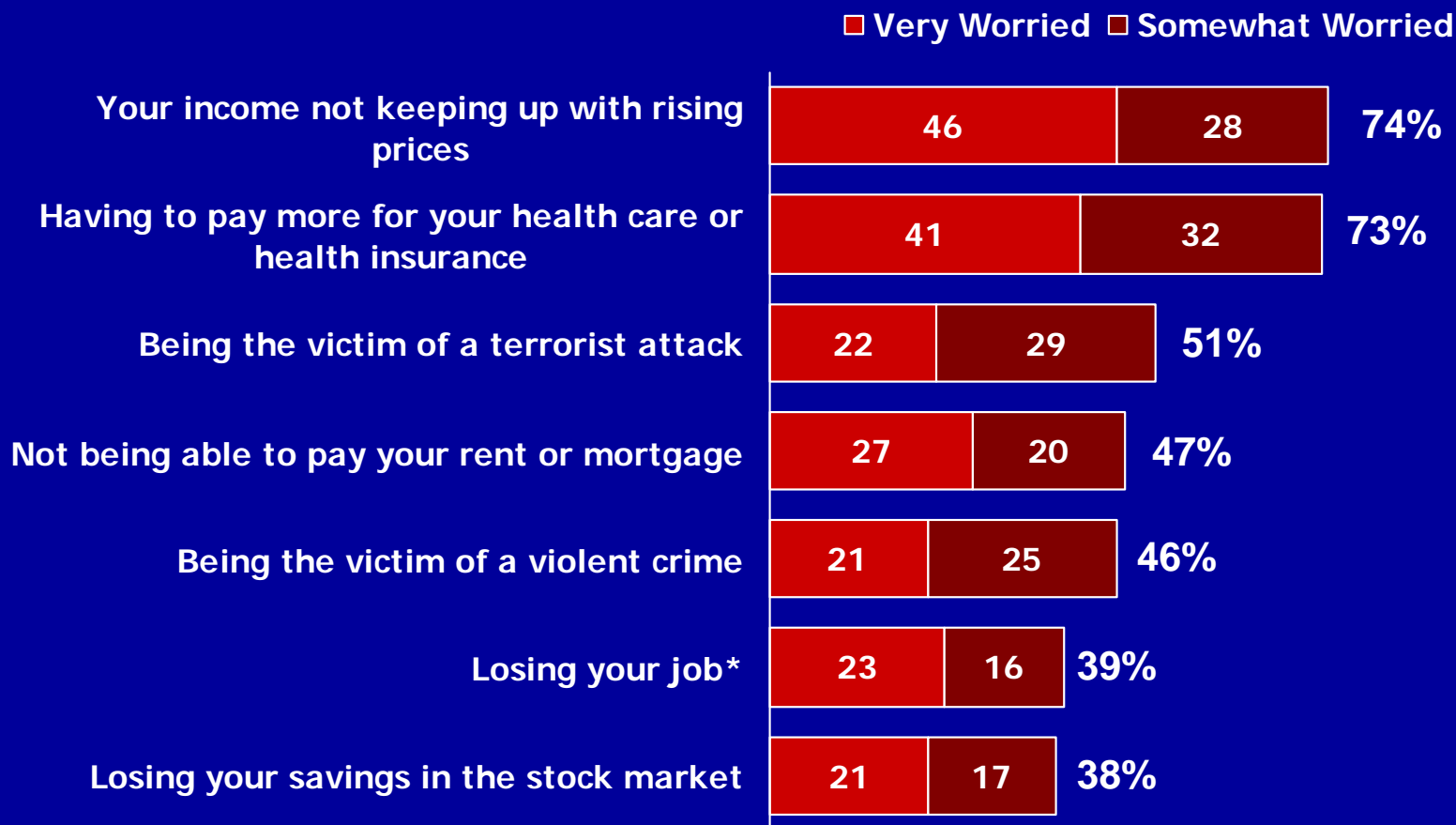
# My Big Questions After Primaries are Over

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- Will we have a big debate about health in the general election?
- Will health matter in the exit polls in 2008?
- Will the newly elected president make health a real priority or not?
- Will there be an appetite for compromise on health in the new Congress... a centrist deal?

Figure 2

# Health Care Costs and Insurance Premiums at Top of List of Worries for Americans

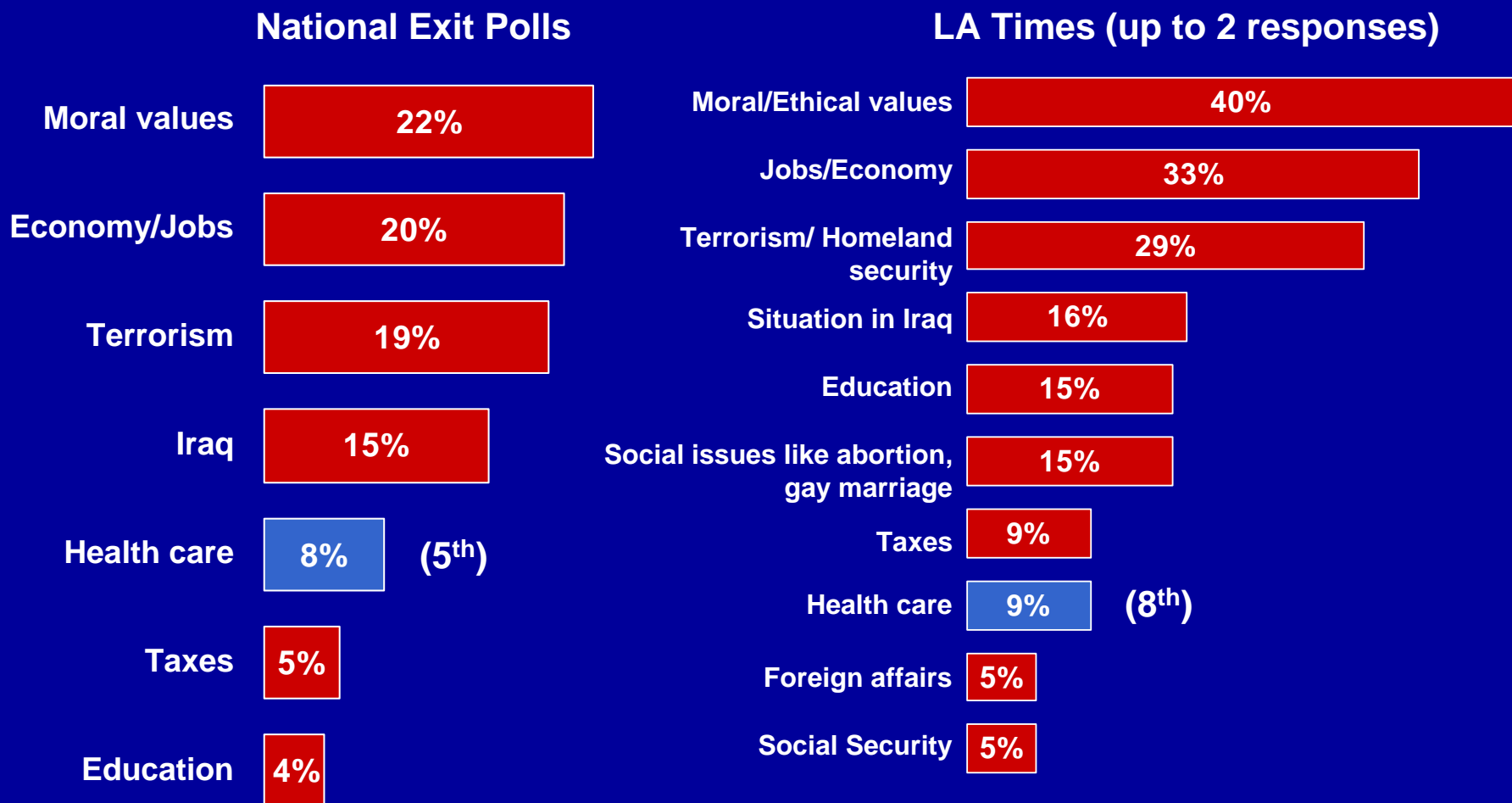


\* Based on those who are employed.

Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008, December 2007.

Figure 3

# Most Important Issue to Vote: National Exit Polls in 2004



Source: 2004 Presidential exit polls by Edison/Mitofsky for the National Election Poll and The Los Angeles Times

# List of Issues on November 2006 Exit Polls, What's Missing?

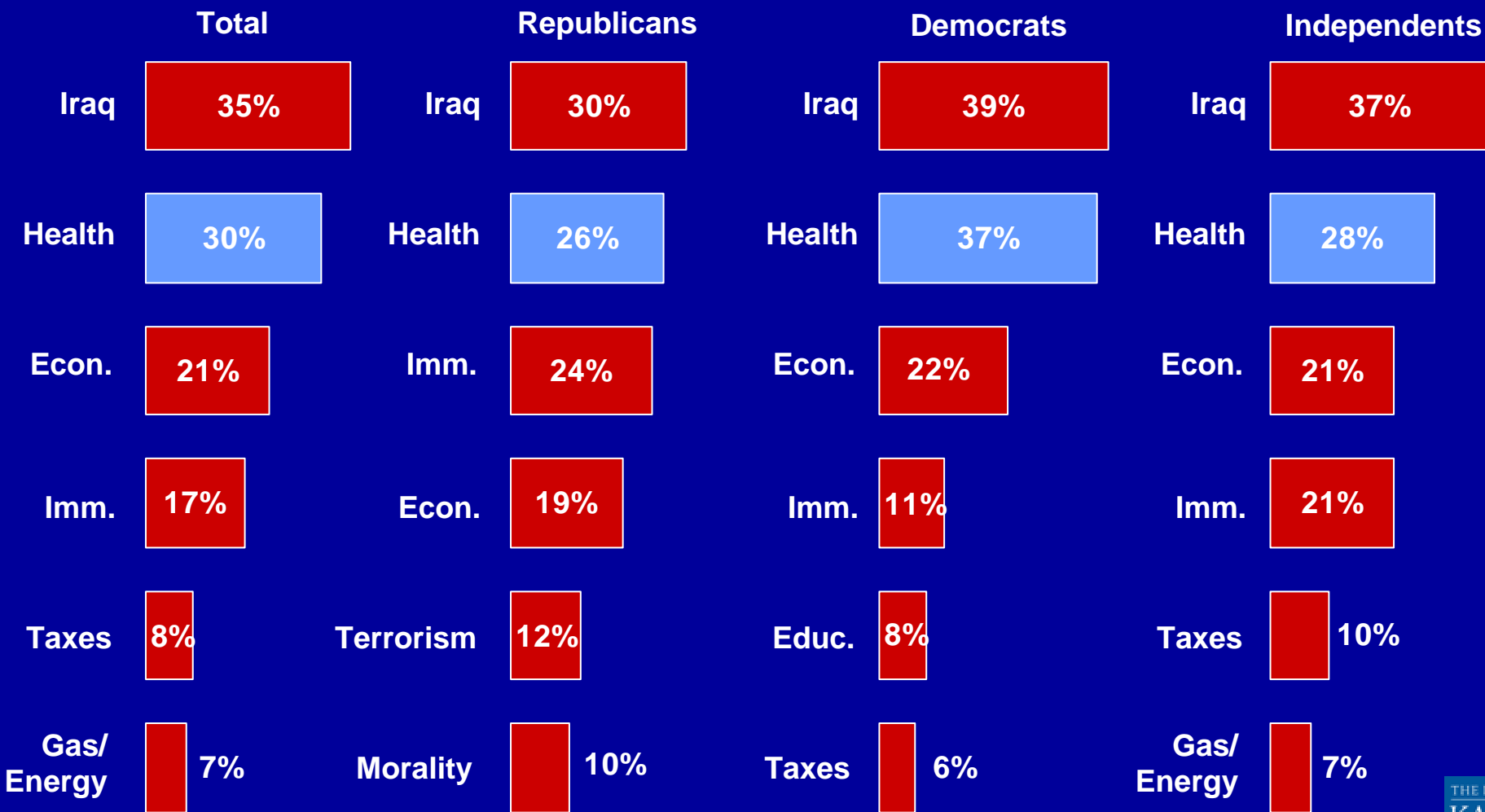
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- Iraq
- Terrorism
- Economy
- Immigration reform
- Traditional values
- Corruption/Ethics
- Saddam Hussein verdict

Figure 5

# Interest in Health Care by Party Identification

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)

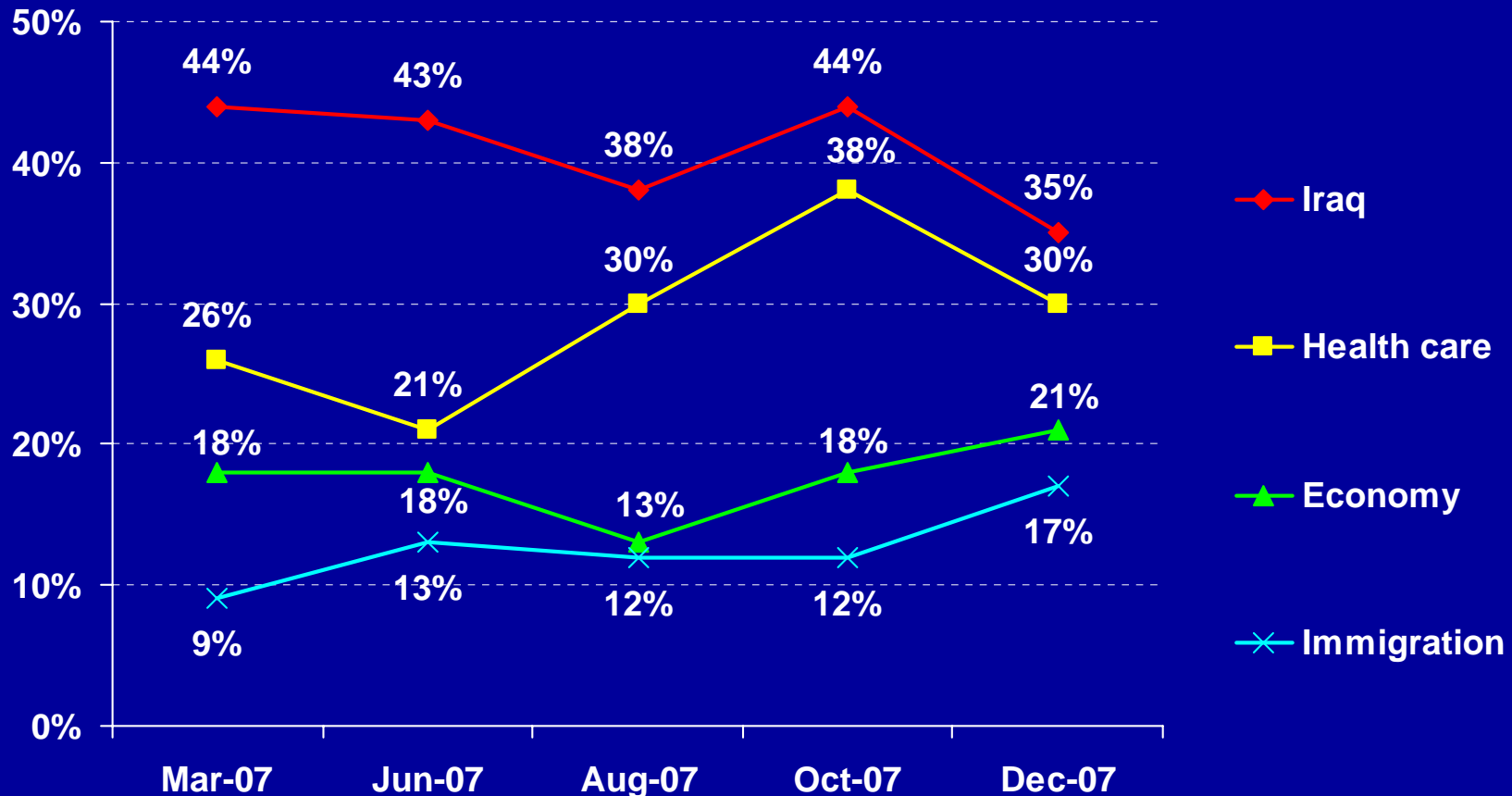


Note: Adds up to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008 (conducted November 28 - December 9, 2007)

# Trend: Iraq and Health Care Top the Interest List, with the Economy Rising

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, top 4 responses shown)



# New Hampshire Exit Poll

## January 8, 2008

Which ONE of these (three/four) issues is the most important facing the country?" (Check only one)

### Republican Primary Voters

Economy

31%

War in Iraq

24%

Illegal  
immigration

23%

Terrorism

18%

### Democratic Primary Voters

Economy

38%

War in Iraq

31%

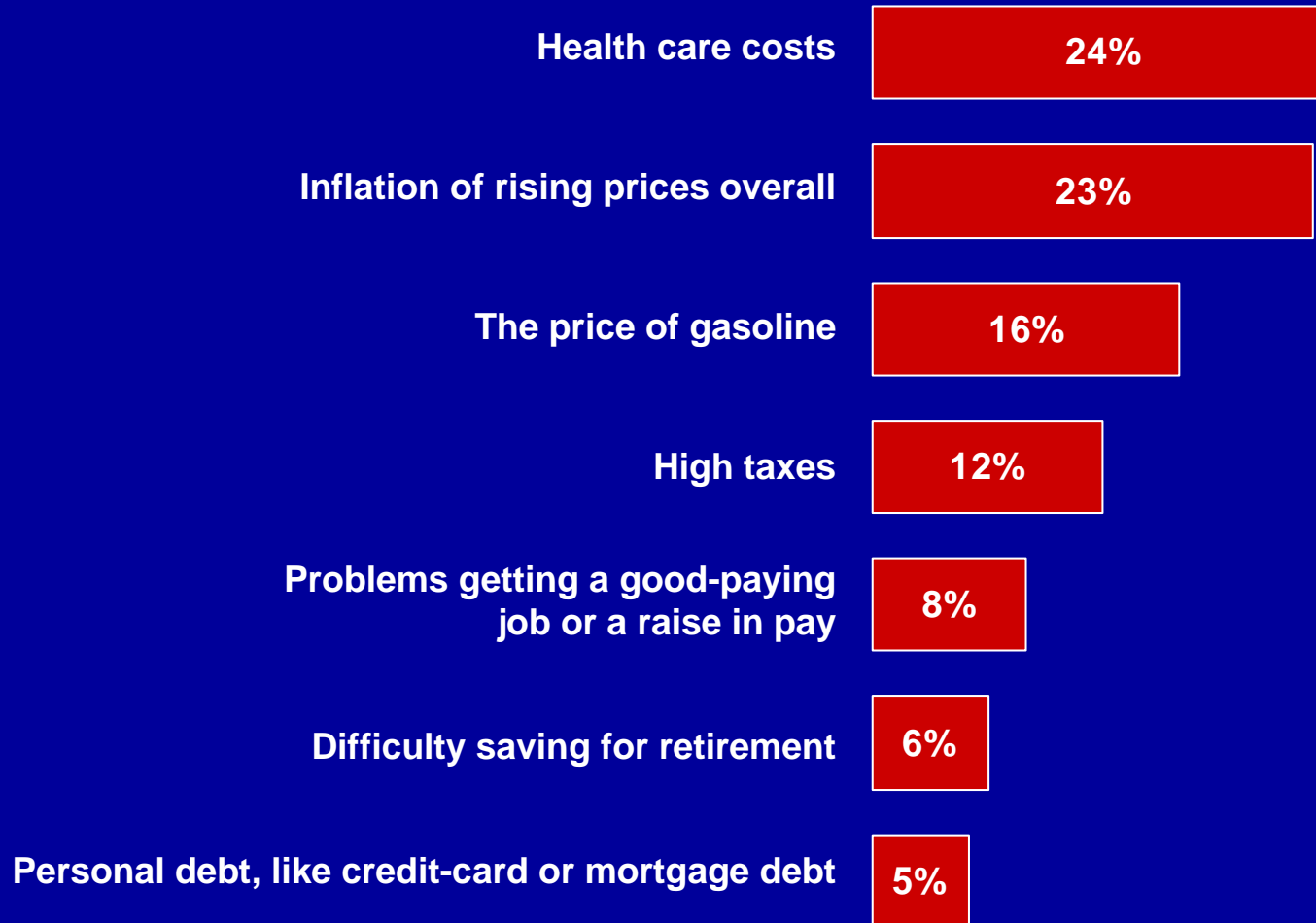
Health care

27%



# Reported Economic Issues Facing Families

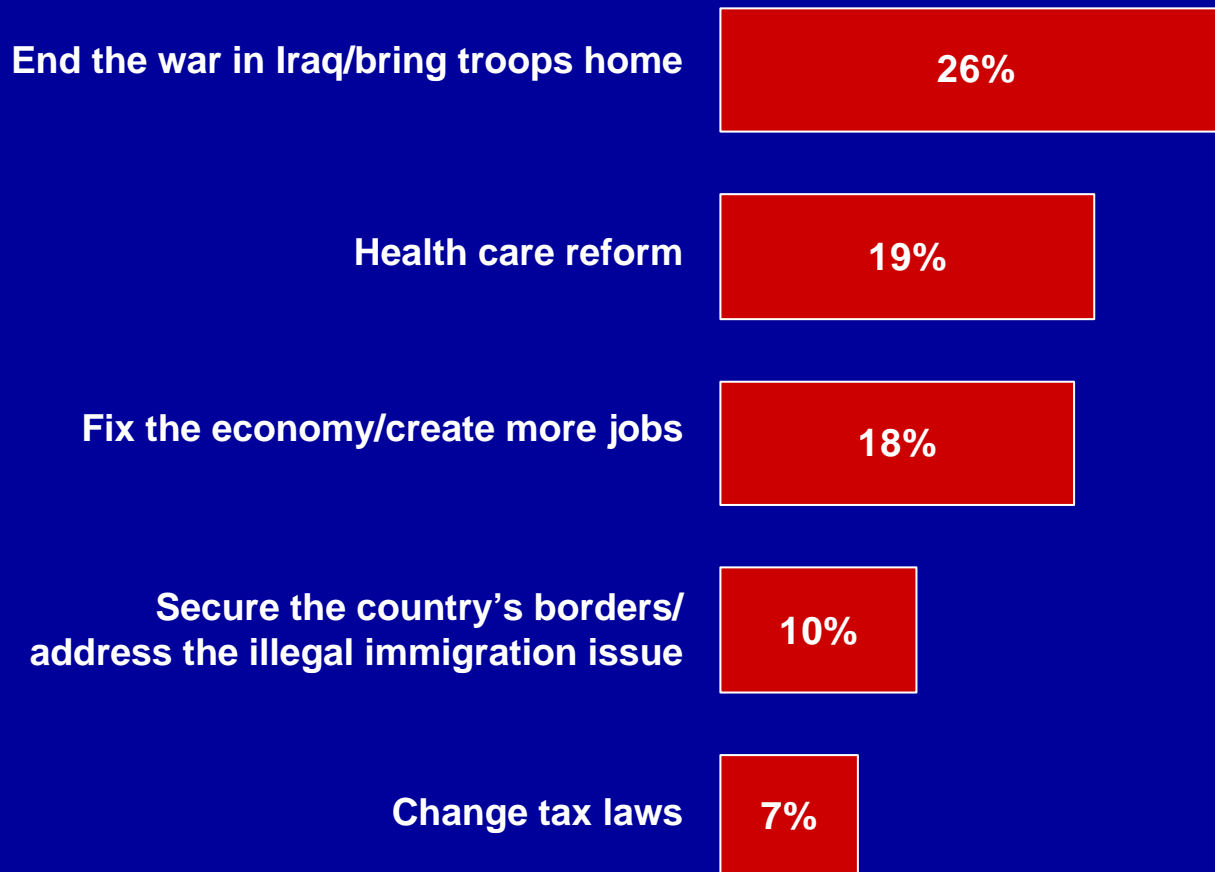
Which of these is the single most important economic issue facing you and your family?



Note: "Something else", "All of them", "None", and "No opinion" responses not shown.  
Source: ABC News/Washington Post, January 9-12, 2008

# Desire for “Change”

As you may know, a common theme in this year’s presidential election has been a desire for change in this country. What type of change would you, personally, most like to see the next president bring about? (OPEN-ENDED; top five responses shown)



# Translation of Senator Thompson's Remarks

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“I think that the markets have worked so often for us in so many different ways in this society. Free people competing with each other in free and open markets bring down costs. That's the way to get there.”