**The “Catholic Vote” in the United States**

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This presentation describes and analyzes the critical Catholic vote in the United States. Although it challenges the assumption that there is any such thing as a distinctive "Catholic vote", it showcases how Catholic voting has transitioned from being highly unified to becoming the "swing vote" constituency in national elections. Catholics used to be part of the old New Deal coalition that anchored the Democratic Party from the 1930s-1970s. They were largely the immigrant underclass that supported the pro-labor and economic policies of the Party. As social/moral issues came to the fore in the 1970s, and as second and third generation Catholics achieve higher education and economic success, the catholic vote began transitioning away from solid Democratic to eventually becoming a swing vote. The analysis examines how this change has deeply changed the U.S. political landscape and also poses a close look at the political alliance that emerged between socially conservative Catholics and evangelicals. The presentation concludes with some speculation about the Catholic vote in 2016.