

Kennedy Would Have Done Better

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In the aftermath of President Nixon's landslide victory Tuesday, the important political question arises — to what extent was the outcome a rejection of Senator George McGovern rather than his party — could another Democrat have given Mr. Nixon a closer race?

Gallup survey evidence indicates that one prominent Democrat — Senator Ed-

ward Kennedy — could have run a much stronger race than his McGovern. Trial heats conducted in October in the semi-final Gallup survey showed Mr. Nixon leading McGovern 59 to 36 per cent but leading Kennedy by a considerably smaller margin, 52 to 43 per cent.

One could speculate, of course, that the race would have been still closer if Kennedy had actively campaigned as his party's nominee this year. Kennedy has disavowed any interest in seeking the nomination for

1976, yet political observers have speculated that Kennedy, in campaigning hard for McGovern this year, also had his eye on the White House in 1976.

REJECTION

Tuesday's results reflected to a considerable extent a rejection of the Democratic nominee rather than an indication of any GOP tide. Mr. Nixon's tremendous victory at the polls did not translate into major gains for the GOP in terms of Senate and House seats.

A comparison of the Nixon-McGovern trial heat with the Nixon-Kennedy results in the same survey and with the same sample of voters brought to light Kennedy's greater strength among these groups:

Whereas Mr. Nixon won the youth vote (under 30) in a test race against McGovern, Kennedy held a commanding lead with young voters, 55 to 41 per cent.

Among blue collar workers (the largest voting block and a major source of McGovern's difficulties), McGovern trailed Mr. Nixon in the mid-October survey by a margin of 44 to 49 per cent, but Kennedy held a wide 52 to 41 per cent lead.

Kennedy's pronounced popularity among fellow Catholics is apparent in the findings which showed him leading Mr. Nixon 53 to 43 per cent, whereas McGovern trailed Mr. Nixon among persons of this faith, 37 to 59 per cent.

COMPARISON

The following table shows the full comparison of the Nixon-McGovern and the Nixon-Kennedy trial heats:

Nixon vs. Kennedy

	Nixon Kennedy		Other
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	52	43	5
East	47	48	5
Midwest	50	44	6
South	58	39	3
West	54	41	5
Under 30	41	55	4
30-49 years	52	42	6
50 & over	58	38	4
Republicans	59	8	3
Democrats	24	72	4
Independents	50	43	7
Protestant	58	38	4
Roman Catholic	43	53	4
Prof. & Business	64	33	3
Clerical & Sales	52	43	5
Manual	41	53	6

Nixon vs. McGovern

	Nixon McGov.		Other
	%	%	%
NATIONAL	59	36	5
East	57	38	5
Midwest	57	40	3
South	68	29	5
West	55	35	10
Under 30	55	43	2
30-49 years	57	35	8
50 & over	63	33	4
Republicans	93	7	*
Democrats	33	61	6
Independents	59	33	8
Protestant	63	33	4
Roman Catholic	59	37	4
Prof. & Business	68	29	3
Clerical & Sales	66	32	2
Manual	49	44	7

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