

Poll Shows He's Still in the Lead

Ted Kennedy's Chances in

By George Gallup
Princeton, N.J.

Despite his "noncandidate" status at this time, Senator Edward Kennedy leads a field of prospective candidates for the 1976 Democratic nomination by a wide margin.

The Massachusetts senator is preferred by 44 per cent of rank-and-file Democrats questioned in the most recent Gallup poll. This is more than twice the support given the man named next most often, Governor George Wallace of Alabama, who wins 17 per cent of the vote.

Senator Henry Jackson of Washington is third with eight per cent followed by Senators Edmund Muskie and George McGovern of Maine and South Dakota, respectively, both with seven

per cent. No other man on the list of 11 potential candidates receives more than four per cent of the vote.

This was the question asked:

"Here is a list of people who have been mentioned as possible presidential candidates for the Democratic party in 1976. Which one would you like to see nominated as the Democratic candidate for President in 1976?"

And here are the current first choices of Democrats for the 1976 nomination compared with a similar poll last November:

	Today	Nov. 1973
Sen. Edward Kennedy (Mass.)	44%	41%
Gov. George Wallace (Ala.)	17	15
Sen. Henry Jackson (Wash.)	8	6
Sen. Edmund Muskie (Me.)	7	9
Sen. George McGovern (S.D.)	7	6

Sen. Adlai Stevenson (Ill.)	4	4
Sen. Birch Bayh (Ind.)	2	3
Sen. Walter Mondale (Minn.)	2	2
Sen. William Proxmire (Wis.)	1	2
Sen. John Tunney (Cal.)	1	1
Sen. Robert Byrd (W.Va.)	1	1
Undecided	6	10

When results of the survey are analyzed in terms of Southern and non-Southern selections, Kennedy is just as popular among the somewhat more conservative Democrats in the South as he is among party members in the rest of the country.

But Wallace, who receives the support of one-quarter of southern Democrats, gets the vote of only about one-half that proportion (13 per cent) outside the South.

Here's how Democrats in the South and those outside the South rank the candidates of their own party for the 1976 nomination:

SOUTH (13 States)	NON-SOUTH
Kennedy ... 43%	Kennedy ... 44%
Wallace ... 25	Wallace ... 13
Jackson ... 7	Jackson ... 8
Muskie ... 7	McGovern ... 7
McGovern ... 6	Muskie ... 7
Stevenson ... 3	Stevenson ... 5
Bayh ... 2	Mondale ... 3
Tunney ... 2	Bayh ... 2
Proxmire ... —	Proxmire ... 2
Mondale ... —	Tunney ... 2
Byrd ... —	Byrd ... 1
Undecided ... 7	Undecided ... 6

Kennedy has said he will make up his mind about seeking the '76 Democratic nomination after the upcoming congressional elections.

To determine which candidate would be the choice of Democrats with Kennedy out of contention, those who selected him as their first choice were asked to indicate a second choice.

With Kennedy out of the running, the new standings show Wallace as first choice with 26 per cent and McGovern next with 20 per cent. Muskie and Jackson are tied for third with 13 per cent.

The following table shows the current standings with Kennedy's vote redistributed to the other candidates:

(KENNEDY NOT RUNNING)

Wallace	26%
McGovern	20
Muskie	13
Jackson	13
Stevenson	7
Bayh	3
Mondale	3
Tunney	2
Proxmire	2
Byrd	1
Undecided	10

Considerable speculation

Should Wallace decide not to try for the nomination, Kennedy would then open an even larger lead over the field than he presently enjoys.

Here are the standings with Wallace's vote redistributed:

(WALLACE NOT RUNNING)

Kennedy	49%
Jackson	11
Muskie	10
McGovern	8
Stevenson	8
Bayh	3
Mondale	3
Proxmire	2
Tunney	2
Byrd	1
Undecided	14

Kennedy has enjoyed a consistent popularity with Democratic voters. Although this esteem dropped considerably after Chappaquiddick in the summer of 1969, he subsequently regained most of that appeal. At the outset of 1970, he led the field of Democratic hopefuls for the 1972 nomination. And by December 1971, despite an announced intention to not seek the nomination, he was still the clear choice of Democratic voters to be the 1972 nominee.

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also centers around Wallace and his role in the Democratic nomination.

Wallace, a Democrat, bolted the party to run as an independent in 1968 and received the largest number of votes of any third-party candidate in history. Running as a Democrat in 1972, his campaign was cut short by an attempted assassination. Nevertheless, he received almost 400 votes at the Democratic convention that year.

To determine the acceptance of the other candidates should Wallace not run, those who chose him first were also asked to indicate their second choice for the nomination.