

The Gallup Poll

Wallace Ahead Without Kennedy

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J., — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's decision to remove himself from presidential contention has left Alabama Gov. George Wallace as the top choice of Democrats for their party's presidential nomination in 1976.

In the latest Gallup survey, completed just before Kennedy's announcement, the Massachusetts senator was the top choice among Democratic voters with 46 per cent of the vote. With Kennedy out of the running, Wallace emerges as the leader of a divided Democratic field, carrying 27 per cent of the vote. In second place are Sens. George McGovern and Edmund S. Muskie with 17 per cent, followed by Sen. Henry M. Jackson who receives 14 per cent.

To determine how Kennedy's supporters would vote with him out of the running, those who selected him were asked to indicate their second choice.

With Kennedy's vote redistributed, results show that no one candidate has a lock on his former Democratic constituency, with four men splitting most of that bloc. Chief beneficiaries, of Kennedy's decision are McGovern and Wallace, who draw 25 and 23 per cent respectively. Muskie receives 18 per cent while another 10 per cent goes to Jackson.

Here are the questions asked:

Here is a list of people who have been mentioned as possible presidential candidates for the Democratic Party in 1976. (Respondents were handed a card with eight names.) Which one would you like to see nominated as the Democratic candidate for President in 1976?

And who would be your second choice?

(With Kennedy Out)	
Gov. Wallace (Ala.)	27%
Sen. McGovern (S.D.)	17
Sen. Muskie (Me.)	17
Sen. Jackson (Wash.)	14
Eugene McCarthy	7
Sen. William Proxmire (Wis.)	5
Sen. Walter Mondale (Minn.)	2
Undecided	11
(With Kennedy In)	
Sen. Kennedy	46%
Gov. Wallace	16
Sen. Jackson	9
Sen. Muskie	8
Sen. McGovern	6
Sen. Proxmire	3
McCarthy	3
Sen. Mondale	2
Undecided	7

Here are the choices of Democrats outside the south with Kennedy out of the race:

(With Kennedy Out)	
Wallace	21%
Muskie	19
McGovern	18
Jackson	14
McCarthy	8
Proxmire	6
Mondale	3
Undecided	11

With Kennedy out of the race, it is important for the Democrats to nominate a candidate who can not only unite the party but also appeal to the large bloc of voters who consider themselves independents.

To find out how independents would vote with Kennedy out of the race, they were also asked to indicate a second choice.

When the votes of both Democrats and independents are considered together, the standings remain basically unchanged with Wallace out front, followed by McGovern, Muskie and Jackson.

(With Kennedy Out)			
Independents		Democrats and Independents	
Wallace	28%	Wallace	28%
McGovern	15	McGovern	17
Muskie	14	Muskie	15
Jackson	13	Jackson	13
Proxmire	8	McCarthy	6
McCarthy	6	Proxmire	6
Mondale	3	Mondale	3
Undecided	13	Undecided	12

The findings reported today are based on the views of 697 persons in the survey who classify themselves as Democrats and 468 who consider themselves independents out of a total sample of 1,583 persons, 18 and older. Interviews were conducted in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period Sept. 6-9.