

Kennedy Is No. 1 With Democrats

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Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, despite his non-candidate status, holds a commanding lead over each of three top Democratic contenders for the 1976 nomination among the nation's Democratic voters. These men are Senator Henry Jackson of Washington, Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine and Governor George Wallace of Alabama.

In a head-to-head contest with Jackson, Kennedy leads by a vote of 70 to 23 per cent. He holds a similar lead over Muskie, 70 to 22 per cent, and Wallace, 69 to 24 per cent.

Kennedy's name was included in these tests of potential nomination strength because some political observers feel he might accept a draft in 1976 despite his withdrawal statement of last fall.

This question was asked about each of the three matchups:

"Suppose the choice for President in the convention in 1976 narrows down to (name of Democrat tested) and (name of Democrat tested). Which one would you prefer to have the Democratic convention select?"

Following are the show-down tests offered to the voters and the choices of

voters who classify themselves as Democrats:

KENNEDY vs. JACKSON

Kennedy	70%
Jackson	23
Undecided	7

KENNEDY vs. MUSKIE

Kennedy	70%
Muskie	22
Undecided	8

KENNEDY vs. WALLACE

Kennedy	69%
Wallace	24
Undecided	7

Kennedy also leads "his opponents" among voters who classify themselves as independents, although his margin in each case is not so great as among Democrats, Wallace shows somewhat greater strength in these matchups than do Muskie or Jackson.

Following are the results, based on the choices of independents:

KENNEDY vs. WALLACE

Kennedy	51%
Wallace	40
Undecided	9

KENNEDY vs. JACKSON

Kennedy	53%
Jackson	36
Undecided	11

KENNEDY vs. MUSKIE

Kennedy	52%
Muskie	33
Undecided	15

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