

Sen. Kennedy Leads Ford

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Senator Edward Kennedy's renewed disavowal that he is a presidential candidate comes at a time when he has moved into a clear lead over President Ford in the latest nationwide trial heat.

Kennedy's margin over Mr. Ford is 50 per cent to 43 per cent.

In the previous survey (May 30-June 2), the two were deadlocked, with Kennedy winning the support of 45 per cent of registered voters to 44 per cent for Mr. Ford. In a still earlier survey, conducted soon after Mr. Ford took office last August, the new president held a wide 57 per cent to 33 per cent lead over Kennedy.

Kennedy, far and away the No. 1 choice of Democratic voters for their party's nomination, is the only Democrat tested during Mr. Ford's year in office who is able to defeat the President in these trial heats.

Many political observers feel that Kennedy will definitely not be a candidate for President in 1976, yet speculation persists regarding attempts to draft him.

Here are the questions asked in the survey:

"Suppose the presidential election were being held today. If President Gerald Ford were the Republican candidate and Senator Edward Kennedy were the Democratic candidate, which would you like to see win?"

| | Kennedy % | Ford % | Other Undecided % |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Latest | 50 | 43 | 7 |
| May 30-June 2 | 45 | 44 | 11 |
| August 1974 | 33 | 57 | 10 |

When Governor George Wallace of Alabama is added to the test as a possible third party candidate, Kennedy widens his lead over Mr. Ford. The three-way results show Kennedy with 42 per cent, Mr. Ford with 33 per cent and Wallace with 17 per cent.

Following are the questions asked:

"If Senator Edward Kennedy were the Democratic candidate and President Gerald Ford were the Republican candidate and Governor George Wallace of Alabama were the candidate of a third party, which would you like to see win?" (If undecided, this question was then asked: "As of today, do you lean more to Kennedy, the Democrat, Mr. Ford, the Republican, or Wallace, the third-party candidate?")

| | Kennedy % | Ford % | Wallace % | Other Undecided % |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Latest | 42 | 33 | 17 | 8 |
| May 30-June 2 39 | 34 | 34 | 19 | 8 |