

GOP Hill Support at 38-Year Low

By George Gallup
PRINCETON, N.J.—Republican congressional strength at the national

level is at the lowest point in 38 years of Gallup Poll measurements. The findings show the Democrats with nearly a 2-to-1 lead, and re-

flect the impact of Watergate, which took its toll on GOP fortunes in key elections across the nation last Tuesday at the state and local level.

Nationwide Gallup surveys taken just prior to last Tuesday's elections indicate that, if the national congressional elections were being held at this time, the Republican loss of House seats would have gone far beyond the normal loss that an administration suffers in off-year elections.

If the indicated seat losses are reflected in next year's congressional elections, President Nixon could be deprived of the veto power which he has successfully exercised on several occasions during the current year.

The present standing of the two major parties is revealed in the figures below which represent the likely division of the total popular vote cast for all 435 members of the House if the election were being held at the time of the surveys:

Democrats	58%
Republicans	30
Undecided/Other	12

The latest Gallup findings on the national congressional strength of the two major parties shows the GOP not only to be considerably weaker than it was at the time of last fall's presidential election, but to have lost ground over the last few months, during which time the widely followed Watergate hearings were held.

Following are the results from earlier surveys on congressional strength, conducted in April and early May—prior to the beginning of the Watergate hearings:

Democrats	55%
Republicans	35
Undecided/Other	10