

Poll Indicates 'Nixon Revolt' In GOP Loss

Detroit

A Republican-financed poll indicates the Democrats captured the longtime congressional seat of Vice President Gerald R. Ford because of a conscious citizens' revolt against President Nixon, a newspaper said yesterday.

The Detroit Free Press said a poll conducted for the Republican National Committee showed 60 per cent of those who voted for Democrat Richard F. Vanderveen did so despite believing that his GOP opponent was better qualified.

The poll was conducted by Market Opinion Research of Detroit shortly after the February 18 upset victory by the Democrat, the paper said.

It quoted state Republican officials as saying it was being withheld until after Tuesday's special congressional election in Cincinnati.

The Ohio election will be the third test of Republican election prospects in the face of Mr. Nixon's decline in popularity. Democrats have won the first two, both in districts formerly held by Republicans.

Quoting unnamed state Republican sources, the newspaper said the poll found 73 per cent of the persons who cast protest votes cited Watergate as the reason. Twelve per cent mentioned the energy crisis and 9 per cent inflation.

Associated Press