

NYTimes AUG 12 1974

DEMOCRATS LEADING G.O.P. IN POLL 55-29%

Voters prefer Democrats over Republicans for the House of Representatives this November by a 55 to 29 per cent margin, Louis Harris, the polltaker, says.

Mr. Harris said that it was the widest lead ever recorded in his poll for an off-year election. The Associated Press reported Saturday.

Mr. Harris surveyed 1,214 voters between July 16 and 22, asking which party they thought would do a better job on various political and economic issues.

Republicans could face the the nineteen-thirties if present the nineteen thirties if present margins remain, Mr. Harris said. But, if the Watergate issue were defused, "the public's attitude toward the issues and the outcome of the off-year elections could change considerably."

Almost half of those polled doubted that either party could better prevent "future Watergate scandals from taking place."

Democrats have made their chief gains in the East and Midwest, Mr. Harris said.