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A Low Point for the GOP

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Republican party affiliation continues to slide and has now reached the lowest point since the first measurements were taken 35

years ago.

Only 22 per cent of voters currently classify themselves as Republicans, with the trend having been steadily downward since October, 1972. This is one of the principal findings to emerge

from a major study of political party allegiance in America, based upon interviews with more than 10,000 voters.

Democrats in the electorate currently outnumber Republicans by a 2-to-1 mar-

gin, with 46 per cent of voters now classifying themselves as Democrats. Independent voters also outnumber Republicans with approximately one third (32 per cent) of the electorate classifying themselves as independents.

Not only is GOP affiliation now at a low point, but prospects for the immediate future are far from bright. Only 15 per cent of voters between the ages of 18 and 29 call themselves Republicans.

Nor can the GOP hope to make major inroads with the exceptionally large group (46 per cent) of young voters who describe themselves as independents. Survey evidence shows young independents leaning 5 to 1 to the Democratic party over the Republican party.

To determine political party allegiance, the following

question has been asked regularly since 1940:

"In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or independent?"

	GOP	DEMO	INDY
Latest (Post-Nov.)	22	46	32
July-Oct. '74	23	47	30
March-June '74	23	44	33
Sept. '73-Jan. '74	24	42	34
May-Aug. '73	24	43	33
March-May '73	26	43	31
Nov. '72-Feb. '73	27	42	31
June-Oct. '72	28	43	29

(Note: the proportion who do not classify themselves in one of the three categories — ranging from two to three per cent — has been excluded in each set of figures.)
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