

# President Leads Humphrey, Wallace

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In the latest nationwide trial heat, President Ford holds a 52 per cent to 40 per cent lead over Senator Hubert Humphrey, one of his two top challengers.

Mr. Ford is currently the top choice of GOP voters for the nomination, winning 45 per cent of their vote to 19 per cent for Ronald Reagan from a list of ten Republicans.

Humphrey is in a virtual tie with Governor George Wallace as the top choice of Democrats, winning 20 per cent of their vote to 23 per cent for Wallace from a list of 15 Democratic possibilities.

Humphrey has come on strong in recent months, having nearly doubled his support since November.

In trial heats to date, Mr. Ford has led every Democrat tested except Senator Edward Kennedy. The Massachusetts senator, however, has insisted he will neither seek nor accept the Democratic nomination next year.

This question was asked first:  
"Suppose the presidential election were being held today. If

President Gerald Ford were the Republican candidate and Senator Hubert Humphrey were the Democratic candidate, which one would you like to see win?"

Gerald Ford 52 pct.  
Hubert Humphrey 40  
Other—undecided 8

Wallace looms over the 1976 campaign as a potential problem for both the Republicans and Democrats.

To test what effect a third party effort by Wallace would have on a contest between Mr. Ford and Humphrey, registered voters in the survey were asked this question:

"Suppose the presidential election were being held today. If Senator Hubert Humphrey were the Democratic candidate and President Gerald Ford were the Republican candidate and Governor George Wallace were the candidate of a third party, which would you like to see win?"

Ford 41 pct.  
Humphrey 32  
Wallace 20  
Other—undecided 7

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