

# Gallup Poll Finds Ford Far Ahead of Jackson

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President Gerald Ford has widened his lead over Senator Henry Jackson in the latest nationwide trial heat and leads 46 to 37 per cent among registered voters, with 17 per cent undecided.

The previous test, conducted in early March, showed Mr. Ford with only a marginal lead, 43 to 41 per cent, with 16 per cent undecided.

Jackson fares less well against Mr. Ford than does Senator Edward Kennedy, tested in the same survey. As reported earlier, Kennedy and Mr. Ford are in a virtual tie, with Kennedy receiving the support of 45 per cent of registered voters to 44 per cent for Mr. Ford and 11 per cent undecided.

In a recent Gallup survey designed to determine the 1976 nomination choices of Democratic voters, Jackson ran fourth, winning 6 per cent of the vote. Kennedy was top choice, with 36 per cent, followed by Alabama Governor George Wallace, who received 15 per cent, and Senator Hubert Humphrey, who won 9 per cent. Survey respondents were asked to choose from a list of 34 names.

In assessing Jackson's strength, it is important to bear in mind that he rates as one of the top nomination choices despite a relatively low recognition score. Jackson is currently known to only about 6 adults in 10 (59 per cent).

The following question was asked to test the relative strength of Mr. Ford and Jackson:

"Suppose the presidential

election were being held today. If Sen. Henry Jackson were the Democratic candidate and Gerald Ford were the Republican candidate, which one would you like to see win?"

Following are the latest findings, based upon the choices of registered voters, and the trend. The latest survey was conducted shortly after the Mavaguez incident and showed President Ford's popularity rating climbing 11 points, one of the sharpest gains ever recorded.

|           | Ford    | Jackson | Other, Un-<br>decided |
|-----------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Latest    | 46 pct. | 37 pct. | 17 pct.               |
| March     | 43      | 41      | 16                    |
| Nov. 1974 | 47      | 42      | 11                    |

The latest trial heat findings are based on interviews with 1163 registered voters out of a total sample of 1626 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 sci-

entifically selected localities across the nation during the period May 30-June 2.

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