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Poll Finds

A Lot of

Apathy

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NEW YORK — The Sindlinger poll reports "a tremendous amount of voter apathy" and a "paradoxical situation which could lead to a turnaround to Sen. George McGovern on election day."

The poll reports that its latest survey finds President Nixon has opened a lead of nearly 41 percentage points over Democratic presidential candidate McGovern.

Random telephone interviews with 2246 persons between Sept. 19 and Sept. 21 showed 61.5 percent favored Nixon, 20.9 percent McGovern and 17.6 percent were undecided, according to the poll released Thursday.

Alfred E. Sindlinger, president of the Swarthmore, Pa., opinion research organization, called it "the most paradoxical situation I have ever seen since we started monitoring presidential campaigns" in 1956.

"The lead is astronomical and growing at a time when, on the basis of prior races, the incumbent should be surrendering some of his edge," he said. But he warned that "Nixon's big lead could boomerang against him."

Sindlinger cited "a tremendous amount of voter apathy." He said only 55 percent of all adults included in the survey reported plans to vote Nov. 7.

The apathy, voter psychology and Democratic disenchantment with McGovern "are the ingredients which could lead to a spontaneous turnaround to McGovern as late as election day itself," he said.