

New Nixon Low In Gallup Poll

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President Nixon's popularity is at the lowest ebb to date, having declined 24 percentage points from a high in late January following the Vietnam peace settlement.

The rate of decline, however, has leveled off, with the latest figure — 44 per cent approval — representing virtually no change from the previous measurement of 45 per cent recorded a week earlier.

Despite Mr. Nixon's plummeting popularity over the last three and a half months, a large majority of rank-and-file Republicans (three out of every four) currently give the President a vote of confidence. In addition, Mr. Nixon's decline in approval since January has been less pronounced among Republicans than among Democrats or Independents.

In sharp contrast to the views of Republicans, only one Democrat in every four at present approves of the way President Nixon is handling his job.

It is interesting to note that during a period of popularity troubles, Mr. Nixon has been more successful

than was President Johnson in retaining the support of rank-and-file members of his own party.

While 73 per cent of Republicans currently approve of Mr. Nixon's performance in office, only 48 per cent of Democrats gave Mr. Johnson a vote of confidence when his national popularity was at a low point (35 per cent) in August, 1968.

The table below shows the change in Mr. Nixon's popularity between last January and today — nationally and on the basis of party affiliation:

	Approve (Late Jan.) Per Cent	Approve (Latest) Per Cent	Point Chge.
Nationwide	68	44	-24
Republicans	89	73	-16
Democrats	51	27	-24
Independents	72	43	-29

As in previous measurements, approval of Mr. Nixon's performance is lowest in the East — the most Democratic region of the nation. Also consistent with earlier findings, the South is the region where Mr. Nixon receives his greatest vote of confidence, as seen in the following table:

	Approve (Late Jan.) Per Cent	Approve (Latest) Per Cent	Point Chge.
East	64	38	-26
Midwest	65	46	-19
South	73	51	-22
West	64	41	-23

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