

Poll Shows Nixon Rating Down Again

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President Nixon's job rating has slipped back to its low point of 27 per cent approval after a brief four-point gain during "Operation Candor."

Mr. Nixon's job rating declined from 32 per cent in late September to 27 per cent in late October, largely as a result of the firing of special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

"Operation Candor," launched in November, succeeded in halting the trend, but subsequent surveys show that the effects of Mr. Nixon's "going public" have been short-lived.

Following is the question asked about each incumbent President since Franklin Roosevelt's administration:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job as President?"

Here are the national findings and trend since September:

	Ap- prove	Dis- approve	No Opinion
	%	%	%
Jan. 4-7	27	63	10
Dec. 7-10	29	60	11
Nov. 30-Dec. 3	31	59	10
—Start of "Operation Candor"—			
Nov. 2-5	27	63	10
Oct. 19-22	27	60	13
Oct. 6-8	30	57	13
Sept. 21-24	32	59	9

Analysis of the latest survey findings by population groups reveals that disapproval outweighs approval in every group except among Republicans. Among GOP voters, a slight majority, 53 per cent, approve while 35 per cent disapprove

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and 12 per cent have no opinion.

In comparison, only 11 per cent of Democrats and 26 per cent of independents approve of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job.

The South continues to be Mr. Nixon's strongest region, but by a decreasing margin. Among Southerners, 33 per cent express approval, compared with 41 per cent who did so in the first survey after the start of "Operation Candor." Mr. Nixon conducted a brief speaking tour in that region as part of "Operation Candor."

Mr. Nixon's current job rating — which equals his low point to date — is eight points lower than President Lyndon Johnson's low point of 35 per cent approval, recorded during a period of growing pessimism over the Vietnam war. The table below shows the highs and lows in approval for Mr. Nixon and his predecessors:

	High	Low
	%	%
Nixon	68	27
Johnson	80	35
Kennedy	83	57
Eisenhower	79	49
Truman	87	23

These findings are based on a national survey of 1504 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during January 4-7.

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