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A Plurality Prefer Ford Over Nixon

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If given a choice, a plurality of the U.S. electorate would prefer Vice President Gerald Ford to President Nixon as chief executive for the remaining three years of Mr. Nixon's term.

The lastest nationwide Gallup survey shows 46 per cent saying they would prefer Ford compared to 32 per cent who choose Mr. Nixon. About one person in five, 22 per cent, are undecided or do not express an opinion.

Although Republicans in the survey are 2 to 1 in favor of Mr. Nixon, Democrats would prefer Ford by a 3 to 1 margin. The vote is much closer among voters who describe themselves as independents, a group as numerous as Republicans. Among independents, 45 per cent say they would rather have Ford be President for the next three years, compared to 35 per cent who choose Mr. Nixon — close to the national percentages.

Following is the question asked in the survey to determine which man the public would like to have serve as President for the next three years:

"Here is a question about President Richard Nixon and Vice President Gerald Ford: If you had a choice, which man would you rather have as President between

now and the next presidential election in 1976 — Nixon or Ford?"

PREFER NIXON OR FORD AS PRESIDENT FOR NEXT 3 YEARS?

	Undecided		
	Nixon	Ford	Opinion
National	32	46	22
Republicans	57	28	15
Democrats	18	55	27
Sthrn. Democrats	25	50	25
Dem. outside Sth.	15	57	28
Independents	35	45	20
Whites	35	44	21
Northern Whites	30	47	23
Southern Whites	48	34	18
Non-Whites	15	57	28
Protestant	36	44	20
Catholic	24	49	27
East	27	48	25
Midwest	31	48	21
South	39	40	21
West	29	48	23
Labor Union	23	55	22
Non-Labor Union	35	42	23