

3-26-74

How Public Rates Nixon in New Poll

By George Gallup
Princeton, N.J.

President Nixon's job rating in the latest Gallup survey is at its low point to date. The latest reading shows 25 per cent of the public approve of the way he is handling his duties as president while 64 per cent disapprove, and 11 per cent are undecided.

Mr. Nixon's standing in the latest survey is only two percentage points higher than the lowest rating given any President since these measurements were initiated in Franklin Roosevelt's second term. President Harry Truman received the approval of only 23 per cent of the public in November 1951.

Although only one-quarter of the public currently approves of Mr. Nixon's performance in office, Republicans continue to give him majority support. In the latest survey, 55 per cent of his fellow party members approve of Mr. Nixon's performance.

In comparison, only 14 per cent of Democrats and 24 per

cent of Independents register approval.

Mr. Nixon's rating has fluctuated very little since the beginning of 1974, hovering between 28 and now 25 per cent approval. Statistically, these figures represent no change since the beginning of the year.

Here is the question asked by the Gallup Poll since Franklin Roosevelt's Administration:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way (name of incumbent) is handling his job as president?"

Following are the national figures and the trend in Mr. Nixon's rating since the beginning of the year:

NIXON'S JOB RATING DURING 1974

	Ap- prove %	Dis- ap- prove %	No opin- ion %
Feb. 22-25, Mar. 1-4	25	64	11
Feb. 8-11, 15-18	27	63	10
Feb. 1-4	28	59	13
Jan. 18-21	26	64	10
Jan. 4-7	27	63	10

To measure the intensity of approval / disapproval toward Mr. Nixon's performance in office, those interviewed were also asked to indicate how strongly

they approved or disapproved.

Results show only 12 per cent of the public strongly approves of the way Mr. Nixon is handling his job. In contrast, 48 per cent strongly disapprove. This represents a 7-point increase since last December in the number of people who strongly disapprove.

This is the question asked to measure intensity:

"How strongly would you say you approve (disapprove) — very strongly or not so strongly?" Here are the latest national findings compared with those from December 1973:

	Latest December	
	%	%
Strong Approval	12	15
Mild Approval	13	15
Approval Total	25	31
No opinion	11	10
Mild Disapproval	16	18
Strong Disapproval	48	41
Disapproval Total	64	59

Most critical of the President are non-whites, Democrats, members of labor union families, and young people (particularly those in the 25-29-year-old age bracket).

Copyright 1974, Field Enterprises, Inc.