

Elections Held Today Would Give Democrats a 'Veto-Proof' House

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—The Democratic Party would have statistical veto control of the House—that is, two-thirds or more of the seats—if the congressional elections were being held now.

The latest nationwide survey shows Republican congressional strength remaining at about the lowest level in 38 years of Gallup Poll measurements, with the GOP unable to narrow the gap on the Democrats since last October.

The Democrats hold a commanding lead: 57 to 30 per cent, with 13 per cent undecided among registered voters. This almost exactly matches results recorded in surveys at the beginning of the year and surveys conducted last autumn.

The present standing of the two major parties is re-

vealed in the figures below, which show the division of the vote for members of the House if the election were being held at the time of the surveys:

Democrats	57%
Republicans	30
Other/undecided	13

The following table shows the trend in the congressional vote since last May:

	Dem.	Rep.	Other/ Undecided
Latest	57%	30%	13%
January	58	29	13
Oct. 1973	58	30	12
May 1973	55	35	10

Despite President Nixon's somewhat greater popularity in the South than elsewhere, this continues to be the most Democratic region of the nation in terms of congressional strength.

Following are the findings by the four major regions of the nation:

	Dem.	Rep.	Other/ Undecided
East	57%	30%	13%
Midwest	52	33	15
South	61	26	13
West	59	30	11

One of the most dramatic shifts to the Democratic side in recent months has come among voters who classify themselves as independents. In the 1972 presidential election, the vote of independents was closely divided between the two parties. In the current surveys, however, their vote goes 2-to-1 for Democratic congressional candidates. The following table shows the latest congressional choices by party affiliation:

Those Classifying Themselves As:	Dem.	Rep.	Others/ Undecided
Republicans	10%	83%	7%
Democrats	91	4	5
Independents	44	23	33

The latest findings are based on registered voters out of a total 3,052 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in surveys conducted during May and June. More than 300 scientifically selected localities were covered in these surveys.