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# Kennedy Is Big Favorite, State Demo Poll Shows

By Mervin D. Field

Senator Edward Kennedy (Mass.) is far and away the first choice of California Democrats to be the party's presidential nominee in 1976.

He received 34 per cent of first-choice votes from a sample of potential Democratic voters in next year's presidential primary election.

Kennedy appears to have about three times the voter appeal of rivals Senator Henry Jackson (Wash.), 12 per cent, and Alabama Governor George Wallace 11 per cent. Senators Edmund Muskie (Me.), George McGovern (S.D.), and Hubert Humphrey (Minn.) follow in third, fourth and fifth positions at eight per cent, seven per cent and six per cent respectively.

Following are the percentages of first place mentions for 5 possible Democratic candidates.

| Kennedy included | Democrats statewide |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Kennedy          | 34%                 |
| Jackson          | 12                  |

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Wallace   | 11 |
| Muskie    | 8  |
| McGovern  | 7  |
| Humphrey  | 6  |
| McCarthy  | 4  |
| Church    | 3  |
| Udall     | 2  |
| Bayh      | 2  |
| Carter    | 1  |
| Bentsen   | 1  |
| Sanford   | 1  |
| Harris    | *  |
| Shriver   | *  |
| Undecided | 7  |

\* Less than one-half of one per cent  
Kennedy was also the first choice of California and U.S. Democrats in 1972, but did not run for President. He has said he is not a candidate for the 1976 nomination.

If Kennedy is not a factor in the race, California Democrats today splinter their support among other candidates, and George Wallace appears to have as much chance as any other leading Democrat to come out on top.

| Kennedy out | Democrats statewide |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Jackson     | 16%                 |
| Wallace     | 15                  |
| Humphrey    | 14                  |
| McGovern    | 13                  |
| Muskie      | 11                  |
| McCarthy    | 6                   |
| Church      | 5                   |
| Udall       | 3                   |
| Bayh        | 3                   |
| Bentsen     | 2                   |
| Carter      | 1                   |
| Sanford     | 1                   |
| Harris      | *                   |
| Shriver     | *                   |
| Undecided   | 9                   |

\* Less than one-half of one per cent

Another important aspect of the perceptions that voters have of candidates, is the degree to which each repels as well as attracts voters. The degree to which a candidate receives negative votes is an indication of the obstacles he has to overcome before winning broad base support.

In this case it appears that Wallace sets up negative vibrations in about one out of two Democrats — a relatively high negative vote total. The proportion who say it would be most difficult to vote for McGovern, or Humphrey, or Kennedy is only one in four or five.

| Most difficult to vote for | Democrats statewide |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Wallace                    | 49%                 |
| McGovern                   | 23                  |
| Humphrey                   | 20                  |
| Kennedy                    | 19                  |
| Shriver                    | 16                  |
| McCarthy                   | 11                  |
| Muskie                     | 10                  |
| Jackson                    | 9                   |
| Carter                     | 7                   |
| Bayh                       | 6                   |
| Udall                      | 5                   |
| Bentsen                    | 4                   |
| Sanford                    | 3                   |
| Harris                     | 3                   |
| Church                     | 2                   |

(Adds to more than 100 per cent because of multiple mentions.)