

GALLUP POLL

For Release: Friday, March 11, 1966

'TRIAL HEAT': ROBERT KENNEDY -- 54%; RICHARD NIXON -- 41%

PRINCETON, N.J., March 10 -- Sen. Robert Kennedy shows considerable vote-getting potential in defeating Richard Nixon in the latest Gallup Poll "trial heat," 54 per cent to 41 per cent, with 5 per cent unable to choose between the two men.

About eight in every ten Democratic voters back Kennedy in this contest, and the same proportion of Republicans support Nixon. Nixon enjoys a clear lead among persons who describe themselves as Independents. Nevertheless, because Democrats outnumber Republicans in the voting population by a wide margin, Kennedy emerges well ahead of his "opponent."

Kennedy wins handily with traditionally Democratic groups, such as manual workers and Roman Catholics, but Nixon comes out ahead with groups which normally tend to vote Republican, such as the college-trained, professional and business people, and farmers.

This question was asked of a nationwide cross-section of voters:

"Suppose the Presidential election were being held TODAY. If Sen. Robert Kennedy were the Democratic candidate and Richard Nixon were the Republican candidate, which would you like to see win?"

The results:

Kennedy	54%
Nixon	41
Undecided	5

The two "opponents" in today's test election are of course well-known, and both have been talked of as likely prospects for future Presidential elections. In the most recent survey of GOP candidate standings, the 1960 Presidential candidate is far and away the top choice of his party's rank-and-file to get the nomination in 1968.

(MORE)

HUMPHREY VS. NIXON

Senator Kennedy makes a better showing than does Vice President Hubert Humphrey in "trial heats" against Richard Nixon. As reported earlier, a Humphrey-Nixon race ends in a virtual dead heat: Humphrey - 47 per cent, Nixon - 45 per cent, with 8 per cent undecided.

The following table gives detailed breakdowns on the vote in the Kennedy-Nixon contest:

	<u>RFK</u> %	<u>Nixon</u> %	<u>Undecided</u> %
Men	51	43	6
Women	56	39	5
College	43	53	4
High School	54	41	5
Grade School	61	33	6
Republicans	15	82	3
Democrats	82	13	5
Independents	39	52	9
East	56	39	5
Midwest	56	41	3
South	46	46	8
West	53	40	7
Professional & Business	44	52	4
Clerical & Sales	54	39	7
Farmers	44	49	7
Manual	62	34	4
21 - 29 years	52	42	6
30 - 49 years	56	39	5
50 years & over	52	43	5
Protestant	47	48	5
Roman Catholic	67	29	4
Labor union families	65	33	2
Non-labor	50	44	6

(30)

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- * Does the public favor or oppose foreign aid in principle?
- * Should aid be given countries which follow independent foreign policies?
- * What form of aid do Americans favor - medical care, food, arms, birth control information?

Be sure to read the results of this important survey, SUNDAY MARCH 13, in the
(NAME OF PAPER)