

GALLUP POLL

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Nixon



Romney



Lodge

Nixon Leads GOP Hopefuls Romney Shows Increase

By George Gallup

Richard Nixon continues to head the list of 1968 GOP hopefuls based upon present choices of the rank-and-file of the Republican party.

Governor George Romney of Michigan, however, has moved into second place in the most recent nationwide poll, and reveals evidence of strength which may boost his standing in the months ahead.

The race for the nomination has already started and Nixon and others are accepting speaking dates months ahead. A new crop of possibilities will undoubtedly be produced by the state and national elections next year. On the other hand, many of those now being mentioned will, in the language of politicians, become "unavailable".

The present survey embraced an accurate cross-section of rank-and-file members of the Republican party. In effect it is an open primary for all major candidates who have been mentioned as 1968 possibilities entered on the election ballot.

Gallup Poll interviewers in 180 areas of the nation were assigned to ask persons who identified themselves

After naming his first choice, each person was asked to name his second and third choices.

Here are the results based on both first choice and all choices combined (first, second, and third).

GOP Candidate Preference (Republicans Only)

| | First choice % | Total, all c % |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Richard Nixon | 28 | 50 |
| George Romney | 15 | 35 |
| Henry Cabot Lodge | 12 | 38 |
| Barry Goldwater | 9 | 26 |
| William Scranton | 8 | 28 |
| Nelson Rockefeller | 7 | 22 |
| Everett Dirksen | 5 | 17 |
| Robert Taft, Jr. | 3 | 6 |
| John Lindsay | 3 | 5 |
| Mark Hatfield | 2 | 11 |
| Ronald Reagan | 2 | 10 |
| Charles Percy | 1 | 5 |
| Others, No opinion | 8 | |

One of the great problems which every candidate faces is to become well known to the electorate.

