

Five Big States Hold The Answer As Candidates Split Vote Of 45

By BRUCE BLOSSAT
CHICAGO (NEA) — Vice President Nixon and Senator Kennedy, driving toward the finish line in their race for the presidency, appear so close today that neither lays claim to a single one of the five big battleground states from New York to California.

This interim verdict — that the fight is yet to be won — derives from this reporter's talks with men in both camps who see the critical daily battle reports, and from spot checks with veteran appraisers in many major states along the campaign trail.

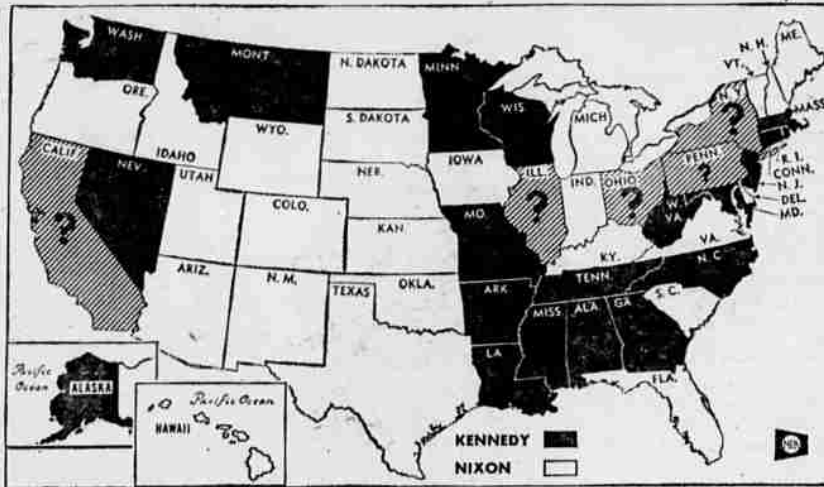
Strategists on the Nixon side show quiet confidence born of glowing accounts they say they almost fear to believe. The Kennedy forces exhibit more guarded optimism, laced with worry over California and Texas.

Most independent sources support the judgment of the candidates' strategists, though some think Nixon as of now enjoys an edge.

Nearly all agree that the label "toss-up" must be pinned on the Big Five, with their total of 161 out of the 269 electoral votes needed for election. In this great swath of contested territory are New York (45), Pennsylvania (32), California (32), Illinois (27) and Ohio (25).

Observers and politicians alike declare they can recall no recent election in which so many voters — perhaps beyond 15 percent of the eligibles — find themselves pulled at by complex cross currents that delay their ballot decisions.

The view is wide that their choice will be greatly aided by the unparalleled series of TV debates between the nominees.



THIS MAP of where the candidates stand at mid-campaign is based on the consensus of skilled political observers, but in the tightly-fought Nixon-Kennedy struggle shifts can — and will — come quickly.

Ohio, balanced between industry and farming, typifies the present indecision of the big states. Both rural and city registration is remarkably heavy, defying easy interpretation. A top Republican says if he had to bet who would win today, he'd say Kennedy. A high-placed Democrat, given the same necessity, chooses Nixon.

Only in California does any qualified judge see a clearly marked lead — and that for Nixon is the home state contender facing a man with somewhat divided support. Yet even here the consensus is that any gap is narrowing and that the choice is in fact open.

Beyond the Big Five, the most balanced judgment suggests Nixon may have a fairly definite lead in some 25 states, while Kennedy seems to be ahead in the remaining 20.

Nevertheless, Kennedy's possible 20 could bring him 190 of the needed 269 electoral votes, against 186 produced by the 25 where Nixon is rated the leader.

The indicated 25 for Nixon include Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Hawaii.

Against this array Kennedy may be able to pit Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Washington and Alaska.

These allotments represent many tentative judgments, and both presidential camps contest certain of the verdicts.

The independent sources which give Nixon a definite edge argue that his margins in many places seem more secure than do Kennedy's. On top of this they consider his evident edge in California.

But if the 25-20 allocation is roughly accurate, then both Nixon and Kennedy would be within such striking distance of victory (less than 85 votes) that capture of any three of the big industrial states could gain the election prize.

And if Nixon is actually ahead

in California, Kennedy's peril would be clear. Two more big ones would put the vice president over.

Still, Kennedy's prospects are also strong. Should Nixon's possible inroads into the Southern and border states come to less than the projected six states, should he lose instead of win the very close Michigan fight, Kennedy's chances would be quickly enhanced.

Many believe that in the end all of the Big Five will go one way.

Yet Harry Truman carried the day while losing two — New York and Pennsylvania — in 1948. A split in 1960 is rated wholly possible.

As the crucial big vote states

sway between Nixon and Kennedy, political experts see these imponderables as holding the ultimate key:

—The size and meaning of 1960 registrations — already heavy in many states.

—The balance of loss and gain for Kennedy in his Catholicism.

—The trend of foreign events (crisis may aid Nixon as the man many feel has been closer to the firing line).

—The final personality impact of the great TV debates.

The next crowded 15 days of campaigning, taking the contenders just beyond their last TV encounter, should tell the story — and produce America's new president.

Deck-Type Patio May Be Answer To Sloping Yard

Building a home on a hillside often reaps benefits—a view, seclusion, and dramatic impetus for the house design.

But hillside lots present their problems, too. For instance, the property line often has a disconcerting way of disappearing over the edge of a precipice. And where, when this occurs, can you put the patio?

There are two ways to recover that piece of sloping land. Either you must put in a retaining wall and fill the area to make it level, or you may build your patio right over the drop-off. Of the two, the latter is the easier and by far the least expensive.

A wood patio deck comes to the rescue in the second case. With a sturdy framework of Douglas fir timbers, the wood deck can be built over even the sharpest of slopes. It can begin at ground level, as does a conventional patio, and continue out over the drop-off, or it can be built in porch style, at floor level.

Supporting posts must be at least 4x4 inches in size and should be bolted to concrete feet to keep them free of the ground. No treating is necessary either of the posts or of the framework, which should have main beams in 2x10 or 2x12 size.

The favorite for deck boards is 2x4 inch Douglas fir. These can be laid with either the four-inch or the two-inch side uppermost. A floor-like appearance results from laying the decking four-inch side up, but many homeowners favor the unusual, three-dimensional effect gotten by setting the deck boards on edge. Decking should be spaced an eighth inch apart to allow for rain water drainage and for jiffy cleaning with the garden hose.

On a hillside lot, wind is apt to prove an annoyance to deck dwellers, so smart homeowners foil the breezes with a deck railing designed to act as a wind-screen. Generally, a screen of hip-height is tall enough to do the trick. One effective, easily ex-

ecuted design is made of 1x6 inch boards set in top and bottom 2x4 runners. The 1x6s can be spaced a half-inch to prevent its looking wall-like. This design is solid enough to keep exploring toddlers from climbing over the deck's edge.

For decorative impact, the screen-railing could be stained to match the house siding, while the decking is left to weather naturally to a soft, silvery grey.

Hair Up? Hit Dirt

KENT, O. (UPI)—Golfers are advised to hit the dirt or dive for a ditch if hair stands on end during a thunder storm.

All golfers are fair targets on open fairways when earth charges try to unite with electrical charges in the clouds, according to a warning from a tree expert company.

Tall objects — steeples, trees, homes and you, when you're in the open — are likely targets under these conditions.

Out of every dollar of cash receipts from farm products in the United States, about 20 cents comes from dairying, making it the nation's greatest single source of farm income.

Pupils Rank High In OSC Math Ratings

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Highest-ever scores on mathematics placement tests given new Oregon State College freshmen this fall indicate that Oregon high schools have made great advances in math instruction during the past two or three years, the head of the OSC mathematics department reports.

Dr. A. T. Lonseth said the performance of new freshmen in the mathematics examinations this fall was "significantly better than ever before and speaks highly for the work of most high schools." The placement tests are given new freshmen to help determine for which classes they are best prepared.

More than twice as many students qualified for advanced placement this fall in calculus and analytic geometry as a year ago, according to Dr. Albert R. Poole, professor of mathematics in charge of the tests. The upper scores on the tests were from eight to 10 points higher than last year and enrollment in remedial courses for students who need special help in math is going down sharply.

Poole also pointed to the increased numbers of women students in the ranks of the high scorers. One coed had a perfect score on the advanced algebra test—a feat matched by only one man among the new freshmen.

Coeds are encouraged to consider mathematics as a major field of study, he added, because career opportunities are excellent for them in such fields as teaching, computer work, etc. Many coeds are "scared out" of mathematics, he lamented, when the truth is that they can do just as well as the men.

The number of mathematics majors at OSC has shot up in the past five years, Lonseth noted. In 1955, OSC had two students majoring in mathematics. This year, there are 137 plus nearly 60 students working for master's and doctor's degrees.

Teacher institutes sponsored by the National Science Foundation are contributing in great measure to the rapid upgrading of mathematics training across the country, Lonseth believes.

OSC, for example, has conducted mathematics institutes for junior and senior high school teachers the past two summers, is offering an in-service institute on an evening commuter basis this year, and has given academic-year institutes for science-math teachers each of the past four years. All have been supported by National Science Foundation grants.

Sputnik helped focus the attention of the world on mathematics and science, the OSC mathematicians said, and giant electronic computers have helped open vast new fields of mathematics.

Today, mathematicians are in great demand by industry, research agencies, the government, military services and schools. The future looks even brighter, Lonseth emphasized.

People living in the immediate neighborhood account for about 80 per cent of the average gasoline service station's business.

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