

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
Contested Materials Collection
Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>No Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
49	47	11/2/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Memo	From Charles Colson to the Staff Secretary. RE: P-1891 and P-1885; Young Voters. 3pgs.

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
NA [DOC#12]	MEMO	from Colson to Staff Secretary Re: P-1891 + P-1885 Young Veterans	11/2/71	C(NIXON)
N2 [DOC#13]	MEMO	from Peterson to RN Re: Draft response to Don Kendall's letter Opposing Quota ...	11/4/71	C(NIXON)

FILE GROUP TITLE

PDF

BOX NUMBER

14

FOLDER TITLE

President's Handwriting [Nov. 1 thru 5, 1971]

RESTRICTION CODES

- A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.
- B. National security classified information.
- C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.
- D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.

- E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.
- F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.
- G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.
- H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

Presidential Materials Review Board

Review on Contested Documents

Collection: President's Office Files

Box Number: 14

Folder: President's Handwriting [November 1 thru 5, 1971]

<u>Document</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
12	Return Private/Political
13	Retain Open

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 2, 1971

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE STAFF SECRETARY

FROM: CHARLES W. COLSON

SUBJECT: P-1891 and P-1885
Young Voters

Request

It was requested in Presidential Action Memorandum P-1891, taken from the October 12, 1971 News Summary, to report the true facts of the "bandwagon momentum" and to report on the activities of our youth program, with the suggestion that we concentrate on vote registration only in our areas and not stir it up elsewhere.

It was also requested in Presidential Action Memorandum P-1885, taken from the October 11, 1971 News Summary, to comment on the youth registration rally in Boston, noting if our efforts could top this.

Response

We are submitting the following report:

1. Bandwagon Momentum

As shown in the attached memorandum from Jeb Magruder to the Attorney General (Tab A), the Life article is extremely short on facts. It would be inaccurate to say there was truly bandwagon momentum. Registration figures for the new voter on a national level are still ranging from 10 to 15%.

This range is supported by other recent estimates. Estimates on youth registration range from 12% (Youth Citizenship Fund - October 19) to 20% (Newsweek - October 18).

Based upon newsclippings, spot registrar checks, and Party reports, the 10-15% range appears closer to the truth.

In terms of party affiliations, the young voters (18-20) appear to favor the Democrats by a ratio of approximately 2:1 (a figure that is in tune with their parents preferences). Such a ratio is likewise consistent with Gallup public opinion polls:

April, 1971:	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
	16%	42%	42%
September, 1971:	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
	14%	35%	51%
October, 1971:	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
	18%	38%	42%

The most significant factor in the poll results has been the high incidence of "Independent" responses. This same level of independent preference has not shown up in registration figures which would substantiate the theory that the vast portion of the independent or marginal young voters have not yet bothered to register.

Mass-based, general registration programs have not been instituted because, quite frankly, to do so would be politically injurious. At this time, neither the President nor the Republican Party has the sufficient support of youth that we can afford to play a numbers game with the Democrats as a mass nonselective registration effort would necessitate. Consequently, we have undertaken a highly selective approach in terms of where to go and who to register. By pursuing this course in priority counties in the

Presidential target states, we will be able to maximize Nixon votes with a low risk in improving the potential Democrat vote. These results can be properly PR'd to generate a bandwagon momentum of our own.

2. Youth Program

See attached monthly youth report.

3. Boston Rally--536 Registered

We can top the Boston fiasco with efforts of our own in various parts of the country and will. As you will note in the attached monthly youth report, our selective registration efforts, which are planned in such a way to maximize the yield of 'Nixon voters', begin in various communities in November. We will generate the necessary positive publicity to highlight the comparison with the Democrats' Boston fiasco.

great follow up

Attachments

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