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Americans split over TV, papers as top source for political news

NEW YORK (AP) — When it comes to learning about candidates, roughly the same proportion of Americans get their news from television as from newspapers. In either case, most say they get enough information to make informed choices, according to a Media General-Associated Press poll.

Forty-two percent of the 1,464 adult Americans in the nationwide telephone poll said newspapers were their prime source of information about candidates. Thirty-nine percent said they learned about candidates primarily from television news programs.

The rest of the respondents got most of their news from a variety of sources: magazines, radio, political advertisements and friends.

Overall, about two-thirds of the respondents said they got enough information to make informed choices, while about one-third felt they were not getting enough information.

Many of those who did not get enough information said they wanted more unbiased background information, and they also thought more in-depth coverage, more debates, and personal appearances by candidates would be useful.

Respondents were asked, "Where do you get most of your information about political candidates," and the answers provide a portrait of how

diverse groups of Americans get their political news.

Younger people preferred TV more frequently than older people: 43 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds used it as their primary source of information, compared with 36 percent of 35- to 54-year-olds, 37 percent of 55- to 64-year-olds, and 40 percent of those over 65.

College graduates preferred newspapers more frequently than those who were less educated: 55 percent of college graduates got most of their information from newspapers, compared with 45 percent of those who attended college but did not graduate, 36 percent of high school graduates, and 28 percent of high school dropouts.

White respondents were about equally split between television and newspapers but blacks preferred television to newspapers for their political news by a 52 percent to 26 percent margin.

Among registered voters, 44 percent said newspapers were their primary source of political news, while 38 percent preferred television. Among those who were not registered, 29 percent said newspapers were their main source of news, and 46 percent said television.

Those who were not registered to vote were

also more likely than registered voters to complain that they did not get adequate information to make informed voting choices.

Forty-five percent of men and 39 percent of women said they got most of their political information from newspapers. Television was preferred by 37 percent of the men and 41 percent of the women.

Respondents in the Media General-Associated Press poll included a random, scientific sampling of 1,464 adults across the country Sept. 8-17. With all sample surveys, the results of Media General-AP telephone polls can vary from the opinions of all Americans because of chance variations in the sample.

For a poll based on about 1,400 interviews, the results are subject to an error margin of 3 percentage points either way because of chance variations in the sample. That is, if one could have questioned all Americans with telephones, there is only 1 chance in 20 that the findings would vary from the results of polls such as this one by more than 3 percentage points.

Of course, the results could differ from other polls for several reasons, including differences in exact wording of questions, in the timing of interviews and in the interview methods.

Republicans expect to gain in gubernatorial elections

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are almost certain to score gains in governor's races Tuesday, but it would take a sweep of 10 tossup contests for them to come out of the 1986 elections with their goal: a majority of the nation's governorships.

A survey of the races by Associated Press reporters in the 36 states electing governors this year found Democratic candidates appeared safe in 11 states and leaning ahead in two more.

In five other states the Republican was safe and four more states were leaning GOP.

The remaining 14 states, a surprisingly large number, remain tossups going into Election Day. But Republicans must win 10 of those 14 neck-and-neck races if they are to capture a gubernatorial majority for the first time since 1969.

"There's just too many close ones to call," said Chuck Dolan, director of the Democratic Governors' Association.

In an election-year arithmetic that favors the GOP, Democrats find

themselves defending 27 of the 34 governorships they now hold. The GOP, with 16 governors, is defending only nine.

The races that could go either way on Tuesday are largely in states now held by Democrats — Florida, South Carolina, Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, Hawaii, Arizona, Alaska, Wyoming, Alabama and Wisconsin.

Three of the too-close-to-call races are in states now held by the GOP: Oregon, Tennessee and Pennsylvania.

Most of the endangered Democratic governorships are being vacated by popular incumbents. But two Democratic incumbents are trying to withstand fierce GOP opposition: in Texas, where Gov. Mark White still slightly trails the man he defeated four years ago, former Gov. Bill Clements, and Wisconsin, where Gov. Anthony Earl has been pressed by Republican legislative leader Tommy Thompson.

The Democrats' most prominent governor, possible presidential candidate Mario Cuomo of New York,

has an easy race for his second term. Also expected to win are Democratic incumbents in Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Massachusetts, Georgia, Arkansas, Connecticut and Ohio. Also regarded as safe are Democratic candidates in Idaho and Maryland.

In Vermont, Democratic Gov. Madeleine Kunin is leading but could fall short of the 50 percent she needs to keep the three-way race from being decided by the legislature. Colorado, a state the GOP had hoped to gain, also leans Democratic.

California Gov. George Deukmejian appears likely to win a second term against Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, one of two candidates seeking to become the first black elected governor in that state. The other black is long-shot GOP nominee William Lucas in Michigan.

Among states leaning Republican, Illinois Gov. James Thompson was leading over Adlai Stevenson, a Democrat running under a third-party banner.

Exile invents game touting coup intrigue

MIAMI (AP) — Have a hankering to be president, but find elections too bothersome?

Then try playing International Intrigue, a board game invented by a Bolivian exile for anyone who has ever dreamed about toppling a government.

Domingo Linales, 43, the game's inventor, is a veteran politician. He served as a provincial governor after a 1971 coup, and played a part in the last successful military takeover in 1980. When that regime was overthrown in 1982, he fled.

"I tried to make the game as realistic as possible," said Linales, a naturalized U.S. citizen, from his suburban home in Miami. "This is as close as you can get."

In International Intrigue, players can choose whether to defend the government or try to take it over. The players also decide whether they prefer to be the right wing or the left.

Nuclear weapon elimination 'unwise'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eliminating all nuclear weapons without building up NATO forces would give the Soviet Union an overwhelming edge in Europe and the ability to conquer that continent quickly, say congressional, Pentagon and West European experts.

"We will need a massive build-up in conventional weapons if we have no nuclear deterrent," said the author of a congressional study on the impact of arms control proposals advanced at the stalemated Iceland summit.

"If you ask experts how long it would take NATO to capitulate, pessimists say three days and optimists say 30 days," said the congressional staffer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report, which has not been released, concludes that within two weeks of mobilization, Soviet-led

Waraw Pact forces would have a 2½-to-1 edge in firepower over the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, counting troops, planes, tanks and personnel carriers.

NATO could defend Europe even if the Warsaw Pact held a 1½-to-1 edge, the report says, but West European countries over the years have balked at U.S. calls to increase the size of their forces.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev says President Reagan agreed to the total elimination of all nuclear weapons at the Iceland meeting, and initial statements by administration spokesmen concurred.

But the White House now says that Reagan had in mind a deal that would have maintained the nuclear deterrent in Europe, and that appears to be the only formulation acceptable to U.S. and NATO military officials.

Pentagon spokesmen, asked to describe how eliminating all nuclear weapons would affect the balance of power in Europe, said they were on White House orders not to comment.

They are on record, however, as saying that the Soviet Union enjoys a significant edge in non-nuclear forces in Europe and that without the nuclear threat, the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization probably could not withstand Soviet attack.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., considered one of the leading military experts on Capitol Hill, has criticized proposals for the elimination of all ballistic and all nuclear weapons, saying that either could jeopardize NATO.

European leaders have voiced concern over some of the proposals

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