

**The original documents are located in Box 65, folder “June 30, 1972 - Richard F. McAdoo - Registration Drive for Military Voters” of the Robert Teeter Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Committee for the Re-election of the President

MEMORANDUM

June 30, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. RICHARD F. McADOO  
FROM: TED J. GARRISH  
SUBJECT: Registration Drive for Military Voters

This is in response to your memorandum of June 26, 1972 regarding the advisability of conducting a mass registration drive of military voters aged 19-24 years.

We would recommend against this activity for the following reasons:

1. All of the recent public polls show Nixon substantially behind McGovern with this age group.
2. The demographic statistics which you provided for us demonstrate that there is a greater percentage of persons in lower socio-economic categories than in the general population. These constituency will undoubtedly be highly Democratic.
3. Even assuming that the enlistees had a greater number of Nixon voters in total throughout the country, this would still not help us in states where we are running poorly. We would expect the military voters to reflect the same voting patterns as voters in the home state. Therefore, a bad situation would only be aggravated and we would be helped only in states where we are already ahead.

Of course, if there would be some way to identify voters leaning to the President, I think the registration drive should take place. From what you have told me I doubt whether this identification can be accomplished. With regard to officers and senior career men we agree that it would be useful to conduct registration activities with them.

I have discussed this matter with Bob Teeter and he is in full accord with the conclusions and reasons I have outlined.

