

## **Americans by a 2-1 Margin Call Buchanan Too Extreme**

Dan Quayle had problems with public perceptions of his competence; Ross Perot, with his temperament. Now it's Pat Buchanan's turn: Americans by a 2-1 margin think he's "too extreme" to be president.

With Buchanan on the verge of bolting the GOP and seeking the Reform Party's presidential nomination, the issue is a serious one: Before a candidate can win votes, he or she needs to meet a basic standard of acceptability. That hurdle troubled Quayle and Perot alike, and it threatens Buchanan as well.

Currently 44 percent of Americans think Buchanan is too extreme to serve as president, while 22 percent say he's not too extreme. That leaves a large group, 34 percent, who feel they don't know enough about him to say.

Is Buchanan too extreme?

Yes	No	No opin.
44%	22	34

It could be worse for Buchanan. In fact it *has* been worse: In February 1996, a few days after he won the New Hampshire Republican primary (with 56,874 votes), 54 percent of Americans said he was too extreme (35 percent thought not.) The main difference now seems to be that fewer people are paying attention, so far more have no opinion.

It's today's undecided group – comprised predominantly of women, young adults, low-income and less-educated Americans – that may decide whether Buchanan clears the hurdle of acceptability. The last three of those four, though, are among the less reliable groups when it comes to turning out to vote.

It's in the older, higher-income and higher-education groups that Buchanan faces the deepest doubt, and these tend to be more reliable voters. He's seen as too extreme by 55 percent of people with household incomes of \$50,000 or more, by 57 percent of those age 50 and up and by 58 percent of those who've earned college degrees. College graduates, in particular, turn out at the polls very reliably.

Interestingly, Buchanan is seen as too extreme by identical numbers of Republicans and Democrats alike (48 percent), as well as by 41 percent of independents. But 32 percent of

Republicans say he's not too extreme, compared to just 18 percent of Democrats. It's the Democrats, and independents, who are more apt to have no opinion.

	Is Buchanan too extreme?		
	Yes	No	No opin.
Men	49%	24	27
Women	39	21	40
Age 18-34	33	22	45
Age 50+	57	18	25
High school	36	22	42
College grad.	58	22	19
Income <\$25K	34	21	45
Income >\$50K	55	21	24

The table above shows another reason Buchanan's task won't be easy: His negative score is highest in groups that have fewer undecided members. That means people who've made up their minds about him have decided disproportionately that he's too extreme.

Further, while minds can always change, 72 percent of Americans in an ABC News Nightline poll earlier this week said they would not seriously consider voting for Buchanan. Just 15 percent said they'd give him a look.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone Oct. 6-10, 1999, among a random national sample of 1,007 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:  
<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

15. Thinking about Pat Buchanan--in your opinion are his views too extreme for him to serve as president, or are they not too extreme?

	Too extreme	Not too extreme	No opin.
10/10/99	44	22	34
2/25/96*	54	35	11

\*Gallup