# Voters Know More Than in ' 92 <br> CLASS COLLISIONS IN RESPONSE TO BUCHANAN, NATIONWIDE 

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## Voters Know More Than in '92 <br> CLASS COLLISIONS IN RESPONSE TO BUCHANAN, NATIONWIDE

Pat Buchanan's populist appeals have broadened and strengthened his base as a GOP primary candidate, but at the expense of potential support from key groups that typically vote Republican in presidential elections. A 52\% majority of college graduates and $53 \%$ of those who earn $\$ 75,000$ a year or more are displeased with his success on the campaign trail. But most who have never attended college or earn less than $\$ 30,000$ a year are happy that he won the New Hampshire primary.

The Pew Research Center survey conducted this past weekend found the overall, public divided on Buchanan -- $44 \%$ were pleased by his New Hampshire win, while $40 \%$ were displeased. Not only are working class Republicans reacting favorably to Buchanan's success. A plurality of Independents who have not attended college are also pleased by his win, as are as many as $41 \%$ of Democrats who do not have a college degree.

However, Buchanan is turning off many groups that usually vote Republican in presidential contests, and this is more than offsetting his new

| Buchanan's Win ? |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\frac{\text { Pleased }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Displeased }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\mathrm{DK}}{\%}$ |
| All Respondents: | 44 | 40 | 16=100 |
| Republicans: |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 44 | 51 | 5=100 |
| Not a Grad. | 57 | 32 | $11=100$ |
| Independents: |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 36 | 55 | 9=100 |
| Not a Grad. | 43 | 36 | $21=100$ |
| Democrats: |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 39 | 52 | 9=100 |
| Not a Grad. | 41 | 42 | $17=100$ | found popularity among working class voters. He would lose to Bill Clinton by a wide $59 \%$ to $36 \%$ margin if the national election were held today. Clinton would also defeat Lamar Alexander and Bob Dole, but by narrower margins ( $54 \%$ to $42 \%$ and $52 \%$ to $44 \%$, respectively). Differences in the patterns of support in these hypothetical races are quite telling. It is a very close contest between Clinton and Dole among people who have attended college, suburbanites and white independents. However, each of these usually Republican groups would support Clinton by a nearly 2 to 1 margin over Buchanan if faced with that choice today.

## Patterns of Support

Bill Clinton vs. Pat Buchanan/Bob Dole*

|  | Clinton | Buchanan | Clinton | Dole |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 59 | 36 | 52 | 44 |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 55 | 41 | 48 | 49 |
| Female | 63 | 32 | 55 | 40 |
| Education |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 62 | 34 | 47 | 48 |
| Some College | 62 | 34 | 50 | 48 |
| High School Grad. (or less) | 56 | 38 | 54 | 41 |
| Party ID |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 23 | 70 | 13 | 84 |
| Democrat | 90 | 10 | 93 | 6 |
| Independent | 64 | 32 | 49 | 42 |
| Whites | 57 | 38 | 47 | 48 |
| Suburbanites | 72 | 26 | 49 | 48 |
| White Suburbanites | 69 | 28 | 46 | 51 |
| White Independents | 64 | 32 | 46 | 44 |

## Buchanan: First or Second Choice of 48\%

Within the ranks of the GOP itself, Buchanan still trails Dole by a $39 \%$ to $24 \%$ margin as a first choice for the nomination. But nearly half (48\%) name the former broadcaster as either their first or their second choice for top of the ticket. Alexander places a distant third as a first or second choice, followed by Steve Forbes.

Buchanan's favorability rating among the public at large has also improved. His overall rating ( $45 \%$ favorable, $44 \%$ unfavorable) is poorer than Clinton's (55\%, 43\%) and Dole's (55\%, 39\%), but better than a Whitewater-tarnished Hillary Clinton's (42\%, 54\%). On a trend basis, public evaluations of Buchanan are more positive than they were at the end of his ' 92 campaign, but not quite as good as they were four years ago just after he had made a strong showing against George Bush in the New Hampshire primary.

But the More You Know ...
The poll results suggested that attitudes toward Buchanan may be a work in progress. Nearly half the public were not aware of his positions on many of his most high profile issues. Further, the survey found that those who know less about his positions have a more favorable opinion than those who know more about his stands.

Among those familiar with his positions, more disagreed than agreed with him on issues ranging
 from free trade to homosexuality. Only on the issue of religion and morality did a majority say they sided with Buchanan's point of view.

Almost one-third of respondents (31\%) said Buchanan's victory has made them more interested in the presidential race ( $4 \%$ said less interested, $63 \%$ said no difference). He may in fact be energizing his opposition as well as his supporting groups, however. Democrats were almost as likely as Republicans ( $32 \%$ and $37 \%$, respectively) to say they are now more interested in the race due to Buchanan's New Hampshire triumph.

## The Public's Soundbites ...

Most respondents were able to easily provide one word evaluative descriptions of Clinton (80\%), Dole (68\%) and Buchanan (59\%). "One-worders" for Alexander were harder to come by (33\% responded).

Clinton was lightly praised most often. Dole was most frequently characterized by his age. Descriptions of Buchanan emphasized his ideological extremism. Alexander descriptions were not sharply drawn.

| Bill Clinton's "Top 25" |  | Bob Dole's "Top 25" |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency |  | Frequency |
| 1. Good | 38 | 1. Old | 66 |
| 2. Trying | 21 | 2. Conservative | 31 |
| 3. Okay | 20 | 3. Too old | 22 |
| 4. Fair | 14 | 4. Good | 16 |
| 5. Honest | 11 | 5. Okay | 14 |
| 6. Wishy washy | 11 | 6. Honest | 13 |
| 7. Leader | 10 | 7. Dislike | 12 |
| 8. Liberal | 10 | 8. Fair | 9 |
| 9. Dishonest | 9 | 9. Arrogant | 8 |
| 10. Great | 9 | 10. Experienced | 8 |
| 11. Alright | 7 | 11. Dull | 7 |
| 12. Likeable | 7 | 12. Wishy washy | 7 |
| 13. Bad | 6 | 13. Moderate | 6 |
| 14. Competent | 6 | 14. Nice | 6 |
| 15. Jerk | 6 | 15. Politician | 6 |
| 16. Nice | 6 | 16. Bad | 5 |
| 17. Politician | 6 | 17. Boring | 5 |
| 18. Slick | 6 | 18. Good man | 5 |
| 19. Caring | 5 | 19. Leader | 5 |
| 20. Crook | 5 | 20. Pineapple | 5 |
| 21. Excellent | 5 | 21. Too conservative | 5 |
| 22. Friendly | 5 | 22. Competent | 4 |
| 23. Intelligent | 5 | 23. Negative | 4 |
| 24. Liar | 5 | 24. Bold | 3 |
| 25. Sincere | 5 | 25. Crook | 3 |


| Pat Buchanan's "Top 25" |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Frequency |
| 1. Extreme | 35 |
| 2. Radical | 27 |
| 3. Conservative | 18 |
| 4. Ultra-conservative | 18 |
| 5. Good | 15 |
| 6. Racist | 12 |
| 7. Okay | 11 |
| 8. Scary | 11 |
| 9. Fair | 9 |
| 10. Distrust | 8 |
| 11. Dislike | 7 |
| 12. Honest | 7 |
| 13. Interesting | 7 |
| 14. Jerk | 7 |
| 15. Religious | 7 |
| 16. Bad | 6 |
| 17. Crazy | 6 |
| 18. Nuts | 6 |
| 19. Dangerous | 4 |
| 20. Frightening | 4 |
| 21. Politician | 4 |
| 22. Right wing | 4 |
| 23. Trying | 4 |
| 24. Aggressive | 3 |
| 25. Arrogant | 3 |


| Lamar Alexander's "Top 25" |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Frequency |  |

## Interest In New Hampshire Up

Americans were more attentive to the New Hampshire primary campaign last month than four years ago. A total of 57\% said they followed it closely (22\% very closely, 35\% fairly closely) compared to 50\% in February 1992 (19\% and 31\%, respectively). The electorate, besides being more attentive, is also more knowledgeable about the issues, more pleased with press performance, but more bothered by negative campaigning than at the same time in the last presidential election cycle.

Issues: Whether because the 1996 issues resonate better with the electorate or are better phrased to catch attention, 46\% of respondents correctly associated Forbes with the "flat tax" idea. Four years ago, only 9\% identified Clinton with a middle class tax cut and 6\% associated Bob Kerry with universal health care, his main issue. Forbes was identified by $61 \%$ as the candidate who is spending millions of his own money to finance his campaign. Fully 62\% knew that Buchanan won the New Hampshire contest and $37 \%$ associated him with his protectionist (antiNAFTA, anti-GATT) theme this year; four years ago, only 13\% identified him with his chief "America-first" theme. Almost one-third (31\%) of respondents knew that Alexander has been campaigning in a red and black flannel shirt. Four years ago, only $21 \%$ knew that the main Democratic contender, Paul Tsongas, had cancer.

In every instance, men were much more knowledgeable than women about campaign themes and issues, with Republicans understandably more knowledgeable than Democrats or Independents. Buchanan's supporters were more likely than most respondents to know that their man won in New Hampshire, but they were generally less knowledgeable

## What they knew in '92

21\% knew Tsongas had cancer.
13\% identified Buchanan with "America first" theme.

9\% identified Clinton with middle class tax cut proposal.

6\% associated Kerrey with guaranteed health insurance.

6\% associated Tsongas with publicprivate partnerships.

## What they know in '96

62\% know Buchanan won the New Hampshire primary.

61\% identified Forbes as spending his millions.

46\% associated Forbes with the flat tax.

37\% identified Buchanan with protectionist trade themes.

31\% know Alexander campaigns in red and black flannel shirts. than supporters of other GOP candidates on the range of substantive issues. In fact, they were less likely to associate Buchanan with one of his chief themes, protectionism, than were Alexander and Forbes supporters.

Press: $16 \%$ said the press is doing an "excellent" job of covering the presidential campaign so far, compared to 11\% four years ago; another 45\% gave it "good" grades both now and in 1992. Democrats were more likely to give the media high marks ( $22 \%$ said excellent) than were Republicans and Independents ( $14 \%$ and $13 \%$, respectively). Registered voters in early primary states, on the other hand, were among respondents most critical of the press; nearly one in five rated coverage as poor in these areas where coverage has been most intense.
"On-line" computer sources, a new but growing competitor of traditional media, were used by $2 \%$ of respondents as a main information source for the 1996 campaign. Twice as many (4\%) said they go on-line at least every few weeks for campaign information. In another usage measure, as many as one in ten respondents (10\%) go on-line at least every few weeks for current events information, which is almost half of the $21 \%$ who go on-line with their computers.

Negative campaigning: 60\% said they were bothered "very much," another $17 \%$ were bothered "somewhat," by the growing practice by politicians of attacking competitors' faults rather than extolling his or her own virtues. In an open-ended question, negative advertising -- the usual form of negative campaigning -- was the most common complaint volunteered by respondents: 32\% now, up from $25 \%$ in a July 1994 survey. ${ }^{1}$ Another 12\% complained that candidates don't talk about issues and/or where they stand, up from $4 \%$ in the 1994 survey. On the other hand, considerably fewer respondents complained about interest groups and PACs having too much influence: 3\%, down from $12 \%$ two years ago.

Large majorities of the public also expressed concern about the amount of money politicians spend on campaigns ( $56 \%$ said they were "very much" bothered, $17 \%$ "somewhat" bothered) and by what politicians say to get elected ( $53 \%$ very much bothered, $25 \%$ somewhat bothered). While these numbers are disturbingly high, they are lower than two years ago when politicians' spending bothered $69 \%$ of respondents "very much" and politicians' statements bothered $61 \%$ of respondents "very much".

## Vote By Mail

The public has not yet decided whether voting by mail rather than at the ballot box is a good idea. Most preferred the traditional way (54\%) with a significant minority (43\%) opting to mail in their vote during the weeks leading up to election day, as in a special Oregon contest last month. However, when asked whether laws should be changed to permit voting by mail, respondents split evenly ( $48 \%$ in favor, $47 \%$ opposed). Moreover, when the pros and cons of the practice were

[^0]outlined in a series of questions put to a split sample of respondents, opposition to the new idea increased. Specifically, $69 \%$ agreed that arguments in favor of voting by mail were good, and an identical 69\% agreed that arguments against the idea were good. But then, "all things considered," a majority of these respondents came down against changing the election laws ( $51 \%$, with $44 \%$ in favor) to permit voting by mail.

Voting by mail is particularly favored by those who usually do not vote and by young people who have not yet developed the voting habit. Among registered voters, $62 \%$ preferred the traditional way, while among non-registered voters, $63 \%$ preferred the vote by mail option. By age groups, $59 \%$ of respondents under 30 years old would like to vote by mail, while $66 \%$ of those over 50 want to stay with the traditional method.

## News Interest at New Low

Americans paid record-low attention to news during the survey period. The New Hampshire political story, which was of limited interest to most Americans, dominated the media while at the same time there were few other major stories to compete for air time and print space. For the first time since the Center began the News Interest Index surveys more than a decade ago, no story attracted more than one-in-four of the public. Top draw was a brace of stories, followed "very closely" by $24 \%$ of the public, about train crashes in three states. The previous record low of attentiveness was in the April 1990 News Interest Index when the top story (about Lithuanian declaration of independence from Moscow) was followed very closely by $29 \%$.

In February 1996, after the train crashes and the Granite State primary (22\%) came the situation in Bosnia, which was followed very closely by $21 \%$. The interest level in Bosnia reached a record level of $37 \%$ one month earlier, when U.S. troops were being deployed as United Nations peacekeepers amid very high media coverage. Only twice before during the four-year conflict has the attentiveness level in Bosnia topped 20\%, however. Otherwise, Magic Johnson's return to basketball was followed very closely by $16 \%$ of the public, which was more attention than the IRA bombings in London (13\%) and the stock market's recent gyrations (12\%) received.

## PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

|  | Recent Train Crashes | NH <br> Republican Primary | Situation In Bosnia | Return Of Magic Johnson | (N) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 24 | 22 | 21 | 16 | 1500 |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 21 | 27 | 26 | 21 | 754 |
| Female | 27 | 17 | 17 | 12 | 746 |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 23 | 22 | 20 | 13 | 1276 |
| *Hispanic | 32 | 26 | 36 | 26 | 80 |
| Black | 33 | 17 | 22 | 35 | 118 |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 16 | 11 | 17 | 23 | 303 |
| 30-49 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 17 | 609 |
| 50+ | 32 | 29 | 24 | 11 | 563 |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 19 | 31 | 20 | 11 | 476 |
| Other College | 23 | 26 | 22 | 18 | 340 |
| High School Grad | 24 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 530 |
| < H. S. Grad. | 28 | 16 | 26 | 17 | 144 |
| Region |  |  |  |  |  |
| East | 26 | 26 | 21 | 16 | 270 |
| Midwest | 21 | 17 | 18 | 14 | 423 |
| South | 27 | 24 | 28 | 18 | 530 |
| West | 19 | 20 | 14 | 15 | 277 |
| Party ID |  |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 23 | 28 | 22 | 15 | 481 |
| Democrat | 28 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 456 |
| Independent | 20 | 18 | 19 | 12 | 487 |

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.
*The designation, Hispanic, is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

## PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

|  | IRA <br> Bombings In London | Stock <br> Market | TeleCommunications Bill | (N) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 13 | 12 | 12 | 1500 |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 16 | 16 | 14 | 754 |
| Female | 11 | 8 | 10 | 746 |
| Race |  |  |  |  |
| White | 13 | 13 | 11 | 1276 |
| *Hispanic | 19 | 12 | 12 | 80 |
| Black | 12 | 6 | 18 | 118 |
| Age |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 303 |
| 30-49 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 609 |
| 50+ | 18 | 15 | 14 | 563 |
| Education |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 14 | 23 | 15 | 476 |
| Other College | 15 | 14 | 13 | 340 |
| High School Grad | 10 | 8 | 11 | 530 |
| < H. S. Grad. | 19 | 5 | 8 | 144 |
| Region |  |  |  |  |
| East | 14 | 15 | 12 | 270 |
| Midwest | 10 | 10 | 10 | 423 |
| South | 17 | 12 | 15 | 530 |
| West | 11 | 12 | 8 | 277 |
| Party ID |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 15 | 18 | 11 | 481 |
| Democrat | 14 | 10 | 13 | 456 |
| Independent | 12 | 10 | 12 | 487 |

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.
*The designation, Hispanic, is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

## TABLES

## Republican Nomination Preference

(Based on Registered Republican/Lean Republican)

|  | Dole |  | Buchanan |  | Alexander |  | Forbes |  | N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 st <br> Choice <br> $\%$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \mathrm{st} / 2 \mathrm{nd} \\ \text { Combined } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1st } \\ \text { Choice } \\ \hline \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \mathrm{st} / 2 \mathrm{nd} \\ \text { Combined } \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1st } \\ \text { Choice } \\ \hline \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \begin{array}{c} 1 \mathrm{st} / 2 \mathrm{nd} \\ \text { Combined } \end{array} \\ \hline \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{c}1 \text { st } \\ \text { Choice }\end{array}$ <br> $\%$ | $\begin{gathered} \begin{array}{c} 1 \mathrm{st} / 2 \mathrm{nd} \\ \text { Combined } \end{array} \\ \hline \% \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Total | 39 | 62 | 24 | 48 | 15 | 32 | 12 | 22 | (564) |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 35 | 59 | 27 | 51 | 16 | 35 | 12 | 23 | (316) |
| Female | 43 | 64 | 22 | 46 | 14 | 28 | 12 | 20 | (248) |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 39 | 68 | 28 | 62 | 9 | 22 | 18 | 27 | (77) |
| 30-49 | 41 | 63 | 21 | 44 | 12 | 27 | 13 | 25 | (228) |
| 50-64 | 29 | 51 | 30 | 50 | 22 | 43 | 10 | 18 | (158) |
| 65+ | 50 | 70 | 22 | 47 | 17 | 37 | 7 | 15 | (95) |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 41 | 63 | 16 | 33 | 21 | 43 | 12 | 23 | (233) |
| Some College | 38 | 62 | 25 | 50 | 13 | 29 | 14 | 22 | (133) |
| High School Grad. (or less) | 38 | 60 | 29 | 57 | 12 | 26 | 11 | 20 | (198) |
| Family Income |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \$75,000+ | 39 | 62 | 16 | 32 | 16 | 39 | 22 | 30 | (101) |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 41 | 60 | 21 | 42 | 15 | 33 | 12 | 27 | (99) |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 40 | 64 | 26 | 52 | 17 | 32 | 7 | 24 | (149) |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 34 | 59 | 25 | 46 | 13 | 27 | 10 | 12 | (83) |
| <\$20,000 | 38 | 62 | 32 | 62 | 15 | 33 | 12 | 17 | (84) |
| Region |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East | 37 | 64 | 22 | 45 | 14 | 29 | 9 | 18 | (86) |
| Midwest | 43 | 61 | 24 | 56 | 13 | 30 | 11 | 19 | (161) |
| South | 37 | 60 | 26 | 49 | 20 | 37 | 10 | 20 | (206) |
| West | 39 | 62 | 25 | 42 | 10 | 28 | 19 | 30 | (111) |

Question: Now I am going to read you the names of the candidates for the Republican nomination for President in 1996. After I read all the names, would you tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President. (IF NO FIRST CHOICE, ASK: Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?) And who would be your second choice?

Continued ...

|  | Dole |  | Buchanan |  | Alexander |  | Forbes |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1st <br> Choice | 1st/2nd <br> Combined | 1st <br> Choice | 1st/2nd <br> Combined | 1st <br> Choice | 1st/2nd <br> Combined | 1st <br> Choice | 1st/2nd <br> Combined | N |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |  |
| Total | 39 | 62 | 24 | 48 | 15 | 32 | 12 | 22 | (564) |
| Religious Preference |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total White Prot. | 39 | 60 | 26 | 49 | 16 | 33 | 9 | 19 | (376) |
| White Prot. Evangel. | 36 | 59 | 30 | 57 | 13 | 29 | 7 | 17 | (171) |
| White Prot. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Non-Evangel. | 42 | 61 | 21 | 42 | 18 | 38 | 11 | 21 | (205) |
| White Catholic | 38 | 64 | 22 | 50 | 18 | 33 | 13 | 23 | (111) |
| Party ID |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 39 | 62 | 24 | 47 | 14 | 31 | 11 | 22 | (404) |
| Independent | 38 | 61 | 24 | 52 | 16 | 34 | 15 | 22 | (146) |
| 1992 Vote |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bush | 45 | 67 | 17 | 42 | 16 | 35 | 11 | 20 | (304) |
| Clinton | 36 | 56 | 31 | 50 | 21 | 37 | 10 | 20 | (73) |
| Perot | 33 | 51 | 29 | 50 | 14 | 31 | 15 | 31 | (75) |
| Presidential Approval |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Approve | 39 | 63 | 21 | 39 | 16 | 35 | 15 | 30 | (111) |
| Disapprove | 39 | 64 | 25 | 51 | 14 | 31 | 11 | 20 | (405) |
| GOP Congress Approval |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Approve | 43 | 66 | 21 | 46 | 14 | 32 | 12 | 21 | (378) |
| Disapprove | 37 | 59 | 27 | 50 | 17 | 32 | 13 | 25 | (131) |
| Listens To Talk Radio |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Regularly | 33 | 52 | 27 | 46 | 12 | 27 | 15 | 24 | (147) |
| Sometimes | 41 | 64 | 25 | 54 | 18 | 39 | 11 | 22 | (124) |
| Rarely/Never | 40 | 65 | 23 | 47 | 15 | 31 | 11 | 20 | (292) |

## Buchanan Favorability

March 1992, February 1996

|  | March 1992 |  | February 1996 |  | Increase in Favorability |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Favorable | Unfavorable | Favorable | Unfavorable |  |
| Total | 31 | 53 | 45 | 44 | +14 |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 33 | 53 | 51 | 44 | +18 |
| Female | 29 | 54 | 39 | 45 | +10 |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 32 | 55 | 45 | 44 | +13 |
| Non-white | 29 | 46 | 42 | 48 | +13 |
| Black | 29 | 44 | 41 | 48 | +12 |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 41 | 46 | 52 | 41 | +11 |
| 30-49 | 29 | 58 | 41 | 47 | +12 |
| 50-64 | 30 | 59 | 49 | 44 | +19 |
| 65+ | 26 | 45 | 45 | 42 | +19 |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 28 | 65 | 33 | 61 | +5 |
| Some College | 33 | 52 | 48 | 39 | +15 |
| High School Grad. | 32 | 54 | 49 | 41 | +17 |
| <H.S. Grad | 32 | 40 | 43 | 40 | +11 |
| Family Income |  |  |  |  |  |
| \$50,000+ | 30 | 65 | 42 | 49 | +12 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 34 | 54 | 43 | 46 | +9 |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 30 | 54 | 45 | 44 | +15 |
| <\$20,000 | 32 | 47 | 50 | 40 | +18 |
| Region |  |  |  |  |  |
| East | 33 | 52 | 42 | 47 | +9 |
| Midwest | 29 | 57 | 48 | 43 | +19 |
| South | 33 | 47 | 50 | 41 | +17 |
| West | 29 | 60 | 36 | 48 | +7 |
| Party ID |  |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 38 | 52 | 59 | 32 | +21 |
| Democrat | 27 | 54 | 37 | 56 | +10 |
| Independent | 31 | 55 | 39 | 46 | +8 |
| Question: | Would you say your overall opinion of Patrick Buchanan is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable? |  |  |  |  |

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

## ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,500 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period February 22-25, 1996. For results based on the total sample, one can say with $95 \%$ confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on either Form A ( $\mathrm{N}=750$ ) or Form B ( $\mathrm{N}=750$ ), the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone households in the U.S. Estimates of the number of telephone households within each county are derived from 1990 Census data on residential telephone incidence that have been updated with state-level information on new telephone installations and county-level projections of the number of households. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing three or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample.

At least three attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were recontacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home". If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who lives in the household". This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 1992). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters. After an optimum sample balancing solution is reached, the weights were constrained to fall within the range of 1 to 5 . This constraint is useful to ensure that individual respondents do not exert an inordinate effect on the survey's overall results.

## THE QUESTIONNAIRE

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS <br> FEBRUARY 1996 NEWS INTEREST INDEX <br> -- FINAL TOPLINE -- <br> February 22-25, 1996 <br> $\mathrm{N}=1,500$ 

Hello, I am $\qquad$ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. [IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]
Q. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

Q.1a Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress? (IF "DON'T KNOW," ENTER AS CODE 9. IF "DEPENDS," PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the proposals and policies of the Republican leaders in Congress? IF STILL "DEPENDS," ENTER AS CODE 9.)

|  |  | Jan | Oct | Sept | Aug | June | April | March | Dec |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{1996}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1994^{2}}$ |  |
| 33 | Approve | 36 | 36 | 36 | 38 | 41 | 44 | 43 | 52 |
| 53 | Disapprove | 54 | 51 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 43 | 39 | 28 |
| $\frac{14}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{10}$ | $\underline{13}$ | $\underline{14}$ | $\underline{17}$ | $\underline{14}$ | $\underline{13}$ | $\underline{18}$ | $\underline{20}$ |
|  |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

2 In December the question asked "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

NOW A DIFFERENT KIND OF QUESTION...
Q.2a and Q.2b ASK FORM A ONLY

ROTATE ITEMS a. AND b.
Q.2FA As I mention a person's name, tell me what one word best describes your impression of that person. Tell me just the one best word that describes him or her. (ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES)
a.FA Bill Clinton
b.FA Lamar Alexander

## Q.2c AND Q.2d ASK FORM B ONLY

ROTATE ITEMS c. AND d.
Q.2FB As I mention a person's name, tell me what one word best describes your impression of that person. Tell me just the one best word that describes him or her. (ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES)
c.FB Patrick Buchanan
d.FB Bob Dole
**FOR THE TOP TWENTY-FIVE RESPONSES SEE PAGE 4.**

ASK ALL:
Q. 3 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? [READ AND ROTATE LIST]
a. The situation in Bosnia

| Very | Fairly |
| :---: | :---: |
| Closely | Closely |


| Not too | Not at all |
| :--- | ---: |
| Closely | Closely |

(VOL)
DK
a.

January, $1996^{3}$
September, 1995
August, 1995
June, 1995
March, 1995
February, 1995
December, 1994
October, 1994
September, 1994
June, 1994
May, 1994
January, 1994
Early January, 1994
December, 1993
October, 1993
September, 1993
Early September, 1993
August, 1993
May, 1993
February, 1993
January, 1993
September, 1992
b. The Republican primary in New Hampshire
$22 \quad 35$
$35 \quad 20$
20
$23 \quad *=100$
February, 1992
$19 \quad 31$
26
23
$1=100$
c. The recent IRA bombings in London ending the cease fire between Britain and the IRA
d. New laws in Washington that ease regulations on the phone companies, cable companies, and other communication industries

12
31
29
27
$1=100$

## Q. 3 Con't ...

| Very | Fairly | Not too | Not at all | (VOL) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Closely | Closely | $\underline{\text { Closely }}$ | $\underline{\text { Closely }}$ | $\underline{\text { DK }}$ |

e. The return of Magic Johnson to the NBA
f. Recent major ups and downs in the stock market

12
$20 \quad 25$
33
*=100
16
26
25
g. Recent train crashes in Maryland, Colorado and New Jersey

24
40
24
11
$1=100$

## ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q. 4 Now I am going to read you the names of the candidates for the Republican nomination for President in 1996. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, would you tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President. (PROBE: PLEASE WAIT UNTIL I READ THE ENTIRE LIST OF NAMES BEFORE YOU RESPOND.) (READ AND ROTATE)
Q.4a And who would be your SECOND choice? (READ LIST AGAIN IF NEEDED) -- SKIP Q.4B

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "NONE OF THEM" OR "DON'T KNOW" ... ASK:
Q.4b Well as of today, to whom do you most lean? ${ }^{4}$

BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICAN/LEAN REPUBLICAN5:

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Feb } \\ \underline{1996} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 1995 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | March 1995 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Feb } \\ \underline{1995} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bob Dole |  |  |  |  |
| First Choice/Lean Dole | 39 | 42 | 45 | 49 |
| Second Choice | 23 | 20 | 22 | 17 |
| Lamar Alexander |  |  |  |  |
| First Choice/Lean Alexander | 15 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Second Choice | 17 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Patrick Buchanan |  |  |  |  |
| First Choice/Lean Buchanan | 24 | 6 | 11 | 7 |
| Second Choice | 24 | 9 | 18 | 14 |
| Steve Forbes |  |  |  |  |
| First Choice/Lean Forbes | 12 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Second Choice | 10 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Richard Lugar |  |  |  |  |
| First Choice/Lean Lugar | 2 | 2 | 3 | n/a |
| Second Choice | 3 | 3 | 2 | n/a |
| Alan Keyes |  |  |  |  |
| First Choice/Lean Keyes | 4 | 2 | n/a | n/a |
| Second Choice | 4 | 2 | n/a | n/a |
| None of them |  |  |  |  |
| Lean | 2 | 4 | n/a | n/a |
| Second Choice | 6 | 5 | n/a | n/a |
| Don't know/Refused |  |  |  |  |
| First Choice | 2 | 7 | 14 | 12 |
| Second Choice | 5 | 16 | 16 | 29 |
|  | ( $\mathrm{N}=564$ ) |  |  |  |

[^1]Q.5-Q. 6 ASK FORM A ONLY
Q.5FA Suppose the 1996 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat and Bob Dole, the Republican. Who would you vote for?
Q.5aFA Do you LEAN most to Clinton, the Democrat or Dole, the Republican?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

|  | Jan |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{1996}$ |
| 52 | Clinton/Lean Clinton | 53 |
| 44 | Dole/Lean Dole | 41 |
| $\frac{4}{100}$ | Other/Don't know/Refused | $\underline{6}$ |
| $\mathbf{( N = 5 6 7 )}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |  |

Q.6FA In your opinion, which Republican candidate has the best chance of defeating Bill Clinton in the November presidential election...(INSERT NAME, ROTATE LIST)?
$49 \quad$ Bob Dole
22 Patrick Buchanan
10 Lamar Alexander
5 Steve Forbes
7 None of the Above
7 Don't Know/Refused
100
( $\mathrm{N}=750$ )
Q. 7-8 ASK FORM B ONLY

ROTATE QUESTIONS 7/7a AND 8/8a
ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...
Q.7FB Suppose the 1996 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat and Patrick Buchanan, the Republican. Who would you vote for?
Q.7aFB Do you LEAN most to Clinton, the Democrat or Buchanan, the Republican?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

59 Clinton/Lean Clinton

36 Buchanan/Lean Buchanan
5 Other/Don't Know/Refused
100
( $\mathrm{N}=564$ )
Q.8FB Suppose the 1996 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat and Lamar Alexander, the Republican. Who would you vote for?
Q.8aFB Do you LEAN most to Clinton, the Democrat or Alexander, the Republican?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

## 54 Clinton/Lean Clinton

42 Alexander/Lean Alexander

4 Other/Don't Know/Refused
100
( $\mathrm{N}=564$ )
Q. 9 Now I'd like your views on some people and things in the news. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of who or what I name. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... (INSERT ITEM. ROTATE) is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? (INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND CAN'T RATE")

|  |  | Very Favorable | Mostly Favorable | Mostly Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable | Never Heard of | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Can't } \\ & \text { Rate } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ASK ITEMS a.-e. OF FORM A ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=750]$ : |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| a. | Bill Clinton | 20 | 35 | 22 | 21 | 0 | $2=100$ |
|  | January, 1996 | 13 | 43 | 27 | 15 | 0 | $2=100$ |
|  | August, 1995 | 13 | 36 | 29 | 20 | 0 | $2=100$ |
|  | February, 1995 | 14 | 41 | 25 | 17 | 0 | $3=100$ |
|  | December, 1994 | 17 | 34 | 24 | 22 | 0 | $3=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 15 | 43 | 25 | 16 | * | $1=100$ |
|  | May, 1993 | 18 | 42 | 23 | 12 | 0 | $5=100$ |
|  | July, 1992 | 17 | 42 | 25 | 9 | 0 | $7=100$ |
|  | June, 1992 | 10 | 36 | 33 | 14 | 1 | $6=100$ |
|  | May, 1992 | 11 | 42 | 32 | 10 | * | $5=100$ |
|  | March, 1992 | 10 | 43 | 29 | 11 | 1 | $6=100$ |
|  | February, 1992 | 15 | 44 | 24 | 7 | 2 | $8=100$ |
|  | January, 1992 | 9 | 28 | 11 | 4 | 27 | $21=100$ |
|  | November, 1991 | 5 | 25 | 8 | 2 | 39 | $21=100$ |
| b. | Bob Dole | 12 | 43 | 24 | 15 | 1 | $5=100$ |
|  | January, 1996 | 8 | 44 | 28 | 15 | * | $5=100$ |
|  | August, 1995 | 12 | 37 | 26 | 12 | 2 | $11=100$ |
|  | February, 1995 | 17 | 41 | 18 | 10 | 4 | $10=100$ |
|  | December, 1994 | 17 | 41 | 18 | 10 | 5 | $9=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 14 | 45 | 19 | 9 | 6 | $7=100$ |
|  | May, 1993 | 11 | 37 | 20 | 8 | 11 | $13=100$ |
|  | May, 1990 | 7 | 45 | 15 | 5 | 13 | 15=100 |
|  | May, 1987 | 9 | 51 | 11 | 3 | 9 | $17=100$ |
| c. | Hillary Clinton | 14 | 28 | 27 | 27 | 0 | $4=100$ |
|  | January, 1996 | 10 | 32 | 28 | 26 | 0 | $4=100$ |
|  | October, 1995 | 14 | 44 | 24 | 14 | - | $4=100$ |
|  | August, 1995 | 16 | 33 | 25 | 22 | * | $4=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 19 | 38 | 22 | 18 | 1 | $2=100$ |
|  | May, 1993 | 19 | 41 | 18 | 11 | 1 | $10=100$ |
| d. | Patrick Buchanan | 12 | 33 | 25 | 19 | 2 | $9=100$ |
|  | Gallup: January, 1996 | 24 |  | 29 |  | 24 | $23=100$ |
|  | March, 1992 | 6 | 25 | 34 | 19 | 3 | $13=100$ |
|  | February, 1992 | 12 | 44 | 20 | 10 | 2 | $12=100$ |
|  | January, 1992 | 6 | 27 | 21 | 9 | 18 | $19=100$ |
|  | Lamar Alexander | 5 | 29 | 25 | 10 | 11 | $20=100$ |
|  | Gallup: January, 1996 |  |  | 49 |  | 10 | $16=100$ |

## Q. 9 Con't ...



NOW THINKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN...
Q. 13 All in all, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the presidential campaign so far; excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

| Sept | May | March | Feb |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ |


| 16 | Excellent | 12 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 45 | Good | 45 | 44 | 51 | 45 |
| 25 | Only fair | 27 | 33 | 28 | 32 |
| 10 | Poor | 11 | 10 | 6 | 7 |
| $\frac{4}{100}$ | Don't know | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{5}$ |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |  |  |

Q. 14 How have you been getting most of your news about the presidential election campaign? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from computer on-line sources? (ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS. IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES)

|  | Nov | Sept | Jun | May | March | Feb |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 05 | Television -- GO TO Q.14a | 82 | 83 | 84 | 86 | 83 | 80 |
| 56 | Newspapers | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ |  |
| 21 | Radio | 12 | 13 | 18 | 17 | 14 | 18 |
| 5 | Magazines | 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| 2 | On-line sources | $n / a$ | $n / a$ | $n / a$ | $n / a$ | $n / a$ | $n / a$ |
| 1 | Other | 6 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 1 | Can't say | 1 | 1 | $*$ | 1 | $*$ | 1 |

## IF TELEVISION:

Q.14a Do you get most of your news about the presidential campaign from network tv news, from local tv news, or from CNN? (ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS) ${ }^{6}$

|  | Nov | Sept | June | May | March | Feb |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ |  |
| 50 | Network | 55 | 37 | 50 | 46 | 41 | 40 |
| 52 | Local | 29 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 32 | 37 |
| 39 | CNN | 29 | 33 | 34 | 34 | 30 | 29 |
| 4 | Other (VOL.) | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| $*$ | Can't say | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

ASK ALL:
NOW SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES...
Q. 15 Do you happen to know which Republican candidate won the New Hampshire primary?

62 Buchanan

10 Other answer
$\underline{28}$ Don't Know/Refused
100
Q.15a Do you happen to know which Republican candidate has been spending millions of dollars of his own money to finance his presidential campaign?

61 Steve Forbes

11 Other answer
28 Don't know/Refused 100

The percentages for the current survey are not comparable to the trend because of a difference in the probe.
Q.15b Do you happen to know which Republican candidate has been wearing a red and black flannel shirt while campaigning?

31 Lamar Alexander
11 Other answer

58 Don't Know/Refused 100
Q. 16 While the presidential campaign has just begun, the Republican candidates are already beginning to talk about certain issues. As I read from a list tell me whether or not you have heard of this theme. (ROTATE ITEMS a/b, c/d)
a. "We should develop a new tax system in this country where all Americans making more than $\$ 36,000$ a year would pay a flat tax rate of $17 \%$."

75 Heard of -- GO TO Q.16b

25 Has not -- GO TO Q.16c
100
b. Which candidate do you most associate with this theme? (DO NOT READ RESPONSES)

46 Steve Forbes (correct answer)

3 Patrick Buchanan
3 Bob Dole

2 Lamar Alexander

2 Bill Clinton

* Richard Lugar

1 Other (SPECIFY)

18 Don't know/Refused
75

## ASK ALL:

c. $\quad$ II represent the working people of this country who are losing their jobs because of things like NAFTA and GATT and trade deals that have caused factories here to shut down and sent jobs overseas."

70 Heard of -- GO TO Q.16d
30 Has not -- GO TO Q. 17
100
d. Which candidate do you most associate with this theme? (DO NOT READ RESPONSES)

37 Patrick Buchanan (correct answer)
$4 \quad$ Bob Dole
3 Bill Clinton

3 Lamar Alexander

2 Steve Forbes

* Richard Lugar

1 Other (SPECIFY)
20 Don't know/Refused
70

## ASK ALL: ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q. 17 When you think about the way election campaigns are run, what kinds of things bother you or concern you?
(DO NOT READ LIST; CODE ALL THAT APPLY) (PROBE) Anything else?
Comm. for the Study of the Amer. Electorate July 1994

9 Candidates are not truthful/honest
$7 \quad$ False campaign promises/candidates don't live up to campaign promises
6 Media coverage is biased/only hear media's interpretation
6 Nothing/it's fine the way it is
5 Disagree with position on specific issues
5 Fighting among themselves/partisan bickering/politics 2
5 System favors wealthy candidates 6
3 Elections and campaigns too long/too much campaigning
Dislike the current primary system/"Delegate votes" system/
3 People feel like their votes don't count
No concern for public/Only interested in selves/
2 Only interested in reelection
2 Interest groups have too much influence
1 Political Action Committees/PACs have too much influence
1 Public money should not be used to finance campaigns
1 Need better candidates who are willing to run
1 Too many perks/high salaries/extravagant lifestyle
-- Term Limits

* Incumbents have advantage/incumbents get reelected easily

6 Other (SPECIFY) 12
20

Negative Advertising 25

Too much money is spent on campaigns 22
No talk about issues/don't know where they stand 4
eopre reer nke ment voles doml count

## NO QUESTION 18

Q. 19 As I read a list of different aspects of election campaigns, please tell me how much each one bothers you personally. First, how much does (INSERT AND ROTATE) bother you -- very much, somewhat, not too much, or not at all? ${ }^{7}$

|  | Not |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very | Some- |  |  |  |
| too | Not |  |  |  |
| Much | what | Much | At all | DK |

ASK ALL:

| a. | The amount of money politicians spend on campaigns | 56 | 17 | 13 | 13 | $1=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | July, 1994 | 69 | 16 | 7 | 7 | $1=100$ |
| ASK ITEMS b. AND c. OF FORM A ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=750$ ]: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| b.FA | Political advertising on television | 32 | 24 | 26 | 17 | $1=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 31 | 29 | 23 | 16 | $1=100$ |
| c.FA | What politicians say to get elected | 53 | 25 | 11 | 10 | $1=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 61 | 23 | 9 | 5 | $2=100$ |
| ASK ITEMS d. AND e. OF FORM B ONLY [N= 750]: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| d.FB | News coverage about campaigns | 15 | 26 | 30 | 27 | $2=100$ |
|  | July, 1994 | 23 | 31 | 25 | 20 | $1=100$ |
| e.FB | Negative campaigning | 60 | 17 | 11 | 10 | $2=100$ |

## ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q. 20 As you may know, Patrick Buchanan recently won the New Hampshire primary. What is your reaction to his victory? Would you say you are very pleased, pleased, DISpleased, or very displeased?

8 Very pleased
36 Pleased
25 Displeased
15 Very displeased

3 Unaware of Buchanan's victory (VOL.)
13 Don't know/Refused 100

All trend data are from public opinion surveys conducted for The Committee for the Study of the American Electorate.
Q. 21 As a result of Patrick Buchanan's victory in the New Hampshire primary, are you more interested or less interested in the presidential race, or hasn't it made any difference?

31 More interested
4 Less interested
63 Has not made a difference
2 Don't know/Refused 100

## NO QUESTION 22

## ASK ALL:

Q. 23 Do you tend to mostly agree or mostly disagree with what Patrick Buchanan says about (INSERT ITEM. ROTATE LIST), or aren't you aware of his position on this issue?

|  |  | Mostly <br> Agree | Mostly <br> Disagree | Unaware <br> Position | $\underline{\text { DK }}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. | Trade agreements, such as NAFTA and GATT | 21 | 27 | 48 | $4=100$ |
| b. | Abortion | 21 | 31 | 45 | $3=100$ |
| c. | Religion and morality | 28 | 24 | 45 | $3=100$ |
| d. | Corporate layoffs | 17 | 19 | 61 | $3=100$ |
| e. | Homosexuality | 20 | 29 | 48 | $3=00$ |

## ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q. 24 There are different ways for people to vote, and some prefer one way over another. If you had the choice of voting in a booth at a polling place on election day OR voting through the mail during the weeks leading up to election day, which would you prefer?

54 Voting in booth
$43 \quad$ Voting by mail
2 Neither (VOL.)
$\frac{1}{1}$ Don't know/Refused 100

## ASK FORM A ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=750$ ]:

Q.25FA Recently a special Senate election in Oregon was conducted entirely by mail. Some people believe voting by mail should be an option in all elections, because it is a good way to increase voter turnout at a time when people are busy with work, family and travel. Do you think this is a good argument for making voting by mail an option, or not?

| 69 | Yes |
| :--- | :--- |
| 29 | No |
| $\frac{2}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

## ASK FORM A ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=750$ ]:

Q.26FA Others believe voting by mail should NOT be an option, because going out to the polls is an important tradition, because voting by mail may lead to corruption in voting, and because it allows people to vote before a campaign is finished. Do you think these are good arguments for not allowing voting by mail?

| 69 | Yes |
| :--- | :--- |
| 30 | No |
| $\frac{1}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

## ASK FORM A ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=750$ ]:

Q.27FA All things considered, do you favor or oppose changing the election laws to allow everyone to vote by mail?

| 44 | Favor |
| :--- | :--- |
| 51 | Oppose |
| $\frac{5}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

## ASK FORM B ONLY [N=750]:

Q.27a

FB Currently most states do not allow voting by mail except for absentees. Overall, do you favor or oppose changing the election laws to allow everyone to vote by mail?

48 Favor
47 Oppose
5 Don't know/Refused 100

ASK ALL:
ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...
Q. 28 How often if ever do you listen to radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues and politics -- regularly, sometimes, rarely or never?

| 19 | Regularly |
| :---: | :--- |
| 24 | Sometimes |
| 27 | Rarely |
| 30 | Never |
| $\frac{*}{100}$ | Don't Know/Refused |

Q. 29 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school or at home on at least an occasional basis?

Jan 1996

60 Uses a PC at home, work or school 59
40 Does not use PC 41
$\frac{0}{100} \quad$ Don't know/Refused $\underline{0}$

IF YES:
Q. 30 Do you ever use a computer at work, school or home to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?

## BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

|  |  | 1996 <br> 21 |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 39 | Goes on-line | 21 |
| $*$ | Don't know/Refused | 38 |
| $\frac{40}{100}$ | Not a computer user | 0 |
|  |  | $\frac{41}{100}$ |

## IF YES:

Q. 31 Do you ever go on-line to get information on current events, public issues and politics? IF YES: How often do you go on-line for this type of information... every day, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, less often, or never?

## BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

|  | Jan <br> 1996 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 1 | Everyday | 2 |
| 2 | $3-5$ days/week | 2 |
| 4 | $1-2$ days/week | 3 |
| 3 | Once every few weeks | 3 |
| 2 | Less Often | 1 |
| 9 | No/Never | 10 |
| 0 | Don't know/Refused | $*$ |
| 39 | PC user, Does not go on-line | 38 |
| $\frac{40}{100}$ | Not a computer user | $\underline{41}$ |

## IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED 1,2,3 OR 4 IN Q.31:

Q.31a Do you ever go on-line to get information about the 1996 presidential campaign? IF YES: How often do you go on-line for this type of information... every day, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, less often, or never?

## BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

| $*$ | Everyday |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 3-5 days/week |
| 2 | $1-2$ days/week <br> 1 |
| Once every few weeks |  |
| 6 | Less Often |
| 0 | No/Never |
| 11 | Don't know/Refused |
| 39 | PC user, Does not go on-line for political/public issues |
| $\frac{40}{100}$ | Not a computer user |

D. 10 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

|  |  | Early |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Oct | April | Mar | Feb | Dec | Nov | Oct | Oct | July | June | May | Feb | May | Jan | May |
|  |  | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1994 | 1994 | 1994 | 1994 | 1994 | 1992 | 1990 | $\underline{1989}$ | 1988 | $\underline{1988}$ | $\underline{1987}$ |
| 30 | Republican | 30 | 30 | 35 | 33 | 35 | 28 | 31 | 33 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 31 | 28 | 27 | 25 |
| 32 | Democrat | 30 | 29 | 28 | 30 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 33 | 32 | 33 | 38 | 38 | 39 | 37 |
| 32 | Independent | 35 | 37 | 32 | 33 | 30 | 35 | 33 | 32 | 35 | 36 | 28 | 23 | 26 | 26 | 28 |
| 3 | No preference | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | 4 | 3 | - | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| 1 | Other party | * | * | 2 | 2 | 2 | * | * | 2 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| $\frac{2}{100}$ | Don't know | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{3}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{3}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{3}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{100}$ |

## IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN D.10, ASK:

D. 11 As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

|  |  | Oct | April | Nov | Oct | July | June | May | Feb | May | Jan | May |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1990}$ | $\underline{1989}$ | $\underline{1988}$ | $\underline{1988}$ | $\underline{1987}$ |
| 13 | Republican | 14 | 18 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 14 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 11 | 13 |
| 13 | Democratic | 16 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 13 |
| $\frac{12}{38}$ | Neither | $\frac{10}{40}$ | $\frac{9}{41}$ | $\frac{15}{41}$ | $\frac{8}{34}$ | $\frac{7}{38}$ | $\frac{13}{40}$ | $\frac{13}{39}$ | $\frac{11}{31}$ | $\frac{10}{34}$ | $\frac{10}{34}$ | $\frac{12}{38}$ |

## ASK ALL:

D. 18 If there is a primary election in your state this year, how likely is it that you will vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary for President? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

## BASED ON REPUBLICAN/LEAN REPUBLICAN:

| 62 | Very likely |
| :--- | :--- |
| 18 | Somewhat likely |
| 7 | Not too likely |
| 10 | Not at all likely |
| 1 | No primary (VOL.) |
| $\frac{2}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |
| $\mathbf{( N = 6 9 4 )}$ |  |

D. 19 How often would you say you vote...(READ)

|  | Oct | April | Nov | Oct | July | June | May | Nov | May | Feb | Jan | May |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1995}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1994}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1992}$ | $\underline{1991}$ | $\underline{1990}$ | $\underline{1989}$ | $\frac{1988}{}$ | $\frac{1987}{2}$ |  |
| 32 | Always | 41 | 42 | 43 | 43 | 40 | 47 | 41 | 38 | 33 | 45 | 39 | 34 |
| 34 | Nearly always | 32 | 29 | 24 | 28 | 30 | 26 | 32 | 37 | 35 | 30 | 33 | 37 |
| 15 | Part of the time | 12 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| 11 | Seldom | 11 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| 1 | (VOL.) Other | $*$ | $*$ | 1 | 5 | $*$ | 1 | $*$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | (VOL.) Never vote | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 9 |
| $\frac{1}{100}$ | Don't know | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{*}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{1}{100}$ |


[^0]:    1 Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, Washington DC.

[^1]:    4
    In 1995 respondents were not asked "Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?" if they answered "none of them" or "don't know" as their first choice.

    5 The 1995 percentages are based on Republican/Lean Republican only.

