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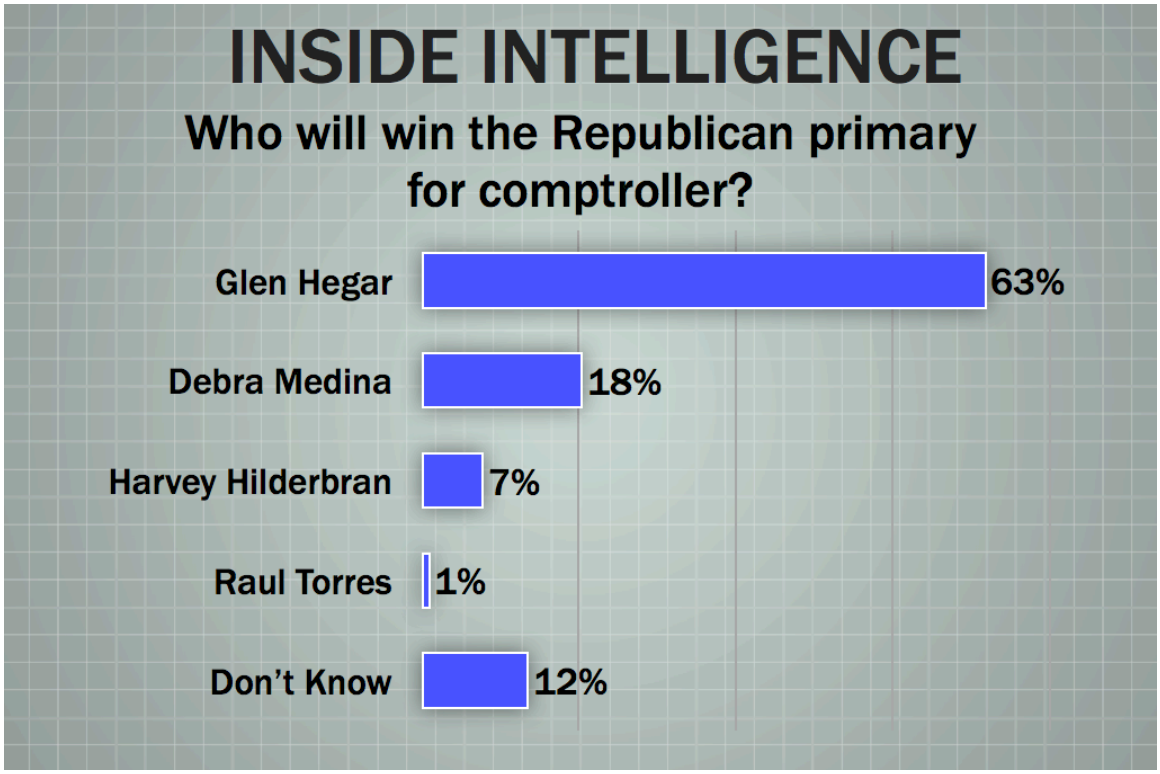
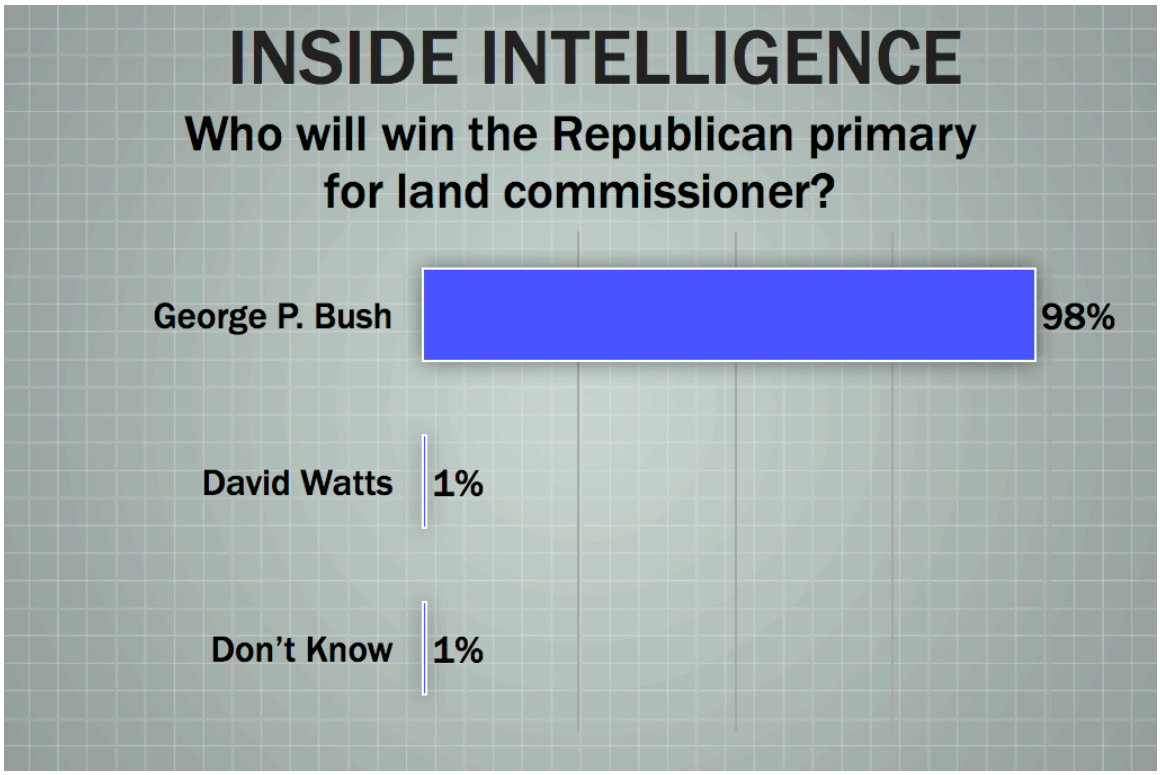
The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll

for the week of August 19





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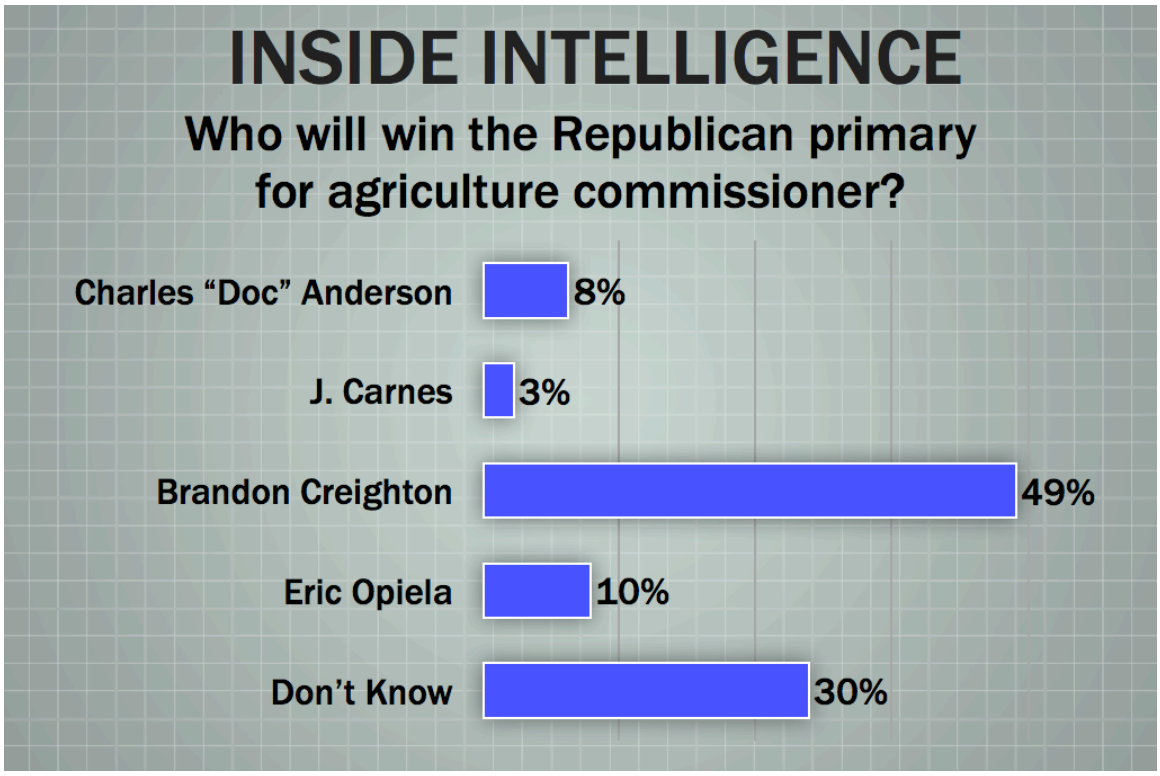

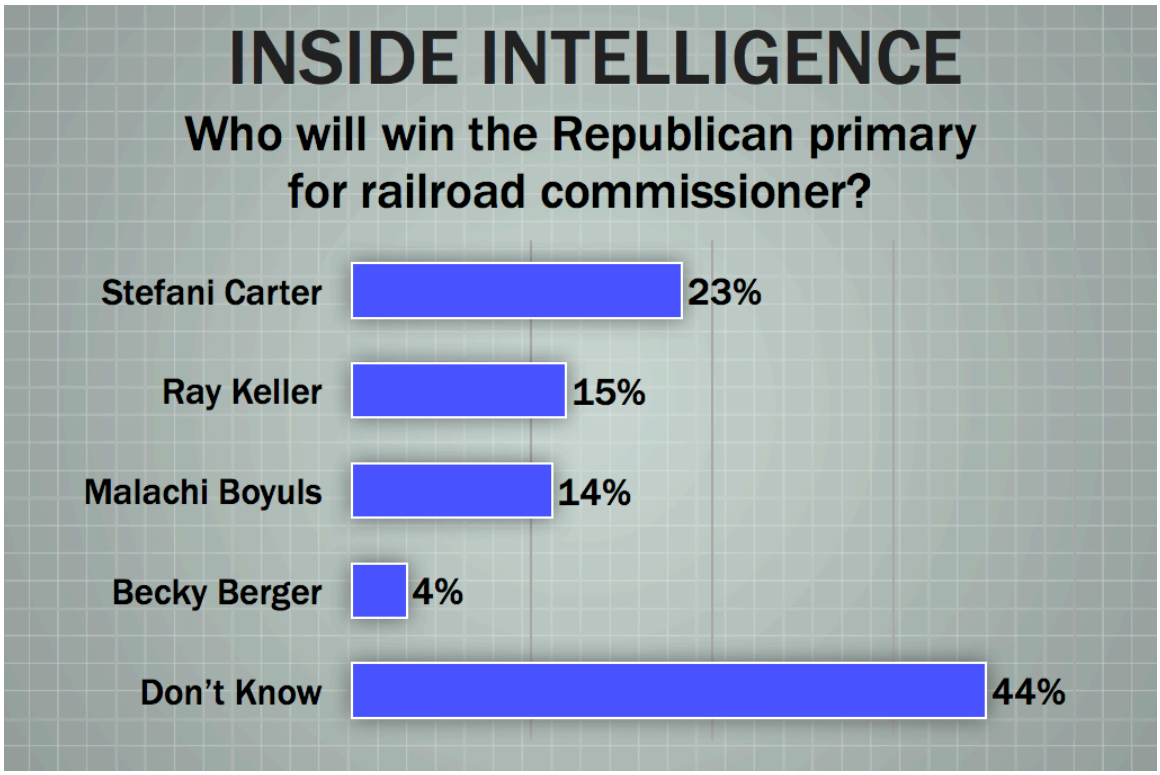

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE: The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll for 19 August 2013

Who do you think would win the Republican primary for comptroller?

• "Medina is the best communicator - clear, concise, and with a talent for framing things in a way that resonates with average Texans."

• "Hegar by default. The other options are a TEA Party castaway, a man-about-town, and someone who can't even keep their own books straight."

• "Three unremarkable, inarticulate, bland male candidates are unlikely to be a match for Debra Medina. Hegar might make it to a runoff with her."

• "A head above the midget crowd..."

•" Hegar and Hilderbran have the chops to discuss fiscal policy, but in today's media savvy world Hegar comes across and young, smart, articulate and more polished."

•"Hilderbran's a little more country and I'm not sure that'll play well (for this office) in suburban households."

• "Hilderbran and Hegar will go toe to toe in the primary with Hegar winning by a nose."

• "Who are those others & where will they raise money?"

• "Sen Hegar has shown tremendous leadership skills and tackled some very tough issues in the Senate. He will be difficult to beat financially, experience-wise and with conservative policy credentials. Given the lack of leadership in this office over the last 8 years, Hegar will be the complete opposite."

• "Only woman and ran state wide before and Cruz republicans should flock to her."

• "The boys in the Comptroller's race are as dull as dishwater. Medina, though probably the least qualified for the job, should be able to keep a higher profile and name ID, which is all it will take to win this. Few voters know what the Comptroller does or why any particular person should get the job."

• "Is this an episode of Jeopardy? "Alex, who are statewide candidates no one outside their legislative district has ever heard of?"

• "Impressive campaign team."

• "The Republicans need a female candidate in a state-wide race. My prediction is Susan Combs is a late entry. She runs and wins."

• "Senator Hegar is not only smart, he's courageous."

• "Hegar has the chops to do the job and will make an excellent Comptroller."

• "Debra Medina has run statewide and should have highest early name I D. Outcome might become a race to see who gets in a run-off with her. You might consult the Book of Revelations for ideas on what her election to this position could mean to state government."

• "Medina's statewide network of Tea Partiers gives her an insurmountable advantage among

the current field...particularly if the primaries are delayed. Ted Cruz in a skirt."

• "I hope it's Hegar but I hear Medina has been working the grassroots for a long time preparing for a statewide race."

• "Surprised an enterprising business person hasn't put their name in the hat; they would win. Not an impressive field."

• "Texans will vote for Sen. Hegar surprised that the lead singer of Van Halen is even running."

• "Jump ball"

• "Don Powell former FDIC chair. Qualified and not looking at political stepping stone."

• "Medina has enough leftover name ID to make it to runoff, nobody knows the other guys."

• "Hegar gets the nod here, but he's going to have to work hard to overcome Medina's grassroots campaign. Torres and Hilderbran are non-issues in this race."

Who do you think would win the Republican primary for land commissioner?

• "Establishment money from across the country will ensure that yet another George."

• "Bush gets to ascend to high office in Texas. All hail the boy prince (or off with your head)!"

• "Didn't George P. Bush already win this?"

• "Bush family name carries the day."

• "He's got the name, he's got the money."

• "Dy·nas·ty: a succession of rulers of the same line of descent."

• "Remind me why we should all be rolling out the red carpet for the young Mr. Bush?"

• "Other than his famous name, what exactly has he previously contributed to the conversation?"

• "Bush on the ballot again in Texas? Good luck contenders!"

• "Slam dunk."

• "Familiar name will lead to familiar (winning) results."

• "We'll soon see if the family political magic is sprinkled on George P."

• "He's a Bush."

• "No more Bushes!"

• "George P. Bush is exactly what Texas needs: a citizen of another state that will use Texas as an avenue to run for President. That means any decisions he makes that are good for Texas will be purely coincidental to his own political aspirations as he climbs the political ladder in our great state. What's not to like?"

• "George P. has the money and instant name ID."

• "Landslide. Then US Senate or Governor as soon as the Democrats run a Castro brother."

• "On name recognition only today."

• "Bush 70%"

• "I didn't know Bush had an opponent."

Who do you think would win the Republican primary for agriculture commissioner?

• "Unless the trust fund rancher buys this seat; the race should be Creighton's to lose."

• "Unfortunately, Brandon Creighton. With the qualifications of this group substantially equal, look for good looks to prevail."

• "Who knows?"

• "No one wins. We all lose."

• "If those are my choices, thank goodness I left the farm."

• "Really? Who cares? Quick can anyone name a former ag commissioner? Anyone who's not an "insider"?

• "Mayo Carnes is the only candidate with a true life-long, deep experience in production. If he can raise the necessary, he is hands down the most qualified.

• "See if Hilderbran is interested."

• "Opiela knows how to pull the levers, but can he transition to principal?"

• "Will be a runoff & whoever makes that with ability to self-fund or raise $ will prevail."

• "Time for another candidate to emerge. Perhaps a sheriff riding in from Victoria County....?"

• "With a name like "Doc", how could he lose?"

• "There will be another candidate before we decide this one."

• "Houston vote will win this."

• "Two lawyers, a vet, and someone no one has ever heard of... Sounds like the introduction to a joke. Oh, wait!"

• "Someone else, yet to be announced. The three declared candidates are not the strongest options for the Agriculture Industry in Texas."

• "Austin types are going to back Creighton because he's a known entity. That said, it remains to be seen whether he or any of the other candidates can get traction statewide."

Who do you think would win the Republican primary for railroad commissioner?

• "Expect to see George P. and Malachi on the campaign trail together."

• "Who cares?"

• "No one wins. We all lose."

• "That's a name with ID among Republican Primary voters!"

• "Smart guy, great name and has experience in the oil and gas industry."

• "Who are these people?"

• "I went with "Don't know" because "Don't care" (which is the same reaction as most Texas voters) was not an option."

• "Carter will benefit from GOP desire to become more inclusive."

• "Although I don't normally vote Republican, most of these folks are relatively unknown. The only one I know of is Rep. Stefani Carter, but she wasn't an effective legislator so I don't know how far that'll carry her."

• "I expect another entry or two prior to filing deadline."

• "None of the above."

• "There will be another candidate on this list before we have to decide."

• "Shouldn't there be a limit on how many ambitious no-names can run in a single race?"

• "Not an impressive field. Harvey Hilderbran should run for this office."

• "A runoff with two names ending in "I" where is Tiffani?"

• "Nobody in Texas knows anything about any of these folks. Including yours truly."

Our thanks to this week's participants:
Addie Mae Crimmins, Adam Haynes, Allen Blakemore, Allen Place, Andy Sansom, Blaine Bull, Beth Cubriel, Bee Moorhead, Ben Sebree, Bill Hammond, Bill Stevens, Bradford Shields, Brandon Aghamalian, Bruce Gibson, Bruce Scott, Tom Duffy, Cathie Adams, Curtis Culwell, Chris Britton, Charles Bailey, Cal Jillson, Clyde Alexander, Colin Strother, Clint Hackney, Christopher Shields, Dennis Speight, Dale Laine, Dan Shelley, Darren Whitehurst, David White, David Cabrales, David Dunn, Deborah Ingersoll, Denise Davis, Dominic Giarratani, Donald Lee, Robert Kepple, Elna Christopher, Ed Small, Jason Sabo, Gary Polland, Gene Acuna, Gardner Pate, Grant Ruckel, Harold Cook, Hector De Leon, Jack Erskine, Jack Gullahorn, Jenny Aghamalian, James LeBas, Jim Henson, Jay Arnold, Jay Pritchard, Jennifer Ahrens, Jeff Eller, Pete Laney, Jerry Philips, John Greytok, Jim Grace, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Jim Sartwelle, Jason Skaggs, Jay Thompson, Julie Shields, Keats Norfleet, Kevin Cooper, Kinnan Golemon, Ken Hodges, Kathy Hutto, Keir Murray, Kerry Cammack, Karen Reagan, Nick Lampson, Laura Huffman, Dick Lavine, Lydia Camarillo, Leonard Spearman, Leslie Lemon, Louis Bacarisse, Larry Soward, Luke Marchant, Luke Legate, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Mike Moses, Mark Jones, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Nora Del Bosque, Neftali Garcia, Nelson Nease, Norman Garza, Pat Nugent, Dave Beckwith, Patrick Reinhart, Phillip Martin, Wayne Pierce, Peck Young, Ramey Ko, Randy Cubriel, Brian Rawson, Richard Dyer, Richard Khouri, Richard Levy, Robert Miller, Bob Strauser, Robert Jones, Robert Scott, Royce Poinsett, Robert Peeler, Ruben Longoria, Seth Winick, Stephanie Gibson, Sandy Kress, Snapper Carr, Steve Scurlock, Jason Stanford, Steve Murdock, Sylvia Nugent, Sherry Sylvester, Tom Banning, Tom Blanton, Thure Cannon, Tim Reeves, Tom Kleinworth, Todd Smith, Tom Phillips, Tom Spilman, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Eric Glenn, Vicki Truitt, Victor Alcorta, William Chapman, Wil Galloway, Wayne Hamilton, Ware Wendell, Angelo Zottarelli