

“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of January 16.*

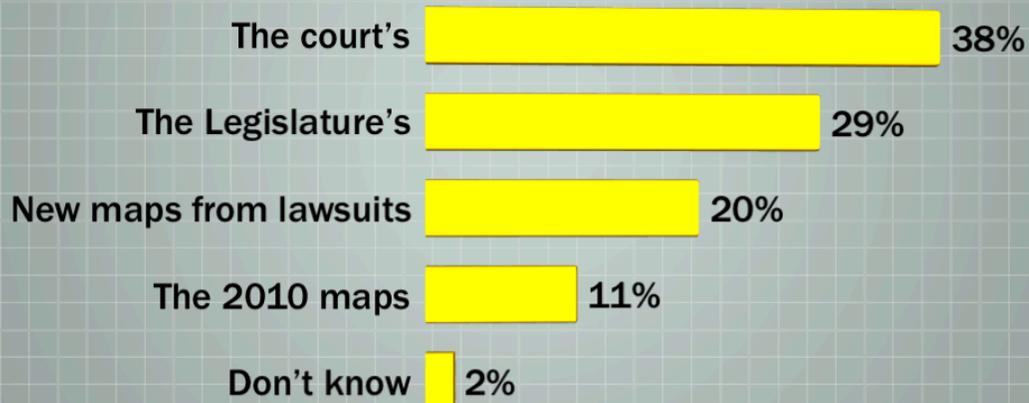
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When do you think the primaries will be?



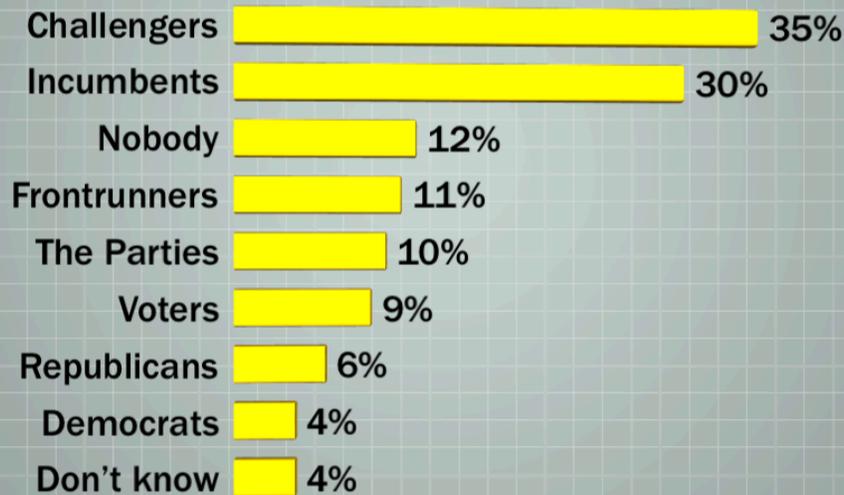
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Which maps would you use?



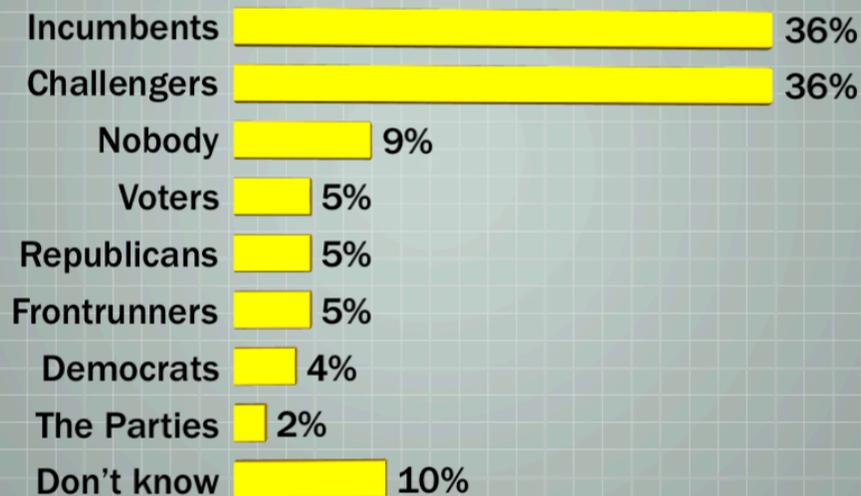
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Who is harmed most by delays?

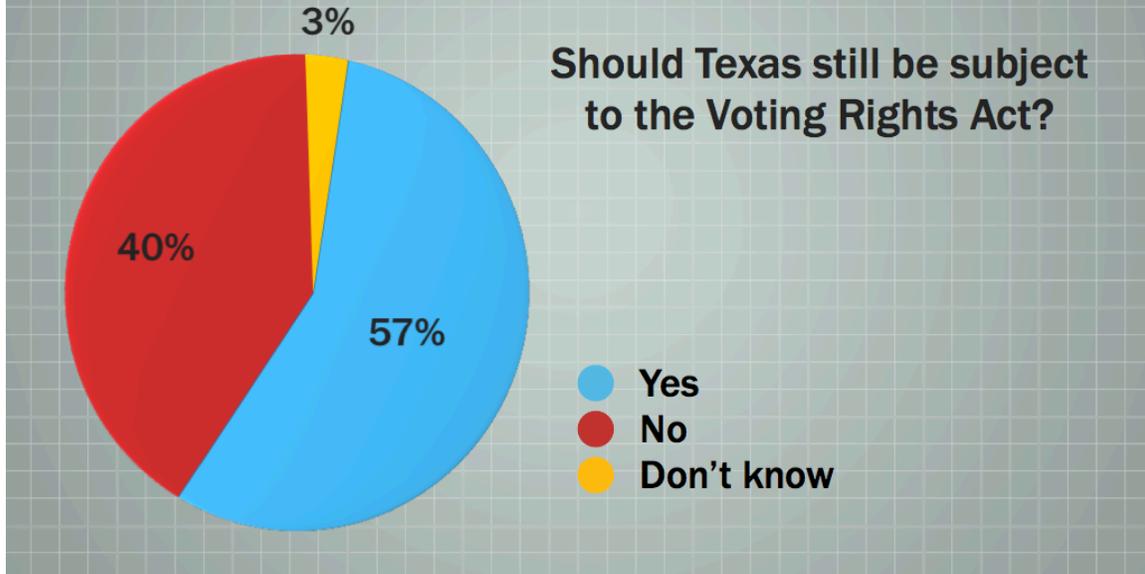


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Who benefits most from delays?



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When do you think the Texas primaries will be held?

- "And June 5th... the April 3rd Primary will be for president, statewide officials, district judges, and local county-wide office candidates. Then another Primary/ Runoff on June 5th for state reps and senators."
- "Possibly Presidential and statewide in April, with others in June."
- "SCOTUS seemed to be looking for an excuse to push the calendar."
- "Summer primary will mean low turnout."
- "Why hasn't anyone focused on the Redistricting Committee Chairmen and the Speaker and Lt. Gov.? They shouldn't let the AG take all the heat. Nor should they think that they did a perfect job."
- "Guesstimate = May"
- "Doesn't appear like SCOTUS is in any hurry..."
- "Would bet it's not April 3."
- "They'll be held when the Courts tell Texas it can hold 'em."
- "Who could possibly know this? Why didn't you give us a choice for an open General Election, Louisiana (and now California) style?"
- "Nobody has a clue. Anyone who says they know is selling something."
- "Supreme Court was apparently thinking about how much time they

had, not how they could immediately resolve the imbroglio"

- "We will not have an impact on the Rep. Presidential nomination process so we should give the court and candidates more time between when they rule/file and the primary."
- "Too early to tell until DC Court rules"
- "Who care what we speculate? No one can know right now. The only honest answer here is "don't know." The other options are empty opinions."

- "In order to ensure the integrity of the vote and to make sure that overseas and military voters are not disenfranchised I bet this election takes place later rather than sooner."

- "Presidential, Senate, and others not affected by redistricting challenges on April 3, the others in June."

- "Primaries used to be in August, the world won't come to an end."

- "It now appears that the April 3 date will not hold."

- "Sometime before July 4th."

Who is most harmed by later primaries? (choose one or more)

- "It depends on turnout...if turnout is low.... challengers are the big winners.... if turnout is high.... incumbents are the winners."

- "Political donors and PACs will be most harmed as candidates have longer to fund raise and some candidates eventually may not run."

- "Anyone mounting a challenge will have more time to make their case against an incumbent's record. Of course, it will also cost more money to make the case over a longer period of time, but time is more valuable in a campaign than money. You can raise more money, but you usually can't get more time, so this is an important campaign anomaly."

- "Voters win"

- "All politics is local. The impact of the later primaries will vary race to race, district to district."

- "David Dewhurst is hurt the worst every day the primaries are delayed from April 3"

- "Any delay will negatively impact the relevance of Texas voters when picking presidential candidates. Less relevance equals lower voter turnout, most likely to the detriment of moderates, be they incumbents OR challengers."

- "Incumbents and current frontrunners -- if they know what districts they're in -- will want to get those over with sooner breather than later."

- "1.) Those challengers with less money than their incumbent opponents; 2.) The Parties will feel the pain on account of the effect later primaries will have on their respective state conventions and delegate selection process for national conventions."

- "Consultants who help low-dollar candidates. They'll starve before this is done."
- "Other: The Lobby, which will now be victimized by even more sack-dragging due to extended campaigning!"
- "No real Texas input into Presidential race"
- "Harder to raise funding with no election date."
- "Depends on districts"
- "Later primaries could give a huge boost to Democratic challengers who might see whatever benefit they get from primary media carry over into the general election season. As it is now, that evaporates during the long summer."
- "Delays only cause uncertainty and, ultimately, low turn-out"
- "Longer time for challenger to overcome incumbent advantages of name id, \$"
- "Less time, less money"
- "The longer the public has to learn of and understand the impact of last session's cuts, the more Republican incumbents will have to defend the indefensible. This is good news for pro-education Republican primary challengers."
- "Hard to raise money right now with the ambiguity. Well-funded candidates have a huge advantage."
- "Those candidates with less campaign money"
- "Those running for new or open seats"
- "The counties"

Who benefits most from delays in the primaries? (choose one or more)

- "It depends on turnout...if turnout is low.... challengers are the big winners.... if turnout is high.... incumbents are the winners."
- "Incumbents and in open seats those with personal wealth."
- "The later the primary, the bigger the advantage for incumbents,"
- "More time to build that war chest."
- "They won't admit it, but incumbents benefit from a delay. They enjoy the power of the office and all that comes with it--franking, raising money, etc."
- "Consultants who farm candidates, but work for the rich folks."
- "Political consultants will get extra paychecks"
- "Depends on districts"
- "If June then school is out and people are off doing other things"
- "See above"

- "Consultants"
- "Those candidates with the most campaign money"
- "They have more money to keep campaigns in high gear."

If you were in charge, which maps would you use for the 2012 elections?

- "Until the process for settling disagreements is made more timely..."
- "This legislature has proven itself incapable of fairly addressing the growth in the minority population in our state."
- "A hybrid map of the Legislative and San Antonio Court map should suffice for the 2012 Election. Possibly the Dissenting map from the San Antonio Court."
- "Use current existing maps until lawsuits are finished."
- "They are the only representatives of the people at the table. They were elected by the people to do lots of things, including draw the maps."
- "Someone needs to point out the VINDICTIVENESS included in the legislative maps."
- "Other. Don't know if it is an available option, but instead I would use: Legislators maps - SBOE and Senate... Minority opinion of court (Smith maps) that addressed DOJ districts of concern - House and Congressional"
- "Not because they are fair, but because they have appropriate jurisdiction and courts overreached."
- "The 2010 maps cannot legally be used, so the next best option is to use the State's maps with minor tweaks to districts that violate VRA Section 5."
- "Legislators, not courts, are supposed to draw the maps. That's the system that should be the default position."
- "It's too messed-up to use a map viewed by one side or the other as being bias. Have a do-over."
- "It's the only map even close to fair regarding Hispanic candidates and Dems. I admire good politics, but not thievery."
- "They haven't drawn a map yet that makes being a Republican a felony. That's the map I want."
- "Use current maps. Been approved. Been cleared. Go forward...."
- "Maps drawn by legislators with minor revisions."
- "It all depends on when the litigation ends."
- "The Texas House map drawn by Judge Smith, the third judge in the three judge panel who dissented and presented his own map."
- "Republicans won big with these maps in 2010, but as late as 2008 the Democrats held 74 seats in the Texas House to 76 for the Republicans."

- "With changes. Consecro/Cuellar maps"

- "Should draw maps by nonpartisan commission to start with."

Should Texas and other (mostly Southern) states still have to subject their maps for federal review under the Voting Rights Act?

- "Sure. But this business of slapping people (voters) around by not having a more defined, time-certain process to settle squabbles is ludicrous"

Hispanics (the Republicans) and to white blue collar and tea party folks (the Democrats)."

- "Remember these are the states passing the MOST restrictive voting rules - photo ID, limited dates for early voting and consolidation of voting precincts (often at the last minute) especially those in minority neighborhoods."

- "Continued "federal" oversight has no more justification--- one only has to look at Illinois, New York & other corrupt jurisdictions to see the gross violation of constitutionally permissible state & local prerogatives that is taking place."

- "Not just "No"...but "HELL NO!" Either all states go through the same process...or none should have to."

- "It's time to turn the page. Minority political empowerment will not be achieved through legislation, legislators or the government."

- "Racism is not over, but the VRA is not helping advance the cause of equality. Instead, in Texas, it puts minority elected officials and voters into insulated districts where they do not have to compete for votes in the larger community and it insulates the larger community from the opinions and leadership of members of the minority community. We should insure that everyone has the right to vote, but this racial gerrymandering is no longer serving us well."

- "Are you kidding me? The Voting Rights Act continues to be very relevant in Texas and other Article 5 states - when pigs fly - that's when we will be ready to be out from under Article 5."

- "But they should be drawn by a non-elected group"

- "Of course we should! Look how egregious the Lege maps were."

- "The VRA is the only check on common sense right now. Without it all pretense of fairness would evaporate. Both parties need to stop fighting over district lines and Voter ID, and figure out how to appeal to

- "Although I have problems with some aspects of the oversight, continued bad action on part of both parties over the decades demonstrates they are not competent to draw maps that elect legislators to districts that are organized and communities of interest."

- "1965 rules need to be updated to reflect 2012 demographic trends and voting patterns."

- "The Legislature consistently shows by its actions, even more so now, that it doesn't give a collective hoot about anything or anybody except how to get more seats for their respective parties."
- "The Texas Lege of 2011 produced maps that have districts that clearly show why the VRA is still necessary."
- "The biggest problem with the current regime is the assumption that minorities will only elect themselves and only if they're democrats. Since the only maps that survive federal review are maps that take into account this falsity, preclearance should go the way of the Dodo or it must be substantially altered if it should be continued."
- "The legislatively drawn map appears to be absolute proof of disparate intent."
- "There are plenty of living voters in Texas and other states who--based on race or ethnicity--experienced official attempts to suppress their voting rights and to exclude them from participating in the democratic process. And there are countless minority voters here who have experienced de facto suppression and exclusion."
- "The justification for this law is no longer there."
- "Emphasis on "others". If one state must have their maps pre-cleared them all should."
- "What happened in Texas is clear proof of need for VRA still exists"
- "Past it's time and what was created to remedy social injustices is now used for political gain on both sides"
- "This assumes that only the South has race issues."
- "Because, to borrow from Voltaire, hawks will eat pigeons whenever they can find them"
- "Texas is the national laboratory for curtailing voting rights. We are the envy of plutocrats everywhere. A great deal of the case law in redistricting comes from Texas' failure to protect voting rights. I haven't noticed anything has changed."
- "The R's have made it clear that race is still an issue when they declined to draw any new minority districts despite the increase in Hispanics in the state."
- "Look at what Texas has done in the last few rounds of redistricting and see how shameful those maps have been to minorities."
- "Given population migration in recent years, the Act should apply to all states."
- "Using Hispanic population growth to create new R. districts would reflect that we are not ready for unsupervised playground activity"
- "Outdated and unfair. All states should be treated the same."
- "The Legislature made the case itself for the Voting Rights Act, by ignoring Hispanic population growth."
- "A relic of which we would be well rid."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Luke Bellsnyder, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Mindy Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, George Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, Gay Erwin, Jon Fisher, Rebecca Flores, Terry Frakes, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Robert Jara, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, J. McCartt, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Kim Ross, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.