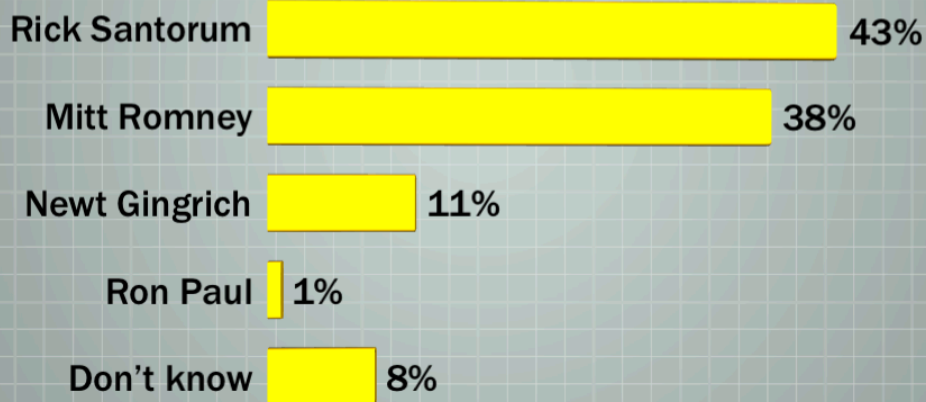


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of February 20.*

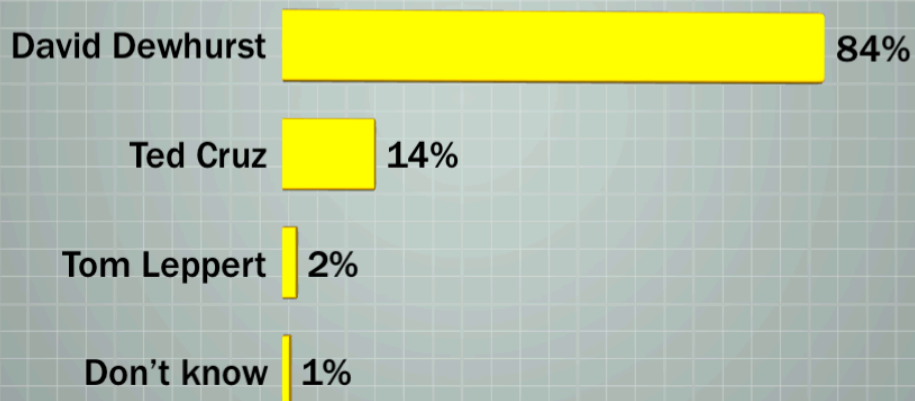
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who would win the Texas GOP primary for president if it were held today?



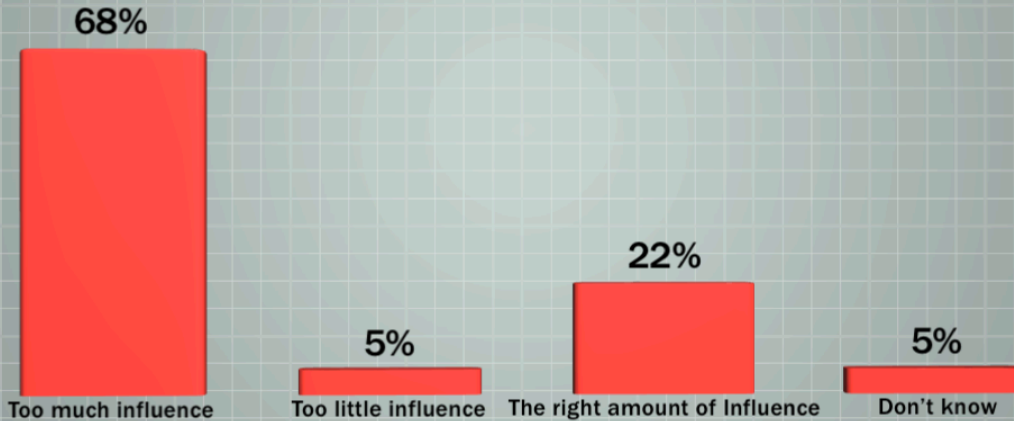
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who would win the Texas GOP primary for U.S. Senate if it were held today?



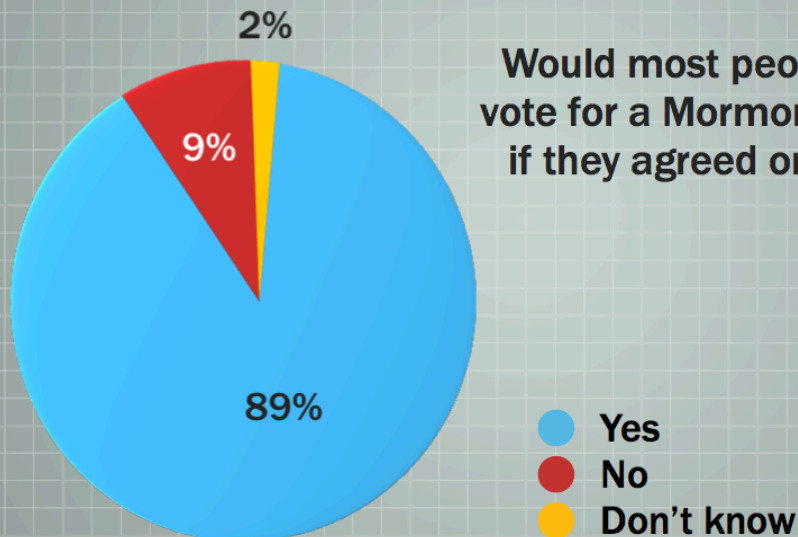
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How would you rate the Tea Party's influence on the Republicans?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Would most people you know vote for a Mormon for president if they agreed on the issues?



If the 2012 Republican primary election for President were held today, which of the following candidates do you think would win the GOP Primary in Texas?

- "Will be Mitt if Rs want a chance to win the WH back."
- "None of the candidates has a commanding lead- some have strengths in certain states."
- "Every dog gets his day, and this one's Santorum's. But in June, who knows?"
- "Santorum is the last conservative still standing in the GOP primary."
- "Gingrich has gone cold, Romney is still lukewarm and Santorum is the hot ticket right now."
- "I have given up trying to figure out what the R's want"
- "Texas Republican primary voters are much too conservative & are tailor made for Santorum's brand of conservatism."
- "Has Perry's support"
- "Santorum's got the edge with the God/ guns/ gays voters that weigh so heavily in our GOP primaries, but the D crossover vote could negatively impact him."
- "Perry threw his support behind him, and I'm sure he would go out on the campaign trail to help pick up some delegates."
- "Right now, Romney, but probably not by much."
- "Tired of waiting around for Mr. Right, the Rs will be willing to take Mr. Right-Now."
- "Wouldn't be Romney. Would be the right wing flavor of the month."
- "If it were held today, we'd be relevant. By the time it is we won't be."
- "None of those still in the race will win a majority."
- "Romney can't close the deal."
- "Rick Santorum is just the right mix of detached from reality and 'not Mormon' for the hard core Texas GOP primary voter. Plus, rejecting Gingrich will be a nice way to rebuke Perry for embarrassing Texas just when people were starting to like us again."
- "Another example of half a million radical conservatives wagging the dog -- the rest of us."
- "Texas is still a state that respects authority, at least on the Republican side. Regardless of any conservative uprising in the country, Texas Republicans will probably vote for their presumed nominee."
- "Perry 'helps' (?) Gingrich, no other organizational support for other candidates; problematic since won't influence nat'l outcome; Obama wins by default, carries the 8-10 states necessary. Tx importance marginal"
- "Santorum is in line with Texas conservatives, but would mean defeat for GOP vs. Obama"
- "Texans want to vote for a winner. This year, that person is Romney."

If the 2012 Republican primary election for U.S. Senator were held today, which of the following possible candidates do you think would win the GOP Primary in Texas?

- "DD will win the run off not the primary."
- "Craig James will not have the balls to do a truly public event in Lubbock."
- "Dewhurst has too much money, name id and record with the voting public to not be the chosen one."
- "Dewhurst is the only one with names ID and tons of money. He wants the primary as soon as possible to prevent Cruz from gaining money and tea party steam."
- "Cruz and Leppert are hoping for a run off with Dewhurst, but at the end of the day it's Dewhurst's to lose."
- "If Texans want a U.S. Senator to fight for what's right, then we'd better not elect any of these candidate who's unwilling to fight for our votes--NOT with only dollars, but with his full effort. LAZY candidates need not apply."
- "The movement conservative activists may be enamored with Cruz right now, but the 2010 primary for Texas Railroad Commission demonstrated once again that GOP rank and file primary voters still won't vote for a Latino surname."
- "By the time the primary is held, a run-off is a very likely scenario with four top-tier candidates competing for votes. Who are those other folks anyway?"
- "Name and money"
- "There will be a runoff election"
- "Not sure Attorney General Cruz can catch him"
- "The only thing Dewhurst has is money, and lots of personal money to buy this election, but Cruz will get out the Tea Party vote and surprise a lot of people. Since there isn't a set date for the primary, Cruz has plenty of time to pick up more endorsements and votes. Time's ticking away Dewhurst!"
- "However, in West Texas, voters may scratch out Craig James and write in Mike Leach."
- "This assumes a non-split primary. With a large presidential electorate, Dewhurst's name ID and financial advantage are tough to overcome."
- "Dewhurst and Cruz in a runoff."
- "Until Cruz sharpens his blade and really goes after Dewhurst the needle won't move in this race."
- "Ask former conservative republican rr commission chair victor Carrillo about Cruz's chances in the r primary."
- "It's the money, honey."
- "I don't think any would get 50%, but think Dewhurst would be the leading vote-getter followed by Cruz."

- "Who are these guys?"
- "I see a massive stimulus package for Texas TV stations coming from our lieutenant governor."
- "Money, money, money. And name ID."
- "Money, residual name id, dispirited/splintered primary turnout... "
- "Cruz campaign is coming apart, and no other candidate has gained much attention."

Do you think the Tea Party movement has too much influence, too little influence, or the right amount of influence in the Republican Party?

- "If one looks at the overall impact the Tea Party movement has with voters, it is marginal. Their influence resides in dictating the dialogue and perception."
- "I may have said too much before the last elections, but judging how the tea partiers tried to effect several issues during the session, including the Speaker's race, I don't think so much. Their issues deserve to be discussed and debated, and they have put the spotlight on fiscal problems."
- "The tea party types are driving the GOP even further right, even though that doesn't seem possible! On the other hand, they could drive them so far right that it eventually could help the Democrats."
- "For what?"
- "They are a small but vocal minority of the Republican Party and are perceived as having influence when in reality whatever influence they have is minimal."
- "Currently, the Tea Party has the right amount of influence--just enough to combine with the opponents of the separation of church and state and push the Republican Party over the cliff."
- "Although as a sometime Democratic partisan, I occasionally look on their influence with more than a bit of schadenfreude."
- "Too much Influence and too little understanding of state government fiscal conditions,"
- "The longer the Texas primary is delayed the more influence the tea party will have."
- "It is a fad movement"
- "None"
- "They had much influence last cycle. Not sure if there is staying power for this cycle."
- "They had a lot of influence in 2010, but it seems that the tide is receding a bit but will be a good enough influence to make it another good election year for Tea Party."
- "The movement has lost some juice, but many Republican officeholders remain terrified of it."

- "They've driven themselves so far over on the shoulder that they only influence the far right."
- "I expect Tea Party influence in the 2012 cycle to be less than in 2010 and to decline further over the next few years."
- "Anyone who believes this state delivers too many services is living in an ideological fantasyland."
- "Only a manifestation of the larger and increasingly prevalent phenomenon: the true believers run the political parties. A sad commentary on our times."
- "But it is eroding both in power and organizational abilities."
- "They have whatever amount of influence they prove at the ballot box."
- "The Tea Party will continue to be less influential with each passing day. By election day it will become little more than another Ron Paul group and the people that got into the movement that do not support Ron Paul will be driven out."
- "Too much influence on policy relative to electoral standing during the session, but they have not seemed that much in evidence of late."
- "They're a small piece of the electorate, so paying much attention to them is kind of ridiculous."
- "It is disproportionate compared to the actual turnout."
- "Too much or too little, it's already running thin."
- "The corporatists in Tea Party costumes have even more influence than their earnest counterparts. Sullivan, paging Sullivan."
- "And for NO f'n reason!!! They may just be the movement that ruins the Republican Party. MQS sucks!"
- "Tea Partiers don't have influence, they have impact. Your question is like asking if voters have too much influence on democracy. Tea Partiers say what and who they are for and against. If others disagree, they vote differently. In Texas most GOP voters agree with some things and not others."
- "What is the right amount of influence for a group that advocates the political equivalent of a flat Earth?"
- "It's vaporware-based, the illusion of twitter feeds as grassroots rather than artificial turf from statewide perspective"
- "Tea Party is forcing GOP to honor its roots."
- "There are about two thousand true Tea Party voters in Texas. Every GOP House member believes that all of them live in their respective districts."

Do you think most people you know would vote for a Mormon presidential candidate if they agreed with him or her on the issues?

- "People will say one thing in public, and do something completely different in the voting booth."
- "But the ones who would not based on religion are the most vocal and active"
- "People I know would, but then I don't personally know those in the nut faction."
- "Yes, but then I'm a Democrat."
- "In a Republican primary, yes. In a Democrat primary, no--too religious, too much family values, too much traditional values, too much God."
- "Mormon is NOT the issue with Romney, but his LIBERAL record is. Most of my friends like Mormons and consider them good people, but Romney's record defies the faith he espouses."
- "However, I don't count too many evangelicals as friends."
- "I'm not voting for Mitt, but he is going to win the nomination. The Republicans will once again put up a candidate that is far too moderate - even more so than four years ago. An Obama/Clinton ticket will make history once again. Republicans will have themselves to blame."
- "Well, most people I know, but the Republican primary voters are another story . . ."
- "Not sure religion plays the role it used to or that a small minority wishes it would play."
- "Yes. What's that saying? 'Better to be ruled by a wise Turk than a foolish Christian'? I think that holds true for most people in metropolitan areas."
- "Romney's obstacle is the evangelical base--a voting bloc that now makes up about a third of the Republican electorate and that wields particular influence in primary states like Texas. It's not about the 'issues,' it's a doctrinal thing as evangelicals believe Mormonism is a cult."
- "Most people I know would, but I don't think the majority from my rural Texas home town will be as open minded."
- "The Mormon issue bothered more people in 2008, when they first heard about it, but it has been rattling around in people's heads long enough now that it has less punch."
- "Would most people I know vote for a presidential candidate if they believed burning bushes talked?"
- "Except maybe Bill Maher. Wait, I don't really know him."
- "The issue is not Mormonism, the issue is that Romney is not a good Mormon because he is not conservative."
- "Given these two guys' comparatively clean personal histories, it's no problem. But if anything at all turns up weird, Mormonism will suddenly be questioned again."

- "Hardly a representative sample of the state or GOP primary voters..."

Republicans I know rarely bring it up."

- "I suggest you sort your responses on this by party. Democrats may say there that Republicans have a bias against a Mormon candidate but

- "But most people I know wouldn't vote for a Mormon candidate for other reasons"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Mike Barnett, Walt Baum, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Jay Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Rick Cofer, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Hector De Leon, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Craig Enoch, Alan Erwin, Ryan Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Terry Frakes, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Albert Hawkins, Adam Haynes, Susan Hays, Ken Hodges, Billy Howe, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Tim Lambert, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Lynn Moak, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jerry Polinard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Andrea Rado, Bill Ratliff, Kim Ross, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Bradford Shields, Patricia Shipton, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.