

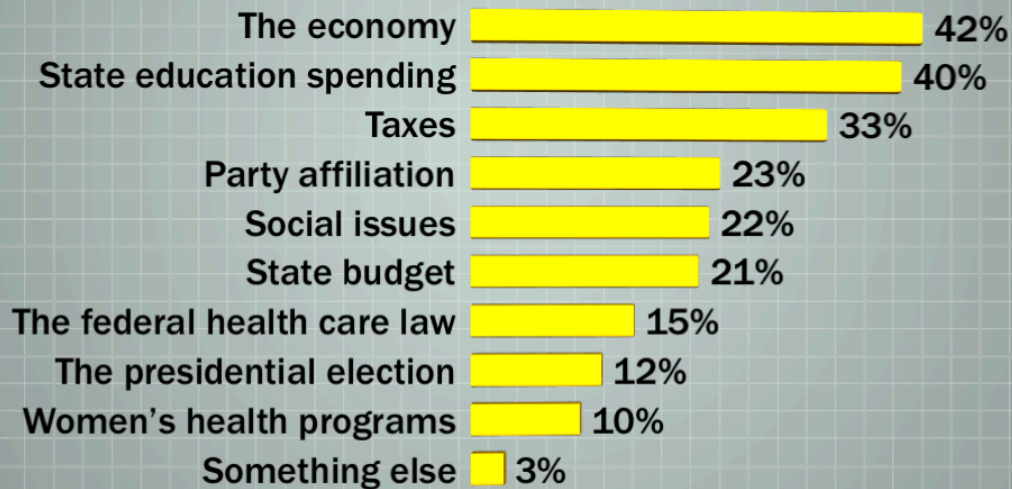
# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of May 7*

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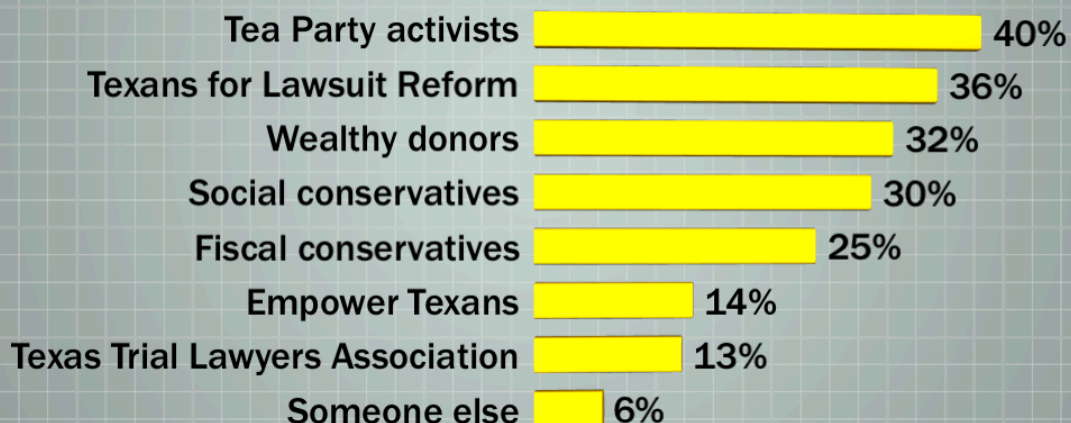
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

## Most influential primary issues?



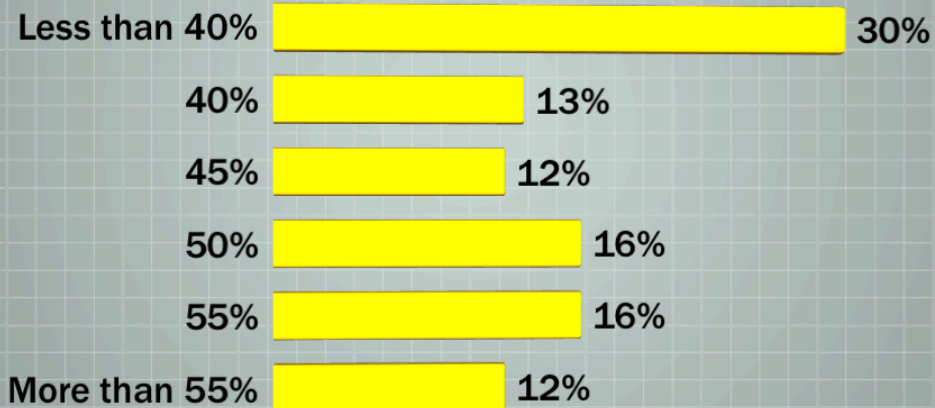
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

## Most influential third parties?



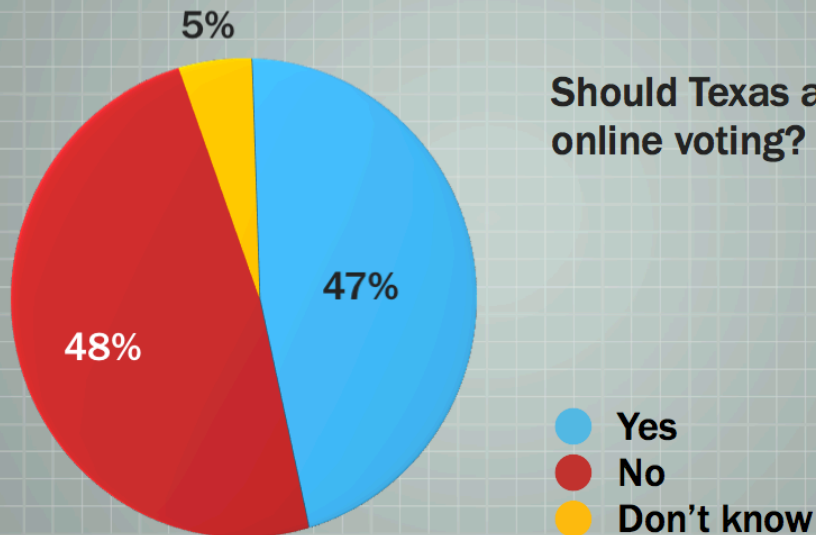
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How many will vote early?



# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should Texas allow online voting?



## *What issues will be most influential in the Texas primaries?*

- "R primary only primary of consequence--friendly fire; health care not an issue w/in that primary as such, and falls into economic issue for R primary purposes"
- "I would add Speaker vote and us citizenship to the issue list."
- "Pocketbooks and checkbooks still rule at the ballot box."
- "Immigration related issues"
- "It's still the economy, Stupid. And all issues start and end with the state budget."
- "State education spending will be front and center. It will be a keystone issue for the next election cycle. The groundwork has begun."
- "The D's primary is not of much interest this time around. The R's have forgotten education, public infrastructure, prisons and the poor in favor of abortion and gay issues."
- "It's a presidential year. The state elections will be even more nationalized than usual."
- "Women's health is the issue de jour, but it won't be one of the influential issues for the primaries. Repubs are gonna use Obama and runaway federal spending as their points to see which candidate is more narrow-minded - I mean conservative - then the other."
- "Tea Party Republicans will live or die by their votes on cuts to public schools. Republicans are running scared on education. When middle class moms in suburban districts start expressing anger and dismay, it should send a stone cold shiver down the spine of every legislator who voted to cut schools."
- "It's a kitchen sink primary in which everything is going down the drain."
- "Democrats have the chance to vote on a non-binding Gaming question related to casinos. This issue may excite voters in some locales and increase turnout."
- "Depends on the race"
- "Spending spending spending, remember the old quote about it being the economy, well in this case it is the spending stupid!!!!!!!!!"
- "'It's the economy, stupid'. But since we're stupid, social issues will matter too."
- "Republicans who voted for Joe Straus for Speaker"
- "Local issues (and local political fights that have little to do with any policy issues)."

## *What third parties will be most influential in the primaries?*

- "Toxic mix of Big Bidness / cartels w/ keep conservatism weird movement on localized basis; again, only matters in R primary"

- "Whoever gives the money."
- "Tea Party: They are mad and they vote. It's not just a bumper sticker on their car (like so many of the other groups). They actually are and actually do."
- "Statewide, it will be wealthy donors and various groups, like TLR and TTLA. Locally, it will be hard core partisans, like tea party folks, fiscal conservatives, and uber-liberals."
- "There is so much energy in the conservative population that turn-out is likely to be huge."
- "Although on the wane, Texas Tea Party will still swing some weight."
- "Tea who? Are those people still around? Give it up to the social and fiscal conservatives, as they'll push anything 'anti' this primary season; anti-Obama, anti-establishment, anti-incumbent, anti-federal spending, anti-women's health, anti-minority, anti-public education. Did I leave something out?"
- "Angry public school parents, upper middle class white moms"
- "The legislature is a wholly owned subsidiary of TLR now. How do I know? I found the receipt at the Ethics Commission."
- "The Green Party. It's the Republican's counter balance against the Libertarian Party. Finally they will have someone bleeding off a few points from the Democratic candidate so the Republican candidate will win by a plurality instead of the Democrat."
- "Although it doesn't play in as many races as the higher profile 3rd party groups, the Parent PAC has had a fairly strong batting average among the limited races it targets."
- "Teachers, like unions, are a highly overrated group in terms of political activism but they may well be organized, for once, and have a voice."
- "Light turnout will favor those with money to get their votes out."
- "The Tea Party is still alive, the men and women in the Pink Puzzle Palace, electeds and the lobby, don't realize how organized the Tea Party is and how angry they are about spending"
- "The two party system in Texas has become The Tort Reform Party and The Trial Lawyer Party. Everything else are just holdovers from a forgotten era."
- "Are there wealthy donors that aren't a part of TLR or TTLA? Not in this state."
- "I've given up trying to predict Republican primaries in Texas. I can barely understand the results after the fact--they just don't appear to correspond with the world in which I've lived for 50 or so years. In the Democratic primaries, much as I'd like to say that statewide labor organizations will be the most influential third-party, I generally see local political players eclipsing would-be influencers from outside the districts."
- "Both of these entities are liars."
- "Texas Conservative Roundtable"

### ***What percentage of voters will vote early?***

- "No idea--holiday weekend, no presidential, other statewide a yawner; has to be low"
- "Will likely be record early turnout due to end of school activities and Memorial Day holiday all around this years election day."
- "It's the overall turnout rate that will be most depressing."
- "Because of the redistricting battle pushing back the primary election, I think most people think the election has come and gone."
- "Early? Heck, most voters are precognitive."
- "The early voting numbers will continue to increase as voters realize the ease and convenience of voting early."
- "The collapse of the presidential contest will suppress the vote. Many campaigns are actively pushing voters to vote early. The net effect for many parts of the state may well be > 50 % early voting (Although maybe not to that level in DFW which has several hotly contested seats)."
- "Oooh! That's a good one. Things seem a lot less hot than 2008, so I'm betting the EV turnout drops a bit in relation to the overall turnout."
- "Because of the timing of the election--the Tuesday after Memorial Day--any smart campaign is trying hard to turn out its votes in the early voting period. This, coupled with lower turnout, will drive up the early voting percentage."
- "R's will vote early -- D's will not."

### ***Should the state develop online voting or some other way to make voting convenient, to increase turnout?***

- "Technology doesn't impact apathy. There's no app for that, it's not a matter of convenience. We have early voting. Mobile voting. GOTV efforts. The numbers are always relatively the same."
- "If you are too lazy to take 20 minutes to go vote it is your own fault."
- "George Parr would have loved the idea!"
- "Not without a way to verify identification."
- "Let's see . . . you have two weeks prior to Election Day. Don't need to bring anything other than a card . . . or just say that's who you are to get a ballot. You can vote by mail. Make it easier? Really?"
- "Of course. Will it? Not while the Republicans control the government. Voting is not encouraged by the

Republican Party. It's bad for governing."

- "It's already convenient and safe."
- "Only if we are all required to have chips implanted verifying we are who we say we are to comply with Voter ID requirements"
- "Our turnout rates are embarrassing, benefiting only incumbents and those who fund/control them. Weekend elections, same-day registration, and vote-by-mail are all options that should be seriously explored. However, the Republican powers that be do not want to run the risk of the hard-working brown masses actually exercising their franchise."
- "The state ought to allow registration/voting on the same day in primaries and general elections (early voting/election day). We're in the 21st Century and I don't know why one needs to register one month before an election just to vote."
- "Demographics are destiny. Try as they might Texas Republicans cannot hold back reality. Voter suppression can only buy you so many more years of power."
- "The state needs to first secure 'offline' voting before they even THINK about developing online voting."
- "Precincts are antiquated. Voting centers are the future."
- "Early voting is bad for democracy - it makes campaigns more expensive and uncertain without increasing turnout. I would mandate voting

centers, so that a voter could vote anywhere in the county, as we do in early voting already, and restrict early voting to mail-in absentee with an excuse, as in the old days."

- "Turnout won't increase, but online voting should be developed as an option."
- "Too much opportunity to game online voting. Also, the lower end of the economic spectrum does not have equal access to that process"
- "Not ready to approve online voting but same day registration would be a huge improvement as well as expansion of mobile polling places and voting locations such as malls, convenience stores, etc."
- "If mail in ballots and early voting locations are not enough what is, people are just lazy. If you cannot take a few minutes to vote but will plant your butt at a ball game for hours then please...."
- "Devil is in the details."
- "The worst thing for this state would be for all the uninformed folks to vote. Better to have a smaller group of folks with at least some knowledge of the candidates than a bunch of people with zero knowledge of the candidates."
- "The only reason to do so would be a clear demonstration that such is markedly better for voters with disabilities or historically disenfranchised voters. Otherwise folks who can't be bothered to vote at any of a number of locations on any of several days probably would just as

soon prefer continuing to allow others to make electoral decisions for them."

- "There is no chance that this will happen. The Republican Party is dominant and its goal, as demonstrated in the Voter ID fight, is to hold down turnout."

- "In Texas, we already have 10 days of early voting, with a weekend included within those days. People need to stop complaining and get involved. If we want to increase turnout, we should give the voters the

ability to vote at any polling location on Election Day."

- "How could it be more convenient? You can vote 10 days in advance of the election at HEB, in some cities. You can vote on the weekends. Give me a break."

- "That would invite even more fraud."

- "Sure and I would love to represent that vendor"

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Bill Pewitt, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Kim Ross, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Stein, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Gerard Torres, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, Seth Winick, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli, Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Walt Baum, Eric Bearse, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Alan Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Dominic Giarratani, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Michael Grimes, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Albert Hawkins, Adam Haynes, Susan Hays, Steve Holzheuser, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Russ Keane, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Lynn Moak, Bee Moorhead, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent.