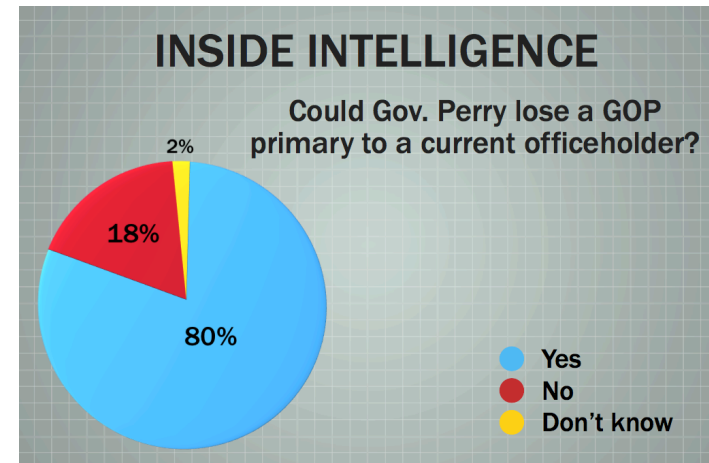
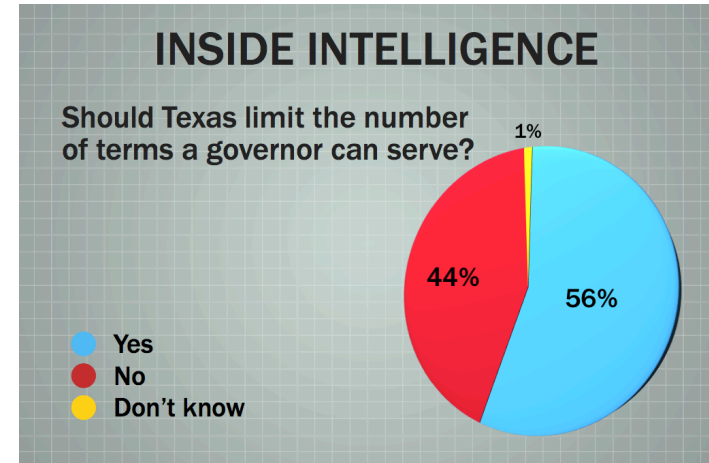


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

Sponsored by: **Hahn, Texas**

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of August 27*

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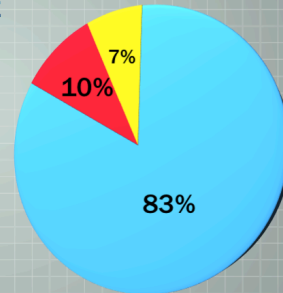


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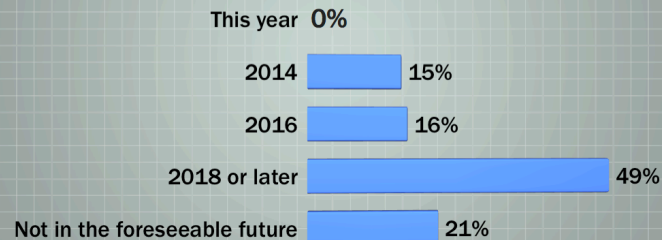
Could Lt. Gov. Dewhurst lose a GOP primary to a current officeholder?

● Yes
● No
● Don't know



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

When will a Democrat win a statewide election in Texas?



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Should Texas limit the number of terms a governor can serve?

- "If Term limits are good enough for POTUS they should be good enough for governor."
- "Eight is good enough for the President, but 12? Really Rick? Got nothing better to do?"
- "The law should not supersede voter participation. If the public would engage, term limits would be irrelevant. How to achieve public engagement is a different bigger problem."
- "Voters can take care of this. Looking at the current situation, it appears that voters are having a little fatigue and will change things when they are fatigued."
- "It's called Democracy."
- "All statewides should have limited terms including Supreme and Appeals Court judges..."
- "2 terms were good enough for generals Sam and George."
- "Elections are term limits"
- "Two four year terms."
- "Rick Perry's long tenure speaks more to the radical preferences of the sliver of the electorate that controls our elections than it does to any systemic failures."
- "The voters should be responsible for that."
- "I am generally against term limits but after the last 12 years I am considering changing my attitude."
- "Two 4 year terms is plenty."
- "Term limits hand the keys of power to lobbyists. As a registered lobbyist I can see the problems inherent to such a circumstance."
- "Voters have the option to 'limit' the terms of elected officials, but they must educate themselves and understand their vote has consequences! If you want a different result, you cannot continue to send the SAME person back time and time again! Also, serving as 'governor for life' should not be the goal of any one person - but when you have only lived off the government dole all your adult life, it gets hard to wean oneself!"
- "As should the legislature have term limits as well."
- "Limit to 2 consecutive terms"
- "Votes should be the ones who decide how long a person stays in office."
- "Term limits hand the keys of power to lobbyists. As a registered lobbyist I can see the problems inherent to such a circumstance."
- "Yes, to two 4-year terms. That will keep any one governor from dominating appointments."
- "Elections are held to allow voters to decide officeholders. An arbitrary limited term takes that power away. You either trust the voters and the process, or you don't."
- "No additional commentary needed!"
- "I've never been in favor of term limits but Rick Perry has managed to

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change my mind. Our system was set up for someone to serve 10 years and absolutely control every board and commission and we need to make sure it doesn't happen again."

- "To avoid what we have now YES and no more than two terms"
- "Texas has term limits already. The voters impose it every election year. When they have had enough of you they throw you out."
- "If two terms are good enough for the U.S. President, it's good enough for the Governor."
- "Incumbency in the Governors seat provides a candidate with a pretty strong stick making it very difficult for the incumbent to be unseated. That leads to mediocrity when there is no real fear of being unseated. (This is all said without throwing this temporary TEA party illusion in the mix.)"
- "Term limits are a slippery slope . . . but should seriously be considered for the top spot."
- "Elections offer voters an opportunity to impose term limits every four years."
- "I'm not sure Dear Leader would go for this."
- "The ballot box is the best mechanism for limiting terms. However, there are some structural issues concerning voters participating in the primary differing greatly from those in the general election."
- "Perry forever!"
- "We already do--at the ballot box."

- "We have term limits, but we are too damned dumb to use them, apparently."
- "We have limits, it's called the ballot box."
- "Two four-year terms."
- "That's what voting is for--to extend or extinguish service."
- "We already have term limits every 4 years.... it's called Elections."
- "If term limits are not adopted, then the entire structure of the executive branch must be overhauled because multimember boards were initially conceived as a way of limiting the power of any one governor over the policy direction of the state. Let's not forget the Texas constitutional design was intended to curb, not enhance, the power of the Governor. Perhaps serious thought should be given to the election of certain state officials and boards of regents by a supermajority of the Legislature (so that the winning candidate has to have at least some support from the minority party to win)"
- "If you cannot get it done in 12 years, you never will. But, tack on limits for House, Senate, & all statewides."
- "PLEASE"
- "Lt. Gov. too. ALL statewide officeholders should have term limits."
- "This State desperately needs two legislative sessions where the chief executive is not running for reelection"

and will set an agenda that puts policy over politics."

Do you believe any current Texas officeholders could successfully challenge Gov. Rick Perry in a Republican primary (If yes, please write the name in the comments)?

- "The AG has the war chest ready and the drums are drumming."
- "Abbott"
- "Greg Abbott is at the top of the list and will probably be the next Governor. But many potential candidates could defeat Perry in the primary because even Republican primary voters are embarrassed by his performance in the presidential race as well as generally tired of him."
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Abbott and probably others if they chose to do so."
- "Greg Abbott has too much money in the bank not to make a run."
- "Greg Abbott"
- "AG Greg Abbott"
- "Abbott."
- "The AG could, and it's time."
- "Abbott"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Abbott"
- "General Abbott has reverently bided his time and it is clear he is ready to step up"
- "Abbot"
- "Todd Staples"
- "Only Abbott"
- "I think the only current Republican officeholders with a shot at beating Perry in the 2014 primary are Greg Abbott and/or Jerry Patterson."
- "Rick Perry has been Governor for so long, the Texas History textbooks actually have the right picture in them."
- "Ag Commissioner Todd Staples"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Gregg Abbott"
- "I don't think anyone has the testicular fortitude to go against him right now."
- "Greg Abbott would win, given current situations."
- "Probably vulnerable but to an 'outsider'"

- "There are all guilty of the same spending neglect for water, highways, and education."
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Harris County Judge Ed Emmett"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Marty Higgins couldn't even win in a race against Perry"
 - "Gregory Wayne Abbott"
 - "Abbott because of his war chest."
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Abbot"
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Jerry Patterson Gregg Abbott"
 - "Abbott for sure and he will run too"
 - "Gen. Abbott is the no brainer. Jerry Patterson can if he wants to."
 - "Abbott"
 - "Greg Abbott."
 - "If the Republican Party is taken back over by the business community Greg Abbott will be the front runner in his strength to challenge Perry."
 - "Next cycle could be our worst nightmare. Lots of frustration from
- those ready to move up the food chain. Abbott is obviously the guy, at least at this juncture."
- "Abbott, potentially. The combination of Perry's disastrous performance as a presidential candidate, coupled with his failed support for Dewhurst, have dispelled the myth of his invincibility in the GOP primary. Being an incumbent is not what it used to be!"
 - "Greg Abbott is the only politician in Texas with the money, name ID and juice to do it. The Tea Partiers love him, and he's strong with the insiders."
 - "Mayor Castro"
 - "Attorney General"
 - "General Abbott."
 - "Abbott, maybe. No one else yet."
 - "Abbott has the best shot -- lots of money; good bona fides on conservative issues but also crime victim rights and child support; compelling personal story around his disability; and the requisite meanness."
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Jerry Patterson"
 - "John Cornyn"
 - "The AG"
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Gregg Abbott has the necessary credentials with the base."

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- "Abbott has the money without the Perry tarnished reputation / Perry burnout."
 - "Greg Abbott could beat Rick Perry in a Republican Primary"
 - "Abbott could, but he won't."
 - "Greg Abbott would beat him easily."
 - "Greg Abbott. \$12+ million > \$~\$2 million. Just as strong if not stronger when it comes to fighting DC--and he's actually done stuff, like win in the courtroom."
 - "Abbott."
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Patterson could catch fire. Truth of the matter is that Abbott is as Establishment (if not more so) than Dewhurst or Perry. Too long of a record to be viable against Perry."
 - "Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Attorney General Abbott"
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "Recent events suggest Cruz would have a helluva shot."
- "Greg Abbott, if he had the risk-taking ability. At this point, it doesn't appear he does."
 - "Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Greg Abbott..is the top contender. He has the money and Perry is vulnerable."
 - "Possibly Abbott, but he wouldn't choose to do so."
 - "Abbott"
 - "Abbott could, if he had the gonads."
 - "Abbott seems best positioned, but perhaps someone a little crazier, say Patterson, would be most effective."
 - "Greg Abbott"
 - "ABBOTT ABBOTT ABBOTT ABBOTT ABBOTT ABBOTT ABBOTT ABBOTT OH DID I SAY ABBOTT ABBOTT ABBOTT? Heck, if Ted Cruz has a good start he might be able to return and run for Governor then it is on to the White House."
 - "Ed Emmett"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Attorney General Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Abbott"
 - "Dan Patrick or Michael McCaul"
 - "Ted Cruz or Abbott"

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- "Greg Abbott, Kay Bailey Hutchison (if she put a better campaign together than she had last time)"
- "Abbott"
- "Abbott"
- "Abbott"
- "Abbott is gunning for him.... all he needs is Carney:)"
- "Abbott"
- "Abbott, Combs or Patterson"
- "Abbott, and/or someone who is NOT a current office holder."
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Gregg Abbott and Ted Cruz"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "But it's also too early to say who"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "AG Greg Abbott"
- "You can't get to the right of Rick Perry. Abbott is too fond of suing to even try."
- "Abbott"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Greg Abbott, David Dewhurst, Jerry Patterson"
- "Abbott"

Do you believe any current Texas officeholders could successfully challenge Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst in a Republican primary (If yes, please write the name in the comments)?

- "He's weak, but not that weak. Maybe someone like Seen Dan Patrick can make an attempt."
- "Anyone with an R by their name"
- "Staples or Patterson"
- "Greg Abbott; Jerry Patterson; Todd Staples; John Sharp (if he changes party)"
- "Jerry Patterson"
- "Too many to name."
- "Dan Patrick"
- "Not enough characters in this field to complete the list."
- "Dewhurst's money would still shout on a regular primary date."
- "Patterson for sure; Combs has made too many mistakes, instead of embracing the opportunity to repent she has thrown some of her own folks into the fire, that's not leadership, that's management by objective, known in some circles as "cover your kiester"."
- "Didn't that question just get answered? Seems like you don't even need to be an officeholder."

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- "Staples"
- "Greg Abbott Todd Staples"
- "The challenger just needs to be able to raise a significant amount of money."
- "Staples"
- "Yes- all of them"
- "Abbot"
- "So many that Dewhurst probably just won't run again."
- "Todd Staples"
- "Yes - in order of strength: Abbott, Patterson, Combs, Staples"
- "All of them, his career is over."
- "Any of the Four Musketeers-- Abbott, Combs, Patterson, or Staples-- could beat him using Cruz's blueprints."
- "Yes - already been done. The game plan to defeat Dewhurst has been written."
- "Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson"
- "Jerry Patterson-Tea Party bonafides!"
- "Jerry Patterson"
- "Staples"
- "Anyone with higher aspirations could definitely challenge Dewhurst."
- "Todd Staples. Dewhurst is wounded. Staples has the best combination of fundraising ability, knowledge of state government, ability to build coalitions and grassroots support."
- "Jerry Patterson, Staples."
- "He won't run the same dumb campaign again."
- "Numerous"
- "Too many to mention"
- "Greg Abbott or Jerry Paterson"
- "Combs"
- "Patterson Abbott Staples Not Combs"
- "Jerry Patterson can go to Dewhurst's right..."
- "Patterson"
- "Any one of the other statewides who assumes a tea party identity."
- "Todd Staples"
- "He was bruised in the Senate race, but I think most people still feel confident having him as Lt. Governor."
- "All of them except Susan Combs."
- "Jerry Patterson"
- "No officeholder at moment can do it- it could be an outsider!"
- "Any local Precinct Chairman"
- "Republicans chose a DC lawyer over the Dew. Given Republicans disdain for anything 'DC' or 'lawyer',

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I'm guessing that means today's Republicans will pick anyone over the Dew."

- "Greg Abbott, Jerry Patterson, Susan Combs, Todd Staples. I think he is vulnerable to any viable candidate."

- "Abbott"

- "Just about any of them. Dewhurst is mortally wounded."

- "Combs, Staples, Patterson are obviously possibilities and are running from what I can surmise... several sitting senators . . . and given the recent US Senate race, who the heck knows?"

- "Having just handily lost a primary race in which he substantially outspent his opponent, Dewhurst is imminently beatable."

- "Your father-in-law who sends you all those conservative emails about UN conspiracies to kill golf? He could beat David Dewhurst in a primary now. The Dew's been exposed."

- "Todd Staples Susan Combs Jerry Patterson"

- "Greg abbot"

- "Arnold the Pig from Green Acres could knock off Dewhurst."

- "Staples likely the strongest, which says more bad about the rest of the field than good about Staples; maybe Combs if she continues to rehabilitate herself; Patterson seems incapable of staying out of trouble."

- "Without a doubt, Greg Abbott could run Dewhurst on the same record Ted Cruz just beat him with."

- "Greg Abbott"

- "Todd staples"

- "Greg Abbott (again)"

- "The last 12 months showed that Dewhurst has only one play in his playbook. Jerry Patterson has a deep resonance with the typical Cruz voter and Jerry will not run a conventional campaign. Those factors, and the size of Dewhurst's huge statewide loss on July 31, make it impossible to say that Dewhurst is the front runner - as of today."

- "Dewhurst is damaged goods, and he's already out \$20 million on his last race. Pretty much any of the names floating around (Patterson, Staples, even Combs) could take him on."

- "I don't think it will be necessary. Dew is done after this session and it remains to be seen if he even plays out this session."

- "Line forms at the rear..."

- "Todd Staples would defeat Dewhurst. Dewhurst is done, and he knows it."

- "It's been shown that money alone doesn't always trump voter passion. In that light, a few folks could beat Dewhurst, especially since federal campaign limits wouldn't apply to a Lite Guv's race. Staples, Patterson, Abbott, Combs, Pauken, etc."

- "Land Commissioner Patterson."

- "Greg Abbott"

- "He's vulnerable. A very well run Patterson or Staples campaign could take him out."

- "Greg Abbott Michael McCaul Dan Patrick"

- "Combs"

- "Anyone"

- "Anyone with a pulse."

- "Any number of them"

- "Abbott"

- "Susan Combs, Todd Staples and Jerry Patterson"

- "Dan Patrick, Susan Combs"

- "Patterson."

- "Patterson, Staples"

- "Abbot: \$\$\$ and popularity with GOP primary voters Staples: Realtors"

- "Abbott"

- "Patterson has a healthy balance of Tea Party and traditional Republican support."

- "Anyone has says they are in the tea party and possesses a stronger dislike of the Latino population."

- "All of the above.... the Dew is done."

- "Staple if he chose to do so. Combs has the \$\$ but perhaps a primary problem on some issues."

- "Patterson or staples or Abbott"

- "Dewhurst is quite vulnerable and could be challenged, though not with guaranteed success, by Combs."

- "Jerry Patterson"

- "Staples and Patterson. Won't be hard to get toe the right of him."

- "Patterson"

- "Susan Combs"

- "Todd Staples or Jerry Patterson"

- "Staples Patterson"

- "Patterson"

- "Dan Patrick or Greg Abbott"

- "Abbott, Staples, Combs"

- "Probably anyone with a pulse"

- "Patterson Abbott"

- "Patterson...wow, I never thought I would say that!"

- "Abbot, Combs, Patterson or Staples"

- "Jerry Patterson Susan Combs Todd Staples Dan Patrick"

- "Abbott, Patterson, Patrick *could*. Depending on how session & 2012 election go, *maybe* Combs."

- "Brian Birdwell"

- "Abbott, Cruz, Staples, maybe Patterson"

- "Greg Abbott Dan Patrick"
- "Combs. Abbott"
- "Jerry Patterson"
- "Any of them."
- "In a regular election cycle, the Dew's money will prevail. Hell, he beat Patterson last time with an ad of him roping cattle in a pink, starched shirt."
- "Abbott"

No Democratic candidate has prevailed in a statewide election in Texas since 1994. When do you think a Democrat will win?

- "It could've been sooner, but the Ds have allowed the Rs to tap into the Hispanic vote. The Democrats may have a new state chair, but the same old losing team is running the show."
- "Democrats need someone who can find a voice for pro business of some type even if it is a voice for small business. I think their problem is also as much a part of the policy issues as well as leadership. By policy, I mean too much adherence to trial lawyer demands. There is a balance somewhere that someone needs to help them find."
- "The Tea Party movement may energize certain Republican voters in the short term but without serious change, it will marginalize the Republican Party and hasten the return of the Democratic Party even in advance of the well know population demographic changes that are already occurring."
- "Texas needs a few more Californians and other emigrants before we go 'D'."
- "D's must first field serious candidates who will run campaigns if they are to win statewide."
- "The numbers, money and organization just isn't there."
- "Somewhere over the rainbow Way up high, There's a land that I heard of Once in a lullaby. Somewhere over the rainbow Skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream Really do come true. Someday I'll wish upon a star and wake up where the clouds are far behind me. Where troubles melt like lemon drops Away above the chimney tops that's where you'll find me. Somewhere over the rainbow Bluebirds fly. Birds fly over the rainbow. Why then, oh why can't I? If happy little bluebirds fly Beyond the rainbow Why, oh why can't I?"
- "We can at least pray that a primary winner will go skinny-dipping in the Brazos River - the Texas version of the Sea of Galilee."
- "Their bench is pathetic"
- "Better Question: When will the Democrats put forth a truly viable statewide candidate for any office?"
- "Perry could conceivably lose to a conservative, pro-life Democrat if he decides to run again. The question is whether Democrats would be smart

enough to nominate a conservative instead of just waiting for their ship to come in with the long awaited demographic shift."

- "Give me a break..."
- "If there is a Republican President and the economy goes south it could happen soon. Otherwise not until after 2018"
- "There is a statewide Democratic Party in Texas? They ought to let somebody know."
- "Democrats in Texas are no longer relevant, just interesting to look at like Dinosaur fossils"
- "When Latinos start voting in their numbers in this state."
- "Unfortunately our people don't vote and I'm not sure when it will happen but it will in the foreseeable future"
- "When the Moon is in the Seventh House and Jupiter aligns with Mars, then the democrats will have a chance at a statewide office."
- "And it will still depend on the Candidate and the willingness to put their name on the ballot."
- "If Rs continue their apparently unabated move to the right, more of the middle will be potentially swayed by a 'moderate' D."
- "The party establishment is moribund and has no vision about how to recruit and groom viable candidates."
- "Texas Democrats are giving the Republican Party the luxury of ignoring the center. Republican fights create an opening for Dems ONLY IF the Dems offer something Texas voters want. Dems seem to have a strategy of waiting for Texans to come to their senses and realize how great the Dem platform is. That is not going to happen in large numbers in the next 20 years. For change to occur in statewide elections, the Dem party will have to move toward the voters and compete as Business Democrats. In other words, if Texas Dems continue to hide out in their well-fortified liberal bunker, they should not expect to have any voters joining them inside - AND in the meantime Republicans can fight among themselves in all kinds of outrageous and extreme ways, without worrying about losing a general election."
- "Until the Ds wake up and aggressively market themselves as pro-business, they won't win. And as long as the Rs continue to build Hispanic support, the Ds won't win."
- "Hell, the man or woman might not yet be born..."
- "It's closer to reality that folks care to admit. Just need the right candidate..."
- "The date of the imminent Democratic resurgence long predicted for Texas politics keeps being postponed, and postponed."
- "Wendy Davis... look out."
- "As long as Obama is occupying the White House.... the D's will continue to struggle in Texas as the R's have it too easy pointing the finger to Obama.

Obama wins re-election...serves our his 4 years.... and then the Texas D's will have a chance."

- "Democrats have a weak bench, no money, and no confidence. Republicans wins 70 percent of the Anglo vote and Anglos cast almost 70 percent of votes cast in statewide elections. The Anglo share of votes cast will fall slowly and the Hispanic share will rise, buoying the Dems, but it will be a slow process. Imagine the money that will come in against the Dems as they start getting close."
- "Good candidates are in the pipeline and 2014 will likely be a bad year for Rs in this state after the anti-Obama energy dissipates and the bills from over a decade of bad policy and bad budgeting come due."
- "Rafael Anchia and Julian Castro are rising stars. But, if one wants to play the race card there is parity with Cruz winning. His win might be a major set back for Democrats who want to

push the myth that Republicans are racists and cannot elect Hispanics. If he and Abbott can continue to strengthen outreach to Hispanics the Democrats might be in for a long time in the woods."

- "As soon as we get a quality candidate with financing who is willing to start at a down ballot statewide, we'll win. The bottom tier (Combs, RRC) is pretty weak."
- "It will happen, but probably when least expected. A new face, probably Hispanic with funding and energy could make it happen."
- "A Democrat will likely win Governor's race in 2014 if Perry runs for re-election and is re-nominated."
- "Democratic candidates will prevail in statewide elections when Democrats invest in expanding the progressive electorate, including Latinos and African American voters."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Mike Barnett, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Jay Brown, Blaine Bull, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Tris Castaneda, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Rick Cofer, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Rebecca Flores, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Billy Howe, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Mark Lehman, Myra Leo, Richard Levy, Elizabeth Lippincott,

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