

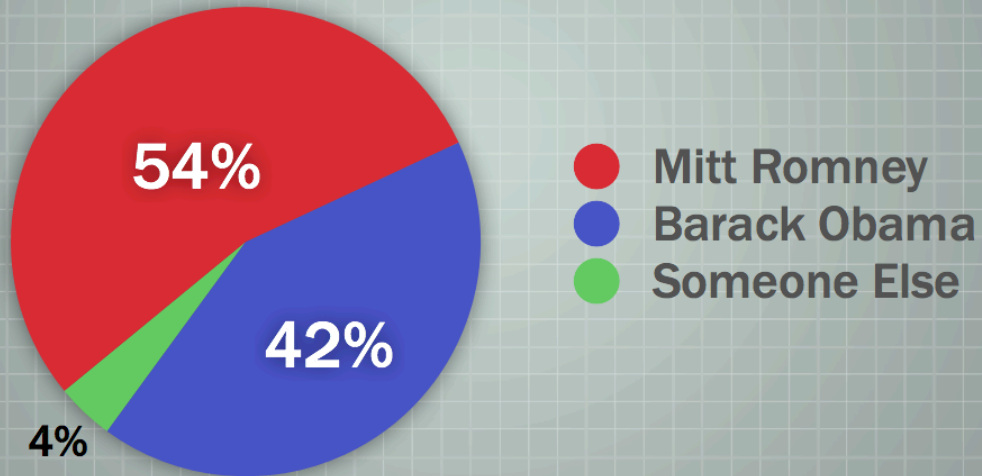
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of October 29*

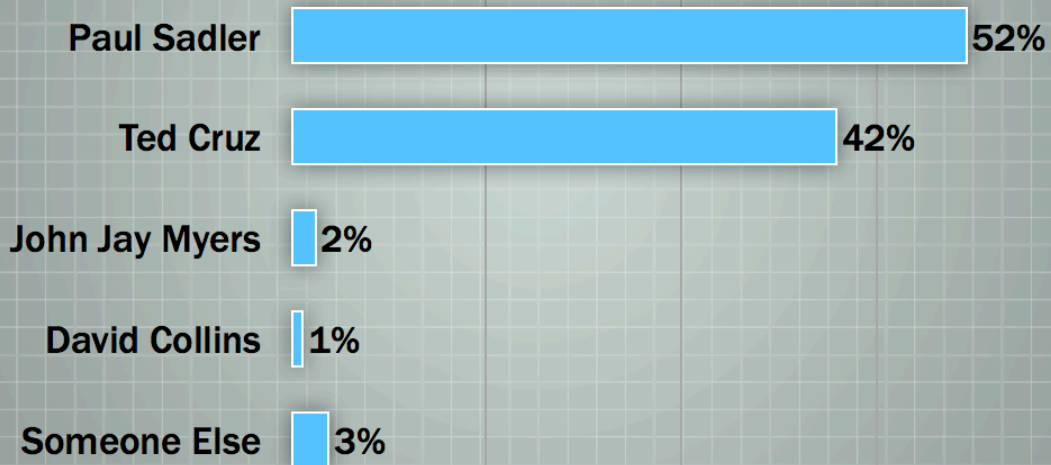
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Your vote for President?



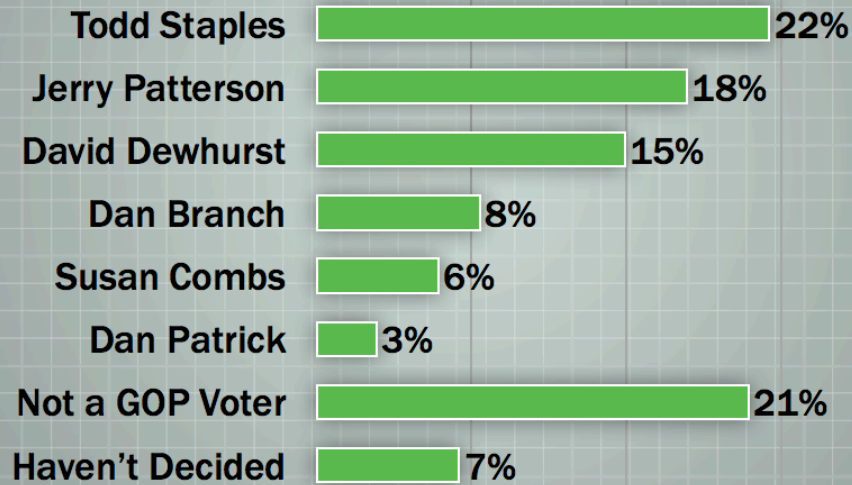
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Your vote for U.S. Senate?



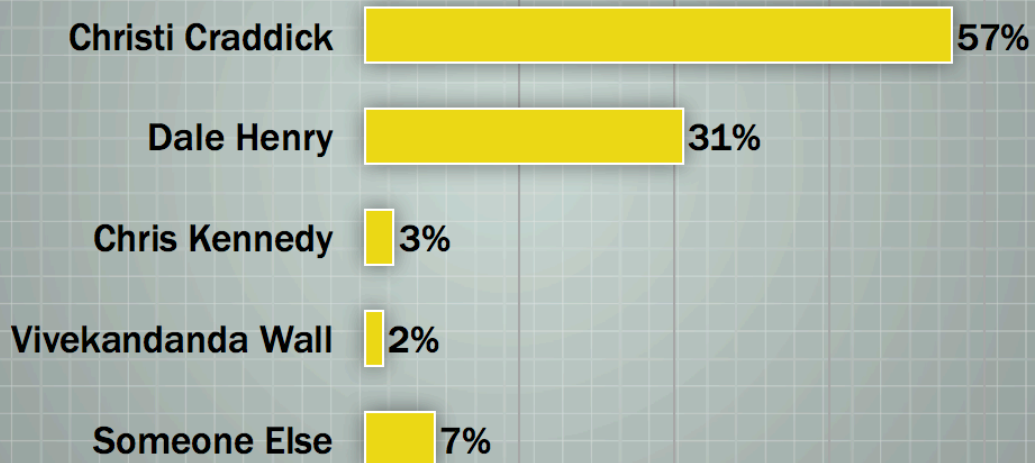
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Your favorite in the 2014 race
for lieutenant governor?



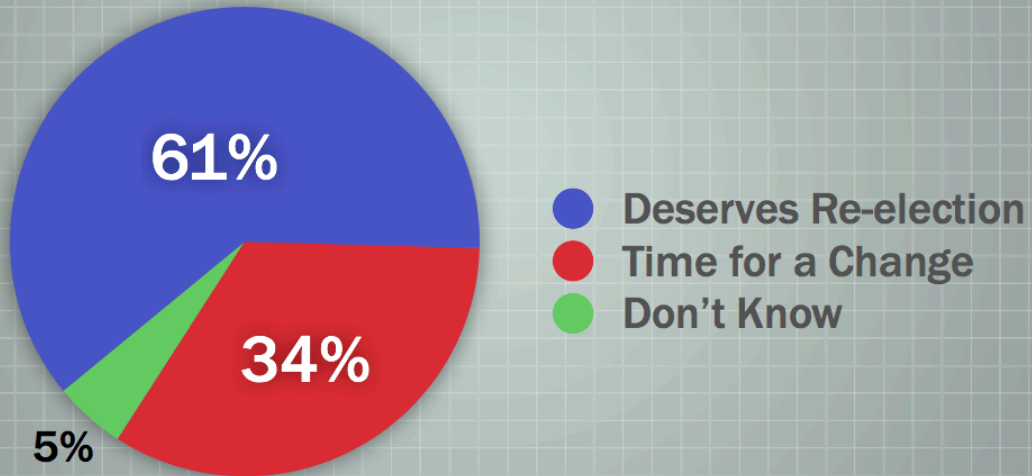
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Your vote for Railroad Commission?



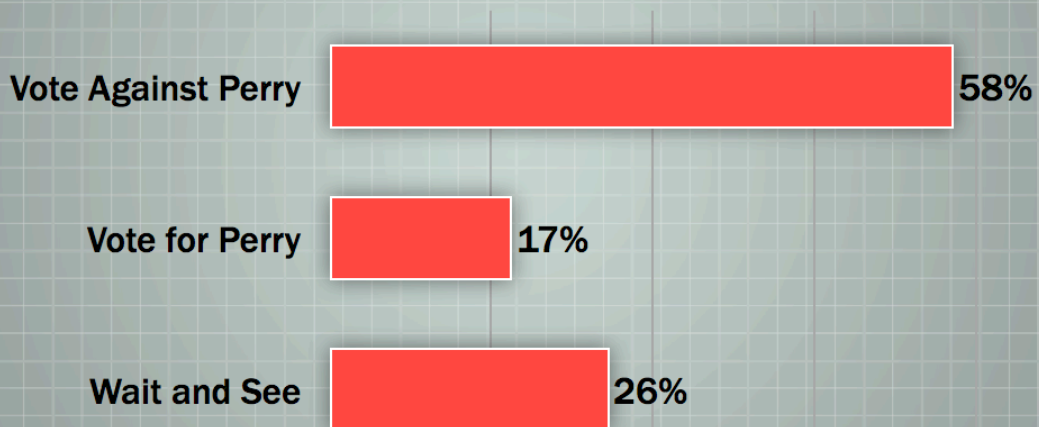
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What about your own state representative?



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Re-elect Gov. Rick Perry in 2014?



If the 2012 general election for U.S. president were held today, would you vote for the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

- "Obama hasn't been perfect but Romney is an historically weak candidate. The economy should have sunk Obama but things are looking better and Romney is just unlikeable."
- "Obama has never met a lie he didn't like!"
- "Americans need jobs and an improved economy and less debt. Obama has failed on all 3 counts."
- "Bush broke the world. This is no weekend fixer-upper project. It takes more than four years to put it back together again. To the extent that Romney takes any position for longer than five minutes, he would return us to the failed policies of the past, which strengthen our enemies abroad and hollow out our middle class at home."
- "My votes are already in the bag. I went to the poll on the first day of early voting."
- "Who hasn't thought enough about this to have an opinion, and why are they included in a survey for insiders?"
- "I can't vote for big O. They better be glad I am in TX and my vote does not count. What a disappointment."
- "Because my brain is capable of abstract thought"
- "We literally can't afford another 4 years of President Obama."
- "Gary Johnson, but only because we're not a swing state. Were the outcome in doubt, I'd vote Romney."
- "Romney has shown himself to be an attractive and plausible alternative to Obama, who has failed as a leader. Romney will win."
- "Still undecided"

If the 2012 general election for U.S. Senator from Texas were held today, would you vote for the Republican Ted Cruz, the Democrat Paul Sadler, the Libertarian John Jay Myers, the Green Party candidate David Collins, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

- "Cruz is waaaaay out there...that's bad for Texas."
- "Paul Sadler is running the weakest U.S. Senate campaign in Texas in 100 years."
- "Ted Cruz is a US Constitutional conservative. We expect GREAT things from him in the Senate."
- "The TEA Party is about to be shocked to discover that Cruz is a creature of Washington who has deep

ties throughout all levels of the Republican Establishment. They have been played unfortunately."

- "I can't believe we are about to have a Canadian serving as our Texas Senator."
- "Personally, I don't think the UN is about to shut down our golf courses, but then again, I'm not Ted Cruz."

• "Try to avoid voting for politicians with undiagnosed NPD, though demonstrably without any effect"

- "The Democrats have a nominee? That's interesting."
- "Cruz is settling into his forthcoming role as an activist, conservative Senator."
- "Only because he's a R and nothing else."

If the 2012 general election for the contested railroad commissioner seat was held today, would you vote for the Republican Christi Craddick, the Democrat Dale Henry, the Libertarian Vivekandanda Wall, the Green Party candidate Chris Kennedy, someone else, or haven't you thought enough about it to have an opinion?

- "Would lean to Henry as the Democratic nominee, but need to know more about him before voting."
- "Anybody but Craddick! Her father has spent his whole life taking care of his personal interest (albeit with help from his friends on the House floor) of oil and gas, now he can take care of the hearings and rules process overseeing the rules process."
- "Christi Craddick has really been a nice surprise -- working hard, learning the issues, listening -- she's making a good impression."
- "The last thing Texans want or need is a Green Party that wants to destroy Texas' economy."
- "Nepotism is alive and well in this state. No experience necessary. Just be a pliable and reliable vote for industry, leverage your Daddy's connections, enjoy the strategic

benefits of your down-ballot position, and coast to victory."

- "Abstain."
- "I always vote for people with two first names, but that's just my policy. Signed, Bob Robert."
- "Hobson's choices without the benefit of an anesthetic"
- "I will skip the race"
- "I'll take Craddick, although Vivekandanda Wall scores some points for an awesome name."
- "Poor choices. Craddick win will, although unqualified."
- "We need a little diversity in our statewide officeholders."
- "I'd just like Craddick to not win because her Daddy wants her to."

Do you think your incumbent state representative deserves reelection in 2012, or is it time to give someone else a chance?

- "I'm getting a new one. I'll let you know in a couple of years."
- "My incumbent is an idiot."
- "Naishtat is running unopposed"
- "Tried, but failed, to recruit a challenger in the Primary."
- "Live in an open seat district"
- "Paul Workman is the worst kind of representative -- more interested in lining his own pockets by rewarding his industry than serving his constituents. He also confuses belligerence with virtue."
- "Marquez may have kicked over the hornet's nest with her endorsement/support of Dee Margo, but I think she has done well for the district so far. The target on her will be big at the start of the term, especially given actions of the El Paso County Democrats - that said, I think a lege session is a long time to forget and move on."
- "After redistricting, I don't know who my state representative is anymore-again."
- "Why do we continue to re-elect those that represent us while we pound our fists about incumbents? If we throw our guy out, we admit that we made a mistake. This is why incumbents always get re-elected. We never make mistakes."
- "Do not have an incumbent. I am voting for a young, energetic, constructive conservative who happens to be a Latino."
- "I think full time Donna Howard needs to go get a job with the city of Austin."

If the 2014 Republican primary election for lieutenant governor were held today, which of the following possible candidates would you vote for, or haven't you thought about it enough to have an opinion?

- "Two years out and we know this is the field from which we will choose?"
- "Looks like a Rogue's Gallery of maniacs, minus Staples."
- "Weak field"
- "We'll see WHO is still standing in 2014."
- "Jerry Patterson is the best natural politician on the field today. He knows how to develop and drive a clear message. On matters of principle, he does not blink."
- "Your Lt Gov list left out Greg Abbott. Some Perry people have already told me that they expect Greg to run for Lt Gov."

- "As an ex-artillery officer and jet pilot, w/ typically only two speeds, strafe and off, he still manages to demonstrate a more independent, thoughtful targeting and approach than his statewide peers"
- "Oh the fun we all would have if this would only come true!"
- "Patterson, although unpolished, has shown real leadership ability. The incumbent is a clone of Perry."
- "Lets see how the '13 session goes first..."
- "He has been a fair leader, without compromising his principles. I can't imagine a compelling reason to fire him. But, I never thought he would have lost the Senate primary either so anything is possible."
- "Staples is the anti-Dewhurst who has the best chance to successfully repeat Cruz's tactics."
- "None of the above"

If Rick Perry were to run for governor again in 2014, would you vote for him, would you vote against him, or would you need to wait and see who is running against him?

- "He'll likely try to stay until we are ranked 50th in everything."
- "I have Perry fatigue, but have a hard time seeing that he's really done anything wrong enough to warrant an ouster."
- "We should not have a governor for 10 years or more, period."
- "Unless Abbott challenges him, of course..."
- "If Abbott runs, he'll WIN."
- "Our state can't take much more of Anita's visions."
- "Republicans: Puhlease give all a break!"
- "Hopefully Perry will be serving as US Secretary of Agriculture."
- "Even if my only choice was Abbott. His appearances w/ Perry seem to be a turtle on a fence post. I smell yet another cartel led collusion"
- "I'd take Perry over a lot of others, but if AG Abbott ran, I'd take him in a heartbeat."
- "This is a bad question. The other name on the ballot has everything to do with if someone will or won't vote for Perry."
- "The state badly needs new leadership and an end to one-man rule in Austin"

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

- "Too much perceived influence."
- "Not sure this is a fair question. Influence is neutral. It does not care who it affects and you either have it or you do not. I think the better question is do you agree with things that are being influenced within the party. I think you will find that there are places for disagreement and agreement within the movement."
- "Very little, and waning."
- "Relatively moderate Rs are now afraid of their own shadows."
- "America needs the occasional 'Mule' to change history, but not too much."
- "Who?"
- "The RPT needs conservatives, regardless the organization labels."
- "To the extent that the TEA Party holds the Republican Party to constitutional principles, it is a positive force."
- "Honestly, let them have those crazies all to themselves. Keep them out of the independent category."
- "This question reminds me of the quote the rumors about my demise are greatly exaggerated. The Tea Party will be around as long as taxpayers are angry about government's inability to wisely use their hard earned money."
- "Actually the Tea Party people are having too much influence. Not much wrong with the original Tea Party principles."
- "Can you have too much influence in the party when you are the party? The Tea Party"
- "When Ted Cruz has a page on his website dedicated to UN conspiracy theories and David Dewhurst is a moderate, then Texas might have drunk a little too deeply from that poisoned well."
- "Even when it's influence is the equivalent of vaporware"
- "'The right amount of influence'=none"
- "*Don't Care I know it has zero influence on ME."
- "Influence goes to those who show up and vote. The further folks jerk to the right the sooner the middle is filled by others. Democrats best friends...teavangelicals!"
- "All of the above."
- "The Tea Party has reinvigorated the GOP, and helped return the party to core principles. The Tea Party should be all about fiscal responsibility; the danger is that social issue activists will continue to gain influence in the TP."
- "They will be the reason for the downfall of the Republican party in Texas and Nationally."

- "While they have good ideas on some things. They contradict themselves. Take gaming, they say Freedom! But dictate to others oh no you can't."

- "I think the original Tea Party movement has been co opted by take advantage politicians, that are now using it to promote and advance themselves, which I believe will be the death of the movement."

- "They have earned all the influence they have -- it's called democracy -- or at least that's what they call it when the Democrats do it -- Most Republicans agree with most of the Tea Party agenda -- which is based on fiscal responsibility. If folks disagree

with the Tea Partiers, they should organize and run against them. If they think they can't beat 'em, what does that tell ya?"

- "The influence isn't as deep as it is made out to be."

- "Used to be close to a straight ticket Republican until the Tea Partiers entered the picture. If we don't find ways to adequately fund education, water infrastructure and transportation projects the economic growth we have enjoyed will quickly come to a halt."

- "All they are is LOUD. Real leadership would stand up to them. Straus sure does..."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, James Clark, Rick Cofer, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Dadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Rebecca Flores, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Billy Howe, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Phillip Martin, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Mike McKinney, Kathy Miller, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Kim Ross, Jeff Rotkoff, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.