

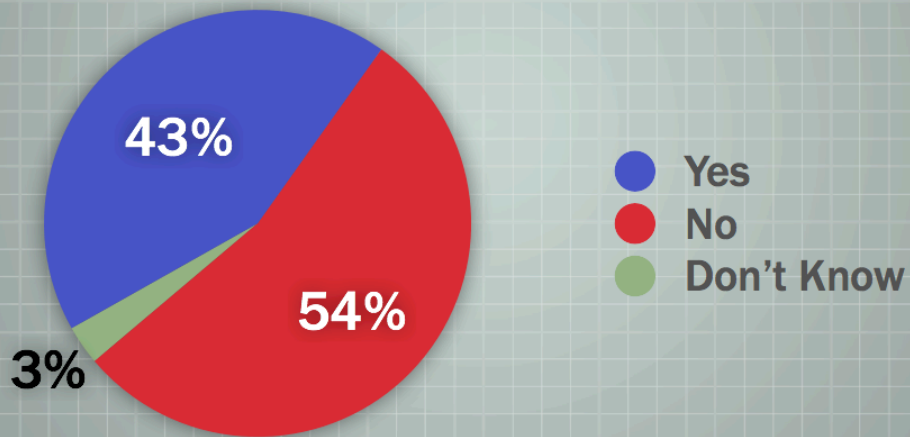
# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of August 12*

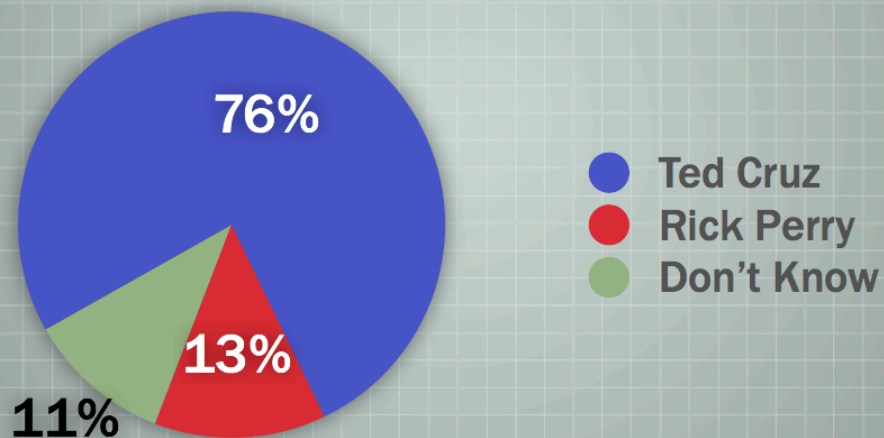
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should Cruz run for president?



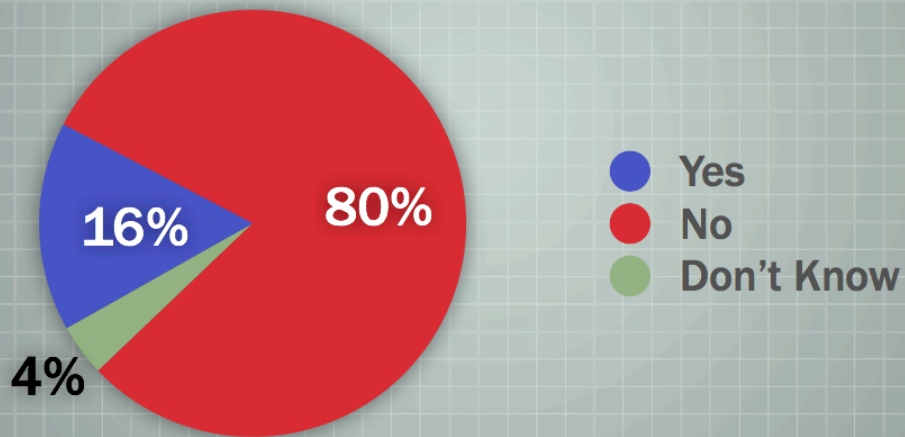
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who would do better  
in a presidential primary?



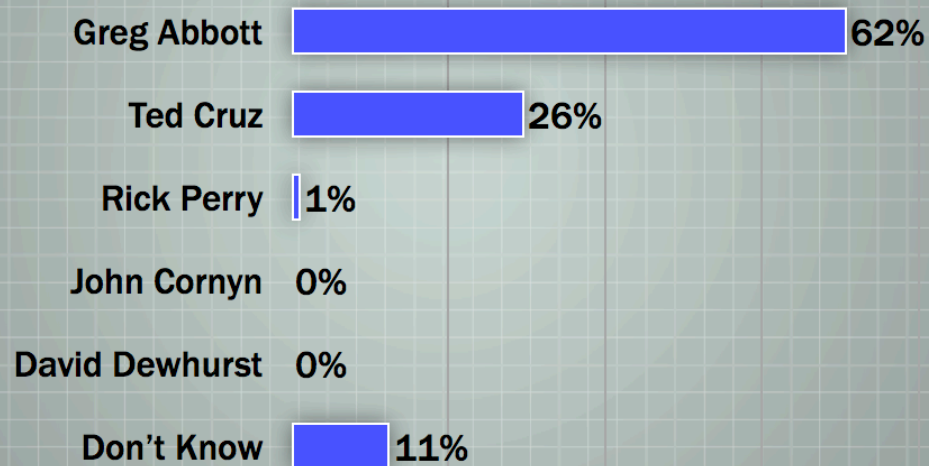
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Could Cruz win the presidency?



# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who will be the face of the Texas GOP for the next few years?



## ***Should Ted Cruz run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016?***

- "Diversity of opinion is always a good thing, it breeds debate."
- "I don't like it, but the stars are aligning up for him. He has electrified the base like no one else. Now the reality is that Republicans will once again lose another presidential race if he gets out of the primary."
- "If he's running to actually be elected President, then no, because I don't think he can win. If his goal is to stake out turf as a national conservative leader, then sure, why not?"
- "'Should he?' Yes. 'Do I want him to?' No"
- "Maybe. Either Rubio or Cruz will be the next VP pick. If it looks like Rubio plans to run, then Cruz may also need to run to be a viable VP candidate or for a shot at a '20 or '24 presidential bid."
- "He is a perfect psychopath for a party that stands for nothing."
- "Presidential runs tend to reveal, for better or worse, a lot about a candidate. Given his high office and his lack of prior experience, it would be good to get a closer look at him."
- "Sure he should run... assuming he is actually eligible."
- "Let everyone know how crazy he really is and embarrass all those folks who voted for him - oh wait, they won't be embarrassed, they will just blame the 'liberal media' when he loses and becomes a laughingstock for the nation!"
- "Just because it would be so much fun to watch him talk crazy!"
- "Explain it to me like I'm a four year old: how is he qualified? What's his experience? What's his legislative or executive or 'life' accomplishment(s)? How has he demonstrated he can work with folks to achieve a common goal?"
- "Please run! Dems need someone to drive the R nominee to the right like Santorum did in 2012. It gives us more room to operate in the middle."
- "It's lunchtime and you just killed my appetite with this round of questions."
- "Time will tell if the (Canadian-born) freshman elected official becomes a good statesman, not the current Tea Party fervor encouraging him."
- "If he does, he might set a record for speed of meteoric rise and fall."
- "Why not? A US Senator with less experience than Cruz was elected President in 2008 and serves as President today."
- "We've already had one first time Senator become President and that hasn't worked out too well for us."
- "He is a demagogue of the first rank."

- "Cruz is woefully unqualified to be the Commander-in-Chief of the United States of America."
- "It'd be hilarious."
- "Why the hell not?"
- "Might find out how out of step with the rest of this democracy we have become."
- "I think Cruz would fare very well in the presidential nomination process, which says a lot about how out of touch with reality Republican primary voters in the early states are."
- "Doesn't have a prayer"
- "The GOP's Obama a first term Senator, smart and who has never run anything. Maybe a little bit more seasoning? Is that asking too much?"
- "Yes, please."
- "The more Ted Cruz is the national brand of Republicans, the better it is for Democrats anywhere in the country - except maybe Texas if he were actually nominated, and that's still a big 'if.'"
- "He is so crazy he can't possibly win"
- "Why not? He'll either stand or fall. The Rs have fielded such dismal candidates the last couple of elections that he may have a shot. And he'll chew Hillary up in a debate."
- "He has the right attitude but his accomplishments are entirely lacking. Then again, that didn't stop our current president..."
- "First things first. How about getting some experience in the first term of a job he was just elected to do."
- "Sure, why not? On paper, he's the perfect candidate--smart, articulate, young, and Hispanic. And his libertarian leanings will attract voters."
- "Should as in 'would it be good for America?' probably not. Should as in 'will he ever have a better chance?' I think, if he has an hour, this may be it."
- "As a Democrat, I would like nothing better than to see Cruz run and further alienate moderates. Cruz is operating as if the Republican presidential primary is akin to a Texas Republican primary. Good. Luck. With. That."
- "Yes, so we can all enjoy the comedy and tragedy of it. Great theater."
- "He might as well get a reality dose sooner than later."
- "At the very least, it's good practice for him. He's for real."
- "The best time for him is 2016"
- "Yes, please! Republicans already hate him, it'd be fabulous!"
- "The TEA party threatens to destroy the Republican Party."
- "He has no charisma. He is interesting for a while, but eventually more annoying than attractive."
- "The guy is solid, great speaker, he is really enjoyable."

- "Ted Cruz is Dan Patrick with an additional 50 IQ points. He absolutely should run for Vice President."

- "I have a personal aversion to extremism. He is an extremist."

- "Don't be ridiculous."

- "He's an embarrassment to Texas."

- "Stranger things have happened."

- "Oh yes, please. Please let him run."

### *Which Texan do you think would do better in a Republican primary?*

- "Cruz is a fresh face, Perry has too many wrinkles."

- "Ted Cruz is now married to the hard Right of the republican base. Perry has been out-righted."

- "Rick Perry is finished, whether he knows it or not. His recent gaffe, forgetting what state he was in, is just the latest indicator that he is not national stage material."

- "We have no Texans qualified to run in the 2016 GOP Presidential primary."

- "Perry's national moment has come and gone. Cruz can best articulate the issues that primary voters will have on their minds in 2015-16 (federalism; big gov't)."

- "Better, but not well."

- "Rick has become that which he sought to replace, within that narrow ideological context"

- "Ted Cruz would do better than Perry but neither will win the Republican Party primary. And like Perry, once Cruz is exposed in the primary process, his star will flame out quickly."

- "Ted Cruz may be smarter; Rick Perry is a much better candidate. I don't look for the errors in 2012 to repeat themselves."

- "Scared the death out of me that I find myself pulling for Gov. Perry in any head-to-head political matchup!"

- "That's not much of a choice. Which one is the lesser of two evils?"

- "Cruz is MORE than an articulate speaker. He has displayed the COURAGE to stand on Constitutional principles."

- "RP proved he is not ready for prime time the last run. But in the end, neither can win. Too much spouting of nonsense!"

- "One has state legislative and executive experience (in a big state), served in the military, has done manual labor as a farmer, and has real, honest-to-goodness achievements and experience under his belt. The other is a career staffer, lawyer, and has been U.S. Senator for less than a year. On paper I know which of the two I would prefer."

- "Cruz has the national spotlight, gives the R party some 'diversity', and makes Perry look like Walter

Mondale. The base loves Cruz. The crazier he talks, the more they love him."

- "But that's not saying much is it?"
- "His stuff is all red meat."
- "Record of job creation - which is what Americans really need."
- "The current Republican primary voters seem to prefer demagogues."
- "While Ted Cruz is popular among the Texas tea-party type activists, his rhetoric will not be as well received in other parts of the country. At least Rick Perry has demonstrated an ability to successfully lead and achieve worthy accomplishments."
- "As much as it may disappoint many Texans, the country is not that enamored with Texas leaders. Just travel a little a little and let people find out you are from our great state."
- "Cruz, but he cannot get elected nationwide...."
- "Too much time ahead to tell at this point."
- "New > old"
- "Rick Perry couldn't win an election for dog catcher outside of Texas."
- "Rick who? Ted Cruz, by a long shot."

• "I think Gov. Perry is a great leader. But I just don't think voters on a national level like him."

- "The good old boys and girls will go with the good old boy."
- "Ted Cruz, right-wing like the primary electorate."
- "Neither have a chance."
- "I prefer not to consider such calamity or comedy."
- "Perry appears lost and forlorn, not to mention lacking mental candlepower, next to Cruz."
- "Cruz, but not by much."
- "Neither would help the ticket."
- "Rick Perry is not a viable national candidate. Three reasons why: 1. He blew it. 2. People outside of Texas think he is a fool. 3. Oops..."
- "Maybe this would be better phrased as 'Which Texan do you think would get beat by less in a Republican primary?'"
- "Smarts count for something, and unfortunately, one of these two can't count."
- "Not sure any of them can win."

### ***Do you think Ted Cruz could win the presidential race in 2016?***

• "Too young and inexperienced. The public will have time to see and

understand the devastation of the B. Obama presidency."

- "Cruz would be crushed in the general. President Reagan was able to drive a large group of democrats over to the R column. Ted Cruz will drive a large group of Republicans over to the D column."
- "Cruz has a number of problems as a presidential candidate (birth certificate, too ideological, etc.), but the biggest is that he is thoroughly unlikable. He is transparently smug and condescending, and voters don't like that. Just ask Rudy Giuliani."
- "He has accomplished ZERO unless you count making headlines on talk shows an accomplishment."
- "No way. He's the icon of the Last of the Great White (supremacist) Hopes for the GOP. He is the double down candidate. The failing part if the GOP campaign (anti gay, anti immigration, anti poor people, anti anyone who isn't just like me) that they can't quit subscribing too because it feels so good. But that candidacy fails."
- "Cruz has gained notoriety by being against things he should be against. To win, he must start telling the voters what he is FOR."
- "Although the Democrats should be praying for an outlier like Cruz to be the candidate; it would be their chance to firmly establish themselves in the middle."
- "I saw Sadler's polling, (as did trib friends)--his views are way off semi silent majority view of Texans, which is saying a lot"
- "Of course not. Won't the birthers declare that he's ineligible?"
- "Every president should have had to serve at least half of a term in some elective office, or been secretary of state, or won the Civil War or WWII before becoming president, or be on personal terms with the Koch brothers, or something similar."
- "Cruz would give voters a CHOICE. We're weary of the McCain, Romney, ECHOs."
- "He's been in the Senate less than a year and before that was a career staffer and lawyer. How does that qualify him to be POTUS? He represents a small but vocal minority of the GOP and his antics will not play well during a lengthy primary battle across multiple states."
- "Of the US? No. Barring any major gaffes, he has long legs a la Santorum."
- "I'm a pro-business, socially-moderate life-long-always-voted-Republican who would vote for Sec. Clinton over Sen. Cruz - we want ideas, not rhetoric as to why others won't work."
- "Red meat stuff does not win general elections."
- "He'll have to hold the right and still come to the middle to get people like me. Hard to do, but not impossible."
- "It is a long shot for any candidate, but relative to the others in the field Ted has a reasonable chance to get the nomination."
- "If Ted Cruz is the Republican nominee, I am concerned he would undermine Republican candidates in competitive Districts - jeopardizing



control of the U.S. House and Senate. Unfortunately, Ted Cruz does not seem to care about such concerns."

- "I'm not optimistic that we'll see another R president in my lifetime . . . if ever. Too many voters getting too much 'free' stuff."

- "Someone to the right of Romney attracts all the minorities and women. Really???"

- "Cruz '16 is allegedly Obama '08 for the GOP. Economy is improving now, though, which is a huge difference. Politically, Cruz has charisma + intelligence, but no GOP infrastructure has shown ability to do field as well as Dems - at best GOP could match the Dems. And Obama mixed centrism + populism for his policies. Cruz mixes Tea Party + Looney Tunes. Cruz ain't it."

- "If he can stay away from the social issues (i.e., abortion), he could take it."

- "He's completely unknown nationally at this point, save a few photo ops."

- "If Obamacare is implemented in 2015-2016, the cost burden will hit the economy. That means one thing: big year for Republicans."

- "Think Goldwater with a Cuban background."

- "Unfortunately, yes. That is what the Republican Primary wants these days. Crazy."

- "If that happens I will move to Canada."

- "Not likely, but possible."

- "No, there's not doubt."

- "If Cruz is on the ticket, Hillary cruises to victory by a landslide. The urban areas put Obama over the top. Cruz cannot win the major metropolitan areas."

- "No experience and no charm. He does not fill people with confidence."

- "It is not about candidates anymore, it's about money to pay for GOTV"

- "No, but he wasn't supposed to win his US Senate seat either."

- "Crazy conservative doesn't attract independent voters"

- "Not if the media has its way."

- "Will give it to Hillary, not to mention Cruz born in Canada, where are all the nut cases who hate Obama now?"

***Now that Gov. Rick Perry isn't seeking reelection, who will be the face of the Republican Party in Texas for the next few years?***

- "National politician do not become the face of a state party."

- "Cruz-mania is in effect. He officially becomes the face of the conservative movement in Texas."

- "Either our next GOP governor or Lt. Gov. - but not the Dew."
- "It will be Abbott by default if he becomes governor. 1) Perry will be focused on running for President; 2) Cruz is focused on fixing Washington; 3) Cornyn has never aspired to fill that roll; and 4) Dewhurst? Bush, Patterson, Staples... not going to happen."
- "He grabs the spotlight like no one else."
- "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss. Cruz conceivably, but too far away regarding local/provincial issues of even R voter relevance"
- "As long as Ted Cruz is in office he will not allow anyone else to be the face of the party."
- "Oh wait, the Tea Partiers don't represent the 'mainstream' republican party - but they sure are making it look like they do."
- "Many are eager to learn how Abbott will transition from AG to Governor."
- "Scary but true."
- "George P. Bush, don't ya' know?"
- "Hopefully someone from the more moderate wing of the Party."
- "Abbott has made no mistakes unless you count his liability claim, and no one cares about that except a few trial lawyers. He is well liked among mainstream Republicans as well as TEA party types. To date, he's been red meat enough to satisfy the hard-cores, and reasonable enough to

satisfy the mainstreams. If he can continue the balancing act he'll be the Republican leader in Texas for a while."

- "Assuming he wins the governorship and none of these men get elected president."
- "Cruz is a national figure, so Abbott will be the RPT leader."
- "George P. Bush. While Abbott will most likely be Governor, and will be highly visible, the Republican party, and the state as a whole, will be best served by championing the well-reasoned conservatism of George P. - not the self-promoting anarchy advocated by Ted Cruz."
- "Abbott . . . unless he's not 'conservative enough' . . ."
- "Todd Staples...he's young and articulate."
- "Probably Abbott. The big question can he shake the Perry legacy and propose and pass conservative solutions for Texas' s problems."
- "Even if he loses a nomination in 2016, he's still fresh, will have built a national staff, and will be positioned to lead the ticket in 2018."
- "Abbott, assuming he is elected, will have a better platform than Cruz because he is in Texas, will be able to shape the state's agenda and keep battling with the Feds. Cruz can only battle with the Feds way up there in Washington."
- "George P."

- "No doubt about it, Greg Abbott will be entrenched before you know it."

- "General Abbott will be the face for years to come."

- "It will be interesting to see how two egos, the likes of Cruz and Abbott, vie for the leadership role for the Republican Party in Texas. Talk about theater!"

- "It will be a battle between Ted Cruz and Greg Abbott. Stay home Dewhurst. In the end, the party will, against the establishment's better judgment, elevate Ted Cruz."

- "Cornyn is colorless, Dewhurst will be defeated if he actually runs, Perry

is fading into well-deserved obscurity, and budding star Cruz will be operating out of Washington. The governor leads the party."

- "Abbott for the next two years by virtue of the campaign."

- "Will someone please ask General Abbott how this special session is supposed to end so our faithful legislators can go home?"

- "Greg Abbott will play the Danny White role to Perry's Roger Staubach."

- "Is this a trick question? Everyone knows the answer: Jodie Laubenberg and it ain't even close"

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Adam Haynes, Allen Blakemore, Allen Place, Andrew Biar, Andy Sansom, Beth Cubriel, Bee Moorhead, Bill Hammond, Bill Jones, Bradford Shields, Brandon Aghamalian, Bill Ratliff, Bryan Mayes, Bruce Scott, Tom Duffy, Cathie Adams, Curtis Culwell, Chris Britton, Charles Bailey, Cal Jillson, Clyde Alexander, Colin Strother, Clint Hackney, Christopher Shields, Christopher Williston, Dennis Speight, Darren Whitehurst, David White, David Cabrales, David Dunn, Deborah Ingersoll, Daniel Gonzalez, Dominic Giarratani, Mike McKinney, Robert Kepple, Elna Christopher, Andy Brown, Ed Small, Jason Sabo, Gary Polland, Gene Acuna, George Allen, Gay Erwin, Gardner Pate, Grant Ruckel, Harold Cook, Hector De Leon, Jack Erskine, Jenny Aghamalian, James LeBas, Jason Johnson, Jay Arnold, Jeff Eller, Pete Laney, Jerry Philips, John Greytok, Janis Carter, John Heasley, John Weaver, Jon Fisher, Jim Sartwelle, Jason Skaggs, Jay Thompson, Julie Shields, June Deadrick, Keats Norfleet, Kinnan Golemon, Ken Hodges, Kim Ross, Keir Murray, Kerry Cammack, Nick Lampson, Dick Lavine, Lee Woods, Lydia Camarillo, Lisa Kaufman, Leslie Lemon, Louis Bacarisse, Larry Soward, Luke Marchant, Luke Legate, Marc Campos, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Mike Moses, Mark Jones, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Alex Winslow, Nora Del Bosque, Neftali Garcia, Nef Partida, Nelson Nease, Norman Garza, Pat Nugent, Dave Beckwith, Patrick Reinhart, Phillip Martin, Wayne Pierce, Jay Propes, Peck Young, Ramey Ko, Randy Cubriel, Brian Rawson, Richard Pineda, Richard Dyer, Richard Khouri, Richard Levy, Bob Strauser, Robert Jones, Robert Scott, Robert Peeler, Russ Tidwell, Scott Dunaway, Seth Winick, Stephanie Gibson, Sandy Kress, Snapper Carr, Steve Scurlock, Stan Schlueter, Jason Stanford, Steve Murdock, Steve Holzheuser, Sylvia Nugent, Sherry Sylvester, Tom Blanton, Thomas Graham,

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