

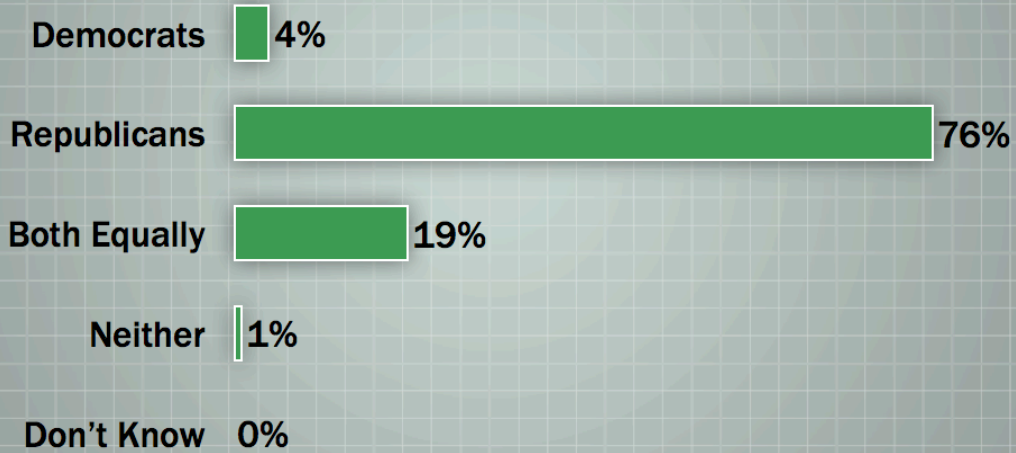
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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

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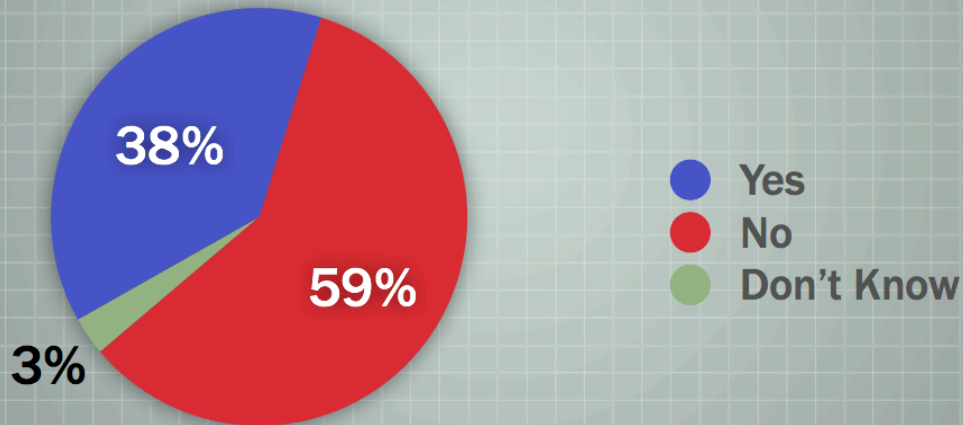
Who will voters blame
for the government shutdown?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

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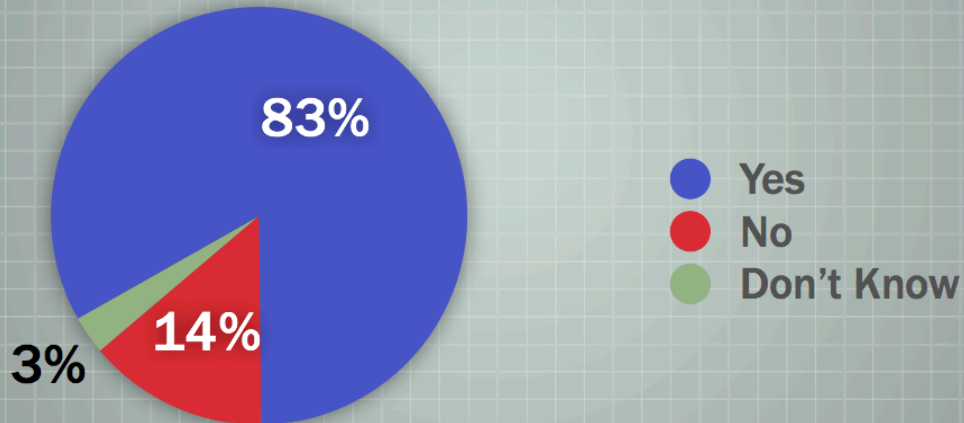
Will the shutdown focus attention
on the federal health care law?



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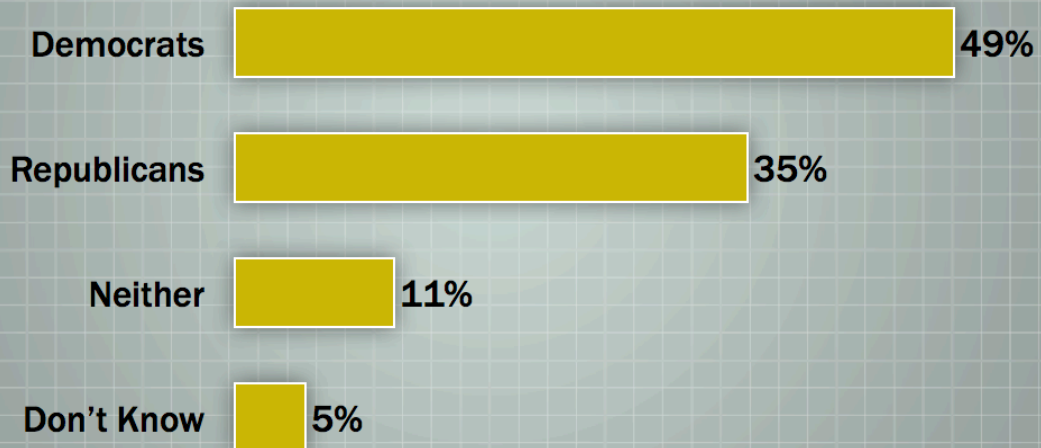
Will the federal health care law still be an issue in November 2014?



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If the Affordable Care Act goes into effect, which party will benefit?



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Which party will voters blame for the federal government shutdown?

- "People want to have elections respected & they expect negotiation to solve problems."
- "Both parties will get blamed, but Republicans will be seen as more to blame."
- "While there's plenty of blame to go around, the media will focus only the role of Republicans."
- "Who else will the liberal media blame?"
- "Because they are"
- "Except in Texas - Texas republicans will try to blame the President and Democrats. Let's face it - nationally the republicans are BRAGGING about shutting it down."
- "Everyone is going to blame Ted Cruz and it's going to make him the darling of the conservative base. P.S. - Ted if you are reading this, we LIKE portability; we HATE lifetime caps."
- "Because of the axiom - if you're explaining - you're losing. The Republicans seem to be doing more explaining."
- "The public is so weary of the Washington blame game the attempt by each party to blame the other will fall on deaf ears."
- "This all could've been debated long before the deadline. The Democratic Senate refusing to go to conference in essence saying, 'our way or the highway.' The GOP should hammer them about refusing to work together."
- "The Republicans do not have an end game."
- "Not one party is solely to blame for this meltdown; it's a collective effort of dysfunction at its absolute worse."
- "People are looking for answers about Obamacare and the party that explains this better wins."
- "The shutdown is a manufactured crisis by the House Majority. Culberson was quoted as saying he is 'excited' about shutting it down. The Rs want the 'blame'."
- "Democrats will be hurt as well, but the GOP will take the brunt on this one, largely because they failed to win opinion to their side before the shutdown."
- "President Obama is saying your going to eat these vegetables no matter what, whereas House Republicans are still trying to pick the menu. Problem is they aren't sitting at the same table."
- "The media has already told them that they should and the sheeple will follow through. Fortunately for Republicans, voters have a short attention span and sometime by mid spring, they'll begin to remember there was a fight over health care that went with the shutdown."
- "This government shutdown is speeding up the exodus from the Republican party that include Young Republicans, Latino Republicans, and Reagan Democrats. Good Luck, Wackos."

- "Each party and its activists will blame the other...what a way to run the greatest democracy of all time"
- "It's always the Republicans fault. But the Democrats could get some dirt on them this time around."
- "However Democrats will get blame to because GOP will spin it that way"
- "Blame game, always unseemly, can be difficult to predict. The president will certainly use the bully pulpit to blame someone else. The real key to this entire analysis is the degree of success of the program. If it becomes an instant success, obviously the Democrats' job will be easier. If, on the other hand it turns out to be an unqualified disaster, the converse will be true. Most likely it will be neither. Of course, a collateral thread running through the entire analysis is the effect that people feel as a result of the 'shutdown'."
- "This is a partisan divide issue and we are at a stalemate. Each side will blame the other and folks will follow depending on the way they lean. No Republican will look at the shutdown and say, gee, my guys are to blame here and no Democrat will say, golly, I wish the Democrats would have at least met with the GOP. Everyone is dug in."
- "Blame will be split between the parties, but the Republicans will take most of it."
- "Media always blames the Republicans. It's baked into the cake."
- "Obvious!"
- "'We won't negotiate' . . . and it's the solely the fault of the Rs?"
- "Although neither side is willing to compromise, the Grand Old Party will take the hit!"
- "Republican still don't know the rules of Hot Potato"
- "No one gets away without a mark but the bruises will show more on the GOP than Dems."
- "Both will get blamed but with the Democrats controlling 2/3 of federal government, they should get 2/3 of the blame. The Republican led House has negotiated, the Democrat led Senate and President should now do the same."
- "This is a law that both houses passed, the president signed, and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld. Why is this now an issue?"
- "Obama negotiates with Hamas, Iran, Russia, but NOT with the duly elected Congress. He WANED the shut down to enable the obligatory media to pick up ONLY his talking points."
- "Really, you even have to ask this question. Obama says I don't have to compromise? How arrogant is that. Reid will not appoint negotiators to a join committee on budget issues? I would say that means they are to blame."
- "The Republicans had a real opportunity to gain some ground with independent voters. All they will accomplish now is dividing the party."

- "Ted Cruz has laid the insanity of our primary system on display for the nation to see."
- "I think the public sees that neither party is talking to the other, and

they'll blame both. Negotiation requires at least a discussion."

- "Both are in fantasy land."

Does the shutdown accomplish the goal of focusing voter attention on federal health care?

- "It might, if it goes on long enough. Maybe then more people would realize Obamacare and the Affordable Care Act are the same thing."
- "Nope, now they're focused on other government issues: military pay, VA funding, SS and Medicare continuance."
- "What conventional pundits are missing is that there will be a huge impatience and then anger at how poorly the ACA is being administered. All of this will work far better for Republicans, whether they 'win' or 'lose' the short term battle."
- "That focus will shift to the positive --slowly--as more voters directly and indirectly benefit from the major elements of the ACA."
- "Not unless those voters are signing up - have you seen the number so of people signing up today?"
- "As I type this response the news is reporting on WWII veterans breaking into their own shuttered memorial. How many days of stories like this before the public loses focus on the underlying reasons for the shutdown?"
- "It focuses attention on how 535 elected officials can be so damn

dysfunctional when put in the same building together and asked to work with one another."

- "No. It puts the focus on a dysfunctional group of people who would rather cut off income for their employees than get in a room and work it out. Can you imagine if businesses operated like this? And let's not forget this was a temporary budget, not even the real thing."
- "Sure it does.... but at the expense of Republicans."
- "Partially, it will draw attention to Obamacare. But people will pick the side they're already on."
- "Obamacare was just the talking point on the federal budget. The real focus should be placed on the inability of Congress to do what is right for the country."
- "And focuses attention on the fact that Obamacare is an 'all or nothing' proposition, meaning it fails if not everyone is forced to buy into it. The Obama administration doesn't want to have that conversation and neither do red-state Democrats who have to answer to voters."
- "Obamacare is the law of the land...and has been for 4 years. This is

an exercise in vanity for Cruz and the tea party crowd."

- "Open enrollment is doing that."
- "It focuses voter attention on republican-led gridlock, again."
- "Of course not - it focuses attention on an inept federal government."
- "The focus has been on how the Ted Cruz and the Tea Party has high jacked the US Congress. All insiders will look at this turning point a few years from now when the state starts turning bluish-purple."
- "No, because the story will be the Republicans are damaging an already fragile economy."
- "It focuses voter attention on federal health care but that will get lost in the broader message that Republicans are tanking the economy through their hostage taking. Under our system, the House doesn't get to unilaterally veto legislation that has already passed into law and been upheld in the courts. This is a political question, and the Republicans lost. They're about to lose again, but they can't stop digging."
- "Most voters are so blissfully uneducated that they won't do any independent study on what the issues really are."
- "Except for right wing Rs, the focus is on the shutdown--not health care."
- "There will be a focus on health care, but it will also be divided. The mostly liberal leaning media will put out all these heart wrenching stories of poor people who had no health care that

are now able to get it (somehow, not quite clear) and the right will counter will equally heart wrenching stories of people who lose their jobs or have their pay checks cut to nothing because their companies can't afford to comply. Both sides will have a claim to the moral high ground."

- "Yes, but it also focuses attention on the divisions within the Republican Party and may convince voters that it cannot be trusted as a governing vehicle."
- "The shutdown, and events leading up to it, allowed voters to link the lagging economy with interference from Washington, especially Obamacare."
- "Most 'voters' . . . me included . . . don't have a grasp on what Obamacare will do."
- "It really focuses attention on how the Tea Party is destroying the Republican Party and how gutless main stream Republicans are in standing up to the Tea Party."
- "Like it or not, and most parts I don't, it the law of the land."
- "Not at all, the shutdown headlines are burying open enrollment announcements."
- "Yes, but not in the way Republicans will have wanted. When the ACA is in place, hardliner Rs will lose some credibility in all but the most conservative areas because they have overplayed how bad it will be."
- "I think it just makes Congress inept."

- "The fact that it crashed on day 1 will do a better job of that."
- "The only goal it accomplishes is to highlight the 'broken-ness' of Washington."
- "Either part-time or NO jobs, either increased costs for or NO health insurance, and soon to come--the exposure of NO personal privacy due to his 'navigators' going door-to-door

to collect personal data along with the consolidation of several federal databases."

- "But Cruz woke people up and took the slings and arrows to highlight the nonsense and budget busting healthcare robbing situation barry care puts us in and the train wreck it will cause our economy"
- "Absolutely. And the debt."

Do you think the Affordable Care Act will still be a major political issue before the November 2014 elections?

- "For Tea Partiers, yes. For everyone else, no."
- "Without question. This is a much larger albatross for Democrats as it plays out than anyone, perhaps even including Ted Cruz himself, presently understands."
- "Is it ironic or moronic, or both, that those most visceral in their opposition of 'government health care' are beneficiaries of government health care? Is it sufficiently hypocritical -- that it might become political --that legislators who have denied their fellow citizens the same coverage they currently enjoy at taxpayer expense might provoke a backlash?"
- "I suspect it will be a major positive issue for Dems in that election. Obama should not have screwed with it, and that is hurting, but the marketplaces are online and millions of people will be acquiring health insurance for the first time ... and seeing the difference it makes to their lives. If the Republican post-2010 congressional and legislative

redistricting effort hadn't been so effective - and ours so ineffective - we would use their opposition to ACA to toss a bunch Republicans out of office in 2014, but those districts are just too damned tight for us to win back the house for a while."

- "It will be the republicans saying - thanks to us trying to slow it down, you were able to really read the information and get yourself some good coverage! So happy all of our tactics worked and that the exchanges are open and working well! You can thank us for your healthcare insurance by voting for us now!"
- "The fight about Obamacare will define domestic policy in national races for the remainder of the decade."
- "For the Tea Party R's it will. Aren't some R's still pissed off about Medicare and/or Medicaid? And that's been around for a few election cycles."
- "People will like it, just like the Republicans fear."

- "Maybe this issue will be the one to awaken the sleeping giant which is the 18 to 30 year old category that will have their money taken with the full force and the federal government to subsidize the uninsured without doing anything to contain cost."
- "But GOP needs to advance its alternative and why it is the real answer to the medical cost crisis."
- "Too early to tell."
- "It will be a major talking/campaigning issue for Republicans. Democrats will pay less attention to it, because they've already basically won the issue."
- "The Obama Administration waivers ensure it will be an issue."
- "For r's, Obamacare is short for 'everything -real and imagined- that we still hate about Obama'."
- "Every political consultant in the land is foaming at the mouth."
- "2010 all over again."
- "It wasn't in 2014. If you look at Republican races, the focus was more on whether or not one candidate was purer than the other."
- "Yes, but by that point, the story will be how well or how bad the implementation and roll out has gone."
- "When benefits are being received, ACA will fade as an election issue."
- "In Texas, for sure. It will help keep Wendy below 45%."
- "The Democrats now own Obamacare completely, and all vulnerable Democrats are now on record supporting it."
- "Will be an issue . . . Rs don't like it. Ds do. The bad stuff - for the most part - comes after the 2014 elections. Brilliant."
- "Congress isn't doing anything else e.g. Substantive and meaningful immigration reform"
- "The imagined impact of ACA far outweighs reality."
- "No. The promised catastrophe won't occur and bringing it up will only point out that people are being misled."
- "If lots of new people are covered, the Democrats will do a victory lap. The Tea Party will try to galvanize use if to their supporters."
- "If only to fire up partisans on both sides of the issue."
- "About all the Republicans can talk about these days."
- "Hopefully for Red State Democrats."
- "I will NOT vote for its supporters."
- "Ted and Co. will not let this financial albatross be forgotten"
- "Particularly if Ted Cruz runs."

Assuming the Affordable Care Act goes into effect without delay, which party's candidates will reap the biggest benefit in the 2014 elections?

- "It depends on how well it is implemented."
- "Flawed question, the ACA's full implementation is already hindered by various delays of certain provisions irrespective of what's happening with the funding shutdown. Still, as premiums rise and people realize ACA is not all it was promised, scalps will be collected in 2014, starting with those who voted for it in late 2009 and early 2010."
- "Not even close."
- "But the packed, partisan makeup of legislative districts makes any kind of backlash or sweep problematic. And the obstructionists know that. Add to that obvious reality that voters remain evenly split on the issue--although polling strongly suggests that balance will likely shift more toward the positive as more of the ACA's strengths become self evident."
- "I depends on whether the D's can deliver lower premiums and more access to health care. Frankly, I am skeptical."
- "The ACA probably wont be as bad as some say. And certainly wont be as good as some say, it may have been better had not Senator Kennedy died forcing the D Congress to pass a draft conference committee bill as is."
- "Will vary by region/ district."
- "Why do you think the R's are pushing so far to defund it? They know it would be a great win for the D's if the ACA proves to work."
- "The Democrats win this, because those now being added to the public feeding trough will be more motivated than those who were just left alone."
- "The Obama Administration waivers ensure it will be an issue."
- "From college kids being able to stay on their parents' insurance to the prescription drug savings, Obamacare is working. A majority already opposes defunding. That number will grow as more people benefit."
- "The reason Republicans are fighting so hard (and they've said as much), is once the ACA goes into effect, people will like it."
- "Democrats will take a victory lap using the phrase The Compassionate Party."
- "The positive benefits that will be felt by November 2014 should reap benefits for the Democrats if those most effected actually vote."
- "The Rs have a steep hill to climb because the Ds will focus on the freebies and control the media spin so it won't be a slam dunk."
- "Because once people find out how cheap and easy it is to get health care insurance and that the GOP is lying, it will blow up in their face"

- "Rs have been on their way to gains; but the shutdown is a lifeline for the Ds."
- "Depends on how it plays out"
- "It won't be working well in 2014, so that will help the GOP. Whether it will impact 2016 is the bigger question."
- "The costs of this extravaganza have been deliberately underestimated, and that will be an election issue as well."
- "May sway a few folks in the middle to one side or the other. Depends upon their personal circumstances. 'Is it good for my family and me?'"
- "Once it's out there and the world doesn't come to an end people will wonder what the Republicans were worried about other than just looking to fight about something or anything."
- "Tweedle Dee v. Dum. Think the electorate is finally tired of politics as usual. Unfortunately, they keep electing these morons."
- "Voters will feel the pain of job losses, cost increases for insurance, dropped insurance coverage, etc."
- "Depends on how implementation goes and if the law really works. If it does people will start enjoying the benefit just like social security."
- "Arguing that compassionate conservatism is alive and well in the Republican Party is foolish."
- "In Texas, Rs will claim it's not working, regardless of the truth, and voters will believe them. Nationwide, it will matter more on whether it is or is not having the desired effect."

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Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.