

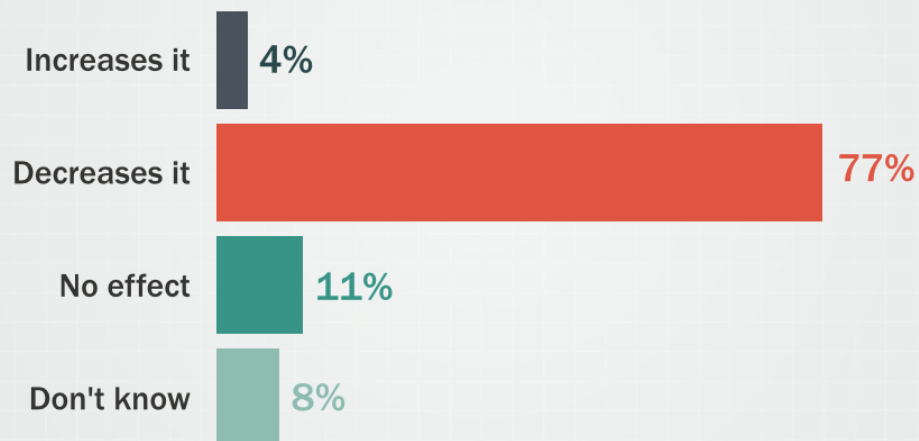
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll

for the week of 23 May 2014

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

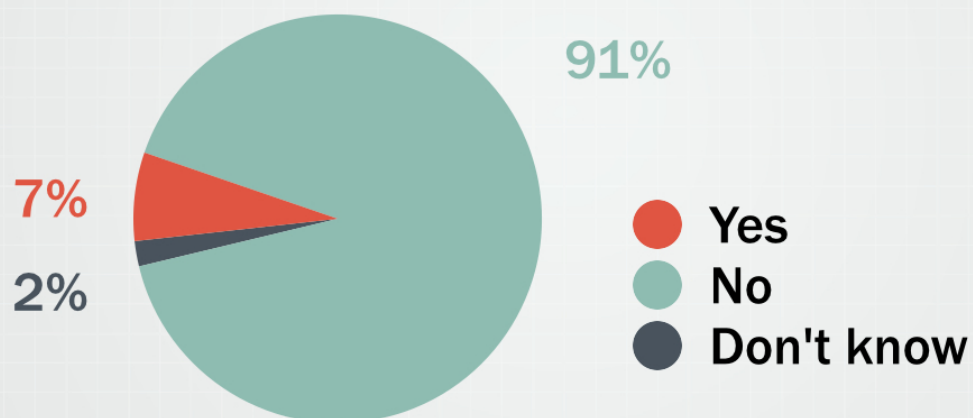
WHAT DOES THE LONG WAIT FOR RUNOFFS DO TO TURNOUT?



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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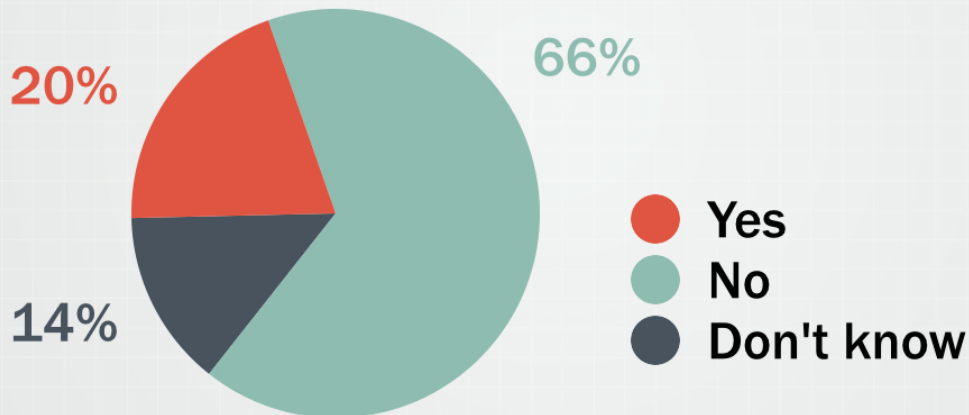
ARE PRIMARY AND RUNOFF VOTERS REPRESENTATIVE OF THEIR PARTIES?



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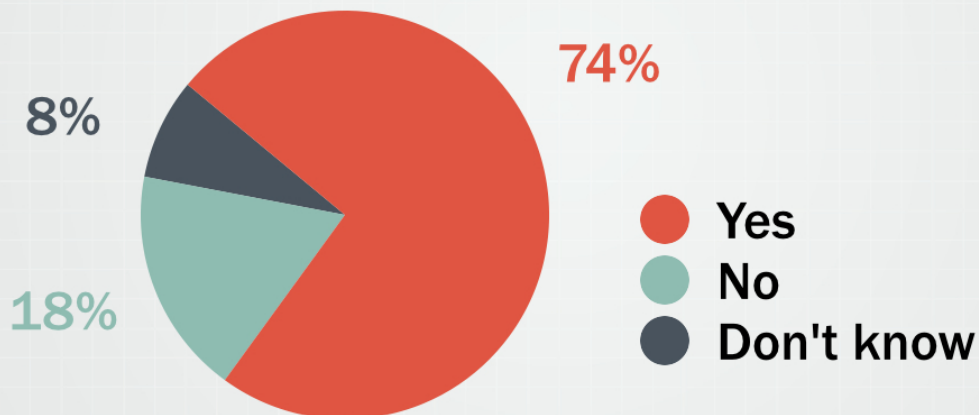
DOES SERVING ON THE CABINET HELP A POLITICIAN'S CHANCES IN A STATE RACE?



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WOULD BEING ON A CABINET HELP JULIAN CASTRO GET ON A NATIONAL TICKET?



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Setting aside what is on a runoff ballot, what effect does the long spell between primaries and runoffs have on turnout?

- "Runoffs always have lower turnout"
- "Horribly low turn-out."
- "We have the perfect storm; ADD Voting and lack of resources to get your voters back to the polls."
- "And it raises the cost of elections as candidates have to start all over in educating voters"
- "After 6 months of the slog, all but the most rabid party faithful have tuned it out."
- "It's a given that fewer voters come out for the runoff. However, the amount of attrition depends on who the candidates are and what they do with the time (see, e.g. Ted Cruz)."
- "Are you kidding? It's ridiculous how small the run-off electorate is."
- "The numbers don't lie--turnout is decreased."
- "Way too long between events"
- "But increases the importance of \$\$ or Super PAC's."
- "In this case, the unusual negativity of the runoff campaigns seems to have depressed expected turnout. That doesn't have to be the case every time, however."
- "It's not the length of time that most greatly impacts the turnout. It's the campaigns. Negative campaigns suppress turnout. Dewhurst's negative campaign will drive turnout down."
- "People will vote if inspired. There is nothing inspiring about this ballot. No Cruz this year."
- "This time lag is highly detrimental to voter interests and gifts the primaries more than ever to the party faithful."
- "The new schedule basically means campaigns must start over instead of maintaining. It makes it much more difficult."
- "Having elections around Memorial Day hurts"
- "Weeks and weeks of negative campaigning drives of negatives of both candidates and ultimately decreases interest and turnout."

Are the voters who turn out for party primaries and runoffs representative of general election and other 'occasional' voters from their parties?

- "Heck no...."
- "No. Primaries are party elections where party loyalists make the key candidate decisions. By the time you get to the general election, everyone

who skipped the primaries is stuck with a take-it-or-leave-it decision...or simply stay home - which ends up working in favor of each party next election cycle."

- "The emotional hype is palpable among the die-hard voters at primary run-offs."

- "Is an AA meeting representative of the general drinking public? Both party primaries function at the pleasure of their extreme voters."

- "If you tend to vote in the Primary, you'll tend to vote in the General. If you tend to vote in the General, you'll tend to be watching March Madness during the primary."

- "Primary voters are more engaged. True believers."

- "Primary voters are the most motivated and loyal of each party's base. Runoff voters even more so. They define a party's true agenda."

- "No, not even close."

- "Primary voters are committed voters for their respective parties; primary run-off voters are TRUE believers and party faithful."

- "They share many values and principles, but primary and run-off voters prioritize civic participation higher than the general election and 'occasional' voters."

- "The primaries are the committed partisans who want to also take part in their precinct, county, state and national conventions."

- "But primaries are never representative of generals"

- "I'm beginning to think"

- "Different because there is an unrepresentative mix of ultra-partisan national-issue voters. In the general, that vote becomes a substantially smaller proportion of the total vote."

- "Primary voters cluster near the far ends of both party ideological spectrums."

- "They are party purists. Not in any way representative of the larger general election population."

- "Some but the vast majority that vote GOP in November inexplicably don't vote in the primary"

- "Not even close."

- "All they do is further polarize the political community, a trend which Texas resisted longer than most but to which it has now succumbed along with the rest of the nation."

- "They're crazies. Like us."

- "Only the hardest of the hard core show up."

- "They represent the passionate right and left wings of their respective parties."

- "It is an embarrassment how few registered voters show up to vote. We allow a vocal minority to control the primary process and the non-voters just complain about the state of affairs."

- "Really? This is a serious question?"

Does serving on a president's cabinet improve a Texas politician's chances at winning a statewide election?

- "Generally not, but it depends on the president and the cabinet role. Julian is a star and his trajectory will continue to rise because of his appointment."
- "Depends on the President and the role. But, Obama's cabinet? Um, that would be a NO."
- "San Antonio mayor heads to Washington to serve as HUD Secretary with hopes of returning to Texas to make a big splash. Haven't we lived this before? Remember how that one ended?"
- "It may be the opposite for Castro."
- "Depends on which president."
- "Someone in the upper echelons of the Democratic Party viewed Castro as a national threat. That threat has now been removed."
- "If this is supposed to be the great comeback of the democrats, why is Castro leaving the state at the critical moment?"
- "Depends on the President and the position"
- "Not if you're a Democrat in Texas!"
- "Why would it? Can't think of example one in my lifetime."
- "'A' president, yes. 'This' president? Likely hurts."
- "Whichever Castro brother is joining the Obama Administration will have a better shot at being tapped for V.P. than being elected Railroad Commissioner."
- "Look at how most republicans ran against Obama and not their republican primary opponent in the recent elections. Serving in Obama's cabinet is akin to serving on Satan's Grand Council; it won't serve well in a God fearing, Christian leaning, tea party hyped state like Texas."
- "Should help breadth of fund raising"
- "Not for this President in this State. In fact, it decreases chances."
- "Depends on who the president is and what the cabinet post is. A Republican president and cabinet member is more likely to benefit from the resume boost, but it's not a golden ticket. I don't see Alphonso Jackson (for those who don't know, he served as HUD Secretary under George W. Bush) or Don Evens (former Sec. of Commerce) benefiting from their service in the 43's Cabinet as statewide candidates/officeholders."
- "Think Bill White...."
- "Not this President and not in Texas."
- "Could depend on the president."
- "Julian was bored with San Antonio."

- "A Republican cabinet? Perhaps. An Obama cabinet? No way."
- "Very smart move by Mayor Castro."
- "Unless the cabinet position is HUD and you get caught up in the inevitable affordable housing scandals."
- "Name ID and lots of Money is the only hope for the Democratic Party"
- "Not in Texas."
- "Not this President."
- "Not this president!"
- "It can add credibility to the candidate, depending on which president it is."
- "Something high profile like Secretary of State, yes. Something low profile like HUD, no."
- "It depends on their visibility and performance, especially in Texas media and political circles."
- "FREE publicity."
- "Serving in a Presidential Cabinet might, but serving in this President's cabinet definitely won't."
- "When Castro's experience in Texas is presiding over City Council meetings he is no better than a glorified City Council member."
- "Only because it enhances name identification"
- "Ask Henry C."
- "Indeed it likely worsens his/her chances if the president is out of step with the voters in our state."
- "Depends on the president in office."
- "When has this ever worked?"
- "As compared to doing what?"
- "There is very little empirical evidence that it improves one's chances in any state, not just Texas."
- "Maybe in other states, but not in Texas under an Obama administration."
- "Insiders, name 5 current Cabinet members."
- "Nothing improves Julian Castro's chances in Texas. His record in San Antonio is weak, to non-consequential --"
- "It depends on the President on whose Cabinet the Texas politician serves."
- "Not if you are a liberal, mmmm, ahhh, I mean Democrat"

Would having a position on the Obama cabinet increase San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro's chances of being on a national political ticket?

- "I wouldn't have thought it would increase Castro's chances, but President Obama appointed him and Castro accepted the appointment to a particular cabinet position--housing--that seems to me has always been a minefield of problems and a stepping stone to nowhere. But what do I know?"
- "It gives him a bigger stage to make a splash.... or tumble."
- "Democrats will vote for a Castro or a Hussein regardless."
- "Although this gives the mayor national credentials, Hillary's pick should be a senator or governor."
- "If he were being nominated for Secretary of State, then yes it would. But, HUD? No it does not."
- "It might increase Castro's chance of being on a national ticket, but it won't increase the chance of the Ds carrying Texas. Outside of San Antonio, no one knows who either Castro is."
- "Depends on how good of a job he appears to be doing and how much \$ he can raise."
- "If he can avoid getting caught up in the scandal/cover-up of the month."
- "The last San Antonio mayor to become HUD Secretary ended up getting indicted. #justsayin"
- "It might increase his chances of being on a ticket, but it won't do squat for the success of said ticket."
- "Maybe- but many heavy hitting, high dollar donors at the national level still think he is too new on the scene.... others hate to see him elevated to that place too early as holding steady increases his chance of success at a later time"
- "Not HUD anyway..."
- "He is going to have to have demonstrated some successes and explain how a 7 figure referral fee from an trial attorney who is under federal investigation has kept him from having to get a real job...and I like the guy."
- "Yes, but only slightly."
- "Castro on the ticket is a bad idea."
- "Will give Castro national access to the wealthy Obama mega donors and corporate lobbyists."
- "I know Hispanics Texans are very hopeful about the VP slot but I just don't think this Texas candidate will make the difference to win early"
- "A little probably, assuming no scandal erupts at HUD, which is always possible."
- "But I believe Castro is highly vulnerable to any serious vetting over his ties to trial lawyer Mikal Watts."

- "It is too small a step to result in national prominence; there must be other significant steps between the two events."
- "It certainly can't hurt. But in actuality, it does very little."
- "But more likely he'll lead a Spanish speaking broadcast company...or marry a stripper and go to jail."
- "Does cabinet secretary have control over agency? Castro is one HUD scandal away from tarnishing his star."
- "To fill a democratic quota sure."
- "Again, it helps with his name ID"
- "Maybe. It all depends on the political calculus at the time of the race. The cabinet is far more often a political graveyard than a stepping stone."
- "Democrats need someone like Castro. And he looks Hawaiian. Put a ukulele in his hands and they'll totally buy it."
- "As compared to being Mayor, yes."
- "Fear is that he will disappear into the bureaucracy. Was honestly disappointed to see him make this move. Of course, it will only be for two years. He needs to make the most of it and grab as much media as he can to keep his name in the news."
- "Only marginally. He will need to move heaven and Earth at HUD for it to add much value."
- "Probably --"
- "But so what. So he gets on a national ticket. Then the facts dragged out that his mom was part of a leftists racists political organization, he is out on the socialist wing with the Democratic Party, well, really fascist."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Dadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, 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, Susan Hays, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, J. McCartt, Dan McClung, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Gary Polland, David

Reynolds, Carl Richie, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.