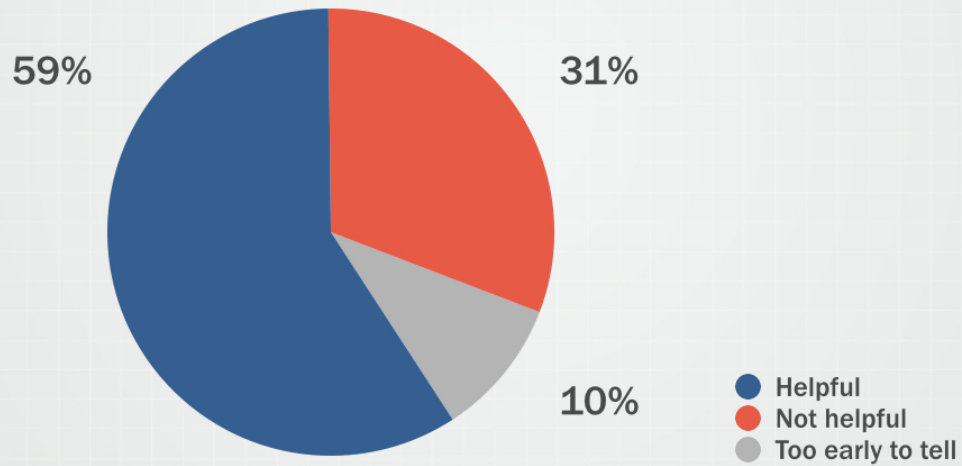


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 25 September 2015*

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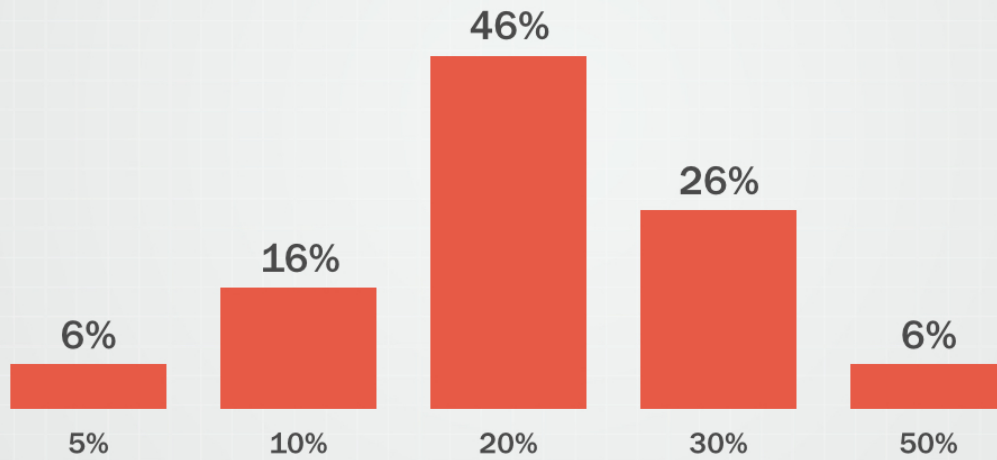
HAVE GOP DEBATES HELPED SEPARATE PRESIDENTIAL
CONTENDERS FROM PRETENDERS?



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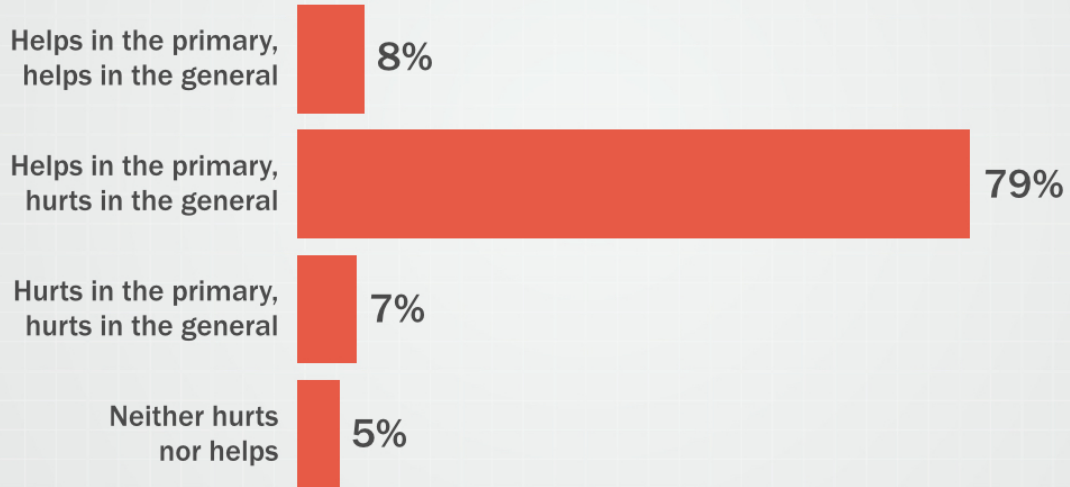
WHAT IS CARLY FIORINA'S CEILING
IN TEXAS GOP PRIMARY?



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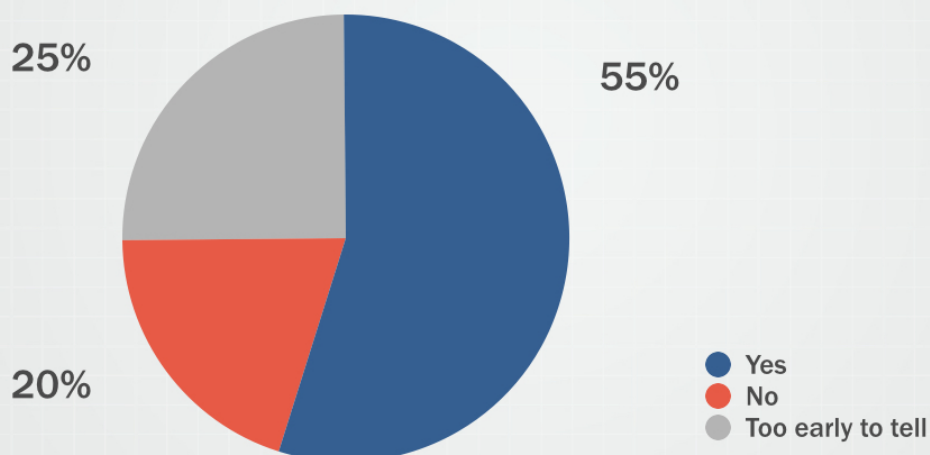
WHAT ARE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF HARD LINE STANCE BY SOME IN GOP ON IMMIGRATION?



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IS SYLVESTER TURNER THE FRONTRUNNER IN HOUSTON'S MAYORAL RACE?



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With two debates now in the history books, do you think these forums have been useful in separating the contenders from the pretenders among the GOP presidential hopefuls?

- "It would have been more helpful to host several with less, but all, candidates instead of an A-team debate and a B-team debate. I think Rick Perry would have had more luck had he had the stage."
- "Ask Walker and Fiorina."
- "'Somewhat' helpful. Show biz dominated by Trumpmania at this juncture."
- "CNN version did the country a disservice by focusing predominately on controversy between the candidates. Silly me thought the purpose of a presidential debate was to facilitate a discussion of critical issues facing our country that would serve as a guide to the voting public prior to elections."
- "The most helpful was not televised. Trump decided to NOT attend the Heritage Fdn. event — after he'd

committed to be there. Was he ready for tough questions? Or not?"

- "It's been a 3-ring circus thus far but the culling of hopefuls (Perry, Walker) continues!"

- "It's not very helpful to the voters but boy it seems to be doing a good job of informing the contenders of their contender/pretender status."

- "This cycle is like a bad pilot description for Entourage. 'Led by Trump, an actor/politician deemed the next big thing in Republican politics, four buddies migrate west from Queens, N.Y. Usually within his reach are his less successful sidekick, Jeb Bush; Trump's best friend, Ted Cruz; and their irrepressible pal, Rand Paul. As the foursome adjusts to D.C.'s fast pace and frantic deal making, Trump's take-charge agent, Marco Rubio, exerts his influence — often to Trump's annoyance.'"

- "How on earth could they be helpful when Trump is still around?"

- "Not yet. Still too many candidates to have a useful debate. I appreciate Scott Walker's sentiment."

What's the ceiling for Carly Fiorina in the Texas presidential primary?

- "It, of course, depends on how large the field is at that time."

- "Lots of folks searching for someone who can get through the primary and actually win in November, 2016. Miles to go. Interesting that Ms. Fiorina is polling so poorly among female voters."

- "No closer to resolution, but closer to contender list vs. pretender wish list."

- "They've been more helpful than not. They have been big on showmanship and light on issues."

- "The CNN debate reminded me of a WWE event and just as substantive."

- "Too many damn candidates."

- "They're all pretenders except Trump. At least he's open about his racism and general meanness."

- "Got Perry out."

- "Debates aren't ideal screener devices, but they're better than total money raised — the only real alternative."

- "Long format takes the wind out of the bag, I mean Trump! The slump begins for him."

- "Absolutely..."

- "She's a good talker, but her record isn't conservative."

- "The sky is the limit as we are still a long way away from the Texas primary."

- "Carly is the vehicle that'll be used to crash Trump's party. If she doesn't succeed, there is NO Texas in her future."
- "Let me think. She's running on a platform that she was a good business leader. And as a business leader, she gave away 1/2 of HP's printer business to get 1/2 of a bad computer business. And got fired. Who thinks that's a good qualification?"
- "It should be no surprise to Texas voters that this no nonsense candidate was born in Texas."
- "The sky's the limit if Cruz, Trump and Bush are out of the race by then."
- "She never makes it to Texas."
- "Clearly depends on how many candidates are still left."
- "A long campaign sometimes produces an unexpectedly skilled candidate. But Fiorina is more likely to have passed her peak by next March."
- "IDK. It's still early!"
- "She will be the surprise of this election..."

Speaking in Houston this week, Jeb Bush slammed the hard line stance of GOP frontrunner Donald Trump on immigration. What's the ultimate consequence for the party of hewing to a hard line on this issue?

- "Harken back to the Geo. W. Bush days to answer that question."
- "The 'Great Conundrum' for the Republican party. How in the heck do you appeal to the right wing faithful/primary voter, and have a prayer in the General? 'Purity' may well result in a long dry spell before another R resides in the White House."
- "Hurts him in the primary but helps in the general. Also, maybe allows him to differentiate among the pack as well with rational reasoning."
- "Ted Cruz is a Cuban-Canadian."
- "Go to the border and ask the American Hispanics — they want security. And they don't want to lose their jobs to illegals."
- "This rhetoric being displayed by this issue will result in the Republican party officially becoming the Grand Old Bitter White Men Party of the South. Latino conservatives are abandoning ship; chamber of commerce republicans are abandoning ship; the business establishment is abandoning ship."
- "The GOP candidates need to stop talking about a sympathetic immigration policy being important for the purpose of attracting new voters and need to start talking about a common sense approach being beneficial the country and the right thing to do. Opening the big tent turns off about 30 percent of our primary voters. We've gone from nominating the primary candidate who can win in November to nominating the primary

candidate who makes the party look self-destructive."

- "Although never figured out why we grant citizenship to a person just because they were delivered in the U.S."
- "This question seems to mean a bit of a misfire. This question makes more sense to me: 'What's the ultimate consequence for the CANDIDATE of hewing to a hard line on this issue.' I don't know how you hurt the PARTY in the PRIMARY. That part of the question seems illogical to me. However, I concede that you can hurt the party in the general."
- "The GOP must figure out how to get this position right ASAP. Sure, there are

Would you consider Sylvester Turner the frontrunner in the Houston mayoral race?

- "He should have won the office 20 years ago. He has a decent shot at vindication this time around."
- "Will finish first on Election Day, lose Runoff to Garcia."
- "He is polling around 20 percent, which may not get him in the runoff. Blessed by Mayor Parker, he is seeking her fourth term. Houstonians have had enough with neglected core responsibilities and focus on social

reasons that some folks shouldn't be allowed into the U.S. or should be deported but we have to be reasonable, compassionate and realistic. A wall, really? Like those historic walls in China and Berlin? I thought Bernie Sanders was the socialist."

- "Is anyone watching? The public is fed up with illegal immigration and wants something done."
- "There's little general election damage if the GOP candidate is hardline on immigration but respectful to Hispanics. At least 85 percent of the public is worried about immigration."
- "A Democrat will win in November."

issues. Besides is there any interest group he has not pandered to?"

- "Easiest path in to runoff. Hardest path out."
- "Adrian Garcia"
- "In the runoff, yes, but not sure the leader of the pack."
- "Him and Costello"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Blaine Bull, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Matt Matthews, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.