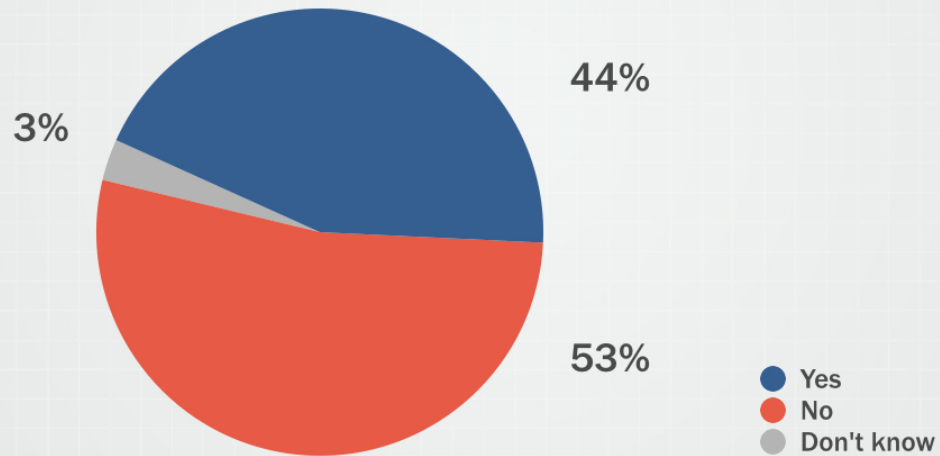


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 2 October 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

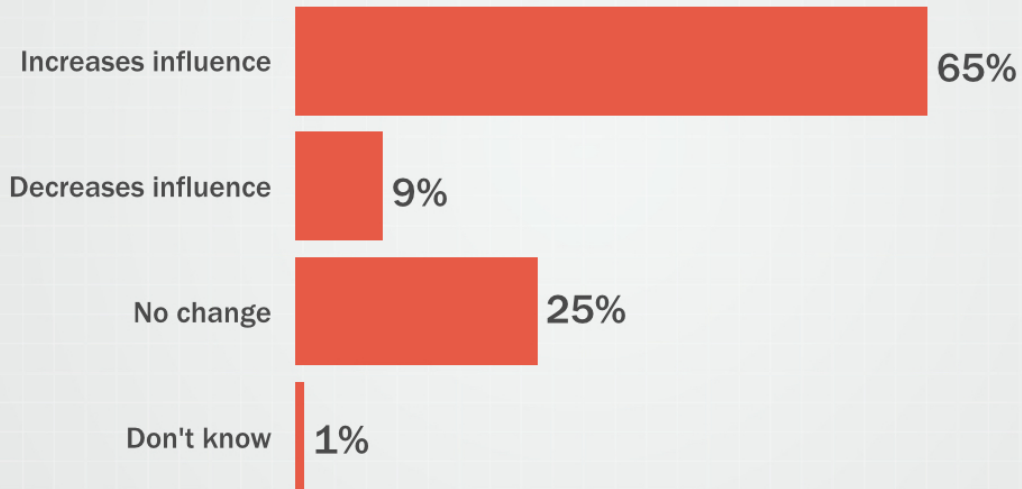
DOES CRUZ BENEFIT FROM ANOTHER
GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN?



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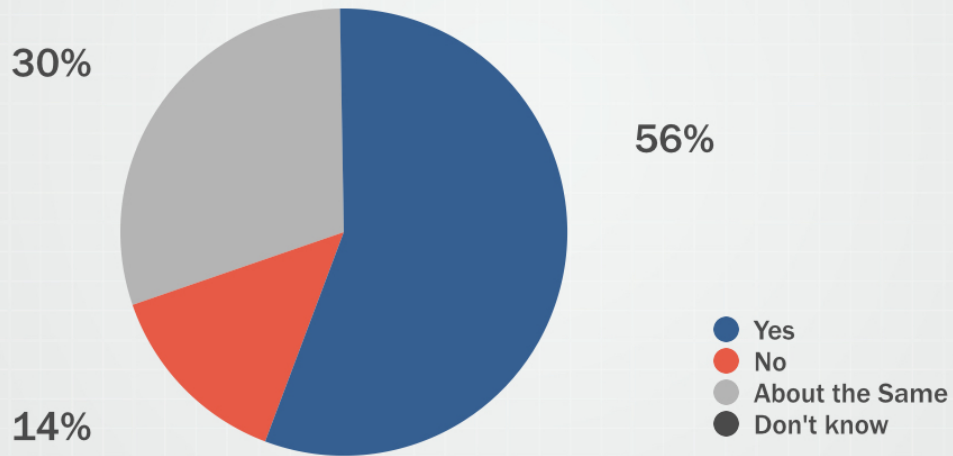
DOES BOEHNER'S DEPARTURE STRENGTHEN TEA PARTY INFLUENCE AMONG HOUSE REPUBLICANS?



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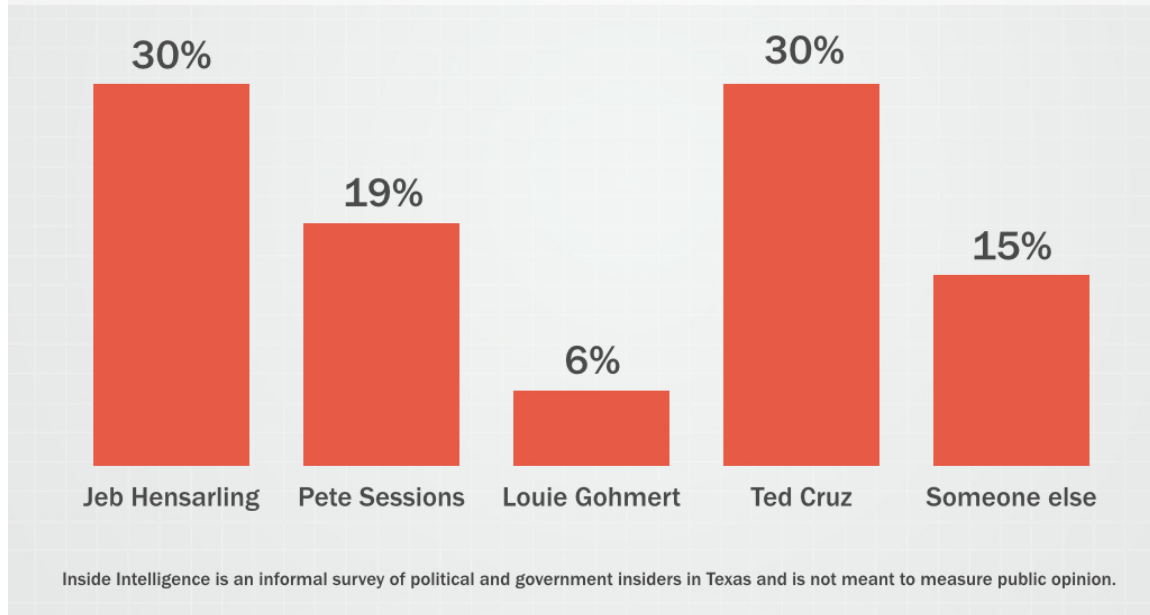
DOES BOEHNER'S SUCCESSOR HAVE A TOUGHER
JOB AS HOUSE GOP LEADER?



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WHICH TEXAS POLITICO BENEFITS MOST FROM BOEHNER'S DEPARTURE?



Does Ted Cruz benefit from engineering another government shutdown?

- "His Tea Party lap dogs eat this stuff up..."
- "Great ideas wrong tactics, like Trump. Both could benefit from reading historical figures like LBJ, Tip O'Neil and Ronald Reagan."
- "The earned media he would receive would be quantified in the millions of dollars. He would eat away some of Trump's base."
- "His supporters will cheer him on for taking these actions, but it will not carry over in a general. Additionally, he is hurting himself with other Republicans."
- "Only in the primary brawl"
- "He 'benefits' in that the 'mad sector' surges toward him... he doesn't 'benefit' in that the 'mad sector' isn't the majority so this is all a joke."
- "Primary election, yes; general election, no. And for two times in a row, that's all the Rs have cared about — beating the hell out of their nominee by

making him take all the base's weird positions and carry them to November. Good Lord, they lost two straight general elections to a man named Barack Hussein Obama — you tell me they cared about winning?"

- "No, but you can't tell him that!"
- "Cruz is being exposed daily under the glare of the presidential klieg lights. He's more attractive as an impulse than a day-to-day presence. His squeaky voice and faux sincerity don't play well when he is made to stand shoulder to shoulder with others."
- "Only if he would offer an alternative solution. Instead, his campaign goal is to inflame the opposition and enrage the far-right."
- "It's his only opportunity to beat Trump in the crazy race."
- "Define benefit. Does the irrational element of the GOP eat it up and fawn all over Cruz? Yes, of course. Will it lead to Cruz becoming president? No, of course not."
- "To those for whom shutting down the government permanently is a good idea, even a short-term shutdown is something to be praised."
- "In the Republican primary only."
- "It depends on how it is communicated. The fact is if a spending bill is passed and vetoed by Obama then he shut down government. The GOP problem is getting its message out. Can Cruz do it? Because the Republican leadership can't or won't."

• "He may be surging on the trail, but he is sinking in the Senate. Without the support of his colleagues, he is a toothless tiger."

- "Yes in the primary. No in the general."
- "Yes. It would focus on Obama's decision to fund Planned Parenthood."
- "Cruz could benefit from engineering a near-shutdown, or one so brief as to make his point without causing damage. A real, lasting shutdown always ends up hurting the shutter(s)."
- "The Texas pro-life groups that opposed the shutdown exposed Cruz as feckless and grasping."
- "Cruz will benefit when the Congressional Republican majority — despite having the power of the purse — yet again funds objectionable programs the GOP claims it opposes. When the GOP rank and file wants to zero out funding for anything — Obamacare, executive amnesty, Iran deal, Planned Parenthood — the GOP leadership just can't make it happen. That's why the base is outraged, and Cruz is moving into the top ranks of GOP presidential candidates."
- "Only to be consistent with his current supporters"
- "Yes... and no. Base loves it. Purity over pragmatism. Those 'in the middle' move further to the left. Another Dem in the White House."
- "He will benefit with his base, but no one else. But, apparently, that's all he cares about."

- "He will continue to appeal to a fraction of his party - and should that propel him further in the primary it will only ensure a Democratic president. He'd be a good choice for VP. Help raise TX money and get to head out on the funeral circuit."

- "Perhaps he'd get some votes from Trumpers and Carson but a shutdown would render him unelectable, or even more unelectable than he is now."

- "Sadly, the angry people love it until their services are cut."

- "He's a complete buffoon — he is actually on Hillary Clinton's payroll."

What does John Boehner's departure do to Tea Party influence in the House GOP conference?

- "Will embolden the group and a number of Congressional members will feel the need to pander."

- "The crazies are now running the wacko house."

- "In the short term it will decrease it as it will allow the next Speaker to govern and avoid another government shutdown. In the long term the Tea Party's power will increase as this gives them more opportunity to recruit candidates and challenge a newly elected Speaker."

- "It may increase it slightly, but McCarthy is a Boehnerite, really."

- "In the short term, it will definitely increase their influence. In the long run, they'll decide that Boehner's successor also isn't good enough and then they'll

- "It will be a temporary benefit for a campaign gasping for oxygen."

- "Shutdown is irrelevant to him. The key is taking a lead on the issue, which he is doing."

- "Perhaps some short-term gain. But shutdowns always hurt the GOP."

- "Short term"

start to lose credibility. Look no further than the Tea Party efforts in Texas to advocate for and then turn their backs on Abbott."

- "I'd love to see one of the 'Freedom Caucus' guys run and get his ass handed to him. Maybe then those guys will understand the maths."

- "The new speaker must have the support of the Tea Party to win."

- "The inmates are now officially in control of the asylum."

- "There is no longer a 'regulator' on crazy ideas."

- "The vote counts are still the vote counts."

- "More influence to come!"

- "Tea-Totallers love this development and they will take more credit for it than is truthfully due."
- "Boehner is the winner. House Republicans take a loss."
- "Boehner is only the first casualty of GOP base outrage over failure of Congress to stop anything Obama wants. The media is totally invested in the Tea Party being impotent, and will ignore this story."
- "Eventually decreases the 'no quarter' crowd. Governing is actually part of the process."
- "Boehner's exit and McCarthy's ascension to Speaker will make it clear that there is no way to overcome the lack of a veto proof Senate and a Democrat president. McCarthy won't be able to overturn Obamacare or defund Planned Parenthood either."
- "He is a fine man that decided to tell the wannabe crowd, fine, pass more meaningless bills that die in the Senate and suck an egg."
- "Ensures that we have a Democratic president - Republicans can't seem to learn that the average person doesn't care about prayer in the school, gay marriage or immigration."

Does Boehner's successor face a more difficult task leading the House Republicans?

- "With the Tea Party taking credit, they will be more vocal (if that is possible)."
- "Boehner wanted to do what was right to save the party and to govern. His successor will learn from his mistakes and do what is right to keep himself as speaker."
- "They have gained so much power that in-fighting has become their only real option. Reminiscent of the Democrats of the 60's and 70's in the South."
- "In the short term, no, but in the longer term, yes, for the same reasons stated in the previous question."
- "The House Republicans are on a purity quest. They will continue to eat their own until they go the way of the Whigs."
- "Since Boehner's name is already mud, the plan is for him to pass all the bad bills to give McCarthy a clean slate."
- "No faction on the Republican Party has a majority and a coalition must be secured."
- "The conservatives are still unhappy."
- "We're headed to a legendary case of 'the grass is always greener.' The new Speaker will be expected to rage against the machine, but when faced with the prospect of anemic fundraising and losing the House he will be forced to make deals and move bills, thereby disappointing his supporters."
- "If he or she doesn't deliver on every crazy idea, they will be removed."

- "Thankfully so. They are beginning to find their voices in order to do what the people elected them to do."
- "Other than the screaming, nothing much is likely to change in the House. Tea-baggers do love to yell and scowl."
- "But not initially and depends on how far right they are"
- "Hopefully there will be at least a brief 'honeymoon.' Democratic Party is the big winner when the dust settles unless the Rs get their act together."
- "New blood takes a while to piss everyone off."
- "I am a sad Republican I guess because I liked him."
- "Republicans can't govern."
- "McCarthy is a leader and speaks conservative and understands the constituency. Boehner and Cantor spoke corporate language, not voter language. If McCarthy did not learn from their mistakes and lack of leadership, his tenure will be short lived."
- "As right wing gains power, it becomes more difficult to carry on as usual, which makes leading more difficult."
- "It was easy back when Jim Wright was in charge!"

Which Texas politico benefits most from Boehner's departure?

- "Ted takes credit for getting rid of a RINO."
- "I want to say Cruz, politically, and Sessions, legislatively."
- "Short term"
- "Not sure anyone really benefits. I think it is bad news for all..."
- "Where's Steve Stockman when his country needs him most?"
- "Chief Antagonist"
- "Pete is... Moving on up..."
- "Cruz's luck allows him to claim credit, but keeps him repeating the same, shallow narrative that isn't helping his poll numbers."
- "The GOP base smells blood in the water."
- "Sessions will move to the top."
- "Is there any other Federal Republican besides Cruz??"
- "Don't know"
- "Kevin Brady"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Walt Baum, Eric Bearse, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Matt Mackowiak, mark miner, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.