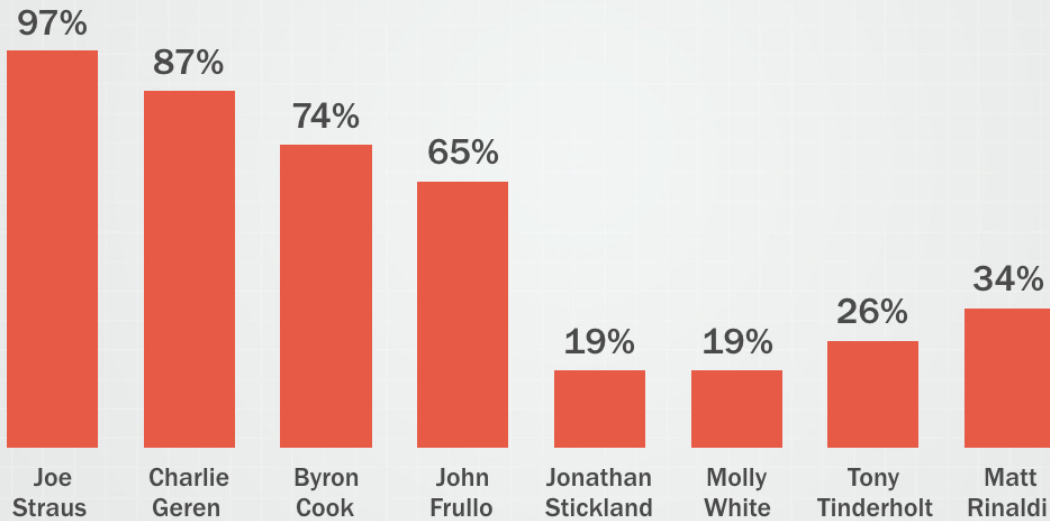


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 15 January 2016*

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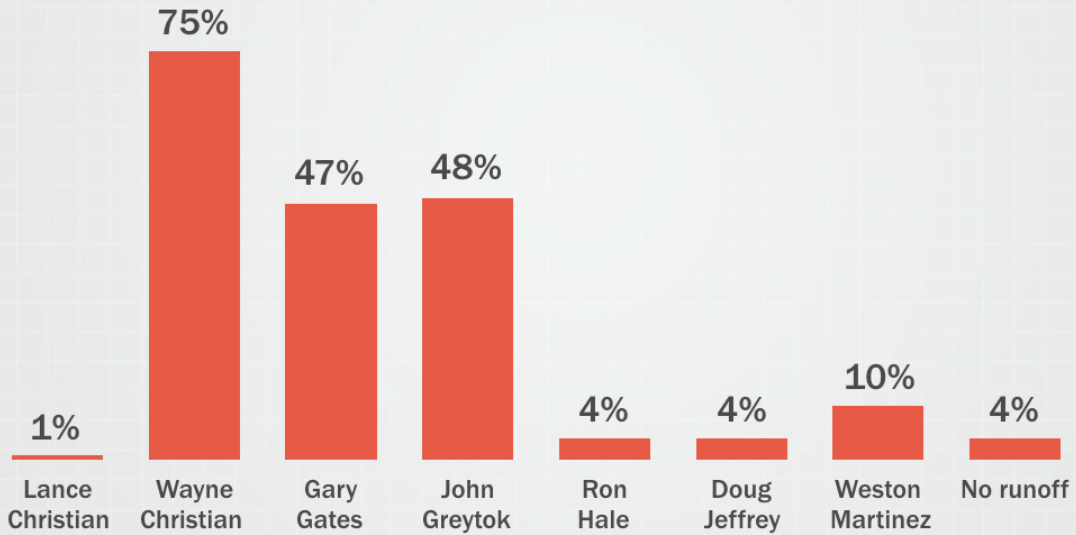
WHICH OF THESE GOP HOUSE INCUMBENTS
WILL SURVIVE?



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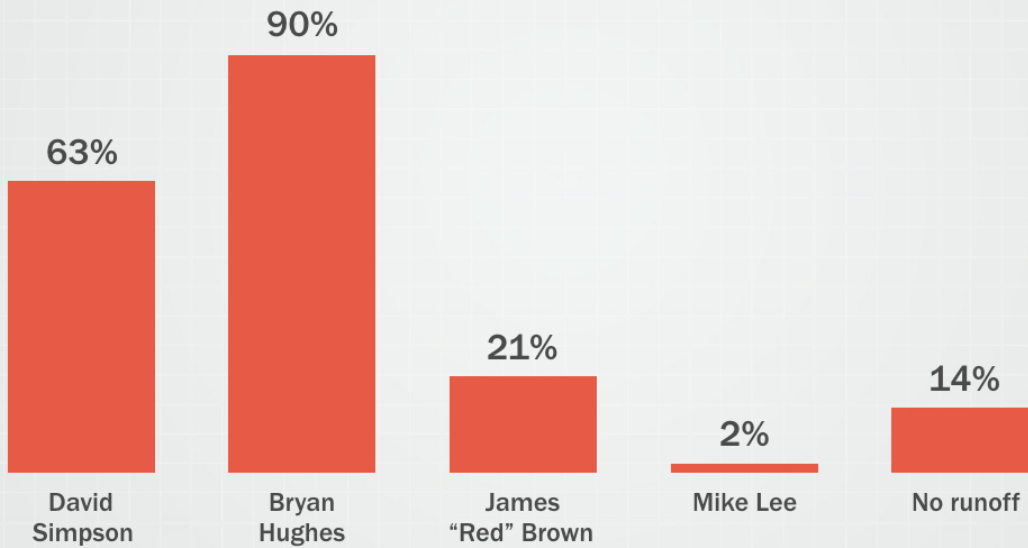
WHO MAKES THE RAILROAD COMMISSION GOP RUNOFF?



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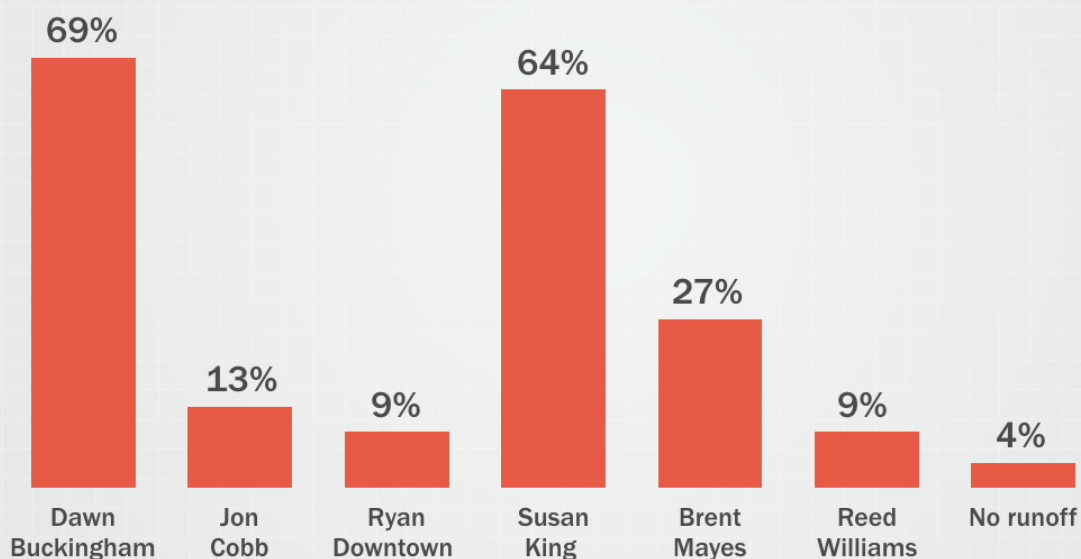
WHO MAKES THE SENATE DISTRICT 1 GOP RUNOFF?



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WHO MAKES THE SENATE DISTRICT 24 GOP RUNOFF?



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Which of these GOP House incumbents will survive?

• "I count 18 Republican House incumbents who voted for Straus and now have primary opposition of widely varying quality. With a competitive presidential primary featuring several candidates putatively running against the 'moderate' Republican establishment, I imagine that at least a couple of the incumbents will fall. However, Straus and three of his top lieutenants listed have not drawn strong challengers, have done well in past primaries: Cook won with a decent margin in 2104 and dominated in 2012 and 2008; Frullo hasn't been tested other than his first election and Geren

won without too much trouble in 2010, 2008 and 2006; Straus cruised in 2014 and 2012. Frullo would seem to be the most vulnerable. He hasn't been tested since his first primary in 2010 when he ran as the 'Tea Party' candidate and Jim Landtroop should be a formidable opponent. All four anti-Straus members have drawn credible opponents. Stickland and White appear quite vulnerable because of their outrageous behavior during and since the session and their failure to respond effectively to that. Rinaldi has drawn a very strong opponent with a clear path to victory and, although the 'Tea Party' is very

strong in the district, Bennett Ratliff seems more likely than not to win. Tinderholt started the session as a complete wing-nut but moderated a little as the months wore on. He has the profile of an easily beatable incumbent but then he managed to take out Diane Patrick and the mainstream Republicans in Arlington just don't look organized enough to carry the day."

- "You're pandering to the right by including Speaker Straus on the list. 100 Empower Texas candidates can run against him and he will still beat them without a runoff."
- "Hoping Republican presidential turnout swamps the crazies."
- "Here's hoping all those others do not survive!"
- "I know early voting starts in a month, but it's too early to tell."

Which two candidates make the runoff in the open Railroad Commission GOP primary?

- "Since Wayne Christian withdrew from campaigning, I've no clue."
- "Flip a coin."
- "There is only one candidate in this race because they genuinely want the job and will take it seriously and that's John Greytok. Most of the others are perennial candidates or wannabes in search for an office."
- "Perhaps Wayne Christian and someone else."
- "Gates spends the most (mailers and radio already!?) to get in, and the

• "Watch out for Crazy Town, USA... aka DFW. That area bodes extremely well this cycle for the Tea Party types and very, very poorly for those who are not."

- "Molly White, Tony Tinderholt and Rinaldi have no real opposition outside Austin — the Lobby doesn't like 'em. Cook and Geren will survive because their opponents are weak — so the establishment and the right wingers will split — Stickland and Frullo won't be back."
- "Most incumbents survive because the 84th Texas Legislature was the most conservative in history, according to Dan Patrick and Greg Abbott. Messaging will be the key."
- "Sadly, a few who should be changing pins at a bowling alley will remain."

Christians confuse people, and Martinez learns The Carrillo Lesson of Hispanic names on down ballot races."

- "Wayne Christian makes it because he already has name recognition statewide from his recent run for RRC. He probably won't win it without a runoff because of confusion that will occur with the other candidate with the surname Christian."
- "This race will be hilarious. Read <http://www.teaparty911.com/candidates/wayne-christian-for-texas-railroad-commissioner.htm> Seriously? Abortion? Railroad Commissioner?"

- "Gates gets in low 40s and buys his vote with tons of mail."

- "Have absolutely no idea. There isn't a significant candidate with any name ID."

- "Not a stinking clue."

Which two candidates make the runoff for the open Senate District 1 GOP primary?

- "Hughes and Simpson are fighting for the same voters and Hughes will beat him and lead into the runoff. Brown slips in with the support of sane voters."

- "Name recognition goes a long way."

- "If there is a runoff, Hughes may take it."

- "In the end, there can be only one!"

- "There is something about parts of that district that loves an interestingly unusual candidate."

- "Is Simpson running a campaign? It's like he's disappeared."

- "Hughes wins without runoff."

- "Hughes wins it."

- "Red Brown will have Tyler support... but Tyler won't be able to match the voters Bryan will have come out for him in the runoff."

Which two candidates make the runoff for the open Senate District 24 GOP primary?

- "Ryan Downton makes it with Tim Dunn's support, Susan King gets in despite her effectively late entry with solid support in Taylor County and enough in Bell. Dawn Buckingham is third because she has no geographic base in the district and has been Dunn's main target."

- "Flip a coin."

- "King and another person"

- "Dawn will win the whole thing. I'll hesitantly give Susan the nod for the runoff over Mayes due to size of

Abilene. But watch out for Mayes. He could edge Susan out altogether."

- "Toughest race to predict. Cobb and Dawn both have baggage."

- "Mayes comes in first, Buckingham buys second place and Cobb comes in third — then Mayes wins it."

- "Dawn Buckingham is working hard and should make the runoff. The other person in the runoff should be Brent Mayes. It could also be Jon Cobb. Both of these guys are working together, are supported by the crazy wing of the R party."

• "And in U.S. CD-19 it will be Glen Robertson and Jodey Arrington, with

Col. Bob Starr nipping at their heels on March 1."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Ted Delisi, Tom Duffy, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Terry Frakes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.