

“INSIDE”

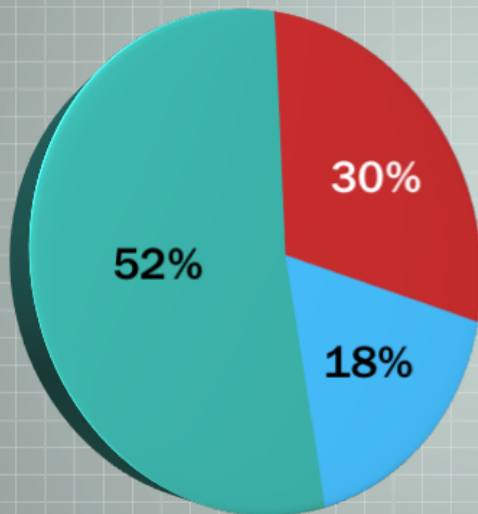
INTELLIGENCE

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE
TEXAS  WEEKLY

The insider's poll for the week of April 11.

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

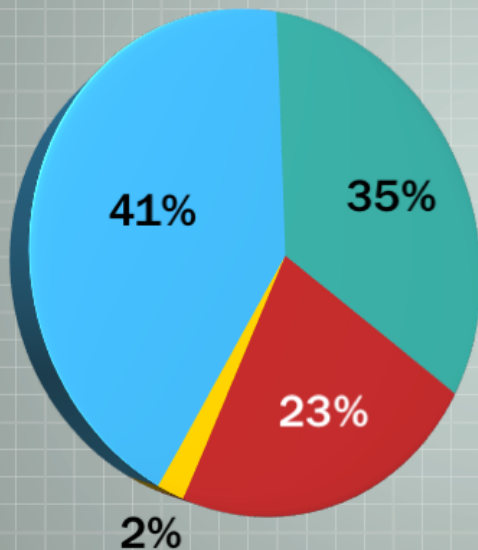
Do you think Barack Obama will do better or worse in the 2012 Texas election than in 2008, when he got 43.7 percent of the vote?



- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Don't know

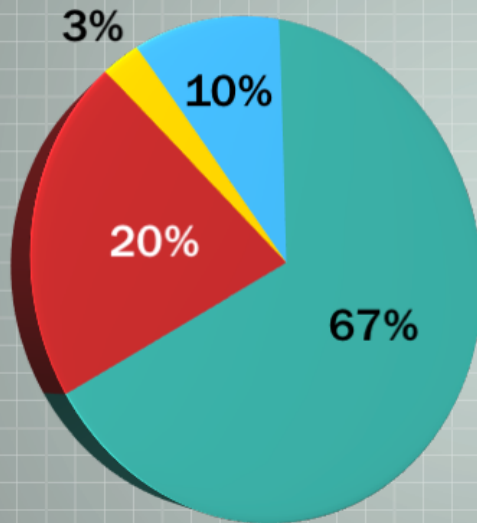
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Downballot Texas Democrats did relatively well in 2008 in spite of Obama's loss. How do you think they'll do in 2012?

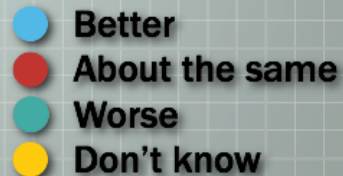


- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Don't know

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE



Texas Republicans had a great election year in 2010; how will they do with a Democratic president seeking reelection on the 2012 ballot?



Do you think Barack Obama will do better or worse in the 2012 Texas election than in 2008, when he got 43.7 percent of the vote?

- "This is not Clinton '96. Clinton knew how to tack to the center. Obama is more of an ideologue. His percentage will go down as long as the Republican nominee isn't a cadaver."
- "Any discussion of the Obama campaign targeting Texas is impossible. He will not come within 8 point of the Republican nominee."
- "The African American and Hispanic voters are less motivated."
- "Broken campaign promises (Gitmo, Afghanistan, etc) high energy costs, stubbornly high unemployment will be tough to overcome even for a gifted orator."
- "The one portion of the American electorate I expect Obama to do better with in 2012 is Hispanics. Fallout from the Clinton primary, and perhaps some racially based fear/mistrust had him underperform with Texas Hispanics, mostly due to depressed

turnout. The immigration backlash against Republicans and more comfort with Obama among Hispanics should make for better performance, particularly as they rapidly increase in population and Anglos decline. Obama's prospects for improved performance would increase further if, as is now being discussed, his campaign makes a real effort to play here. Spending money to increase registration and turnout would help. He should be able to get at least 45% in Texas, and possibly as high as 47%, depending on the GOP nominee."

- "My sense is the sentiment of the Texas voter will be that this maybe the worst presidential hangover ever"
- "The emperor has no clothes."
- "Way too early to tell. I'll say worse now, but the economy is rebounding."
- "I think the Gov. and Legislature are about to turn a lot of independents into Democrats"

by decimating the schools, health system, highways and infrastructure of the state. The voters last time said to economize the state -- not destroy it. Obama won't carry Texas, but I think his percentage will be higher this time than last."

- "So much depends on the economy."
- "The inevitable deficit between what the republican majority is providing and the intense desires of the right wing and tea party will result in frustration that swings votes to Obama. Furthermore, the likelihood that an extremist will receive the nomination and disenfranchise independent voters appears very high."
- "The enthusiasm BO generated in Texas and elsewhere is long gone."
- "I think everyone has figured out that he's black by now and perhaps calmed down a bit. And we can't underestimate the fact that, in all likelihood, the Republicans will nominate some hot mess of an ass hat. Then again, who the hell knows? If these Republicans keep kicking public employees off the payrolls, unemployment will stay high."
- "2008 was his high water mark."
- "Doubt a liberal incumbent will have the ability to rally new voters."
- "Unless Republicans nominate Haley Barbour."
- "The Latino electorate is the fastest and youngest electorate in America. The Texas Latino electorate will expand during the general 2012 elections, compared to the 2008 general elections. ... The question President Obama and the Democratic Party must ask is can they win without the Latino electorate. In the 2008 general presidential elections, Latino electorate carried the electoral votes of several key swing states including Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. ... Can President Obama garner the same or better percentage of the Latino electorate in the November elections of 2012? ... President Obama's dilemma is how he responds to promises he made to the Latino community with respects to the passage of an immigration bill that is fair and just within the first 100 days of his

Administration at a time when the Democrats where in control and his record on deportations of the undocumented far exceeds that of any Republican or Democratic President... While Texas is a red state, the Latino electorate will be the decisive vote in swing states like Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado, a win of a significant share of the Latino electorate cannot won by simply by blaming the Republican Party for its push of the anti-immigrant legislation at the state and national level... The Latino electorate is concerned about jobs, the economy, education and the stopping anti-immigrant legislation – passage of a fair and just immigration bill."

- "He's ignored Texas democrats on judicial appointments and there is an obvious drop in enthusiasm that will be hard to regain."
- "The economy is going to change and Democrats will do better."
- "Depends considerably on who the Republican candidate is, but for now I'll assume the GOP selects a reasonable candidate (someone like Daniels, Pawlenty, or Christie and not like Romney, Gingrich, or Palin) and therefore that Obama will do worse."
- "Better, but not by much. Doubt he can break 46%."
- "Texas is further right than in 2008"
- "The urban attraction he has in 2008 has dwindled."
- "The current line-up of Republican contenders doesn't look any stronger than 2008, so I predict President Obama will do about the same. With Perry on the ticket, however, President Obama could do better or worse--some Texans want Perry out of the governor's office as quickly as possible but many other Texans fear he will just do to the country what he's done to Texas!"
- "President Obama will have a horrible time in the battleground states of the Midwest (think Indiana) that he won in 2008. The economy in the Rust Belt is still rusty."

- "Even Jon Stewart is mocking his NON-transparent government, breaking a campaign promise."

- "This depends a lot on who his opponent is, and how much more success is seen in employment nationally. I'm guessing he will be about where was, or a bit further back."

Down-ballot Texas Democrats did relatively well in 2008 in spite of Obama's loss. How do you think they'll do in 2012?

- "Worse than 2008, but not marginally worse. Will do better than 2010."

- "To be clear, they will do much better than they did on 2010, but no where near as well as they did in 2008 when they came within 17 votes of having an evenly split House."

- "The Texas electorate gradually improves for Democrats, but 2010 losses followed by redistricting will afford fewer available offices. Gains will be made back in the Texas House, perhaps a seat in Senate, but statewide downballot races likely will continue to favor Republicans in 2012."

- "Republican gains in 2010 reflected the lower turnout of a midterm election. With Obama back on the ballot in 2012, Democratic turnout should improve."

- "Except for maybe Dallas where blue is the new green"

- "While the number of Republicans in the Texas House will drop, it will be the result of the redistricting process, not the effect of Obama or the Texas Democratic Party in 2012."

- "Don't expect a replay of the 'massacre of 2010', and much depends upon how the leadership of the Republicans is perceived by the great middle of the road voting block. Too far right, and these folks swing back to the Dems."

- "Redistricting will change the playing field"

- "Having won so much in 10 the GOP will give some back in 12."

- "Texas Democrats will be able to pin a lot of the budget pains on Republicans. I expect many House Republican Freshman will be vulnerable."

- "How can you say they did 'relatively well' when -- seats flipped!?!?"

- "But there are less of them"

- "Hispanics and Independents will split ticket to larger degree, helping Republicans keep the U.S. Senate seat and some judges and House seats."

- "The Democrats may have finally figured out that what they are doing doesn't work and requires a total tear-down and rebuild. That should lead to improved results."

- "The open United States Senate seat, the redistricting process – Texas gaining the 4 new congressional seats and the current anti-immigrant legislation, budget cuts that harm Latinos and working families will help the democratic in Texas during the 2012 general elections."

- "Weariness with lack of GOP leadership is spreading."

- "08 was an anomaly for democrats as 10 was for the GOP."

- "We won't have a national tidal wave in our favor as we did in 2008. Republicans won't have theirs, either. What we're likely to have is a fair fight, atmospherically, as we did in 1996 and in 2004. This will increase Democrats relative chances in congressional and legislative races, holding constant for redistricting."

- "It is all about the economy."

- "About the same if the currently proposed severe cuts to K-12 education are made... Worse if the Republican leadership makes the

courageous decision to ameliorate the scope of the cuts through some type of revenue increase."

- "The Republicans in the State Legislature are doing their part. With the proposed cuts to public and higher education and the health and human services programs, Democrats can expect to pick up seats. From 2004 to 2008, Deems picked up seats in the House because of Draconian cuts in the 2003 session. Plus, the Rs can't protect 101 seats in the House."

- "Rural areas: helluva lot worse (is that even possible?)... Urban: better / same... Suburban: well, that's the big question. Who will Texas suburban voters (read: white swing voters, mostly women) be more mad at, Obama for his various real and imagined sins, or Perry and the Texas Republican establishment for shutting down schools and nursing homes?"

- "Because of the enormous 2010 sweep, its inevitable GOP will lose seats, thus the Dems will chalk up a victory."

- "Much better, actually."

- "The story of 2008 wasn't just Democratic turnout, it was Republican malaise. Provided that the Republicans don't nominate a reality TV star or the author of state-level health care reform, Republican turnout will be much higher than in 2008. The down-ballot implications are obvious."

- "Texans know that the economy is in the pits and Obama's failed to keep unemployment below his promised 8%, even after spending billions in 'stimulus' money."

- "By definition after redistricting... R demogs at diminishing return"

- "Obama continues to be highly popular with African Americans, but that is not entirely the case with Hispanics, who are disappointed in the administration's decision to put off strong immigration legislation in before the 2010 elections. Moreover, the zeal that existed in 2008 among younger voters generally is not the same at present; surely the campaign will work to restore that excitement, but that is very hard to achieve after four years."

Texas Republicans had a great election year in 2010; how will they do with a Democratic president seeking reelection on the 2012 ballot?

- "No difference statewide, but they will lose a dozen or so legislative seats, and not just because of redistricting"

- "Obama will be toxic in Texas everywhere but in South Texas and in the inner cities."

- "Worse not because of Obamanose but because post redistricting will not support the current number of House republicans."

- "After the 2010 election, there is nowhere for them to go but down. The number of legislative seats they currently hold is simply not sustainable, especially since reapportionment means fewer seats in heavily Republican rural Texas. Further, presidential elections produce much higher voting among minorities, which means Democrats do better than in gubernatorial years."

- "Hard to believe that they could do better and when the lines are redrawn it will make it

harder, however - my number on election night was 15 and I thought that was ambitious, what did I know."

- "Not sure it's possible for them to match their 2010 performance."

- "2010 Republicans way out-performed themselves in 2010. They will come a little back to earth in 2012."

- "The proposed cuts at the federal and state level are owned entirely by the republicans. As the cuts begin to take effect, the voters will push back against those legislative leaders-- particularly at the state level."

- "They will do worse, but not because of President Obama"

- "Texas remains a GOP state indefinitely."

- "Republicans are like a rich handsome boyfriend who is spectacularly bad in bed. After a while, voters forget how the boyfriend couldn't get the job done and focus instead on his wavy hair and white smile, as well as the fancy restaurants he promises to take us to. Then he moves in, sucks in bed, and we remember, "Oh yeah, this is why this didn't work out... Voters are not getting laid like they used to, and here comes Obama, the man who keeps saving the world and making sense. He's the serious, sweet boy who works hard and seems to always get the job done when the odds are against him... Yeah, I don't think Republicans will do as well again."
- "The President is a drag on Democrats in Texas, but Democrats will do better in 2012 than in 2010. 2010 was a high water mark for Republicans."
- "After the 2008 elections, Republicans held the Texas House by 76 to 74, after 2010 it was 101 to 49. With turnout back up to presidential levels, Democrats should make a nice rebound."
- "It's a red state. Has been for 20 years. 2008 was a fluke."
- "But only because of redistricting"
- "People at home will NOT be happy about the wreckage left by this budget."
- "To remain consistent they will have to keep every seat they flipped in 10, not impossible but very unlikely."
- "Some House Republicans are just doomed by the numbers."
- "Democrats will take back 10 to 15 house seats in the 2012 general elections."
- "The tea party won't be able to keep it up and they are all split now into factions."
- "The GOP presidential field is quite splintered. The winner of the primary will be damaged."
- "Republicans will do worse, but not because of a Democratic President. It will be because of redistricting and a pull-back of the overreach from last cycle."
- "They'll do about the same in the senate but they'll give up ground in the house particularly give redistricting parameters that will protect urban Democrat seats. Statewide, Republicans will do the same which is to win every seat up for grabs."
- "Worse. They won't do near as well in Harris Co. as they did in 2010 (not that Dems will do as well as they did in 2008, necessarily). They'll still lose Dallas and Travis. Tarrant will/should/could stay purple. There's a chance for Dems to make gains in Fort Bend and Williamson. And Republicans will all-but-certainly see their House majority drop around the neighborhood of 12 seats."
- "GOP will not be able to duplicate its most recent success."
- "Much worse, actually."
- "If they stay true to their promise of 'no new taxes,' then they'll continue to do well."
- "By then culpability for decimating local schools and infrastructure soaks into grassroots"
- "Republicans here may never have another day quite like the last election. That was the Texas GOP's version of the Democratic Party in 1982."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Victor Alcorta, James Aldrete, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Reggie Bashur, Walt Baum, Eric Bearse, Dave Beckwith, Mark Bell, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Jose Camacho, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Rick Cofer, John Colyandro, Kevin Cooper, Hector DeLeon, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Craig Enoch, Alan Erwin, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon

Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Machree Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Leslie Lemon, Richard Levy, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Robert Miller, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Kim Ross, Jeff Rotkoff, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Mark Sanders, Stan Schlueter, Steve Scurlock, Kevin Shuvalov, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Glenn Smith, Terral Smith, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Trey Trainor, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Chad Wilbanks, Michael Wilt, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.