

**“INSIDE”**

**INTELLIGENCE**

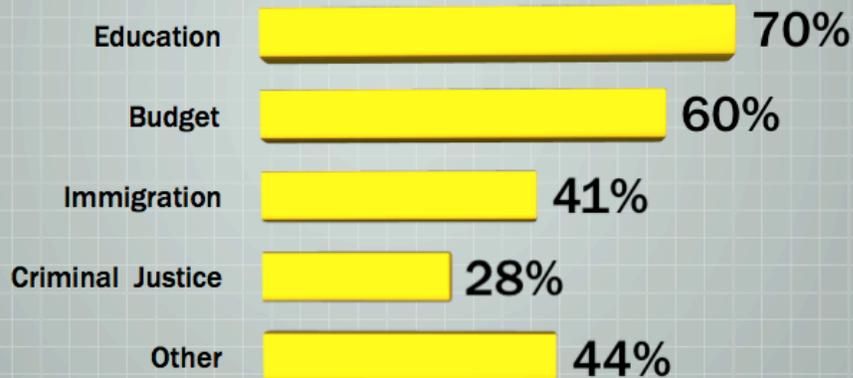
---

**THE TEXAS TRIBUNE**  
**TEXAS  WEEKLY**

**The insider's poll for the week of July 18.**

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

What Texas issues will get national attention if the governor is in a presidential race?



*What Texas issues or problems or recent history will get national attention if Gov. Rick Perry enters the presidential race?*

- "The no-new-revenue budget and the Rainy Day Fund balance will be hotly debated, with varying interpretations of Texas' fiscal strength."
- "Two major budget deficits under his leadership, so how does he plan to clean it up in DC when he can't even do it in his own state."
- "Structural problem in tax/school finance system."
- "Balancing the budget while growing government will be scrutinized. The federal government's setting of 'standards' are much to blame, which entices legislators to go after federal dollars. Legislators claim they're getting a bigger share of our tax dollars returned to the state, but it amounts to government growth nonetheless."
- "Uninsured"
- "His \$10,000 a month rental house. We don't care, but nationally it will make people pause since he is suppose to be the fiscal savior."
- "Healthcare"
- "As shallow as reporting and politics has become it will not be a substantive issue that gets attention. It will be things like the cost of the temporary mansion."
- "Sonogram bill"

- "Job creation"
- "Willingham case"
- "The liberals will make the same arguments nationally that they did locally; that spending was draconian and that the world will quit spinning on its axis. Gov Perry will rightly say that government does not have a right to "natural growth" and that it should reflect what's going on in the economy. The Gov will point to what Texas has done along the border when the Feds refused to enforce the law."
- "We are at or near the bottom of every ranking. "Yeah but we create a lot of jobs" won't get him by on the national stage."
- "Perry's dissing of Bush as a non-conservative will get play."
- "Religiosity, ethics, and his awesomeness at killing varmints whilst jogging with armed guards"
- "His inside deals with lobbyists."
- "The Forensic Science Commission will attract a lot of attention to his decision-making process."
- "New job creation, but low salaries"
- "Sanctuary Cities"
- "Ties to the evangelicals."
- "You defeat your opponents by turning their strengths into weaknesses. How much was the state spending when the governor took office and how much is it spending now? Once you get that percentage, marry it to the same wasteful spending that you find in DC."
- "His partisan streak---calling a special session in mid decade for redistricting and to give Republicans in Congress more power."
- "For the most part, fiscal responsibility and tough-on-crime can play well in all states. Cuts to schools and education do not."
- "Racial differences thinly disguised"
- "Graft/corruption/cronies"
- "Changes in the civil justice system"
- "The national media will have a bountiful plenty to choose from."
- "Environment too."
- "They all will if Perry makes a play."
- "Health/ social services, executions, educational attainment levels"
- "Death Penalty"
- "Governor Perry would be very upset you left job creation off the list. Did you know Texas created more jobs over the past three years than the rest of the country combined?? Of course you do! He only mentions it every other minute. The cuts to an already underfunded education system will be the Democrats point of attack."
- "And housing, as in, his."
- "Everything and then some, thanks to the 24/7 news media's insatiable appetite for new content."
- "All of these will get attention, as will the EPA, secession and conceal carry."

*Will the national attention on Texas have any effect on campaigns for federal and local offices here?*

- "Sucking out a whole lot of money that will be needed down ballot."
- "May force local candidates to take positions on national issues, either supporting or opposing whatever Perry is doing."
- "No."
- "Don't really think so. Maybe the Lite Gov."
- "No. Little spillover from one race to another."
- "It should cause all candidates to be more circumspect, rather than running on promises they won't keep."
- "Yes, it opens statewide offices for some competition"
- "No"
- "Yes, Rick Perry running for Pres. will increase GOP turnout in urban areas which could affect primary elections and general elections."
- "Hopefully take the edge off of neo-conservatives. Afraid it may have opposite effect with moderate Republicans put at risk in primaries."
- "No"
- "Yes- money will come in to help turn out Rs. Ds will have to have a strong message to counter the R message"
- "Domino effect"
- "NO"
- "None"
- "Yes. Everyone tried to move. It will be a Chinese fire drill."
- "Democrats in Texas will suffer more devastating defeats in Texas because their party nationally is so out of step with Texas values. While nationally liberals will be talking about Global warming and spending, Texans will be getting more stirred up against them as they see the left wing issues as job killing and taking money from those that have jobs and giving it to those that dent. This election will be about two opposite world views."
- "No"
- "Republicans maintain supermajority in state house."
- "Maybe"
- "Huge turnout for March GOP primary, but that's all unless he's the nominee, in which case Obama gives up on TX and Dems get slaughtered everywhere across the state"
- "It will motivate the base of each party and could be a repeat of 2009 or a pull back from going so far to the Conservatives. I believe that voters are tired of politicians of all stripes. They are tired of rhetoric and want elected officials who are plain spoken and do what they say."
- "Undoubtedly - the Heisenberg effect"

- "Yes for all but local offices"
- "I don't think Perry has any coattails."
- "No"
- "Only if Perry is the r nominee"
- "Yes. The attention could enhance the Democrat turnout."
- "Most Rs will not want Perry to run."
- "No, Republicans are overextended and so Democrats will likely make a comeback in the Texas House, something on the order of a dozen seats."
- "Yes. And stop asking yes or no questions."
- "Yes."
- "Only if the primary makes it to Texas."
- "Make them more expensive"
- "Unlike the last time this happened (Texan for Pres), it will not be a statewide bipartisan kumbayah, but just the opposite, which is a reflection of the national mood."
- "Only due to the questions surrounding what happens if a vacancy is created"
- "Very little."
- "No"
- "Sure"
- "Yes."
- "No."
- "Only federal campaigns, if any."
- "Of course it will"
- "Hard to say. If any of the negatives starts getting major national traction, Texas candidates will become wary of association with the issue."
- "Hmm. Yes!"
- "No"
- "If the Governor is on the national ticket, GOP in Texas will rally helping all other GOP candidates in down-ballot races."
- "I hope so. It is time for people to start recognizing that we are not helping our future by cutting education, healthcare and more!"
- "Doubtful"
- "Yes, it will help Republicans"
- "We haven't had many in the last 20 years without that kind of attention. Yes, it will continue to have an effect."
- "Only if Perry is the nominee. That will hurt Republicans on the ballot in urban areas."
- "Texans will be Texans. And Texans have never don't really cared that much about what non-Texans think or say about them."
- "No"
- "No, Repubs will roll on their own"

- "National press opportunities will likely abound for politicians from Texas at all levels."
- "The next cycle will be nationalized no matter what Rick Perry does."
- "Oddly he may help Texas Dems a bit as the nominee. Obama was not likely to do better than 2008, which produced big judicial wins in Houston and several key House pick-ups. Many moderate Republicans who oppose Perry's budget decisions, especially education and healthcare cuts, will be loath to support him for President. Won't save Obama, but good Dem turnout and weakened GOP loyalty to Perry may restore the Democratic House delegation and protect 2008's Dem judges in urban areas."
- "Ds will turn out more downballot than they did in 2010---but it wont be anything like 2008."
- "There will be a large turnout in the Republican Primary, which will bring more moderates than expected."
- "Little to no effect. At most perhaps on a couple of the more competitive US House races (Canseco, Farenthold)."
- "Yes"
- "Possibly more D's run because of \$'s spent here and coattails"
- "Yes, will drive up turnout for primaries. Mostly impact the U.S. Senate race."
- "None"
- "Yes - national Democrats will attack Texas and we will resent the hell out of it."
- "Yes - campaign money will be sucked away from state candidates! This will give Dewhurst an additional advantage in the Senate elections."
- "Yes"
- "As the national media sinks its teeth into Perry's record and the facts behind the patched together state budget, voters will get the deeper analysis that's been lacking in most reporting of the state budget shortfall."
- "It didn't when Bush ran and I don't see why it would this time."
- "No"
- "Yes"
- "No"
- "No"
- "No, because it is unlikely Perry will actually be on the ballot in November"
- "Yes"
- "Yes"
- "Yes."
- "No."
- "Not much."
- "No"

*What in the governor's record as a Texas officeholder will become fodder in a national race (positively or negatively)?*

- "Health & Human Services spending; Death penalty questions; education."
- "'Adios, Mo Fo,' shooting coyotes, Mrs. Perry moving out of the Gov's Mansion."
- "I think some of his right wing lurches in rhetoric will hurt him. Secession. The fact that he packs heat while jogging (or so he claims re coyote)..."
- "The record budget deficit which occurred during his watch as Governor. Also, the teenage pregnancy rate and school dropout will be negatives."
- "Doing the right thing and taking the heat--POSITIVE! Sanctuary cities--NEGATIVE!"
- "Nothing. The Teflon Man has weathered Gardasil and another ten missteps and has never stumbled."
- "Good Fodder: credit for creating jobs and shepherding a strong economy, longest serving Texas state governor, his choice of legislative priorities including sonogram bill Bad or Funny Fodder: Seceding and shooting coyotes"
- "Criminal Justice"
- "Job Creation - Positive"
- "Ties to lobbyists. Using stimulus money to balance budget. \$10,000 a month house. All have to do with fiscal responsibility and all run counter to his TEA Party Crusader image."
- "Tort reform, particularly medical liability and loser pays Mandatory vaccination of young girls Trans-Texas corridor Forensic Board - Willingham case Use of economic incentive funds to favor political allies"
- "Positive - Budget, pro-life legislation, border security Negative - secession, taking federal funds, HPV vaccine, big ideas gone bad (trans Texas, HPV, 7 solutions)"
- "Business holdings; deals with corporations that have backfired"
- "Succession"
- "Positive fodder will be balancing budget and not raising taxes. Negative fodder will be fact that education and health and human services spending was reduced in order to balance the budget."
- "The sources of his income and the extent of interconnections between his vetoes and personal investments"
- "Budget"
- "The campaign will be dominated by Perry talking about the Texas economy and those opposed to him trying to tear down that story. In the end it will come down to silly things like people talking about his hair."
- "Sonogram / "emergency items""
- "Jobs, jobs, jobs"

- "People care about jobs and the economy. Gov. Perry has had a laser like focus on jobs, jobs, jobs. It's worked."
- "Positive: Texas narrative (job creation, no state income tax, right to work, great place to live) Negative: Secession, Willingham case, weakness w/ Hispanics, unproven "gay" rumors, death penalty"
- "Ibid. Everything Conservatives hold up as positive accomplishments the liberals will say hurt the poor and the un-empowered. Same rhetoric different verse."
- "Positive - fiscal restraint; efficient allocation of scarce resources. Negative - Crony capitalism; poor record on seeking bipartisan solutions"
- "What record--The one he talks about or the actual one that his opponents will talk about?"
- "Both"
- "Gardasil, Trans Texas Corridor, holding lid on taxes, failure to prepare state for future"
- "No tax increase,"
- "The budget just passed and education in a negative manner. The TX economy will be a positive."
- "The use of smoke and mirrors to finance the upcoming budget will be a negative. Also the reliance on federal fiscal relief money, which he purports to hate, made it possible to finance the current budget."
- "Positive - balanced budget; Negative - thin social safety net."
- "EVERYTHING"
- "Vaccination mandate."
- "His hypocrisy on federal funds will undermine the central argument among Republican candidates about the evil of federal dollars."
- "Personal life"
- "See above."
- "Job creation and growth Education and the drop out rate Economic development grants balanced budget/ low tax rate state"
- "Democrats will use education cuts against him."
- "Trans Texas Corridor "Land grab""
- "Jobs will get a wider look education record is a negative immigration might make some feel good but across this country are businesses that want immigrant labor like the Texas Assoc of Business Perry on health care and especially how it impacts women Given we didn't secede perhaps the Confederates won't matter as part of his record"
- "Anti-tax record. Anti-Hispanic record. Anti-progress record."
- "Inappropriate influence of insiders with regard to the Enterprise Fund."
- "Not funding student enrollment growth even though there was money in the Rainy Day Fund."

- "Willingham case; secession comments"
- "Jobs creation on the positive. His "emergency" sanctuary cities bill, higher education war (which is lifting off and will find a new audience), public education scars from the current budget wars, and the Willingham case may top the negative side"
- "Too many to choose from."
- "On the positive side---the number of jobs created while serving as Governor. On the negative side his emergency legislative agenda each session was way off base. I think the HPV issue might give some TEA Party types a cause for concern. It was GOVERNMENT intrusion in the life of your girls. Unlike Governor Bush he won't have any Democrats (Bullock, Laney, Junell, Stiles) to help him with swing voters or crossover Democrats. SNL will have fun with the moniker---Governor Good Hair."
- "Early embrace of the Tea Party proves to be both a blessing and a curse."
- "All of it! Negative"
- "NEGATIVE The \$10,000 a month home. He's never had a job. The impact of recent education, healthcare budgets on Texans Personal life POSITIVE balanced budget Ability to develop, use simplistic issues well Hair"
- "Texas' record in creating jobs"
- "Secession, coyote killing, other oddball stuff"
- "Public education, use of federal stimulus money to balance the budget last time around."
- "Positive: Jobs Negative: Budget Cuts"
- "Cronyism; deficit financing of government; growth of state debt; rampant growth higher ed costs; state's basement ranking of state in all categories of well-being"
- "Positively until our debt load comes into the game."
- "Good - Budget, job growth, tort reform, less government intrusion Bad - Trans Texas Corridor, mandatory HPV vaccination saga, temporary housing costs Either - executions, abortion, mo fos and traffic stops"
- ""Balancing" the budget on the backs of the middle class and working poor; Willingham execution; low wage jobs created in the state; shenanigans with eco devo slush funds; cuts to education; the list goes on..."
- "Perry is fortunate that he and Bush had roughly the same record on issues like criminal justice, but their views differ widely on immigration and education. He raises little interest among moderates but will be hard for others on the far right to best. His attempts to bring great public universities to heal will be widely criticized in primaries and the general."
- "Spending taxpayer money to live in Westlake while Texas cutting jobs. HPV, HPV, HPV How the Governor has been on Government payroll for several decades"

- "Cuts to public and higher education."
- "Education will hurt him"
- "Fiscal Discipline = Positive. Job Creation = Positive. Excellent Climate for Business = Positive. Gutting of K-12 Education = Negative."
- "Jobs (positively), death penalty (they will try to use it negatively but it will be a positive. Just rewind Gore 2000"
- "A&M and job creation"
- "Emerging Technology grants, Tran Texas Corridor, higher ed reform proposals, governing style"
- "Economy - positive"
- "Willingham - death penalty"
- "HPV vaccination"
- "Death Penalty, special funds, Gardasil"
- "It will be hard to run as a true fiscal conservative while living a \$10,000 a month rental mansion. Look for the HPV mandate to rear its head in the primary."
- "His outstanding record of job creation and reform of the legal system in Texas will certainly attract voters from both parties. Moreover, his steadfast opposition to tax increases a solution for a fiscal crisis will be a positive factor."
- "Arson investigation"
- "Education funding"
- "Death penalty the Willingham case"
- "Job Creation (positive) Quasi Third World level funding of social services and education (negative)"
- "Wreck of health care public and higher education"
- "Education"
- "Fodder?"
- "His personal enrichment."
- "Positively - job creation, low taxes, "balanced" budget. Negatively -- public education, # of uninsured, accounting tricks to balance budget, skyrocketing college tuition"
- "Death penalty. Revolving door for lobbyists. Appointees being donors."

---

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Walt Baum, Eric Bearnse, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Allen Blakemore, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, John Colyandro, Hector De Leon, Kate Doner, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, Jon Fisher, Kyle Frazier, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Michael Grimes, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Albert Hawkins, Adam Haynes, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Carl Isett, Richie Jackson, Cal

Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, John Pitts, Royce Poinsett, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Carl Richie, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Steve Scurlock, Bradford Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Jason Stanford, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Darren Whitehurst, Ellen Williams, Peck Young.