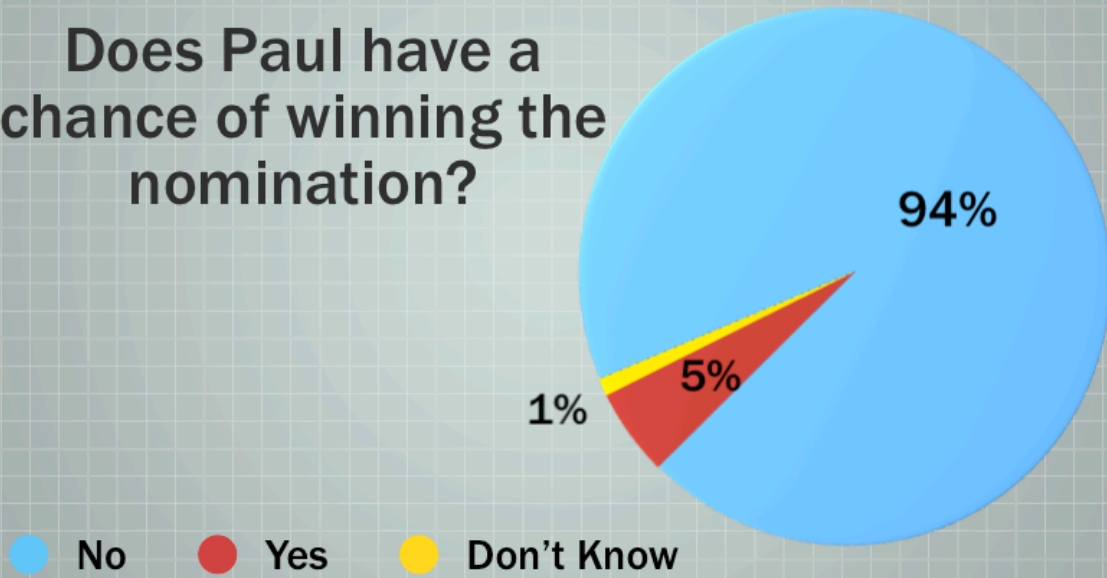


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

**The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider's poll
for the week of August 29.**

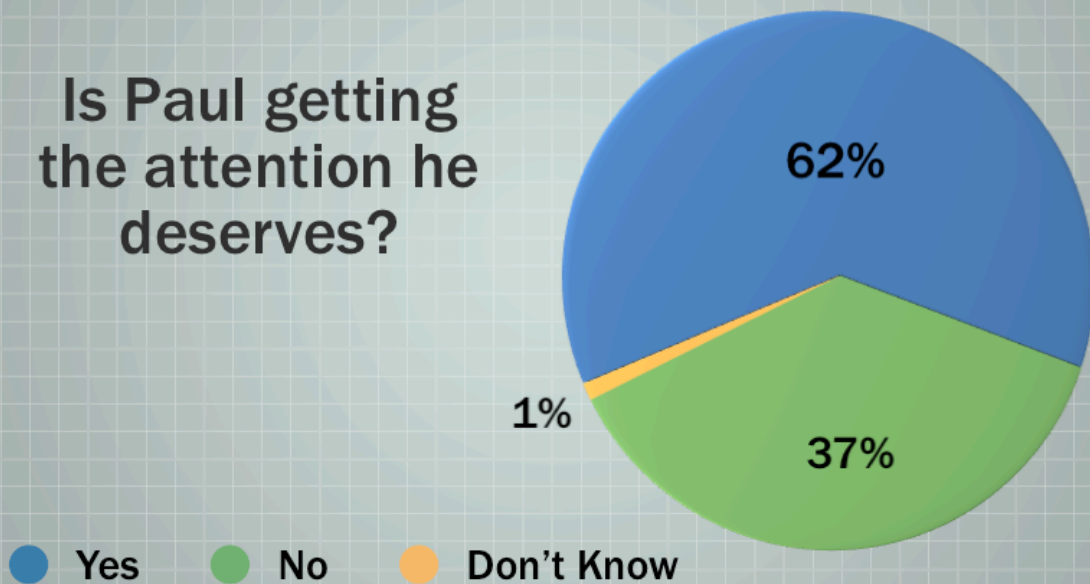
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Does Paul have a chance of winning the nomination?



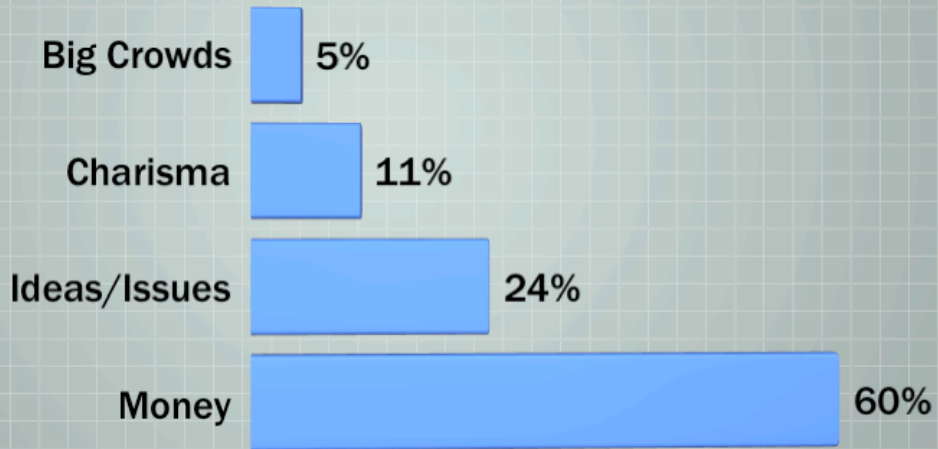
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Is Paul getting the attention he deserves?



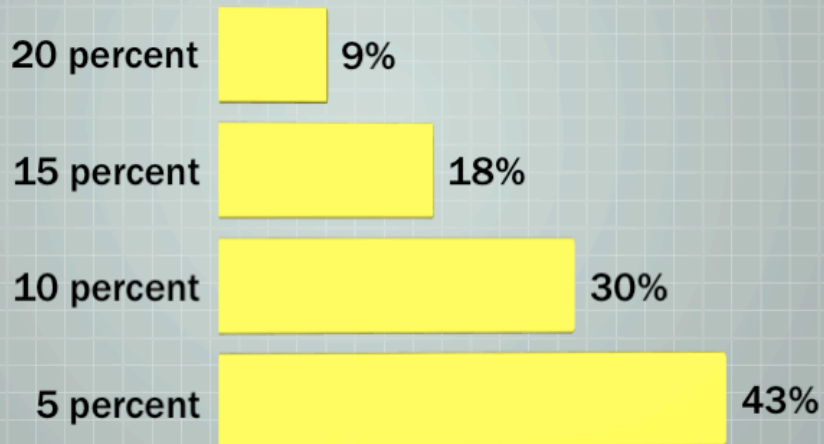
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What makes a serious candidate?



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How much support creates a spoiler?



Is Ron Paul getting the attention he deserves as a presidential candidate?

- "The media has its thumb on the scale. Ron Paul is old news to them and doesn't fit the preferred narrative this year, which is about Obama, the economy, and... wait for it... Perry."
- "Think this year in particular he is drawing attention because of his libertarian-esque positions."
- "If politics is about economics he certainly is not. If politics is about scapegoating and fear mongering then why bother with Dr Paul. He is the closest thing they have for radical economic revisionism but that is not what that voter base thinks it's doing."
- "'Deserves' is very subjective. He's getting what the primary electorate is willing to give him which is what most candidates get. I think the press has been fair in its coverage."
- "Actually, far more than he deserves."
- "If he can't be the nominee, he doesn't deserve first tier coverage. His position on Iranian nukes is disqualifying in and of itself."
- "Ron Paul bundled millions and got now where. The reason Ron Paul is a perennial candidate is because voters have a way of seeing through to the real Ron Paul. It's not money. It's Ron Paul."
- "The media is glossing over his candidacy, because he's not an establishment candidate. He's also not that "sexy" of a candidate."
- "He is a fringe candidate with extreme views whose base includes a large swath of people who think 9/11 was an inside job and that we never walked on the moon. He deserves no coverage."
- "Exploring Paul's views would give the public a better sense of what libertarianism is."
- "He is getting no attention because he doesn't deserve any."
- "The attention Ron Paul gets far exceeds his vote share."
- "As one veteran lobbyist observed last cycle, it's scary when Ron Paul starts to make sense"
- "YESTERDAY'S NEWS
YESTERDAY'S LOSER"
- "He deserves more as a proponent of the pure strain of libertarianism that underlies most Republican ideology. However, he does not deserve consideration as a legitimate candidate, because his libertarianism is too far out of touch with the real world of a struggling superpower in the 21st Century."
- "He is old news."
- "He is getting too much. He is only as relevant as Alfred Newman is."
- "Little, if any, attention is deserved"
- "He doesn't deserve the attention he is getting."

- "Roughly the same level as he receives in Congress."
- "Wasn't a box for "significantly more attention than he deserves""
- "Like Harold Stassen, it's hard for Ron Paul to get the "new" attention."
- "Marginal candidate equals marginal attention."
- "He got the short shrift in Iowa based on the straw poll results, but his previous participation as a presidential candidate presages the outcome of his efforts. Perry's move to capture the headlines that weekend literally forced Paul off the pages."

Advantage: Perry. Furthermore, the Governor's Fed remarks were intended to rattle Paul and posture for his following. The Governor is a lot of things, but fool is not one of them."

- "Ron Paul's rhetoric used to attract cameras and reporters like flies on a turd pie. Now he sounds like everyone else in the race. He's no longer the cool kid in the playground."
- "Seriously? He raises millions, wins polls, and nobody mentions him in the press except as a punch line."

Does Ron Paul have a chance of winning the Republican nomination

- "The Tea Party stole his economics and Perry put Elvis in it, so why would those voters want the real thing who doesn't hit their emotional G-spot? This isn't about economics this is about feeling good."
- "No money & corporate America is scared of him"
- "I never thought a first term Senator with two years of congressional experience and no major legislation could be president. I won't be fooled again."
- "Ron Paul will impact this race. His ideas already are. His following is more committed and loyal than any other candidate in the field. There just aren't enough of them for him to win."
- "Paul is better organized and funded this time around, but he cannot, under any circumstance, be

nominated. His ideas, however, are more en vogue today than ever before."

- "Rick Perry came to the rescue and took away all of Ron Paul's supporters."
- "He's simply too old, but I admire the passion of his followers."
- "Probably has a ceiling of about 12% in the head-to-head polls among Republican candidates."
- "Libertarian, not really R; will subdivide pack, maybe play spoiler to benefit of Romney if he can sustain presence on primary ballots"
- "Ron Paul is a kook. He was a kook yesterday and he will be a kook tomorrow. His followers prove he is a kook. Running ads looking for

strippers.... kooky. He destroys sane discourse of serious issues."

- "Waaaaayyyy too whiney and talks down to everyone... because he's god..er... doctor. The majority of the GOP would never take be inclined to support someone who comes across as such a know-it-all"

- "Hell, no."

- "A chance to be sure, but not much more than a chance."

- "There is absolutely no chance at all of Ron Paul winning a single Republican primary, let alone the nomination."

- "The Don Quixote of the GOP."

- "Takes some provocative but impractical positions that can't be carried out in real world."

- "I would say no, but his supporters are hard voters. They will be at the polls rain or shine. His message is one that should resonate with primary voters, but he is no "rock star." His age will play a major factor."

- "Congressman Paul is far too honest and far too independent-minded to stand a chance with the GOP money machine. While it's all well and good to critique people welfare, once you start attacking corporate welfare you are off the island. Way off."

- "I do not buy conspiracies, but the media is really ignoring him and his supporters are all kind of...eccentric. Until that changes, he doesn't have a shot."

What distinguishes a "serious" candidate from everyone else?

- "I hate this question."

- "Cold, hard cash rules our politics... for the worse."

- "Charisma gets you the money which gets you the ideas and the big crowds"

- "The media and pundits"

- "Polls"

- "These days the \$ are way more impt."

- "Not just his/her own, but being able to raise substantial sums."

- "Serious candidates have the right mix of credibility and capability. The serious candidates are Perry and Romney, with Bachmann next in line at the bottom of the first tier."

- "Ron Paul fishes with a cane pole and a string. Visionary leaders fish with nets."

- "No tin foil hats"

- "Jesse Jackson didn't have much money, and he couldn't win the nomination, but he was a serious candidate. If you have actual or potential support in the race, you are a serious candidate."

- "Combination of the options listed and electability."
- "With money you can buy the other three...but you can't buy TV ads on charisma."
- "Obviously, a serious candidate needs ideas, charisma, and big crowds -- but it is impossible to run a full-blown presidential campaign without lots of money."
- "I'm clicking on money just because I have to choose one, but the real answer is viability. There is no path to victory for Ron Paul. Even though he has big crowds, charisma, ideas and money, he is still not a viable candidate for the Republican nomination, much less President."
- "ALL OF THE ABOVE"
- "It's a sequence: always about the money first; then charisma, then crowds, then ideas, which are really focused-group packages"
- "A serious chance of actually winning."
- "Credibility, Money, not being a looney tunes nut case."
- "All of the above...and good poll numbers"
- "And substantial appeal to cross segment of voters."
- "Let's be real. No money, no chance."
- "The message, platform, resources and charisma make a candidate vital."
- "Any or all of the above, but only if it translates into standing in the polls. So Paul is a serious (though not top tier) candidate and Huntsman is not."
- "Ideas and issues went out with the hoola hoop."
- "First...you have to appear sane"
- "In a primary, it means the ability to reach a significant percentage of the base; in a general, it means being able to appeal to independents who will likely provide the edge. Paul qualifies on neither count--essentially a Nader on the right."
- "Money and a sincere interest from independents."
- "Electability."
- "As this thing progresses, money will be even more of an indicator."
- "I think in large part it's defined by what the media defines as "serious" or mainstream."
- "All/None of those. It's a combo of new ideas that the press gets, some capability of attracting significant advisors, and having a decent personal narrative. Money will follow that."
- "Welcome back to 1840! The Whigs had nothing but "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too", and all the Rs have to have in '12 is "Tell your mama I ain't Obama." No issues, just personality and an obscene amount of money."
- "Two out of four are necessary, but any two will do."

- "Ultimately boils down to message and if it resonates."
- "At this stage money is the mother of all polls. No money, no message. Makes Romney's current predicament interesting because he's got the money, but can't connect Paul is better able to live off the land than most folks, but his message is a bit tired. His ability to go third party makes him a real irritant. In a close race, a possible spoiler. Serious candidates have the ability to compete in a primary and pivot to a general election campaign. This is the \$64,000 question for Team Perry. My guess is Obama's folks will model three way races six ways to Sunday. It may be Obama's best chance."
- "More than one facet. Ideas, money, credibility and gravitas have to be mixed in with personality."
- "Show me the MONEY!"
- "All the above"
- "And money"
- "Support in polls"
- "While seriousness should be determined by the power of ideas, it is largely measured by the power of the purse. Enter Rick Perry."
- "Does that candidate have the prospect of attracting sufficient broad-based support to win?"

Suppose Paul doesn't win the nomination. How much support does it take to make a losing candidate a spoiler who can change the outcome of a race?

- "It depends how many other losing candidates there are."
- "Just look at Perot's numbers."
- "The percentage can be lower, depending on the nature of the race -- number of candidates, how close the polls are, etc."
- "If Paul runs as an independent the Republicans are doomed."
- "That depends on how many are left when the votes are cast."
- "The race for President in 2012 is going to be VERY close."
- "The question doesn't make sense. If he doesn't win the GOP primary, what "race" is left for him to "spoil"? The general election? Or do you mean retrospectively, how did his numbers affect the outcome of the primary itself? I would think that a consistent 15% DURING COURSE OF THE PRIMARY PROCESS would give Paul enough traction to affect the direction of the debate and the dialogue."
- "Depends on if we are talking about primaries or generals."
- "???"

- "Depends whose hide that support comes out of."
- "There are too many variables to really know."
- "With a large field, one candidate can siphon enough support from another with as little as 5% of the vote."
- "If you're talking about a third party candidate in a close race, it doesn't take much to have a big effect."
- "Really 5 to 10, but this isn't a Ross Perot circumstance"
- "Poor question -- depends on how the other candidates are running. Especially in a multi-candidate nomination process."
- "It could be an independent like Bloomberg plus a Ron Paul equaling 8-10% and it is hello President Obama."
- "You mean a la Ross Perot? Don't forget, without electoral votes, mere popular votes count for nothing."
- "In a country as closely divided as America is, the kooks are the Anthony Kennedy of the electorate"
- "Depends on the margin between the principals in the swing states--and on a state-by-state basis."
- "Depends on the other candidates and the margins."
- "Who knows. Not much if the spoiler has moxie."
- "If you're asking how much he'd have to draw as an I to throw the election to Obama, it'd be less than what Perot drew to make Clinton President."
- "Depends on what the margin would be otherwise. My guess is that 5 percent would be reasonable, if we're just talking about those that don't find the others palatable."
- "Were Paul to run as the Libertarian Party candidate he would have a serious negative impact on the chances of the Republican nominee in several battleground states. In a close race this could very well represent the difference between a second term for Pres. Obama and a Perry or Romney presidency."
- "Have to hit double digits to matter."
- "Ask Ross Perot or Bill Clinton. Better yet ask GHWB."
- "At lower levels, probably not taking votes from the leading candidates, but from the folks gasping for air."
- "Presidential races are state by state affairs, not national races. 10 points nationally does not matter, but 10 points in a particular state might."
- "Paul has never been a spoiler in the past. In any competitive election, a few percent could make the difference. But there are no signs Paul would urge his supporters to abandon the GOP."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Reggie Bashur, Walt Baum, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Luke Bellsnyder, Rebecca Bernhardt, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Rick Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Hector De Leon, Tom Duffy, Craig Enoch, Alan Erwin, Jon Fisher, Terry Frakes, Wil Galloway, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, Michael Grimes, Wayne Hamilton, Sandy Haverlah, Albert Hawkins, John Heasley, Jim Henson, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Richard Khouri, Tim Lambert, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Kurt Meacham, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Bill Pewitt, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, John Pitts, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Dan Shelley, Christopher Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Wendell Ware, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.