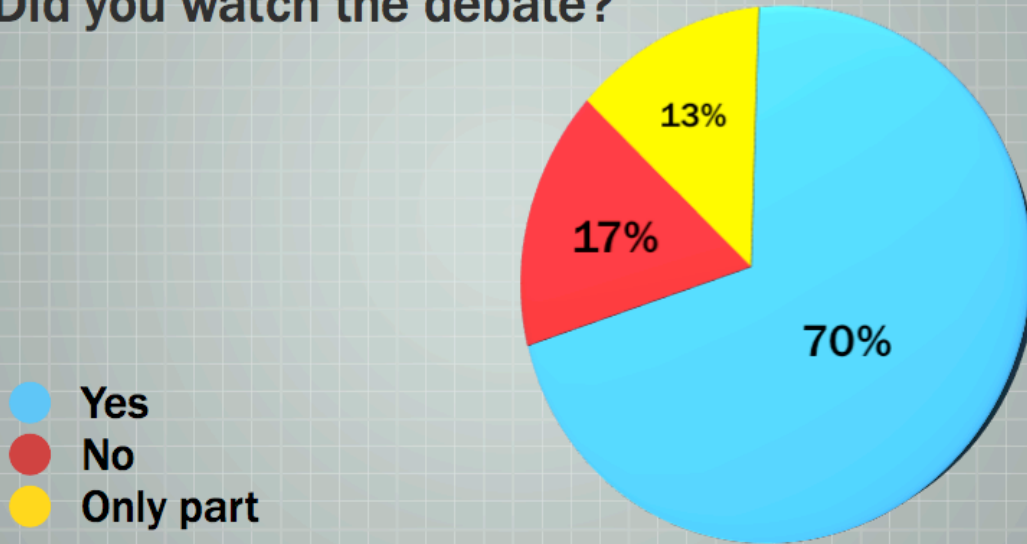


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

**The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider's poll
for the week of September 12.**

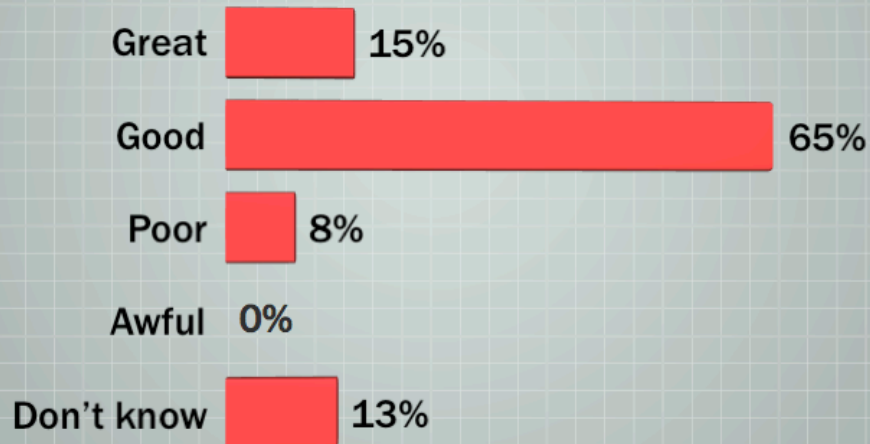
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Did you watch the debate?



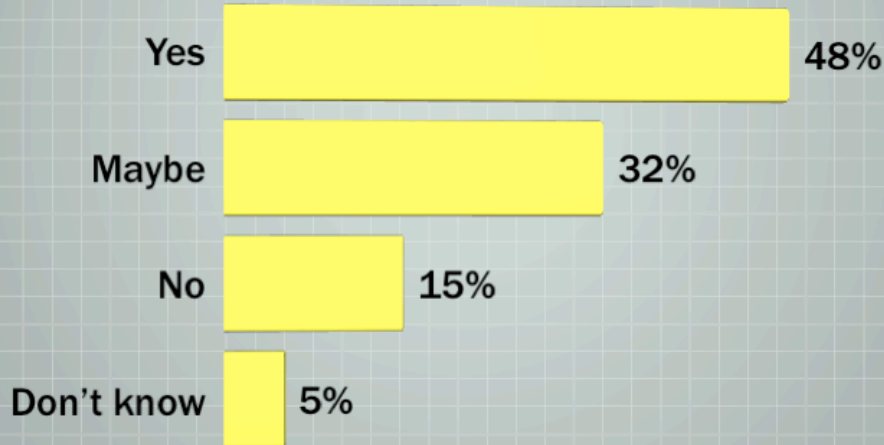
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How did Perry do?



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Do you think Perry will get the GOP nomination?



How did Perry do?

- "His pregnant pauses in speech hurt his punch."
- "He did OK - not good, not poor. He started strong, but faded badly. Clearly, he has much work to do to be comfortable discussing major issues."
- "C'mon guys, give a choice of 'OK.' What's with 'awful' and 'poor?' I vote 'OK'"
- "There should be another option -- 'adequate.' Perry was indeed the piñata... he survived, but the bloom is off Perry's rose. He should be experienced and polished at these sorts of events, but he's ducked so many debates in Texas through the years that he's really a neophyte."
- "Rough around the edges, but getting his sea legs on the national stage. If he continues to improve, he'll be unstoppable for the nomination. People question lines like 'Ponzi scheme', but it's red meat to primary voters!"
- "Did well overall.... some stumbles on answers.... but overall a solid B+."
- "Is it outrageous that it is really within the realm of possibility that this man could be president."
- "I think he did well in showing himself to be strong advocate for controversial ideas even if they fly in the face of accumulated knowledge."

- "He did well for his first time on the stage with 7 others who have been debating for several months. He did not do great, but he did not need to do great and only do well."
- "He held his own... which is a win for Perry."
- "He was the piñata and responded well to the barbs. Rather than playing 'me too' politics like Romney, he told Americans what they already know about social security. That was courageous and the voters will take note."
- "Good for Primary voters; maybe not as good for General Election."
- "He simply isn't comfortable with language. He has been schooled, for instance, to use the adjective 'monstrous' for describing the fraud he perceives SS to be on younger workers. That word now appears in other uses. Perry may be a great Texas or right-wing primary candidate, but his is not great leader by any measure."
- "That good ole boy shtick he's been perfecting and a seeming inability to answer questions directly made him seem less serious than the balance of the candidates."
- "Rather take a beating w/ a wet rope"
- "The disconnect between the pundit class and Republican voters is more surprising than anything he said in the debate that could be considered controversial, e.g., Social Security, climate change."
- "He comes across as the mean Southerner."
- "Seemed more comfortable than he generally is in such settings."
- "Much better on offense."
- "He did good enough, but he made the rookie mistake of answering the questions that were asked him, instead of using each question to explain his principles. Why argue against the theory of global warming when the relevant fight is against wacky solutions proposed in service of that theory? And why fail to concede that social security has been effective at eradicating poverty among the elderly? If he'd put his 'pansy scheme' statement in context, few would disagree, as it stands, it could cost him Florida. ."
- "So-so"
- "Good enough for his politics but chickens will come home to roost."
- "No big gaffes."
- "The main outcome is that he didn't screw up. All eyes were on him and he handled the pressure well."
- "Was 'presidential', strong and clear. Positions espoused in 'Fed Up' will be a source of continuing problems."
- "Solid performance for first time on national stage. No slam dunk. Team Perry should be happy, but he's got to raise his game."
- "He really did seem better prepared than the others, and he stuck it to Ron Paul with the Reagan letter..."

- "Solid B. lots of attention will be paid to the Ponzi Scheme comment, but he doubled down on his anti-Washington rhetoric... needs to be sharper, more substantive in next couple debates... answer on death penalty was absolutely perfect"

- "Except for the 'Galileo' comment, he did well. 'Let us continue to be ignorant for a while longer,' is not compelling."

- "Made plenty of red meat statements to win the nomination and lose the general."

- "He didn't make a serious mistake, so he did good, not great. Had the opportunity to take advantage of being a frontrunner, but too defensive and idealess for future."

Now that you've seen him with the other candidates, do you think Perry will be the Republican nominee?

- "He's too far out of the mainstream. Even today's Republicans aren't going to be comfortable with a nominee who is going to scare old people by calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme."

- "He's trying to take Texas Talk to a national audience, which is considerably more centrist. He'll be passed over when party regulars realize he's the guy Obama wants to meet."

- "None of the other candidates have the political moxie to go toe to toe with Governor Perry. One of them will need to hire Karl Rove to have any chance to beat Governor Perry."

- "It's most definitely a Perry/Romney show unless one of them commits a major error. Romney (and Huntsman)

- "Good, not great. Strong open. Stumbled midway. Great recovery on death penalty. Ponzi scheme will haunt him. General election prospects in flux."

- "Packaged answers and refusal to accept what really has gone on in Texas will eventually bury him."

- "His performance was uneven, but he stayed on message and didn't commit the kinds of mistakes that will bother his target audience."

- "'Handled tough questions well. Went toe to toe with everyone. Withstood repeated attacks from the opposition.'"

are the most electable of the group, but Perry will play the primary voter the same way he has played conservatives in TX - masterfully. And no one on the outside will understand how he did it."

- "It was obvious during last night's debate the two candidates that really matter are Romney and Perry. And Perry will best Romney for the nomination."

- "This morning I awoke to an editorial in the Dallas Morning News excoriating President Obama for relaxing air quality standards. It is possible the Republicans can run an election and prosper without vilifying science and known economics. The latter being harder for them so he has a pretty good shot. Is there going to be fresh oxygen

in the Republican tent so that suddenly they wake up one day and say we don't really have to oppose science."

- "Definitely a two-horse race at this point. Perry has a good chance - but he needs better answers on social security and the anti-science charge."
- "It's the Perry-Romney show and who do you think the GOP base will elect? Not Romney."
- "Stay on message (jobs, jobs, jobs), don't get distracted, and he's in."
- "The people are weary of failed policies and pandering politicians. Voters are looking for candidates to speak to them as mature, thinking adults, rather than as dummies who want the government to be the BIG Nanny."
- "The primary will come down to magic underwear versus crazy pants. And these days, Republicans think they look good in crazy pants."
- "Mitt Romney starting to reach fiscal conservatives worn of hearing about Romneycare."
- "The 'Ponzi scheme' line will resonate with all voters, and reform will have broad support if you keep seniors benefits untouched. The jobs record in Texas is solid. And when the main complaint is that tort reform and a Republican majority helped, you know it is a winning argument."
- "Very strong contender and has raised money. The only issue is sustainability

given the early stages of a very long campaign."

- "His social security stance is going to hurt him in Florida where the nominee will ultimately be chosen."
- "Romney is better on his feet than Perry, but at this point, Perry's strength among the Tea Party appears to make him more likely to prevail. Oddly enough, Perry's first halting debate performance won't hurt him up against Obama even if he doesn't improve. Recall the Kerry-Bush debates. Kerry was far more articulate, but Bush won the debates because more people agreed with the words he managed to spit out."
- "Team Perry is the only campaign who is running to win a Republican Primary Election. He is feeding the red meat machine and will be rewarded. Who cares about a general election if you can't win your primary."
- "Two man race between Perry and Romney. Florida primary may decide nominee."
- "If teavangelicals build on their midterm momentum, Perry can box out the field. The Mormons can't get out of the box, and I'm not sure the rest matter."
- "If he can keep the momentum going, he will. Well loose a couple after tonight..."
- "He knows Republican primary voters."

What were the high and low points of the debate, and what did you find surprising?

- "Ron Paul showed himself to be a total dweeb."
- "Perry-Romney exchange. I was surprised by consistent mediocrity of the gang."
- "The stark difference between Romney and Perry regarding social security."
- "Perry on Social Security was his low point. He needs to now offer a solution to reform Social Security or he will not be able to win the Primary or the General Election."
- "Romney handled jobs and social security well. Perry did ok and hit the ball hard on the death penalty but needs to work himself out of the "Ponzi scheme" problem."
- "Surprised Perry didn't have a stronger answer on Social Security's 'Ponzi scheme.' Surprised that Bachmann is tanking so quickly."
- "High: death penalty; low: HPV"
- "I was surprised that Governor Perry publicly dissed Karl Rove. I was impressed with Governor Huntsman. He was poised but he missed his opportunity to back up his comments about his Republican competition. I wondered as bad as President Obama is doing in the public opinion polls how could he still be leading the individual Republicans in the field. The debate illustrated why President Obama still

has hope, the Republicans are playing to a very small and extreme group of voter who have lost favor with the general public."

- "Paul's strong attacks on Perry especially on the executive order to inoculate 12 year old girls with the drug from Merck."
- "Huntsman is so solid, and in any other year would be the leader, but keeps being ignored, even after his responses to questions seem to land where a majority of Americans likely sit. 3rd Party? Depends on if he wants to position himself for the 2016 GOP race."
- "The high was the first 15 minutes of the debate... or spar debate between Romney and Perry. The one thing which surprised me was the intense questioning of Perry by the moderators. It seemed as if the moderators were out to cut Perry at the knees."
- "The low point was the ovation for killing 234 people. High point? It ended."
- "The realization that Galileo was outvoted and thus science just cannot inform policy in regard to the environment. The high point of the debate for me was Perry's mocking facial gestures when Romney was standing up to his condescending rhetorical bullying. I find it amazing that Newt Gingrich gets to renew his franchise on relevancy. Ron Paul still comes off as the nice cranky guy who

lives down the street who will lecture you if you walk by his house."

- "I actually thought Newt provided one of the high points when he said everyone up here is opposed to Obamacare and would repeal it. Quit trying to divide us. Also Huntsman with his I pledge only to my wife and my country point. Surprises me that Newt and Huntsman provided high points!"

- "High -- everyone sticking to their words and previous actions. Low -- Lack of engagement of anyone other than Perry Romney."

- "Low: Ron Paul and HPV attack. Low: Death Penalty question and people's response. High: Perry told people the TRUTH about social security and manmade climate change."

- "That both of the frontrunners are so far right."

- "It is a shame that Newt has all the baggage he does. He is clearly the smartest debater."

- "The high was the disappearance of Gingrich and Bachmann in the argument, and the low is the similarity of this fight to the rhetoric of recent Texas Republican primaries. No surprise at all."

- "High Point=all things Herman Cain. Low Point=people cheering en masse the large number of executions in Texas."

- "I was surprised Santorum and Gingrich are still allowed to mingle with the real candidates."

- "Romney-Perry exchange where Romney landed the last, best punch."

- "The biggest political impact of the debate is that Michele Bachman bombed. That benefits Governor Perry."

- "I thought Gingrich did well. Romney was fine, Perry was fine. Nobody else looked presidential."

- "There was no 'I knew Jack Kennedy' moment for anyone. Thought Romney did better than previous debates, however. Santorum was awful and ignored"

- "Bachmann was essentially a no show (high point) and Ron Paul's (low point) direct attacks on Perry. Surprised by Perry's responses to climate change, would have expected better. Social security also going to be problematic for Perry."

- "I thought most candidates did well with the exception of Ron Paul. In my heart of hearts, Romney is the only one that looks and talks Presidential."

- "I thought it was a good debate for Republicans. The left-leaning media has attempted to paint the candidates as a bunch of loons, but they all had at least one good moment and showed themselves to be thoughtful and serious individuals."

- "High -- social security and death penalty comments (I disagree with both, but the audience liked). Low -- his handling of the science/climate change issue. I thought he stumbled terribly."

- "None. No highs and no lows, no surprises."
- "Ron Paul"
- "Low: When he mentioned Galileo in the context of denials of global warming. He is more akin to deniers of Galileo than Galileo is to deniers of global warming, so his backwards use of the analogy will come home to haunt him."
- "Perry's answer on the death penalty was a high point. Santorum's negative tone on several questions hurt him. Huntsman's argument about loss of confidence in our country was also a low point. Campaigns are won with forward looking optimism, the master of which was Pres. Reagan."
- "Highs: Perry survived and was able to handle the pressure; Romney became a player again; Huntsman won't die that quickly. Lows: Watching Bachman's presidential ambitions come to an end; Determining that Ron Paul's public service career just ended; Surprising: Rick Perry handled the pressure."
- "High points-- the stature conveyed by Perry and Romney. Low point--Ron Paul's factually deficient comments about nutrition programs launched by LBJ."
- "Huntsman's take on science is impressive. Frankly he is an adult, but should consider switching parties because he doesn't want to hear it. Ponzi Schmonzi - Perry gets the headline, survives the debate, and motors on."
- "Surprising he showed up."
- "High Point: Some real interchanges among the participants that were cordial while also in disagreement. Also the performance of the moderators. Low Point: Several of Michele Bachmann's responses."
- "High Point - Perry's answer on the Death Penalty. Low Point - Perry on military adventurism."
- "I suspected that the others would attack Perry, but I was still surprised by it - I guess in bar fights and debates you should always knock the Hell out of the biggest dude in the room first. Ron Paul looked like the whiney old man who lives at the end of your block bitching about the garbage truck."
- "High -- none, Low -- rampant radicalism will frighten independents. "
- "Low point was every time Ron Paul opened his mouth. High point was first ten minutes when Perry and Romney were at each other's throats."
- "Perry's comfort level and his opponents failure to land direct hits."
- "The whole debate made the field look nutty to the mainstream. Still one of these people will beat Obama in 2012."
- "Low point - the total dismissal of any candidate not named Romney or Perry, those other folks were a lot more entertaining. High point - Paul and Perry sparring over Reagan. Perry showed nerve by saying Paul abandoned Reagan when he was campaigning for Gore."

- "Ron Paul missed several opportunities to reinforce his philosophy and show how mainstream Rs are hypocrites."

- "No new ideas"

- "Michelle is done. Everyone else stays in till after the race swings south."

- "High-Romney invoking Bush as a jobs counter. Low-applause for death penalty."

- "Jon Huntsman was the high. Santorum was the low. The applause at

the mention of the death penalty was the lowest."

- "S O S different day. Chest pounding with no concrete solutions."

- "The audience applause at the death penalty numbers in Texas was appalling."

- "High - Perry spanking Romney in the opening round. Low - Almost everything about Bachmann. Surprise - Gingrich chastising the moderators."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Dave Beckwith, Allen Blakemore, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Linda Bridges, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Tris Castaneda, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Kevin Cooper, Hector De Leon, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Alan Erwin, Gay Erwin, Ryan Erwin, Terry Frakes, Bruce Gibson, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, Alan Gray, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Albert Hawkins, Jim Henson, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Richard Levy, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, J. McCartt, Dan McClung, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, John Pitts, Royce Poinsett, Jay Propes, Bill Ratliff, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Luis Saenz, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Dan Shelley, Christopher Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Eric Wright, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.