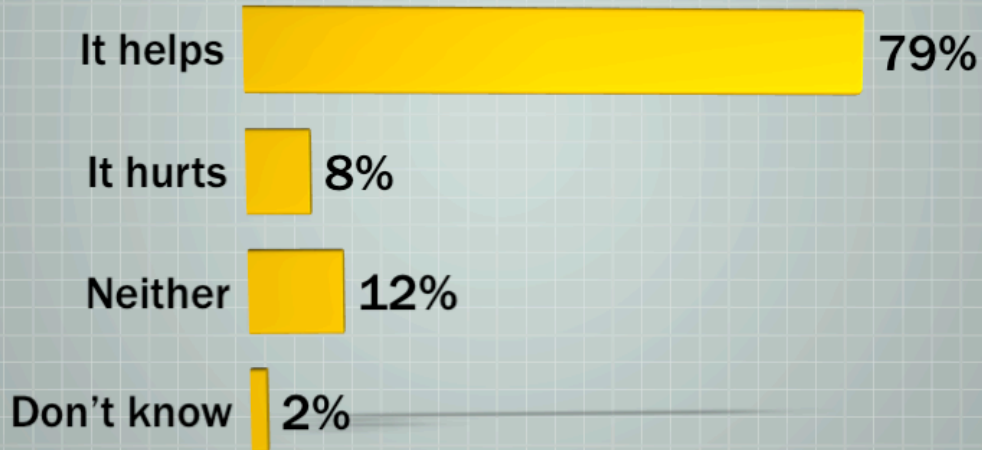


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider's poll
for the week of September 26.*

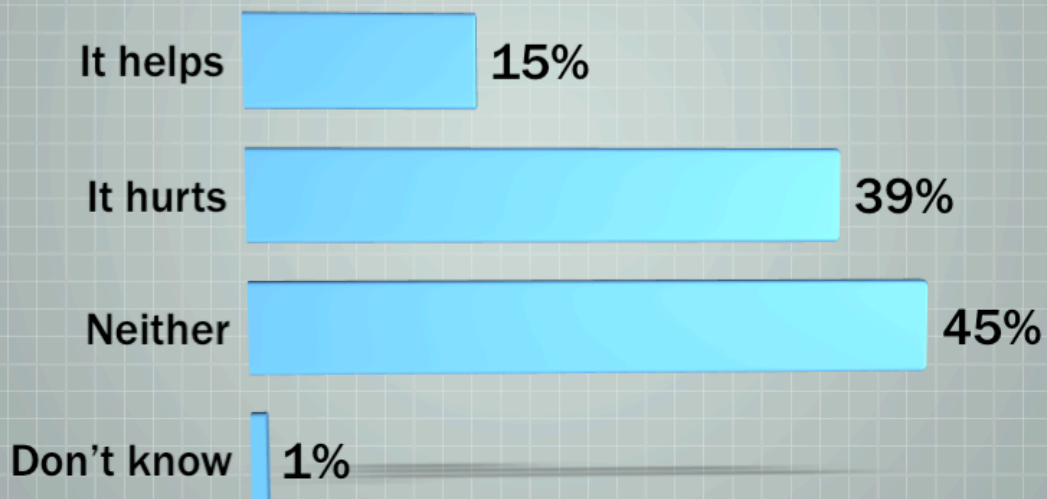
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Perry's support for in-state tuition for children of illegal immigrants?



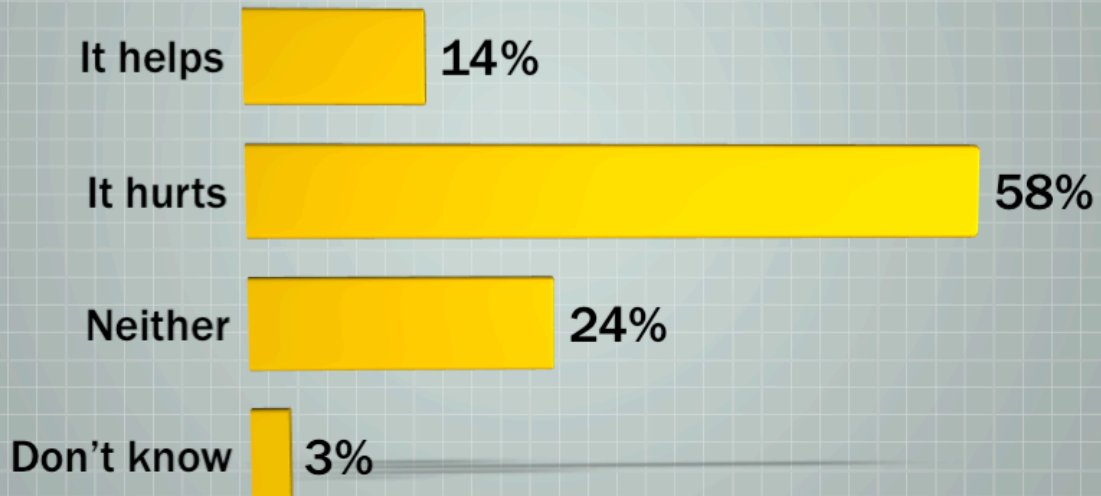
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Legislature's failure to ban sanctuary cities?



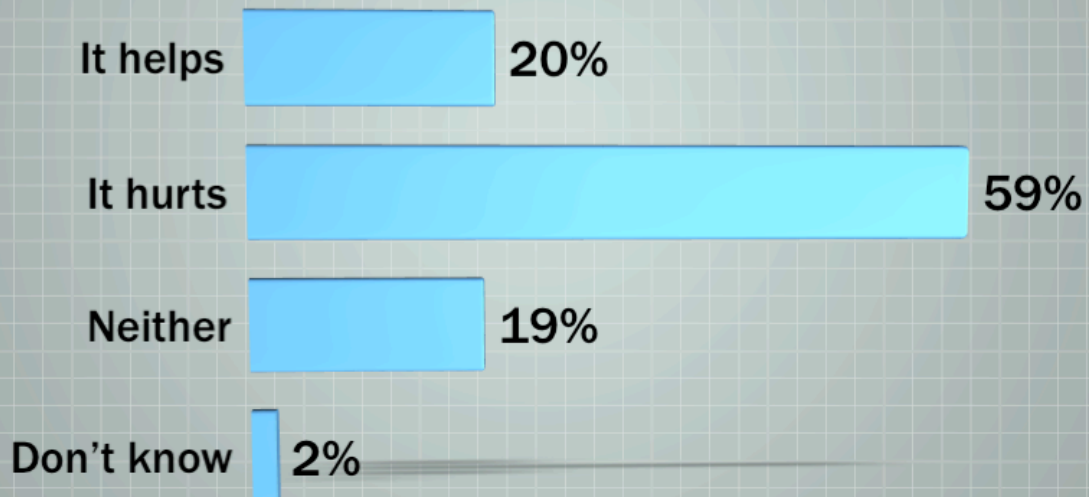
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Perry's opposition to a border fence?



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Perry's overall positions on immigration and border security?



Does Gov. Rick Perry's support for in-state college tuition for the children of illegal immigrants help him or hurt him in the GOP presidential primary?

- "It probably helps in the general election."
- "A rebuttal to Perry may encounter the two step rule. Anything requiring two logical steps to understand is presumed a product of the liberal media. Critical thinking is rarely prized at a pep rally."
- "It clearly weakens his base support. Actual voters in focus groups abandoned him over the issue."
- "Unfortunately it probably hurts him."
- "But you can bet he will play it up in a General Election, if he gets there."
- "Hurts because the sound bites will never convey the fact that this is actually a good policy position for a change. Too easy to describe it as something else done to help people illegally in this country without looking at the merits."
- "I hate that it hurts him, as it's one of the most humane things he championed as governor."
- "As on all issues right now, it could help him if he would better articulate the principles that support his position."
- "Might hurt some w bigots but moderate Repubs would respond favorably ... although in-state tuition may not be enough to bring any of those around."
- "Giving benefits to illegals or children of will be a problem initially for anyone who voted for or signed a bill."
- "His supporters don't even want undocumented workers in our state, so what makes you think they'll support his stance for in-state college tuition who do not have their papers?"
- "It may hurt in the Primary, but he's very confident and unapologetic in his responses, which I think will neutralize any controversy in the Primary. It will be a benefit to him in a General Election."
- "The GOP base hates this."
- "It's one of the rare extreme positions he has that helps him in the general election. If he wins the Republican nomination while publicly defending Hispanics, then he could do very well against Obama."
- "The Governor's position reflects a well thought out policy for Texas and other border states, but is not playing well with the hard core right."
- "Regardless of this being the right thing to do, the teabaggers will fault him."
- "But the hurt is on the margins."
- "But only a bit. Seems to me to suggest (surprisingly) that he's not going to sell completely out to the GOP "base" just to survive the primary and then have to live with some pretty crazy positions."

That said, I would expect him to find a way to recant ere long."

- "Rs don't want illegal kids going to state colleges at the same rate as citizens that pay taxes."
- "The Tea Party will give no quarter to anyone who even hints pontification on the issue of strict enforcement of immigration laws."
- "The R's want to punish the sons for the "sins" of the fathers."
- "It would help if the mainstream media would announce the caveats to that law."

Does the state Legislature's failure to adopt Perry's call for a ban on sanctuary cities help him or hurt him in the primary?

- "Two step rule"
- "He gets credit for trying"
- "Sanctuary cities is so over. He is right to ignore them."
- "He gave it a hard push in the earlier sessions. Only a real dummy would expect more."
- "He can blame the legislature for not passing the bill."
- "It obviously is hurting him if the Tea Party is asking him to take a break from the campaign and come home to address sanctuary cities."
- "He'll get the credit for adding it to the call. Legislature may be painted as weak, he'll be painted as a leader."

- "Both helps and hurts"
- "Perry was accidentally progressive, in the distant past when rationality was still a legitimate argument."
- "It may hurt in the primary but it helps in the long term"
- "While it should hurt him, he does has a practical explanation that might resonate with voters. So I am not sure."
- "And in the general election as well."

- "The GOP base wants an end to sanctuary cities."
- "Anyone who calls this a tempest has teapot envy."
- "He doesn't get credit for passing the ban (since it failed). He still gets all the blame for pushing the issue forward in the Texas Legislature."
- "Tea Party nut bags will soon realize his hypocrisy that he called it on one hand and killed at behest of the money boys on the other hand."
- "Rs want police shaking down all Hispanics for cause or no."
- "The bill didn't do anything anyway...plus, it was the fault of the

legislature to not pass the bill...not the governor's."

- "See above."
- "Lege was dysfunctional on several issues"
- "He tried twice."

• "This is a nationwide issue, not just a border state issue. The criminal element gaining free reign on our streets is a BIG negative."

• "No one expects any governor to have Jedi-like mind control over legislators. That lawmakers don't pass something isn't a hickey on a governor."

Does the governor's opposition to a border fence help him or hurt him in the primary?

• "That might hurt him because it takes two steps to understand his position. A simple ad showing no fence might make the point."

• "Adds to suspicion about a man who until a month ago was not well known nationally"

• "But you can bet he will play it up in a General Election, if he gets there."

• "Actually, the fence is the only solution crazier than the virtual wall he pushed. Opposing an 1800 mile fence now that the border rush is slowing down seems very thoughtful."

• "Not sure too many believe a couple thousand mile fence will affect much."

• "For the 1st time in years Mexican nationals are going the other way so the issue should be mute"

• "There is no options for it both hurting and helping him in the primary. Not all white Republicans are nativists. And a significant percentage of Hispanics will vote Republican. Opposing the border fence helps him

with these voters, but it hurts him with nativist Tea Party types."

• "Hard core right wants it. Everyone else won't be voting in the GOP primaries."

• "To primary voters north of San Antonio it will be hard to believe that he is serious about border security whilst opposing the fence."

• "Only the tea party folks think this is a good idea. Somehow it conjures up images of the Berlin Wall and Ronald Reagan, "Mr. Gorbachev, take down this wall.""

• "Rs want a fence. Don't seem to care that you can dig under a fence."

• "I think people know even in the areas where a fence is located...illegal immigrants are still able to pass through the area. So a fence is nothing more than government boondoggle."

• "Ditto"

• "Shows he was being reasonable"

- "A good number supporting a fence live in states no bigger than Memorial stadium."
- "Funding passed Congress then nothing happened. Voters want to place blame for their resulting tax burden."
- "Thus far, he has said a "physical fence" is unnecessary and, essentially,

wasteful. And anyone watching his first debate saw the other candidates footnote their answers about a border fence, saying it could be done via technology. So Governor Perry may be leading on this one."

- "Allows Perry to show he understands immigration issue."

Taken as a whole, do the governor's positions on immigration and border security help him or hurt him in the primary?

- "The issue would be framed differently - and potentially be less harmful to Perry - if those in the business community who work behind the scenes to ensure continued access to a cheap labor pool would be more overt."

Khan, hurts him a little bit, but we're worried about jobs and the economy primarily. The hit is small."

- "They hurt in the primary, but may help if he gets to the general."

- "His position is Obama let us down. One step! The same might be said for the imminent invasion of space aliens."

- "Immigration is Perry's "Sister Souljah" Opportunity -- where he demonstrates that his experience -- and the Texas experience --of the realities of immigration trump the frequent Tea Party irrationality on this issue."

- "He's weakened slightly with GOP base, but his stances make him more electable in a general election. So it's likely a wash"

- "Jobs and the economy will be the main issue for everyone. Period."

- "Probably hurts because he is being a realist. Most primary voters are not."

- "He has the advantage of governing the state with the largest US/Mexico border. He comes off with more authority on the subject than his counterparts."

- "He has the conservative creds, and strangely, the fact that his immigration stances appear moderate to them helps him counter Romney's electability argument."

- "He's right about these issues in Texas, both politically and practically. It's hard to explain that, however, to people who are so rabidly opposed to his positions."

- "But they will help him in a general election!"

- "I think appearing "soft on immigration," compared with Genghis

- "This is worse for him in the primary than everything else (crony capitalism, HPV, Social Security) put together."
- "Hurts him in the primary. If he gets passed the primary, some of the positions might help."
- "He's not hard line enough against "illegals" for the hater wing of the party."
- "Thinking about the Latinos in the general"
- "His record might be of help in the general, but not many of the people it helps with vote in the Republican primary."
- "The point was to split the two so that the issue could be parsed in a way that reduces the strength of the reflexively anti-immigrant position."
- "He has been given a great opportunity here to demonstrate a common-sense approach to an issue that resonates with a lot folks in both parties. If he can clearly and demonstrably distinguish his view of "border security" from that of the whacko incipient-racist rhetoric of the GOP base, for which the term has become a mere euphemism, he has a great opportunity to set himself up for the general election. Whether or not he has the courage/will to maintain that position is problematic at best, however."
- "Of course you have to ask his position today or his position before the presidential campaign."
- "But his positions are the right thing to do for Texas and the U.S."
- "I think taken all together.... he doesn't get hurt by his positions nor does he get any help either."
- "The fact is Gov. Perry is reasonable and correct on immigration (no snickering); the question is will the reasonable elements of the GOP outnumber the unreasonable voters in the primary. Oh yeah, if they do, will Perry's less reasonable positions (HPV) harm him more than immigration?"
- "It hurts to hardliners, but quite possibly, it shows him to be a non-wavering governor instead of someone who changes his views due to the race he is running."
- "It's his greatest weakness across the nation because of the ANTI-American demands by MALDEF, LULAC and the nation of Atzlan."
- "Economy and jobs far outweigh any other issues for primary and general election voters. Perry's stance immigration and border security will only hurt him with an extremely small minority of primary voters."
- "For a Republican, Perry has a moderate stance on immigration, a position not shared by a large majority of likely voters in the Republican primary."
- "Rick Perry is Teflon."
- "Perry and Co. are actually running in the primary and the general election at the same time. His comments are mostly appealing to the base. However,

they know they need to be campaigning to the rest of the electorate now. And, they believe, ironically, as Bush/Rove did, that a softer stand on immigration issues is appealing to more people."

- "Perry will be viewed as an opportunist."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, James Aldrete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Mike Barnett, Reggie Bashur, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Luke Bellsnyder, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Jay Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Tris Castaneda, Corbin Casteel, Rick Cofer, Hector De Leon, Jeff Eller, Craig Enoch, Alan Erwin, Gay Erwin, Jon Fisher, Kyle Frazier, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Luke Marchant, Dan McClung, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Jeri Stone, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.