

Will Gov. Rick Perry regain his front-runner or near front-runner position in the Republican presidential primary? (Before the debate)

- "What are you smoking?"
- "Newt is next. If he folds quickly enough, Rick will have another day in the sun. If Newt has more staying power, he may be the anti-Mitt."
- "Perry's ship has sailed."
- "35% chance - but conservatives must unite behind him before Florida - he must win Florida as it is a closed primary"
- "Cain will flame and Perry will edge out Gingrich as the conservative alternative to Romney."
- "...And I have at least 17 million reasons to say so..."
- "He's shown clearly he is not ready to be president and never will be."
- "He'll come in second now that Cain has crashed."
- "That soufflé will not rise a second time."
- "If the mud sticks to Cain, his followers will have to go somewhere. Could be Perry . . . might be Gingrich . . . and perhaps Romney may start looking more palatable to the hard-righters. I don't count Perry out . . . but is a steep hill to climb at this point."
- "You never want to count Rick Perry out in a political contest, but it is getting harder and harder to see the road back to the top."
- "Cain is cooked. It's either Perry or Gingrich to take the 'anti-Romney' vote, and Gingrich, despite having a better grasp of the issues, is a flawed candidate, so it falls back to Perry."
- "Maybe, He came across as so incompetent in the debates, I am not sure he can recover. However, with a lot of money he may hold on until the others, except for Romney, fall out."
- "At this point, the only way I see Perry regaining front-runner status is if Romney makes a huge mistake. That does not seem likely."
- "Are you kidding? With the New Hampshire debate going viral he will never recover."

- "If he does, the GOP is in trouble."
- "Unless he wants the skeletons to start dancing out of the closet, he's better off riding his horse back to Texas."
- "Herman Cain - the best thing for Rick Perry since quick release hydrocodone."
- "Too early to count him out."
- "'Candidate Rick Perry' has now become a caricature (thanks, SNL). He cannot survive that narrative, nor does he have the fire in the belly to really try."
- "Not until all others are buried."
- "He is a known commodity. He has been rejected and will not be redeemed."
- "He's the only one on TV in Iowa right now and has been for a couple weeks. That's got to count for something."
- "Rick Perry is toast as a presidential candidate. He may be able to pull it out in South Carolina but voters in Iowa and New Hampshire aren't buying it."
- "He'll peak up, just not high enough."

Now that you've had a chance to see or read about Gov. Rick Perry's 'oops' moment in last night's debate, will the governor regain his front-runner or near front-runner position in the Republican presidential primary?

- "This could have been an intentional 'Hail Mary' pass by the Perry Campaign. GOP primary voters seem to prefer overarching ignorance - see Herman Cain's foreign policy insights - and Perry's recall only of the number - not the name - of agencies to eliminate might have been a pledge to restless conservatives that Grover Norquist would be the real decision maker in a Perry White House."
- "Nor will he ever run for office again."
- "Would have been better if he'd forgotten a sexual harassment charge."
- "Please make him stop. Laughingstock is too kind a word. Horror-stock is more like it."
- "That memory lapse will go down in history as one of the major blunders that have sunk political campaigns ... 'Who am I and why am I here' ... 'You're no Jack Kennedy'"

- "Anyone else concerned that he's showing signs of not being all there? The long, mid-sentence pauses, the 'oops' moment plus his age make me wonder if he's all there upstairs."
- "I can already see it in every TV spot until he drops out."
- "He's cooked. Put a fork in him."
- "At least we now know who the governor will be during the 2013 Session."
- "More of the same."
- "His audience is the staunchly reactionary portion of a reliably right-wing Republican primary electorate. They can't remember which federal agencies they want to eliminate either."
- "This should finish him along with the Today show interview"
- "No before, and emphatically no afterwards"
- "You didn't provide a 'hell no' option."
- "Put a fork in Rick. He's done."
- "Painful moment . . . on the biggest stage. Can't help but feel empathy for the Governor. Must be pretty rough to know that you've just provided material for the opening skit on SNL."
- "The safe bet at this point is Romney. He looks better and better as time goes on. Smart and no scandal, at least not yet."
- "Still early"
- "Last night's debate was proof positive that prior mistakes were not aberrations but instead were indicative of major unpreparedness for the nation's highest office."
- "Dead man walking!"
- "Hell no, he can't even deliver his own talking points. Sad. Rick Perry has never been tested in Texas and it now painfully shows on the national scene."
- "In his zeal to be seen as 'not GWB,' he forgot that Gov. Bush actually STUDIED before he ran for President."
- "At most a 10% chance. The problem is it played into the existing narrative that he's stupid and will be unable to compete w/ Obama in a debate."

- "Butter the toast and add some jam - he's done."
- "Didn't think it was going to happen before last night, I'm now even more sure that it will not."
- "I think he is done. If he does make a come back, shame on us."
- "Probably a little soon to throw dirt on his grave, but he's certainly running out of toes to shoot off."
- "My previous comment about RP being reduced to a parody of himself in the national zeitgeist was prescient. Was that a real debate last night? I thought it was another SNL skit. Maybe this week their writers can lay out an 'Oops I did it again' skit of RP singing Britney Spears. That's gold, Jerry. Gold!"
- "Absolutely not."
- "It was bad, but not fatal. The next 72 hours will tell more."
- "It is sad that one gaffe based on a recall issue would sink a candidate, but TV is unforgiving. It is not the same as Cain not knowing China's nuclear status. I hope we can judge Perry on substance not a brain freeze."
- "Seems unlikely. He doesn't appear agile enough to take on his fellow republicans much less the president."
- "Not only that, he has exposed his weaknesses and vulnerabilities. No wonder he wouldn't debate Bill white. The chinks in the armor are beginning to show. Next session he may get run over by his own."
- "Can't blame last night on Toomey and Carney."
- "Caveat emptor; was only a matter of time before he was outed in the political sense; his finite number of 3/5 cards finally ran out and the real Rick Perry we all know became apparent (see also Manchester moment)"
- "He was out of his league from the beginning. Only now it's obvious."
- "<insert three reasons joke here.>"
- "Perry has officially become the laughing stock of the group. Newt is enjoying his fall and Cain is loving that his sexual harassment issues are no longer in the news cycle."

- "No, he was running neck-and-neck with Gingrich before this. It's laughable to think of him as the front-runner or near front-runner ever again. He will probably limp into Iowa and NH and then bow out after humiliating defeats."
- "The electorate is about to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. They will start paying attention again in January where Romney and Perry will have the most money and infrastructure to conduct a campaign through the end of January. Ron Paul will be there till the end, and perhaps Cain and Gingrich might still be standing in February. I think Perry can regain his footing during that time."
- "How many contributors will ask for their money back?"
- "Can you add an 'unlikely' option?"
- "He's branded himself and changing brands takes more time than he has."
- "He is done. What we all thought would happen did. It was simply a matter of time. Now he comes back mad as hell and we all get to pay the price."
- "I am shocked at his lack of preparation. Carney and crew should have him spinning like the RICK I know and not fumbling like a real novice."
- "As they say, 'you can't fix dumb.'"
- "Concern over Governor Perry's preparation and abilities had been growing for weeks. They crystallized in the negative at the Michigan debate and Perry will not recover -- dead man walking."
- "My crystal ball is no more clear than anyone else's but I've said since 'day one' that Perry would Never make it to the ballot. There's just no way the GOP or the nation is going to support another Texas yahoo cowboy."
- "He should stop wasting the nation's time and money and drop out now."
- "But my answer did not change because of this performance."

Will a third-party candidate for president gain significant support next year and if so, from what part of the political spectrum?

- "Green Party candidate will take from the President"
- "If Republicans nominate Mitt Romney--or another candidate who is sold as a 'moderate' --I expect we'll see a fair amount of attention paid to far-right reactionary candidates from the Constitution Party and similarly minded groups. Such

candidates will probably influence the atmosphere of the 2012 election contest but I doubt they'll have a real electoral impact."

- "Libertarians have proven that they can't muster the votes to win. Changing names won't help them."
- "Tea party won't support Romney."
- "Third-party candidates will be relegated to last paragraph of a few election stories as 'other candidates receiving a small percentage of the vote.'"
- "Romney is not motivating the grass roots. They will want an alternative."
- "In an attempt to own the middle the Republican will leave an unsatisfied far-right sect looking for a voice."
- "The Tea Party will gag on Mitt Romney"
- "A fiscal conservative grown-up who understands that the government has to control its spending, but also acknowledges that we need a stronger revenue stream (some call this stream taxes)."
- "Fiscal conservative, social moderate."
- "There's just not room for one."
- "Ron Paul"
- "The Libertarians will be especially active, even more than usual, but it will essentially be a referendum on Obama. If he is found wanting, the GOP candidate wins."
- "Romney will win the R nomination and will get challenged from the right allowing Obama a second term."
- "I hope not, but would not be surprised to see an uberconservative jump in and grab enough votes to mess things up."
- "'Yes, a conservative' if: the super committee process fails, the bond rating drops, the markets drop and Romney gets the Republican nomination."
- "The time is near when a viable third party moderate will gain traction, but it won't happen in 2012."
- "A third party candidate will not gain 'significant' support in the 2012 campaign cycle, but the political system is simmering toward the formation of a third party."

The rise of the Tea Parties and Occupy Wall Street point in that direction; the 'wrong track' numbers in polling, as well as the low opinion of the President and Congress suggest the level of frustration and disgust with Washington and the two major parties could enable a third party to emerge."

- "No Ross Perot or George Wallace"
- "Ron Paul will draw a very slim margin but could end up being like Nader and preventing a win by one of the other candidates."
- "That always seems possible early in a campaign, but then the third-party candidate comes a cropper without the benefit of national organizations, etc."
- "Is Ralph Nader still alive?"
- "If hard right selects the nominee, then an opening for a pro-business moderate exists. If Romney survives, he will tack to the center and evangelical folks may go shopping."
- "Anti-Obama-ism will keep the right together, despite the leftist media's best attempts to splinter his opposition."
- "If employment doesn't begin to improve, a moderate Republican might gain traction in a third party run. Doubtful, however."
- "I suppose there could be some sort of well-meaning No Labels suicide mission that combines the self-satisfaction of a Jon Huntsman with an abhorrent Zell Miller type. Depends on how much moderate Republicans hate their nominee."
- "If Paul were to run he would be able to generate support in the 5% range and cost the Republican nominee the race, but to date everything he has said indicates he does not plan to run as an independent or the Libertarian Party candidate."
- "Oh, there will be chatter but the ballot challenges make it unrealistic"

Now that the federal courts are doing the drawing, what will the new redistricting maps look like?

- "Equity is their goal, NOT fair representation of legal voters."
- "Congressional and House; Senate map won't change much."
- "With minority Republican districts, the lines have blurred between democrat, republican, and minority."

- "One word: overreach."
- "More minority districts = more democratic districts"
- "More minority districts for sure. Whether or not they elect Democrats is a less certain; it depends on how discouraged their voters are."
- "There is U.S. Supreme Court precedent around many of these issues. It is but merely a delay."
- "(CONGRESS) Dallas-Metro finally gets an Hispanic seat; The Lucios will hate that Nueces County is once again attached to Cameron County; Doggett lives and Castro finds a new seat. (STATE) Mike Jackson runs for re-election to senate; Larry Taylor says Dude, you stole my wave; The Bonnens go postal against the world; Veronica Gonzalez gets a new district in the shape of Christ; Pena just can't get a break; Wendy Davis will complain regardless of the new map;"
- "If the State litigates this to the end, the 2011 legislative maps will be substantially upheld. That will require elections for all senators again in 2014."
- "History suggests the majority party always over reaches and the courts dial back the greed."
- "But only marginally more Democratic districts."
- "More minority districts also means more Democratic districts."
- "Not knowable at this point."
- "Hogs get slaughtered . . ."
- "Hopefully, more balanced districts which could be either Dem or Rep depending on the candidate. That would benefit our country more."
- "Maybe one or two more Democratic districts, but not much of a shift from status quo."
- "There are already enough minority districts. The plaintiffs have instead said there aren't enough Democratic minority districts. But what the unelected judges do is anybody's guess."
- "Hopefully will keep communities of interest intact, rather than create minority-opportunity districts that contort district lines at the expense of communities."
- "If not, then what's the point?"

- "It is becoming clear that the courts are disturbed by the ham-handed tactics of both the Senate and the House Redistricting Chairs, and the bullying by the former Republican Chair of the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee. Talk about someone the House leadership would like to see thrown under a bus?"
- "It'll be interesting to see how this effects the old 27th district. Will the new Cameron County-based district get changed? Will the new CD-27 still put Nueces County in the minority?"
- "The GOP got greedy and will pay the price, though the price will be relatively small in terms of the actual number of seats. We're likely to see both more minority districts as well as more Democratic districts."
- "And by default more democratic districts"

After this round of federal elections will the Tea Party be a major or minor factor in the next cycle of Texas legislative races?

- "(I assume that when you say 'this round' you are referring to the 2012 cycle and by 'next cycle' you mean the 2014 cycle.) Regardless, I am sure that the 'tea party' will continue to heavily influence Republicans primaries and legislative policy positions taken by Republican legislators. 'Tea party' groups are very well-funded have used that funding to build considerable infrastructure in Texas and elsewhere."
- "The TEA Party goal is to make RINOs an endangered species."
- "Tea partiers have their greatest influence on local and state front. Federal elections won't change that."
- "Let's see how the tea party does in this election."
- "Their moments in the spotlight will have passed"
- "The major effect will be to drive reasonable independent voters and seniors to the Democratic side. We are giddy with anticipation."
- "The numbers don't support this perception that the Tea Party was a major force. Their candidates only won in primary run-offs when voter turnout is low. The General Election was anti-Obama, not pro-Tea Party."
- "The Texas Republican Party is majority Tea Party."
- "General election voters will start participating in primaries. They will be the grown-ups."

- "Tea Party has been largely absorbed by the GOP, and is losing altitude rapidly as an independent force."
- "Depends upon the district. Tea Party appears here to stay for some time."
- "They seem to be losing their following. The mainstream does not want extremism which they still seem to represent."
- "Tea Party plays in the R primaries, since they all vote. With redistricting, R primaries are the only battle for more than 1/2 the seats in Texas legislative & federal races. So, yeah, they'll be a major factor."
- "Absolutely no effect. Once the voters realize the Tea Party almost gutted our school system, they will be seen as the uneducated, pathetic, racist ideologues that they are."
- "The Tea Party will become the GOP establishment in the next cycle."
- "That ship have done sail!"
- "These are hard working well funded people."
- "Too soon to tell. Conventional wisdom is Tea Party fades - but the economy will drive this trend up or down."
- "They are here to stay. Get used to it."
- "Shit happens."
- "Just because tea is hot doesn't mean it's strong."
- "There's always been a strong, anti-government vibe in Texas politics since we were Mexico. The anti-toll road folks were loud, but not pivotal. The Tea Partiers are no different."
- "The Tea Party remains a force to be reckoned with in the Republican primary."
- "Government doesn't look so bad after all in the wake of fires, drought, and horrifying cuts to local school districts. It's easy to say you're a Tea Party conservative - until the laid off teacher approaches you at church on Sunday."
- "The Tea Party is focused on run away spending. The spending has not stopped so they will still be a factor."