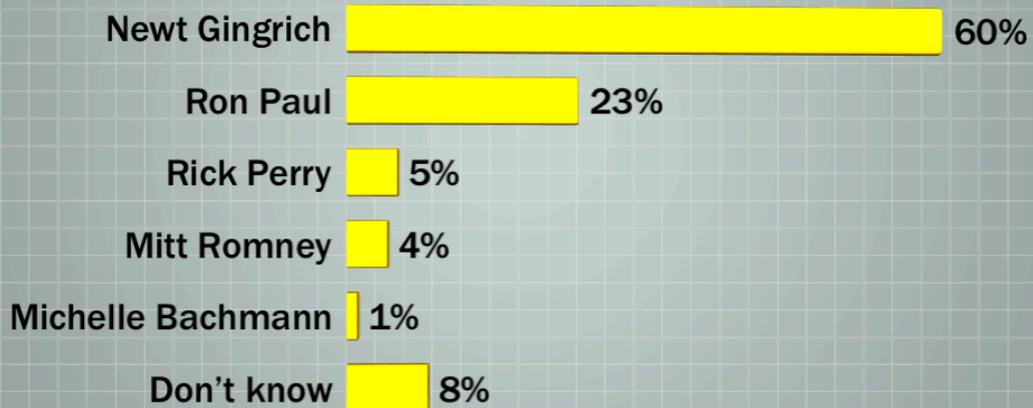


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of December 12.*

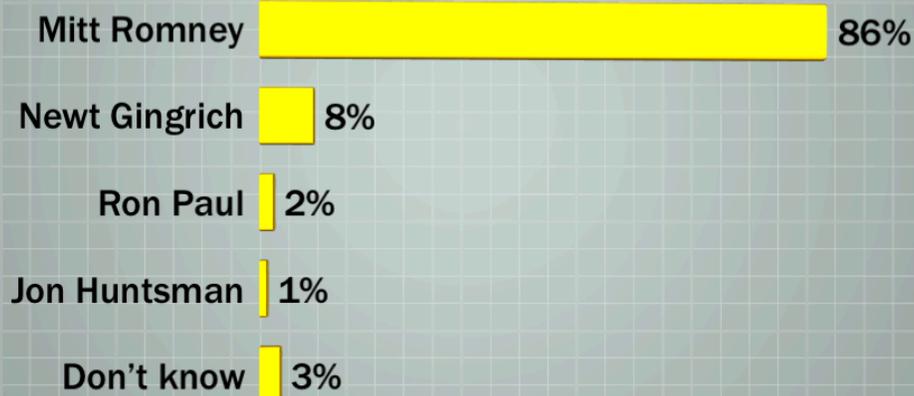
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who will win the GOP Iowa Caucus?



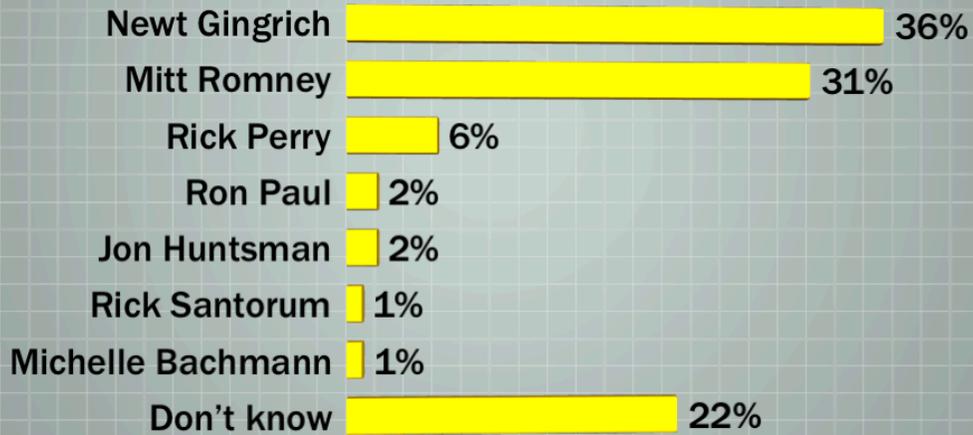
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who will win the GOP New Hampshire primary?



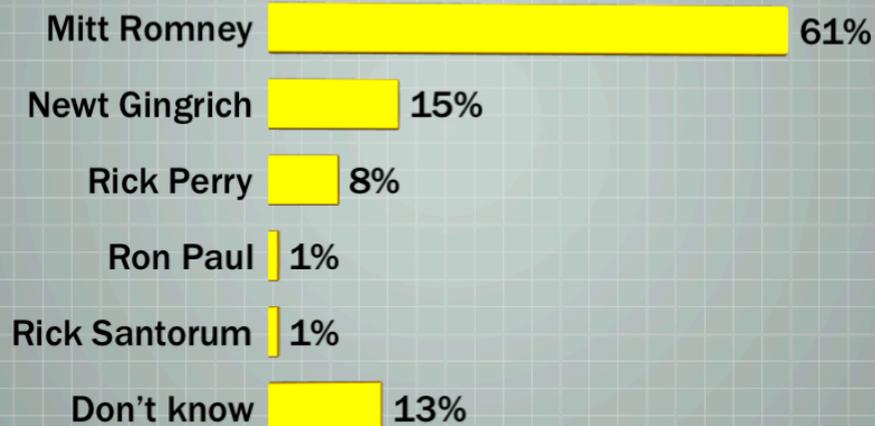
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Who will win the GOP Florida primary?



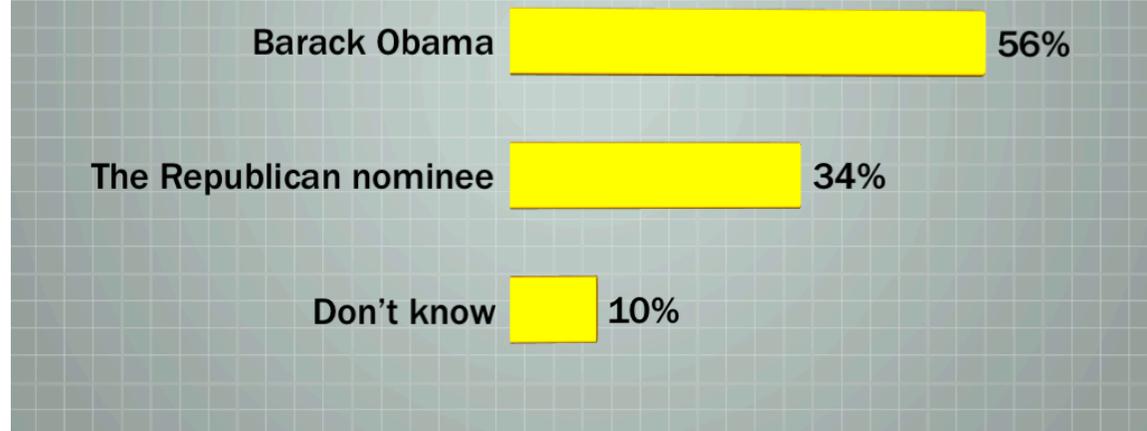
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Who will be the GOP presidential nominee?



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Who will win the presidency in November?



Who do you think will win the GOP's Iowa Caucus?

- "Caucuses favor candidates with committed supporters. While there is certainly a ceiling to Paul's support, his followers are loyal to a fault. Recall that he only narrowly lost straw poll to Bachmann a few months back. Given the splintering of the vote, he could win Iowa with under 25% of the vote."
- "The winner is not as important as who is in the top tier and who is not. Iowa may be more of an elimination contest. Candidates at the bottom and in single digits can 'turn off the lights, the party's over'."
- "Romney's still in good shape if he finishes second."
- "Not Huntsman or Santorum or Bachman"
- "Newt will under-perform due to organization broadly and with women specifically. The top four will be bunched up."
- "Newt's the flavor of the month. In the end, it'll be Romney."
- "Newt jettisoned Dave Carney and has risen ever since."
- "Is it too late for Fred Thompson to get in?"
- "And then Newt wins South Carolina and Florida."
- "Ron Paul...God save us all"

- "Paul has superior, committed organization to thwart Gingrich's surge."
- "Perry still has a chance of Gingrich falters"
- "Surprise. I would be surprised if Ron Paul won over this religious group but these guys and gals are nothing if not surprising"

- "Iowa voters have midwestern values which are heavy on decorum. Romney's 'play it safe' strategy will ultimately give him a hold there. Newt's tendency to pop off will turn IA voters off."
- "Paul will win because his Angry White Men movement is particularly well-suited to the caucus system."

Who do you think will win the GOP's New Hampshire primary?

- "It's not whether he wins but if he beats expectations."
- "I can't wait for his victory speech when he says, 'My friends' to a crowd made up of people who don't like him very much."
- "And then wins Nevada, 2nd or 3rd in Florida, wins Maine and battles Newt at convention for the nomination."
- "Romney will win, but his margin will not be as impressive as he hoped."
- "Geographical proximity to MA gives Romney a big leg up."
- "Romney will win in his backyard. If he doesn't, he is in SERIOUS trouble."

Who do you think will win the GOP's Florida primary?

- "It just depends on what happens beforehand."
- "A Romney win in Florida coupled with a New Hampshire victory and a credible finish in South Carolina would make him the presumed nominee."
- "Perry will win SC, team up w/ Newt and beat Romney in FL."
- "If Rick Perry's still in the game at that point, I bet Mitt Romney will be surprised to find out he was complicit in the murder of an elderly half Jewish-half Cuban cop."
- "Gingrich has a history of grabbing defeat from the jaws of victory, and two months is a long time away."
- "It's going to depend on who is still in the race. I don't think Gingrich is going to raise enough dollars to be a contender in Florida."
- "Safer positions on Medicare and Social Security mean a Romney locks it up in FL."

- "Gingrich--but it will be the last state he wins."

Who do you think will be the Republican nominee for president

- "At the end of the day, I think Republican voters will accept that Romney represents their best chance to retake the White House, and will hold their noses and nominate him."
- "At the end of the day, Romney offers the best chance to win in November."
- "I think in the end the GOP will realize Gingrich is not electable."
- "It will only be Mitt if the Republicans realize they'll have 4 more years of hope and change if it's anyone else."
- "Perry has a narrow path, but Newt and Romney have major problems."
- "I pray that Gingrich gets this nod!!!"
- "Wait. One of these jackwagons is going to be the nominee? Bahahahahahahahahaha!"
- "The rank-and-file like the ideological purists, but the money that runs the party will go with the guy they think has the best chance of beating Obama."
- "Mitt the Inevitable"
- "If Gingrich is nominated, Obama's chances improve markedly. Romney would be a stronger opponent."
- "That's a SWAG but, frankly, the entire GOP race this year is a SWAG."
- "If Gingrich falters, Perry can come back."
- "I would not rule out a brokered convention where they pick a candidate not in the race yet."
- "Romney is everyone's second choice, so he'll be the nominee. Call it the 'Electing a Speaker' theory."
- "Anyone else think Tan Parker should have gone ahead and run? He'd have as good a shot as anyone else on this list."

Who do you think will win the presidency in November?

- "Much depends on the trajectory of the economy over the next 6-9 months. Right now, I give Obama a slight edge but not much of one. Circumstances, the GOP nominee, etc, could either expand that edge or eliminate it. The 2012 election will likely be very close."
- "The President will be accountable for his ideology and his record."
- "Some politicians are just lucky and Obama will benefit from the Republicans disarray and an improving economy. Not that I agree with everything this administration

has done but I think he's done a good job overall considering the pile of crap he was given in 2008. We could easily have 20 percent unemployment without TARP, the auto bailouts and the stimulus package. Obama has also made some good calls on the foreign policy side -- he killed Bin Laden for you, didn't he? He'll never get credit from the other side for anything positive but I think the American people will look at it a little more realistically."

- "The state of the economy will determine who will win the 2012 general election. If the economy is prospering, President Obama will be re-elected; the electorate will gladly provide him an opportunity keep moving forward. However, if the economy continues to stagger or worsen the Republican nominee will be elected as our next president."

- "The debacle of the R primary, where Africa is a country, all Muslims are terrorists, the border should be fenced and illegals deported, voting age is now 21, and euthanizing uninsured hospital patients is an applause line... shall I go on (oh the nominee is Mormon)"

- "Republicans, as always, overreached and have lost their momentum from 2010 -- plus the economy is ticking up. The party of mid-term elections will be reminded of their impotence."

- "Mitt has a chance . . . don't see anyone else on the R side at the moment who has a prayer."

- "I say Barack only because the R field is so bad."

- "Romney, Newt and Perry can all win."

- "Obama's lost a lot of luster compared to 4 years ago, but the R's have nothing."

- "Huntsman is the only possibility the GOP has, and the tea party won't buy him!"

- "That is, unless Mark McKinnon's independent fetish du jour actually does something effective."

- "The Rs have failed to put forward a Candidate that will generate enthusiasm from Independents."

- "Splitting the country with two third party candidates, one funded by FOBO and the other by Donald Trump."

- "Unless the Dems replace Biden with Hillary then its a new game"

- "Romney will attract independents and disaffected 08 Obama voters, but will lower the turnout among the party faithful. Anyone else will have the support of the rabid, but scare away the independents. Either way, Obama (amazingly) gets four more years to try to get it right."

- "Incompetence on the part of Republicans likely leads to another four Obama years."

- "If Romney is the GOP nominee, then Romney. If Gingrich is the GOP nominee, then Obama."

- "Al long as unemployment keeps creeping downward, I don't know if the President has much to worry about."

- "Obama is looking smaller by the day."
- "He shouldn't but the GOP has made such a mess of this only a complete economic collapse or Iran nuking somebody could make it possible for the GOP to win."
- "It depends on the unemployment rate/economy. Too soon to tell. It also depends on whether or not republicans can actually formulate a message that says what they will do to fix the country/economy and be for something not just against Obama"
- "The Tea Party tractor beam will draw the R nominee too far from the middle. Obama by a length and a half."
- "The economy is going to get worse, not better, by next November. That spells defeat for the incumbent."
- "The Republicans have somehow managed to mess up a golden opportunity for them..."
- "The GOP Congress in the name of cutting the debt will tank the economy and Obama will look like Carter... a nice guy who can't lead."
- "Only the Republican Party could save Obama and they appear hell bent on doing it."
- "It'll hinge on the economy. If it improves, I change my vote to President Obama. But at this time, I just don't think it's going to get there."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Brandon Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, James Aldrete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Reggie Bashur, Walt Baum, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Terri Burke, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Hector De Leon, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Terry Frakes, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Albert Hawkins, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, 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, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Kim Ross, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.