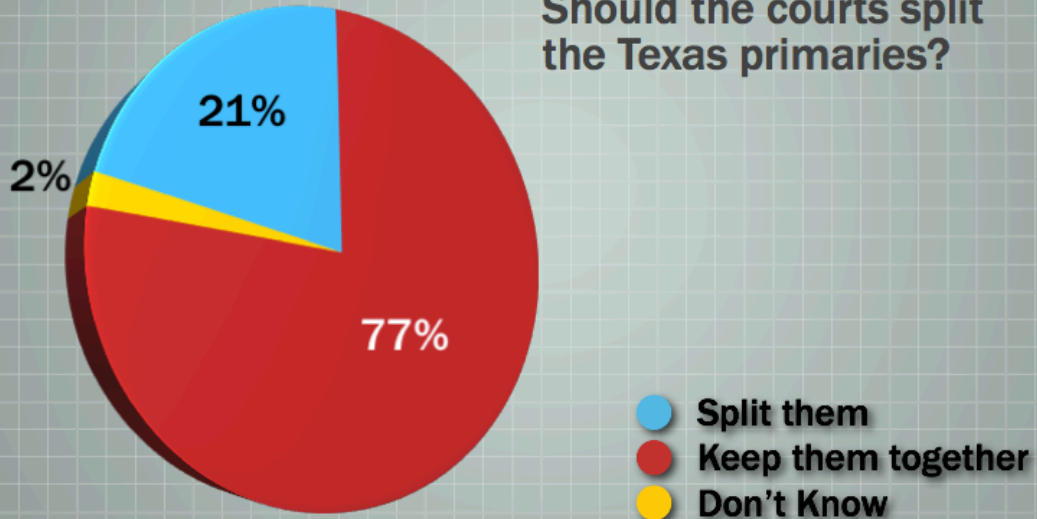


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of December 19.*

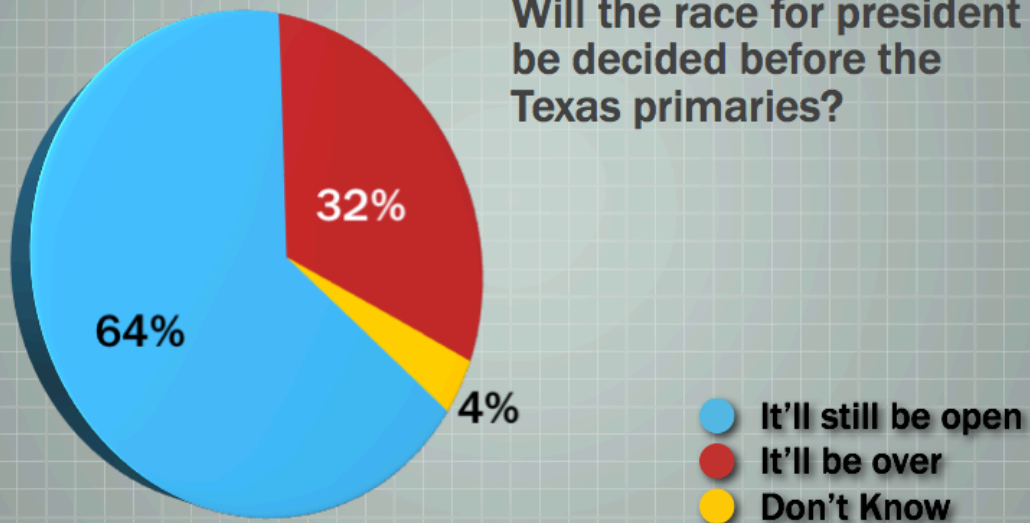
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should the courts split the Texas primaries?



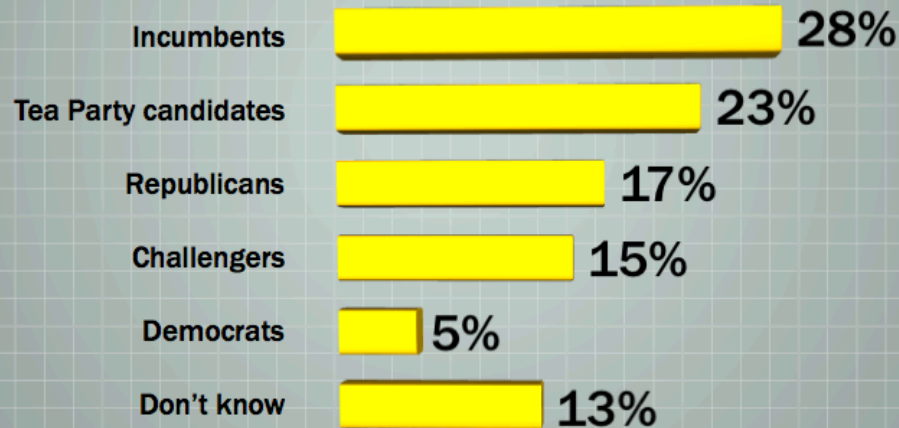
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will the race for president be decided before the Texas primaries?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who would benefit most from a split primary?



Should the courts split the primaries, with legislative and congressional elections later in the spring and everything else on March 6?

- "Let us not punish the rest of down ballot candidates for our failure to draw lines. It's middle of December and we still do not know what lines are going to be used. Time to move forward with a May primary."
- "The court should recognize the situation the Republican leaders have caused and hold a much earlier hearing so that important election schedules are not affected by GOP stupidity."
- "Keeping them all one date is really the only fair way to do it, for taxpayers and candidates."
- "The vast majority of the competitive races are below the state legislative level. Pulling the rug on these local campaigns that have been underway for months because the State can't take care of its responsibilities is wrong."
- "All in May"
- "If logistically possible, one election date is preferable. "Normal" people are fatigued by multiple election dates."
- "Too soon to know."
- "The more you split, the less the turnout. The less the turnout, the more the crazy."
- "The San Antonio court will disenfranchise voters further by

splitting the elections and making it more difficult on voters who must now bring a photo ID to even cast their vote."

- "Adding to election costs and creating voter confusion is not a good recipe."

- "Waste of money and kills turnout to split dates. The waste of money alone should decide this."

- "Don't we like to not spend money in Texas?"

- "Hard-nose Repubs would love to have the primary kept in tack but at a later day - that's what some of them wanted out of SB 100 this past session - to help Texas be more of a player in presidential politics."

- "Let's see how low we can drive turnout down by splitting them."

- "Presidential race should be split out. Because of precinct configurations, it is impractical to have 2 primaries for state and local offices."

- "No way in hell should there be split dates. We are already dealing with some cities opting to have municipal elections in May, despite the passage of SB 100. I can't imagine the amount of voter confusion if there were three different elections in a two month time span."

- "No way to justify the cost of an extra election."

- "You'd have to be democracy to want to split up the primaries. Sorry... There's just no way to defend the idea to spend more money to make it harder for people to vote."

- "The Republican legislature overplayed its hand, knowingly, and Abbott botched the pre-clearance process. These were unforced errors and are likely to be very costly."

- "Delaying all primaries until May or June would be the best decision so as to not make a farce of 217 legislative elections. Of course, because that makes sense, it is certain we won't do that."

- "Too few voters turn out as it is. The more dates, the fewer voters."

Will Texans, voting on March 6, have a say in who will be the Republican presidential nominee, or will the race be over by then?

- "It will still be wide open and that should be good news for the President."

- "This despite the fact some don't realize it's already over!"

- "The race may still be open but the governor may not be a major factor by that time."

- "Done; finito, Elvis has left the building; of course we are TEXANS, and will still pretend we are the DECIDERS!"

- "With this field, the decision will be made at the last minute, probably by brokering between candidates or at the convention. Only exception would be if Huntsman runs first or

second in New Hampshire. If that happens, he will capture the nomination."

- "You couldn't drag Ron Paul out of this race with a team of angry mules. He'll keep the race alive long beyond Texas."
- "Question is whether Perry is still in"
- "If R's wish to win next November, it will still be open based upon current polling."
- "It's such a cluster right now it is simply impossible to see a scenario by which it is sorted out by then."
- "Texans get their chance to loudly say who the Republicans nominate."
- "The field will be narrowed, but Romney's numbers will not overwhelm."
- "As volatile as the R primary has been to this point it may very likely be still open."

• "Perry will be long gone, but neither Gingrich or Romney will have the race wrapped up by March."

- "In a strange time stranger things can happen."
- "Texans will not be voting on March 6, so question is faulty."
- "For a long time, presidential primaries were heavyweight bouts with early knockouts. This one could go the distance, but I don't think Perry will be there. Therefore, a later Texas primary won't matter that much."
- "Romney will be the nominee"
- "Iowa will not be conclusive and this makes New Hampshire less meaningful. The fight in the South will take the race to Super Tuesday."
- "But it will be closed to our governor"

Who would benefit most from a split primary?

- "Don't incumbents in Texas always have an advantage?"
- "Looking back at republican primary data (we don't have generals in TX), close to 65% of primary voters never had a prior primary history. These are the same dissatisfied voters that want change. They may come out in a presidential, but majority will stay home in May."
- "In theory, incumbents will have more ready access to contributions

and be better prepared to move quickly when a date is announced. Challengers are at the mercy of the courts, whereas incumbents have a period of time to move if they are drawn out of their districts."

- "Unfortunately, the extremes benefit most from split primary as they are the most likely to turn out. Bad for the state!"
- "Incumbents should be very scared. Lower turnout = conservative clout."

- "Low turnout = Surprises." happens for them at the top of the ticket."
- "Less turnout = More crazy."
 - "Depends on how they are split."
- "Democrats will split their primary, too. U.S. Senate seat, plus judicial races where the trial lawyers are attempting to nominate a candidate. Incumbents benefit."
 - "The better organized team wins, and hell, the Democrats are having trouble fielding candidates, much less getting voters to the polls."
- "Most special interest groups."
 - "Lower turnout would inevitably favor the most motivated"
- "Dewhurst."
- "Some Republicans."
 - "Lower turnout in the primary should help the best organized interest groups in both parties. That is always the case when turnout is low."
- "The democratic turnout will be depressed without the primary battle. If the republicans are still at it - a split bill could depress turnout in May but the beneficiary is likely tied to what
 - "Splitting the primary will lower turnout in both, but especially in the late or May partial primary."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, James Aldrete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Reggie Bashur, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Tris Castaneda, William Chapman, 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, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, Michael Grimes, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Adam Haynes, Susan Hays, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Debra Medina, Robert Miller, Lynn Moak, Bee Moorhead, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, John Weaver, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, Seth Winick, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.