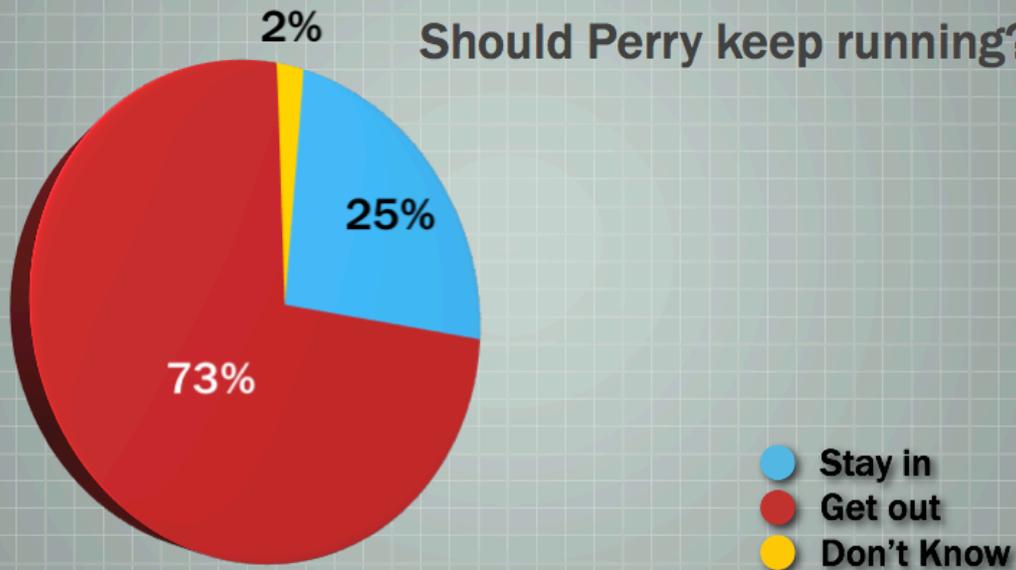


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of January 9.*

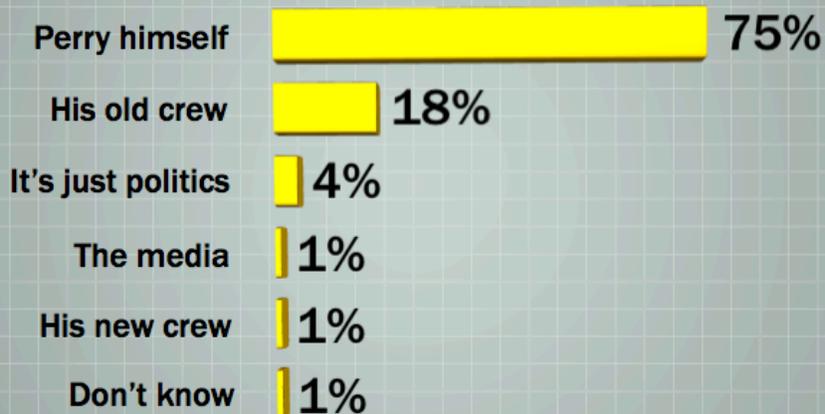
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should Perry keep running?



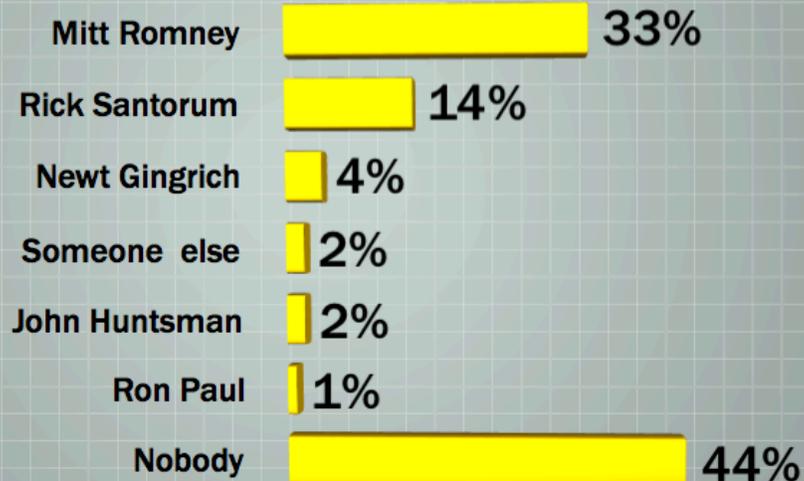
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who's to blame for Perry's performance so far?



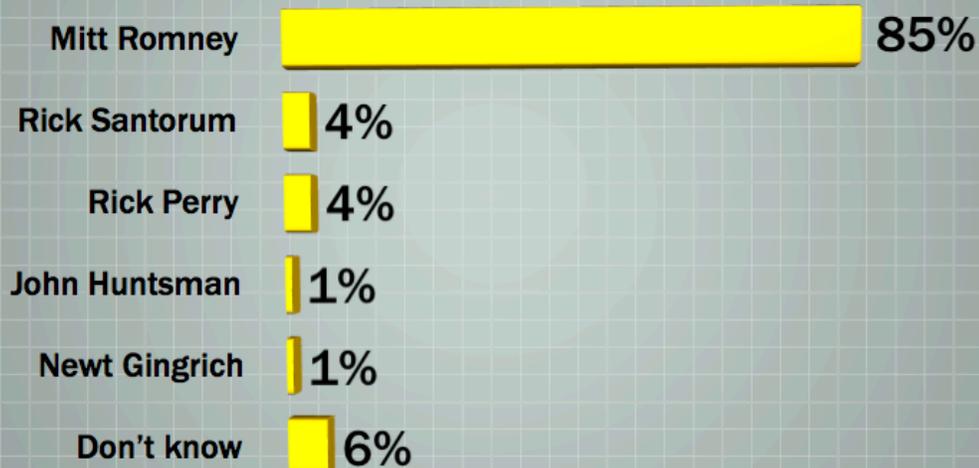
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who should Perry endorse if he gets out?



# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who will be the GOP nominee?



*Rick Perry finished fifth in Iowa and is returning to Texas to 'reassess' his campaign. Should he stay in or get out of the race for president?*

- "When Perry finally drops out, I'm sure he'll refer back to the Aggie mantra - he didn't lose, he just 'ran out of time.'"
- "He needs to stay in...Gingrich has too much baggage, Santorum is too far right, and Romney can't get above 25% support within his own party. Therefore, a conservative southern governor, like Perry, could have a resurgence."
- "Rick Perry has never lost a race. In terms of his legacy and ego, he needs to finish strong with a win in South Carolina, or he is really going to be perceived as a lame duck governor. This is about redemption."
- "It looks like he's auditioning for a Fox News show, but what do I know?"
- "Leave the porch light on, Momma. Governor Perry will be coming home soon."
- "SC is a better test of his appeal. Plus he could setup for a cabinet position."
- "The non-Mitt candidate is still being sought. Why not stay and see if Newt's attacks end up helping Perry."
- "I am just now getting around to responding and think that question 1 should be reworked. Always check with the Governor on major decisions AFTER his run."
- "Retrospective view is that Pawlenty bailed too early. Pundits won't be able to say that about Perry."
- "Never should have been in the race."
- "It's time for him to start rehabilitating his image here at home. The sharks smell blood."
- "He was finished as soon as he proved he was incapable of debating Obama"
- "He's as likely to emerge as the ultimate not-Mitt candidate as anyone and could perform very well in SC if properly funded."
- "Just to keep his fightin' image alive in Texas, he needs to stay in through SC. Quitting now would make him look too easily discouraged."
- "We need him gone as long as possible."
- "S. Carolina is the firewall-if he finishes 3rd or lower there, he should get out."
- "Texas politics needs our only governor to get out there and show us what it is all about! Excellent job Governor!"
- "Depends how badly he wants to finish fifth in NH."
- "Perry may pick up the big southern states so if he's in it, stay in it."
- "It's a toss up. If Perry stays in, it will help to bleed Republican funders--particularly the most reactionary among them. But by staying in Perry will probably help Romney--seemingly the most electable in

November of the current Republican candidates--by dividing ultra-right-wing activists. (Guess which party's presidential nominee I probably won't be voting for in November.)"

- "The RNC needs their butts kicked for this WACKY primary."
- "He is not helping himself."
- "Oh please! From here on it's only about vanity, or maybe increasing future speaker fees."
- "His demeanor was that of a defeated man. If you can't handle rejection, you can't run for president."
- "Late night TV would get very boring"
- "It was time to quit before he started."
- "When the public views you as a 'dim bulb', there is little that can be done to overcome that obstacle."
- "His funders want their money back."
- "Get on down the road."
- "The only reason to stay in is to leverage delegates at the convention."

### *Who is to blame for Perry's showing in the race so far?*

- "The 'Oops' moment rivals Admiral Stockdale for one of the most inept debate gaffes ever."
- "His ability to get and keep good people to help him has not been good. That is his fault, not the people around him"

- "Stick a fork in him."
- "His presidential game is over, and his campaign for VP begins anew. Be gracious, then be gone."
- "At this point it would seem that he has some level of duty to his Texas contributors (who are legion) to give one more state an opportunity to reject him."
- "Santorum momentum sucks the air out of the Perry bid. Worst possible scenario is for Perry to limp along and then NOT win in Texas . . . whenever that might be."
- "At this point, the only person pulling for him to stay in is Mitt Romney."
- "In any other year, he would be finished. But this is an unprecedented campaign, and he certainly has less baggage than 'put folks like me in jail' Newt or 'no contraceptives' Santorum"
- "There's really no difference between staying in or getting out. He's already lost."
- "NOW!!"
- "End the pain."

- "Blame can also be shared with Perry himself. His hubris is the reason why he faltered the last few months."
- "'Blame' is the wrong approach to understand what has happened thus far and why. The real question is what has Perry and his team learned

so far, and whether it is possible to build a winning strategy going forward."

- "It's both Perry and his advisors. His image on a national stage has not been reflective of his record. His campaign commercials have been awful and out of touch."

- "The blame part is less interesting than discovering just how resilient Perry is. The guy can just get back up and move on, over and over again. It's amazing."

- "He had early momentum. He had an experienced team. He had the money. Ultimately, it's up to the candidate to deliver - and he didn't."

- "And a poor prep job by old Austin advisors."

- "Although he would be a poor President, he's electable if he and his handlers can keep him focused on 3 messages that he rehearses over and over and over. When he strays off message, his lack of education and inexperience in national/international affairs is highlighted by everything he says."

- "The 'oops' moment will live forever. Bad debates were forgotten with his strong debates, but that one brain freeze knocked him to bottom."

- "The answer is two fold. Debate gaffs were the heart of his failure. There was no policy laid out, just Texas, Texas, Texas. That is the policy shops failure."

- "Underestimated the need to have a mastery of policy issues and the need

to actually respond to criticisms rather than just brushing them off."

- "Perry just isn't qualified to be president as was evidenced by his inability to articulate answers to questions."

- "His old crew should've known his strengths and weaknesses. The team cannot take the credit for all of the victories and then say it was someone else's fault for the loss."

- "Perry has never been serious about public policy issues, even on the state level. It is impossible to get up to speed on federal issues in a couple of weeks -- particularly if you have no real base of knowledge to build on."

- "He's not ready for the Presidency, and no amount of coaching and speechwriting can get him there this cycle."

- "Really it is hard to pin the tale on the Rick. But how about the people who always made him what he is today--his lobby cronies."

- "Something that rhymes with 'buck up' stops there."

- "Have a heart' for illegals? Won't fly in Iowa any more than it has in TX."

- "'All of the above' is the best answer. Neither Perry nor his advisors were prepared to deal with his #1 status so soon after actively entering the campaign. It was like stepping into the fastest part of a moving stream without fully adjusting for the force of the water. He was knocked down and just could never get back on his feet."

- "The idea that what Perry has done to become and remain Governor would prepare him to be a Presidential Candidate was always absurd. He should never have been in the race."
- "Also: The Democrats (and maybe the media) for failing to push him hard in any election so far, leaving him unprepared for the big time."
- "He blew the debates"
- "Perry's Texas campaign team made the classic mistake of believing their own good press. The advisors who thought they could run a candidate for president who couldn't string two coherent sentences together should give Perry his money back."
- "The old crew insulated him and coddled him. Then they rolled him out like he was the second coming. Impossible expectations (which they created) hobbled him from the jump."
- "Oops"
- "They had him go 'mean' in the early debates even though he was the frontrunner."
- "Oops."
- "Old advisors didn't do a very good job preparing him for the national scene, but it was HIS recurring poor performances in the debates and in front of the media that submarined any possibility of a viable campaign."
- "You can't whip a mule to a win in the Kentucky Derby."
- "Oops!"
- "In way over their heads. Carney in the business of collecting fees and doing little. Did Perry a disservice by not prepping him on the issues and holding him out of debates in previous campaigns."
- "Actually all of the above. He wasn't ready. Over confidence and naïveté led to major gaffes he never could recover."
- "All of the above?"
- "The buck stops at Perry. He wasn't ready for prime time. 'Nuff said."
- "When President Bush ran in 2000, he turned every question into how taxes were too high. Perry started out touting his record of job creation, only to abandon that message (and a bunch of others) over the past few months. Poor execution for such a great campaigner."
- "Old guard are extension of him... reflect same narcissism, hubris"
- "The buck stops with Rick. Old gang, new gang, no gang - he knew his limitations as did they. Rick can head back to the rental and rest his back. The hacks can count their money. It was quite a ride."
- "Campaign advisors just not ready fro 'prime time.'"
- "Is this a trick question of some sort?"
- "He was never qualified to even run in the first place."
- "The buck stops at the top."

- "Perry and the old advisors. No one had the guts to look him in the eye and ask him if he knew enough to run for President. Good night, if GWB wasn't embarrassed to construct his own Kaplan course for our highest office, someone should have at least asked the governor if he could name all the cabinet agencies."

- "The Perry game plan was excellent. The candidate himself is ultimately in charge of debate prep"

### *Who should Perry endorse if he gets out?*

- "He should endorse a conservative candidate like Santorum, but the conservative alternatives to Romney are all unelectable. He would be endorsing a conservative loser, just like himself. This race will be over this month anyway. Romney will be the R nominee."

- "Assume he wants now to be considered for VP, he can't get Mitt to ask him. He seems to be odd man out. I think he should step out and try to moderate the Rep party, but he can't do that as he is too far right. His following is a minority."

- "I guess it depends on what he wants to get out of it."

- "What's a Rick Perry endorsement worth?"

- "Few would care who Perry supports."

- "Most thought only Perry or Romney could raise the money and create a national organization and it

- "To be honest...ALL of the consultants. Perry never had a shot and all of the sycophants he has surrounded himself by over the years just saw the dollar signs."

- "It was a combination of bad strategy and a flawed candidate but in the end, it was Perry who did in Perry."

appears only Romney will remain viable."

- "Rick Perry endorse someone in a race that he lost? Who wrote these stupid questions? Reeve?"

- "Eventual nominee. Might as well start the healing process early."

- "Don't think who he endorses is of national interest but I suppose he does have a following of ultra right wing pro life people who might care."

- "Wait for the field to stabilize and endorse before Super Tuesday and the Texas Primary!"

- "Santorum's timing is perfect; he's now set up as the alternative to Romney."

- "Romney's the only electable guy they have."

- "They seem the closest in alignment on religion being a key driver of political discourse."

- "Mike Toomey"
- "He needs a chance to rebuild, and his endorsement now will only give the media a chance to rehash his poor performance and make him seem all the more political."
- "I assume you meant to endorse to help them win--"
- "Does it matter?"
- "I'm not all that sure any of the remaining candidates would welcome Perry's endorsement."
- "Perry's endorsement would only carry weight in Texas, and by that time he'll still be in it to win it!"
- "Divide and conquer."
- "Anybody BUT Romney or Huntsman."
- "He has the money and can beat Obama"
- "He should strongly support and actively work for the eventual nominee, but no one before."
- "I would wait until much closer to the Texas primary to endorse. Field will narrow considerably by then. Unless he is looking for a Cabinet post..."
- "Santorum. Assuming, of course, Rick was actually truthful about his religious commitment."
- "Rick Perry should endorse Newt Gingrich. After all, Gingrich wrote the forward for Perry's book Fed Up which is more than Rick Perry wrote for the book."
- "The smart bet is to hold off for now. The closer the primary gets to Texas, the more influential his endorsement is and the better the deal he can cut."
- "Romney will be the nominee."
- "Go with the lead horse."
- "Just to make for a more interesting Republican primary. Don't really see how he can endorse anyone as he has trashed most of them, either directly or indirectly, for being Washington insiders."
- "Santorum has the magic. He's giving Reaganesque speeches. Time will tell if working people fall for it again."
- "Obama."
- "He will endorse the likely winner later."
- "It won't matter."
- "If he's looking out for #1 (himself), Perry will endorse Romney. If he no longer cares, then he'll endorse Santorum or no one."
- "Romney has won. Santorum can't win, ditto Paul. Bachmann is toast, Newt is Newt, and Huntsman has not caught fire. So, why not back the winner?"
- "He now has no friends, no cred, no exit strategy... has Alberto Gonzalez problem... does an endorsement get him an exit?"
- "If he wishes to be VP, maybe he'll endorse the eventual nominee...gives Romney a diminished set of

complimentary gifts that at one time included teavangelical street cred. More than Dan gave Bush 41."

- "How about if he just butts out?"
- "Why would anyone want his endorsement"
- "If the Governor is serious about defeating Barack Obama in November then he should endorse someone that has a fighting chance to defeat him."
- "He will have done sufficient damage to his credibility at that point. Why add more?"
- "If object of the game is to beat Obama, he should endorse Romney. Republicans have a golden

opportunity, and are doing everything possible to mess it up."

- "Whoever promises to give Perry and his team the most spoils. Why should he change his MO now that he has something genuinely valuable to put on the auction block?"
- "If he gets out, Perry should stay relevant by endorsing the ultimate nominee just before it becomes obvious. Right now, I'd say endorse Mitt the weekend before Florida"
- "It's time for Herman Cain to make a comeback!"
- "Get on the train that's going to be there in the end."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, James Aldrete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Mike Barnett, Reggie Bashur, Walt Baum, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, Scott Dunaway, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Alan Erwin, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Robert Floyd, Kyle Frazier, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, Michael Grimes, 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, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Bryan Mayes, Patricia McCandless, J. McCartt, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Kathy Miller, Robert Miller, Lynn Moak, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, John Pitts, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jerry Polinard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Kim Ross, Jeff Rotkoff, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Dan Shelley, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Stein, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, John Weaver, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Michael Wilt, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.