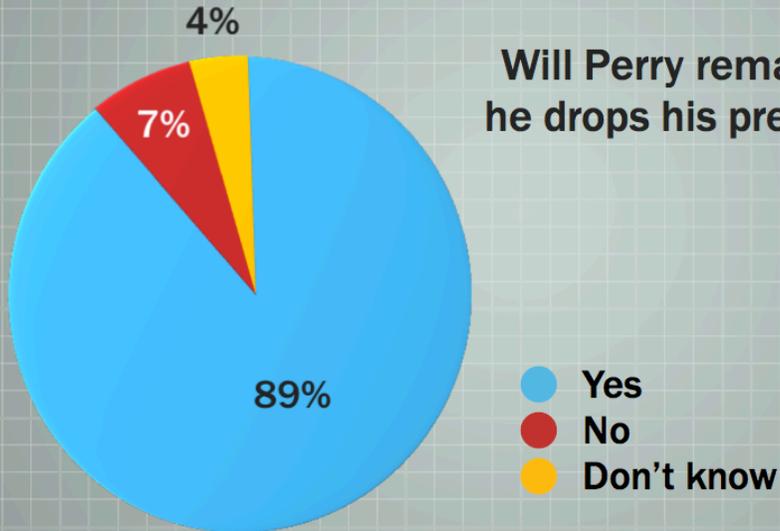


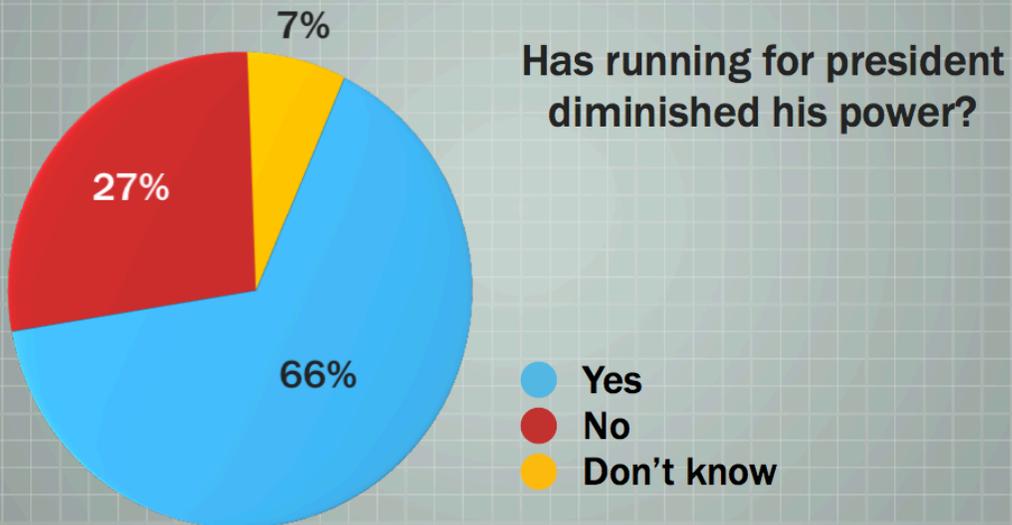
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of January 23.*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

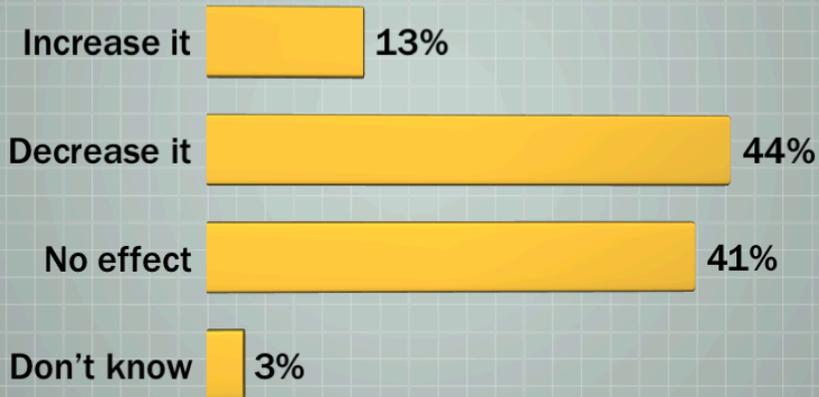


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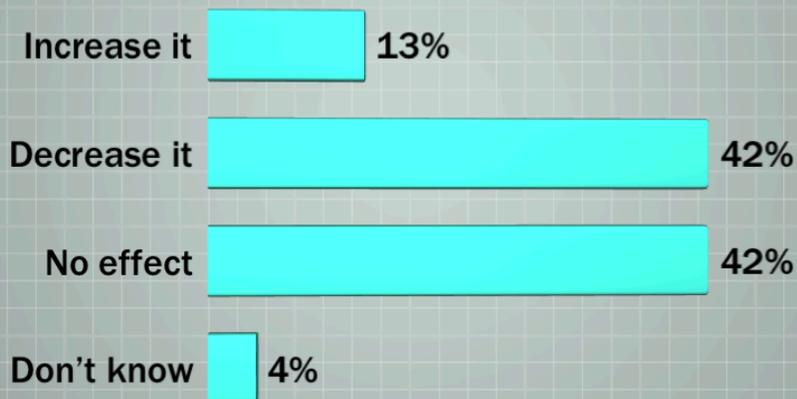
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How would it affect his power over state government?



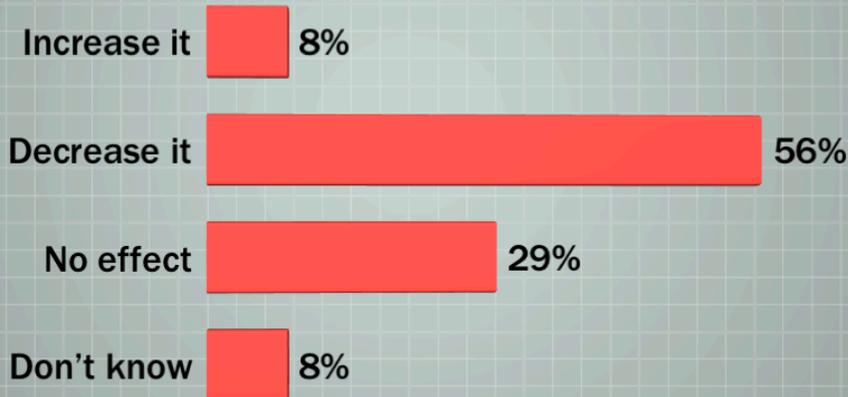
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How would it affect his power with the lobby?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How would it affect his power over GOP politics in Texas?



Will Gov. Perry remain in office if he drops his presidential campaign?

- "What else is he going to do?"
- "Why not?"
- "He has been an embarrassment and should step down."
- "Yes, but he won't run for reelection; Abbot's \$12million war chest will be a strong deterrent."
- "His cronies stand to lose too much if he leaves. They'll keep him in."
- "In fact, it's my guess that he will run again for governor."
- "Unfortunately."
- "Sadly, yes."
- "Stay as Governor, for now. He would be a candidate for a Cabinet appointment under a Republican President."
- "Why not? Free house, free security detail, and a salary to supplement the pension checks."
- "How do you keep them down on the farm after they've seen Paris?"
- "I could see a scenario where he drops out of the Presidential campaign, resigns from Governor and then the dominos really fall - Dewhurst to Gov, a whole new crop of folks running for the Senate and then even MORE House/Senate folks running for various statewide offices."

- "What else would he do? He's been so pitiful in the prexy race that there would not be much benefit to anyone to hire him, and A&M is taken now."
- "And Hell knows no fury like the scorn of a defeated Perry!"
- "Sadly for Texas the answer is yes. What other job would allow him to travel the world and "pitch" Texas on the tax payers dime."
- "Against the better judgment of 25 million Texans."
- "The Texas Constitution is verbose, but I don't think it requires a failed candidate for national office to resign his state office"
- "His term does not expire, why would he leave?"
- "He will go cash in on his deals at some point..."
- "He'll stay in office, but I think this will be his last term as governor."
- "Ego want let him leave."
- "It's a steady paycheck..."
- "He's never held a job outside of government before... why start now? Plus, he's built up that great pension. Only thing that will change the landscape is the possibility of a recall election."
- "No exit strategy, no apptmt prospects, and will want payback for those who didn't help"
- "What else would he do?"
- "The sobering alternative, as the Governor points out to Congress, is to get a real job."
- "I mean what would Anita do with him around the house all day?"
- "It's all about Rick. All. The. Time."
- "I assume he would stay on as Gov. Seems like a pretty good gig."
- "He has to--who would hire "Candidate Oops" now?"
- "As opposed to going back to his summer job as a Bible salesman? What the hell else does he have to fall back on?"
- "What else would he do? The job has minimal responsibilities, adequate pay, and plenty of perks."
- "I think he will leave before the next session if he can - hopefully as President Romney's Secretary of Agriculture."
- "Yes. He has shown that he is not smart enough to own his own home."
- "We can only pray that he will leave office as soon as possible."

Has running for the presidency diminished his power in Texas?

- "Those who loved (or feared) him still love him. Those who abhorred him still do."
- "Ivan Drago bleeds. He's not a machine. People will be less afraid of opposing him."

- "He has not only damaged his own brand, he has damaged the Texas brand. Texas will recover. It is not yet clear if he will."

- "Many in the Legislature will certainly feel his power will be diminished."

- "He's been shown as an emperor with no clothes. No longer will ambitious Republicans like Greg Abbott continue to wait for Perry's next move."

- "The clothes have come off the emperor."

- "This is the same individual whom some called Governor 39% just five years ago. He survived that, he can survive this."

- "He has been exposed on the national stage and has failed in epic fashion."

- "His power diminishes if he is a lame duck as Governor-not until then."

- "Some of his weaknesses have been displayed across the country."

- "Feet of clay."

- "I think the people here who love him still love him and feel he has been unfairly treated by the "liberal, national media"."

- "He has made so many bad appointments already that the damage is done and will live on."

- "Ironically, staying in through SC has restored some of what was lost -

he has performed well and with honor since the corn state shucking."

- "Well there's always the sympathy factor."

- "He retains his power of appointment of executive boards, commissions, and agencies. So he has that going for him, which is nice."

- "It hasn't diminished his power but the debates made him vulnerable for a much more articulate candidate to run against him, should he decide to run once again for a umpteen time."

- "The Lege had already discounted him last session."

- "Last I checked, he still has the veto power and the appointment power"

- "The emperor's lack of clothing has never been more apparent."

- "He may be weakened a bit by the run (as his #s in Texas have dropped) but he is still the Governor and his appointees still have pretty good control of state government."

- "Maybe a little. With the D's at their nadir and the lack of leadership in the Leg, there is no one to fill any power vacuum."

- "The aura of electoral invincibility is certainly gone, but he still wields the powers of the office and he has shown he is very good at that."

- "He certainly wasn't developing a public agenda here. No agenda diminishes power. We have already so many of his national agenda such as making government irrelevant to

the lives of the citizens given that we don't do anything."

- "Clearly demonstrated he is not up to the challenge and that the media has given him a pass for far too long."
- "Being a national laughingstock never helps."
- "But I do believe it has made him more humble and likely a better Governor."
- "To the extent his power is based on people's perception of him."
- "We still have the 83rd . . . and he'll still be Governor if he so desires. Who knows what happens after that?"
- "No, he'll be back to his old self when he returns. Remember, Annika Sorenstam (sp?) didn't stop winning PGA events after she flopped in her one tournament vs. the big boys."

How would ending his presidential campaign affect his influence over state government?

- "Ever so slight. He still has the power of appointment and his people are entrenched in most state agencies."
- "I think he is weakened regardless."
- "Guv should've come home after Iowa and start rehabbing his image. He is quickly becoming an afterthought and his oops moments continues to be nationally broadcast video clip during the debates."
- "He'll attempt to salvage his now-tarnished legacy by trying much

- "As we all learned in Iron Man 2, you don't have to kill God to lessen his power. You just need to make him bleed. Now Texas Republicans see how he's vulnerable and will be less willing to take marching orders from him."

- "For anyone else, the answer would be "Yes." Gov. Perry's political skills should never be underestimated."

- "Plenty of people are angry at his aggressive fund-raising tactics instate. He's also viewed as embarrassing the state with inept early debate performances. But he's still powerful because he's be governor during another legislative session in 2013."

- "Too soon to tell."

- "Now everyone knows what a buffoon he is."

harder to influence state government than ever before."

- "But he will still be in charge."
- "Might net out at zero. He'll be wounded in the Legislature but his appointees can still be effective."
- "Perry's power is not derived from his running for president. His power derives from his appointments. If his loyalists remain loyal, then he'll retain power. If, however, they go looking for the next politician who can reward them, then his power will wane."

- "But it will be a slow erosion, not an overnight decrease."
- "He's now vulnerable to challenges on all fronts since it's clear he's not bullet proof."
- "He is a neutered Governor."
- "Emboldens the Legislature. Not winning erodes the aura of invincibility."
- "The Perry "brand" has been damaged and he will be presumed to be a lame duck."
- "Staying in the Presidential race sure wouldn't increase his influence over state government."
- "He has appointed EVERY statewide board and commissioner in the last 10+ years. He still has some influence."
- "See comment to #2."
- "Hard to rule when in a foreign land racking up defeats."
- "Perry hurt his influence/brand during the primary, ending the campaign will not restore or further decrease what influence he has left"
- "He'll have another mostly hands-off session with no real elbow grease expended toward solving the State's problems, but he'll pop up every now and then for a glib media appearance. It'll be hard for serious policy wonks and earnest members to take him seriously after those debate performances."
- "He'll need to champion a bold, no-holds-barred agenda to re-assert himself and shore up his legacy."
- "Pay backs can be hell on either his own accord or on behalf of Toomey's clients."
- "He'll be wounded, so people will see him as a likely lame duck. So while he still has power, his influence will drop a bit"
- "Damage is done. Como se dice, 'lame duck'"
- "The times they are a-changing, and everybody knows it. The only question is how quickly his appointees begin to jump ship to get those lobby contracts for his last session in charge of the veto pen and ultimately tax policy."
- "If he chose to stand for yet another term in 2014, others would challenge him for the Republican nomination."
- "Usually public policy in Texas is the embarrassment when one of us runs for President. Perry made it all about himself. I don't think Texans want much more of this."
- "However, he will come home and deliver as many favors as he can, respecting the loyalty of his staff because he will not be running again and has nothing to loose."
- "Who wants to allow themselves to be bullied by a buffoon?"
- "He will no longer be distracted by the campaign and state government decisions will no longer be filtered through the lens of a national campaign."

- "The real issue is how he executed the campaign and himself in the process. His influence has already been negatively affected and ending it is a necessity for him to salvage any influence at this point."
- "No effect--it's the interim, after all."
- "Don't forget: He's probably also a lame duck besides being a national joke who recently polled in 3rd place in Texas."
- "His power derives from his appointments, which every board, commission and agency in the state."
- "His effect on state government is greatly diminished. It matters not when the money runs out of his campaign."
- "But see below. It's not his ending his campaign that will hurt him. It's the way he recently popped Romney for "vulture capitalism" that will piss off business Rs and Romney, who will not need Perry to carry TEXAS."
- "He'll be paying a little bit of attention again."

How would ending his presidential campaign affect his influence over the lobby?

- "He has hurt Texas with his campaign."
- "It will have no effect in the sense that it won't change him. Thus, pity those who he perceives were not sufficiently helpful to him in his bid for the White House."
- "I hope it decreases it."
- "He still has the power to call special sessions and he may be pissed enough to use it to show strength."
- "Now that they know he's not to follow in W's footsteps and likely not be re-elected (either by choice or by force), his influence will diminish mightily."
- "Any self respecting lobbyist will still recognize the need for a back stop."
- "Perry's influence over the lobby has more to do with what he does in 2013 (and 2014) than what he does in 2012. If he comes back to serve out his term, then the lobby will be back on bended knee."
- "Still Governor. Influence over lobby will be reduced only if the Legislature no longer follows his lead."
- "Lobby will presume he has one more session to have say over their business."
- "I'm sure the lobby will be happy when they don't have to give money and travel to small states on behalf of the Perry Presidential Campaign."
- "The lobby should blow him off when he returns, but there is that matter of all the appointments he's made with whom we're stuck."
- "Duck season."

- "After his national performance, the Governor doesn't have a prayer of reelection in 2014. As a result, he's essentially a lame duck. This will somewhat limit his influence over the lobby, but most will remain respectful and continue to play the game as they don't want their bills vetoed. Now, where's that list of lobbyists who flew to Iowa to support him..."
- "Um, he is still the governor."
- "Will have to wait and see who funded the Super Pac"
- "We have a "bought-and-paid-for" system... the guy with the ring gets the money... no exceptions."
- "Lame duck"
- "No need to travel to dead end states. He will still want money."
- "It will take more than a little embarrassment for Perry to end the pay-to-play culture in Texas."
- "It works the other way. Ending his presidential career means he gets rid of the consultants and goes back to the other consultants in the pink building."
- "The lobby will continue to pay attention because after all he will still control all executive branch appointments and regulations."
- "You don't bet on a racehorse headed for the glue factory."
- "He'll be far more engaged in Texas issues for the next two years. Expect another legislative session in which Governor Perry looks ahead to 2016."
- "Not sure the "influence" is decreased, but would think fundraising at the state level will slow down."
- "I think the move to finally elect a new governor is emboldened by the recent unpleasantness."
- "This campaign has already diminished the level of respect from the lobby. Most are smart enough to recognize the need for support from the governor's office to accomplish their client goals and it is wise to keep their opinions silent."
- "They've still got to live with him."

How would ending his presidential campaign affect his influence over Republican politics in Texas?

- "His power, short of getting elected President, was going to wane anyway. It's time for Governor Abbott in 2014 (at least if you ask the General), and it won't matter if RP is there or not."
- "His performance on the national stage exposes his weaknesses not his strengths. Once he gets off that stage he can get back to the basics that have kept him in office."
- "Probably should weaken him a bit in GOP insider circles but probably won't since there is no one to jump in."

- "The sharks that await to take the helm smell the blood of defeat."
- "He's said very harsh things about the probable R nominee and Texas won't be in play. He'll be a non-factor in party politics."
- "GOP politics in Texas has gone on without him."
- "Republicans like to talk about how "Republican" they are and Gov. Perry is good at that also."
- "I can't even pretend to predict what goes on in GOP politics."
- "Better than coming in behind Romney and Ron Paul in the Texas primary."
- "The GOP will be looking for a new leader who can win. Could be Dewhurst if he plays it right. Could be Abbott."
- "Except for his potential 2014 re-elect"
- "Ending will not be the problem. Starting it was the problem"
- "Wabbit season."
- "How many Texas Republicans publically endorsed his presidential run? Aside from appointments (which should not be discounted), he's not been a John Tower type influence on the party. He's not exactly been known as a team player in party politics. He's built his network, but not the party, and his effort as King Maker is checked by the voters after his appointments."
- "He'll need to champion a bold, no-holds-barred agenda to re-assert himself and shore up his legacy."
- "See above"
- "No effect unless someone wants to take him on."
- "He sucked all the air out of the room. Even Texans were awestruck by his performance. At least he didn't make us look badly as Texans. He stole the show. But I bet the Republicans were aghast or gassed."
- "No effect. He clearly has no effect now, while in the race."
- "Abbott has to be antsy."
- "Depends upon how he handles it, and how he frames any future political ambitions."
- "When Bush started focusing on DC, his political influence immediately started to wane and Perry, with a much different political base, started to gain."
- "I'm sure Greg Abbott has been considering his options lately."
- "Ultimately, the impact of the less than impressive campaign is to diminish his currency with major contributors--and that may impact the Texas political landscape sooner than later."
- "The sooner he quits what is now a quixotic national effort, the sooner he regains influence in Austin."
- "This comment applies to above three - no effect because he has already blown it."

- "It depends on what he does, and that hasn't happened yet."

- "His recent gratuitous attacks on Romney, not his getting out of the race, will diminish his influence."

Romney won't need Perry to carry Texas, and powerful Rs will want to be close to the R nominee for President. They go around Perry and straight to Romney folks."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Mike Barnett, Walt Baum, Eric Bearse, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, George Bristol, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Thomas Graham, Kathy Grant, Michael Grimes, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Albert Hawkins, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, J. McCartt, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Lynn Moak, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Kim Ross, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Dan Shelley, Christopher Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bryan Sperry, Jason Stanford, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, John Weaver, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Michael Wilt, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.