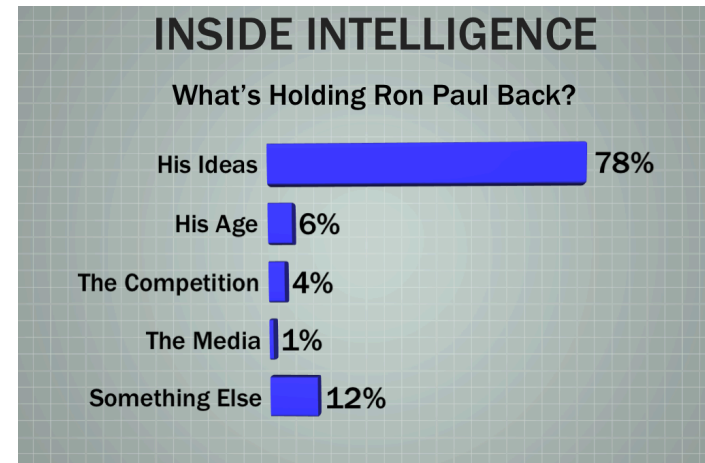
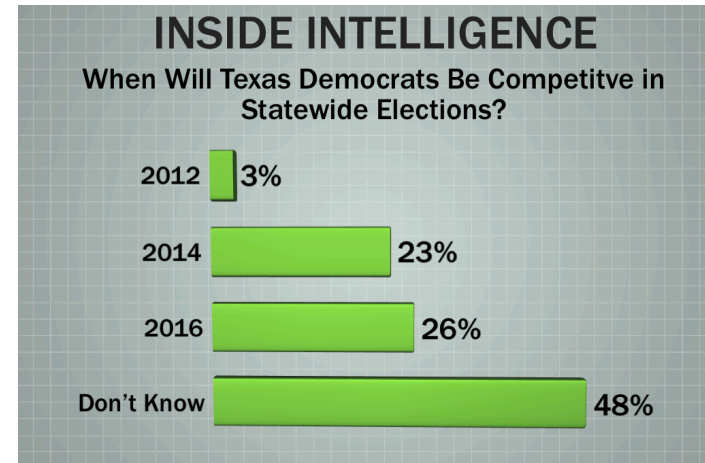


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of January 30.*

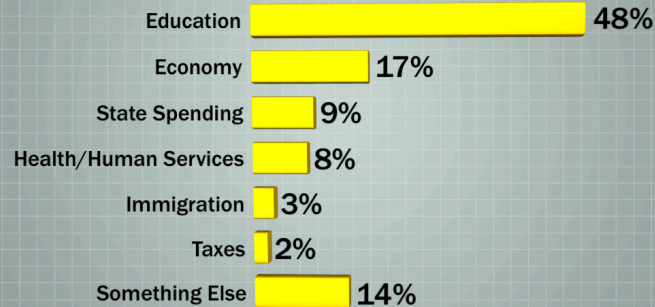
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE: The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll for 30 January 2012



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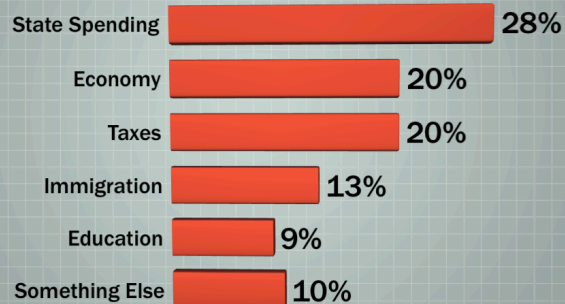
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

### What Will Matter Most in Democratic Primaries?



## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

### What Will Matter Most in Republican Primaries?



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### When will Texas Democrats be competitive in statewide elections?

- "Demographic/ voter studies since the 80's have been pretty accurate as to shifts in voting trends thus far (see Rs in early-mid '90s); those same studies have consistently pointed to ~2014-2016 as the point where Ds take back statewide offices. While the economy and other national events might have slowed some of this shift, esp for working class whites, the Rs certainly aren't doing much if anything to slow the continued solidification of the Hispanic voting bloc, so the voting trend predictions should generally hold."
- "Wish there was an option beyond 2016. Democrats will not be relevant until there is either a shake-up in the party's leadership or demographics allow the party to fail forward."
- "For the first time in a long while, there may actually be a window of opportunity for the Ds. And this time, the window may actually be open - just a bit, though."
- "There seems to me two big factors in Texas -the economy and the maps for Congress and the Legislature."
- "When they are no longer owned lock, stock & barrel by plaintiff's lawyers."
- "Not until they find a way to be pro-business, particularly small business in some way; find some message other than trial lawyer supplied messages."
- "Much later than any of these dates."
- "Dem failures are tied to structural and financial issues rather than ideology. With a strategy and a means to turnout the base vote, we will be competitive."
- "Rs have exploitable divisions, but Ds have zero organization, leadership, talent, resources;"
- "You might think in terms of "decades""
- "Is competitive the same as winning?"
- "When the Perry reign nears an end."
- "Maybe...for me to be confident of 2016, I'd need to see more evidence of bench-building right now. I ain't seen it yet."
- "The pendulum is swinging back to Blue."
- "Not anytime soon."
- "Depends on the redistricting outcome and whether the Ds can get their act together and then find and fund some good Hispanic candidates."
- "2018 is probably the earliest it could happen"
- "2020"
- "The times they are a changin'."
- "2022"
- "When will self-dealing cronyism become intolerable?"
- "They won't be competitive until they strike a more centrist tone with independents and the business

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community. And it would help if they found a source of funding that does not come from the trial bar"

- "If the Dems continue their shift to the left, it may be later than 2016 before they have a chance. Unless of course the Rs continue to move to the right."

- "Man, if I knew that..."

- "2020"

- "Democrats will not be competitive until they expand their contributor base beyond the trial lawyers who come up with most of their money and call all the shots now."

- "I hope the Rs can get their act together, but..."

- "2020 at the earliest."

- "Probably not until 2016, but under certain circumstances (Perry running for reelection or a scandal) the 2014 governor's race could be competitive."

- "We have no leadership and no funding short of terribly confined TTLA sources. We have no depth of leaders at all. Bill White is a fool. Only hope are young Hispanic legislators, and that could be long term, perhaps another full cycle."

- "First, some D Senators have to move out of the way, so all those young, well-educated, minority House members have a way to move into the spotlight."

- "Republicans have had a steady 12 point advantage for the last decade or so and that will come down slowly. How slowly depends on the growth of

Hispanic involvement. It's at least 10 to 15 years out."

- "Later. Would guess maybe 2020."

D" none of the above."

- "Perhaps never, if GOP ever successfully appeals to essentially-conservative, pro-family and anti-welfare beliefs of most Hispanics."

- "2020"

- "Texas Democrats will not become competitive as long as we continue to have a positive business climate. The only ones that can mess things up for the Republicans are the Republicans"

- "2018"

- "Obama will win re-election this year and allow Democrats in Texas to continue to be the minority party. As long as Obama is in office, Texas Democrats will have a hard time differentiating themselves from him and Republicans will take advantage of it. Therefore, 2016 will be the year Texas Democrats become competitive again. Plus, Texas Republicans will make some really bad votes in 2013 and 2015 session which will add to the ammunition Texas Democrats will use in the 2016 cycle."

- "When Hispanics start to vote in their numbers."

- "It will be sometime near the 2020 mark. The Dems have a branding problem and it will be a long time before they get a clue on how to fix it."

- "When will Latinos start voting their numbers? When will white women stop voting with their husbands?"

- "At earliest. Prob is same as Republican presidential candidates. Cannot be elected as "other". No candidates with a resume."

- "2020"

- "In my lifetime?"

#### *What is Ron Paul's biggest obstacle in the GOP primaries?*

- "His very narrow appeal"

- "Wish I could combine several of these, because I think his age and ideas tie into the media narrative that has dismissed him. While his ideas really are not that out of touch, the media decided that they are, and that has sadly impacted his campaign. However, when he is on the stump and in front of voters face-to-face, he wins them over. He has a loyal and dedicated following, but it won't be enough to win the nomination."

- "Even among those who admit they are "out there", Ron Paul is REALLY "out there.""

- "His willingness to say what he honestly feels. Voters don't really want that."

- "He is far to intellectual for the majority of voters, yet for those that listen he articulates something that nearly everyone believes and also fears."

- "Limited band width and appeal, by definition"

- "Longer than 2016. Other states indicate that someone will be picked off before Democrats are competitive, per se."

- "2020"

- "What is a Texas Democrat?"

- "2018"

- "A lot of Republicans love half of what Paul has to say and hate the other half."

- "HIS PERSONALITY"

- "Social Conservatives will never grasp the Libertarian view of keeping the government out of a woman's uterus, and therefore, will never trust him."

- "Way too out there on wars and foreign relations"

- "He's unpredictable"

- "Age and ideas - he's starting to sound like Grandpa Simpson."

- "Foreign policy."

- "Inability to deliver effective sound bites and concise, persuasive answers"

- "Ron Paul's biggest challenge is his lack of money to compete in tight and fluid election GOP primary competition."

- "He's too anti-war and goofy. But if he stays in, he'll get some delegates in caucus states. Wish it would make for a messy convention."

- "Actually, this needed an all of the above option."
- "The GOP"
- "His "cereal" supporters--there are too many fruits, flakes, and nuts in that bowl."
- "While his domestic policies--and specifically his fiscal policies--have broad appeal (especially among younger adults), his foreign policy is not grounded in reality. It's has some merit in theory, but in practical application it's woefully inadequate."
- "He's just about a half bubble off plumb but that half bubble translates into ideas that are viewed as weird and crazy."
- "I think his party would be more successful if they had a different face/ candidate that could connect with the voters better. He's been recycled too much; party needs a fresh face."
- "Foreign policy? What foreign policy?"
- "Republican voters hate his foreign policy as much as they do Romney care. Done. Over and out."
- "Media second"
- "He is ignorant about Islam."
- "Ron Paul is simply out of step with the great majority of Republican primary voters. His following, while loyal, is limited."
- "Plans not really thought out."
- "His purity is admirable, but it doesn't win elections."
- "Ron Paul's biggest obstacle is Ron Paul."
- "All of the above"
- "To far out on foreign policy."
- "Libertarians are growing in number, but they're still far from a majority in the GOP"
- "His crazy libertarian idealism."
- "How about how crazy he looks when he talks?"
- "He's a whiner devoid of charisma."
- "And his honesty"
- "His ideas provide the floor of his support but they probably also define the ceiling."
- "His the crazy uncle who keeps seeing black helicopters hovering over his house. The electorate doesn't take him as a serious contender."
- "He is well-suited to run on a third party ticket. While his ideas don't resonate with today's GOP, they would with a significant portion of the electorate -- not enough to win, but enough to shape the debate in a meaningful way."
- "His idiosyncrasies and personality."
- "All of the above."
- "Too libertarian and too much a zealot for most of the country."

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- "All the above! Plus he says he does not expect to win!"
- "Foreign policy views are disqualifying"

#### *What will matter most in this year's Democratic primaries?*

- "Electability and local issues"
- "The proverbial Democratic Party disconnect: Texans are concerned about economy. Ds will talk about state spending."
- "Reckless driving. No presidential primary forces us back to state issues and of those education was the number one road kill of the last session."
- "Normally, I would have put education; health care/ human services in that order."
- "Money to spend."
- "Standing up for Dem values & fighting back against the Rs."
- "Highly variable--there is also a throw the rascals out insurgency that is in both primaries but will be a function of local candidates and conditions"
- "Is Texas even going to have a Democratic primary this year?"
- "They're crazy if they focus on anything else."
- "Jobs and the economy are important and key issues for the Democrat and Republican voters this election cycle. Job/Economy, Education, Immigration and Health Care will be the issues that matter to the Latino voters."
- "Same old same old...more money, more money, more money."
- "Not sure anything matters at this point except having a lack of candidates, and without a presidential contest, there could be a real lack of participation."
- "It'll be the holy trinity of the Dems: health care/ human services, education, and protecting racial and ethnic minorities. You can't expect to win in a Dem primary without heavily emphasizing each of those equally."
- "Democrats are more rigidly ideological than Republicans. The playbook is always just gotcha over and over."
- "What will matter most is whether they have money to communicate. The uncertain primary has dropped a rock into the fundraising pond. Odds are one candidate in each race will have money."
- "Nobody likes Obama Care. He is out of touch on jobs and the economy."
- "Willingness to fight back vs. the GOP will be the most important factor in motivating Democratic voters."
- "Everyone will have to focus on this tragedy."

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• "D primaries aren't very competitive this year -- Nothing to fight over."

• "Even Speaker Straus realizes Texas revenues are insufficient to address the state's needs. But realizing it and fighting to address the revenue shortfalls are two different things."

• "Jobs"

• "Who cares? \$\$\$ for TV buys."

• "Party purity."

• "The democrats' constituents have a hire unemployment rate than the general population. It should be jobs, jobs, jobs."

• "The Republicans handed the Democrats an enormous gift when they carved up the public schools."

It's the economy stupid.""

• "Perception of the ability to impact the political process"

• "Last name"

#### *What will matter most in this year's Republican primaries?*

• "My head hurts when I try to figure out what Texas Republican primary voters will do in statewide races, let alone in local district races."

• "Economy. Taxes. Holding the line on state spending. Don't see the Rs ordering new hymn books for this election."

• "The Republican political class is concerned about consolidation. The chattering classes though appear preoccupied with scapegoats. The war with Mexican-Americans certainly seems to have captured the under active imaginations of many on the far right."

• "Unfortunately, this seems to be important in republican primaries. It should be other issues particularly education and state spending."

• "The magnitude of support from TLR and the Quinn Sullivan groups. Most interesting race(s) will be where

they are on opposite sides (e.g. Seliger race)"

• "The same social issues since 1994 (god, gays, guns) + Obama."

• "And euthanizing poor people without insurance"

• "They're crazy if they focus on anything else."

• "Who is more conservative."

• "Abortion and immigration"

• "Taxes, less government and electability of their presidential nominee are important issues for the GOP voters this primary."

• "Depends on when the primaries are held and whether Texas will still have a role in choosing the R presidential nominee. Otherwise, it's the same old stuff with these people -- taxes, immigration and rightwing demagoguery."

• "The U.S. Senate race will suck the air out of the Repub primaries in Texas. They'll try to focus on national issues, like the economy, but in Texas we're outperforming most states. I look for them to follow Perry's lead and take up a 10th Amendment/state's right cause. Case in point: EPA's attempt at overreaching regulations that would harm Texas."

• "Who's the most conservative"

• "Education from one set of challengers, taxes and spending from another."

• "Obama, Obama, Obama"

• "Economy STUPID!"

• "Opposition to Obama and the Democrats."

• "Whatever the ridiculous tea party is pushing."

• "The competition will be over who can make the most outlandish promises to stop the growth of the allegedly bloated Texas state government."

• "The argument is that the state must live within its means. The problem is that the means are insufficient."

• "Jobs"

• "Conservative credibility."

• "Trying to sound conservative without appearing clueless about how they're going to pay for the next budget after the state loses the education finance lawsuits."

• "The Republicans ran against Obama in an off-year. They won't be able to help themselves this time around. It will be Obamageddon all the time."

*Our thanks to this week's participants:* Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Walt Baum, Eric Bearse, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Mindy Carr, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Hector De Leon, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, Kathy Grant, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Albert Hawkins, John Heasley, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Billy Howe, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Robert Jara, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Phillip Martin, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, 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, Dan Shelley, Christopher Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.