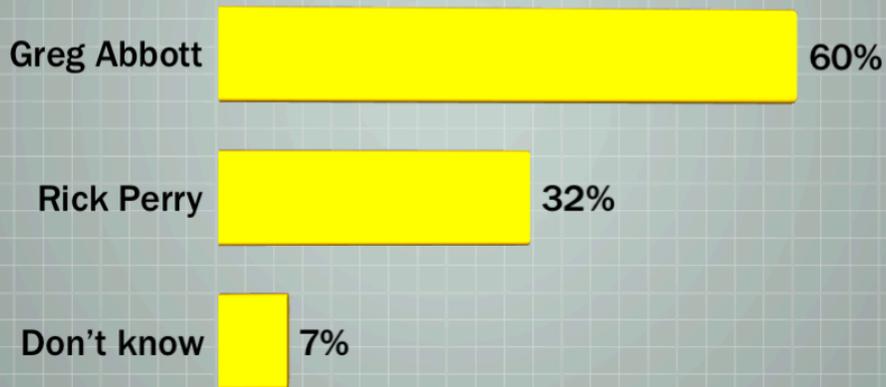


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of March 5*

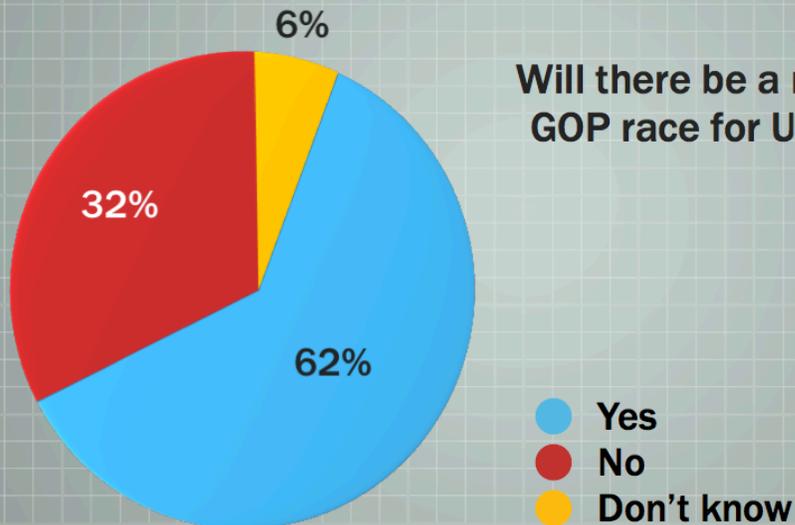
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Which candidate would win a
GOP primary for governor?



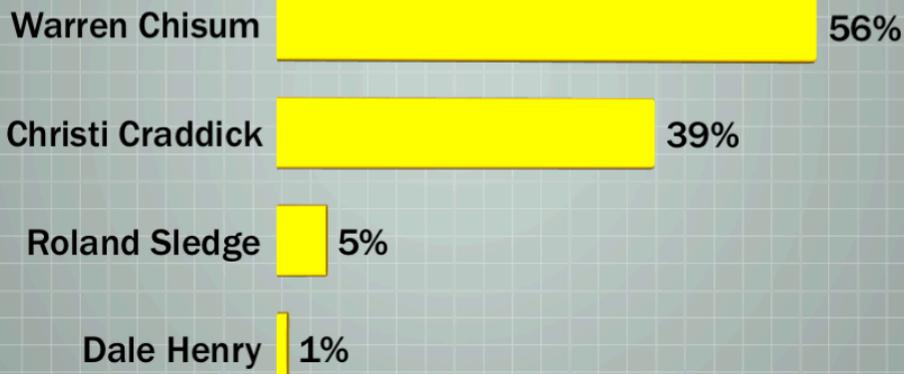
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will there be a runoff in the
GOP race for U.S. Senate?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who'll win the race for the open seat on the Texas Railroad Commission?



Who would win a Republican gubernatorial primary between Greg Abbott and Rick Perry?

- "At this point, just about anybody could beat Perry in the Republican primary--which is why I don't think Perry will run again. If Dewhurst wins a 6-year U.S. Senate term, even he might decide to challenge Perry. Then, Dewhurst could have the job he always wanted and also appoint his replacement in Washington. Such a deal."
- "Abbott's got enough money in his AG campaign account to enter the republican presidential race if he wants. Hmmm?"
- "What are you kidding?! After that presidential debacle it will be ANYBODY BUT PERRY!"
- "If held today, Abbott (\$12MM in the bank!). If held on Nov. 2014, Abbott. Perry fatigue is at a higher level today than it was six months ago and in 2010. Despite the Governor's protestations, I don't see it changing all that much between now and Nov. 2014."
- "I don't think Perry will run again. He'll sense that it is time to say adios..."
- "The frost is off that pumpkin. This presidential primary wasn't exactly a Phil Gramm '96 failure. It was an embarrassment of the state. His repeated failures were a reflection on all Texans. The R's would rather shoot their own dog than have D's shoot it for them."

- "This is a moot question. Rick Perry and Greg Abbott won't run against each other."
- "The last Texan to beat Rick Perry in a Texas primary was... Gimme a minute. It'll come to me. Damn, what was his name?"
- "Tough to pick between those two titans of the Texas GOP"
- "When?"
- "Neither Perry, Abbott, nor the Republican major contributors can afford to have such a primary to find out."
- "Greg Who?"
- "Perry's incompetency on the national stage does nothing to deflect the fact that as Governor, he's delivered to the people who put him in office."
- "Hobson's choice but would be an interesting test of voter fatigue--don't know Rick would look appealing kicking dirt on someone in a wheelchair"
- "Abbott has the money and a fresh face."
- "He smells blood and will go for the kill."
- "Abbott has plenty of money to paint Perry whatever color he wants to paint him."
- "This sounds like: who wins in King Kong vs. Godzilla. It doesn't matter... won't happen. It's make-believe."
- "Abbott's never taken a real punch (READ: Kay Bailey Hutchison), and after his disastrous handling of the redistricting process, he hasn't won too many incumbent Republican friends. I suspect Perry would shred him in a 2014 GOP primary, by which time the presidential campaign will be ancient history."
- "Abbott is the future of the Republican Party in Texas with a big war chest. Perry is a lame horse who needs to be put out to pasture, provided someone will pay his boarding fee."
- "Question assumes Perry would actually run again, and Abbott would have the political chops to take him on. He doesn't."
- "The gun is loaded...all he has to do is pull the trigger:"
- "Abbott's main, and perhaps only, argument that he can use in unseating Perry, is that 'it's time for him to go.' That didn't work for KBH. Republicans are going to have a hard time throwing out Perry without a really good reason. What's he done that Republicans have really hated?"
- "Love Perry, but he'll be off to new pastures."
- "They both appeal to the same segment of Republican primary voters. Perry has long-term relationships on his side, but Abbott has a mostly unvarnished record on his."
- "Really, really close call."
- "Abbot has had a free ride the past few elections, whereas all Perry's

skeletons are out of the closet.
Abbott's smooth sailing would end in
a contested gubernatorial primary."

Will there be a runoff in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate this year?

- "Dewhurst vs. Cruz"
- "Yes, and it will be ugly."
- "Depends on the strength, numbers, and resolve of tea party types."
- "Due to crowded field."
- "Money like love conquers ALL! Hello Senator Dewhurst!"
- "Cruz and/or Leppert certainly hope so."
- "Dewhurst should have a comfortable margin but under 50% because of the size of the field."
- "Dewhurst's money will swamp Cruz et al. And with Sadler as his likely opponent, Dewhurst can start measuring the drapes now."
- "These guys will need to go into overtime to make sure we're pronounced bored to death."
- "Dewhurst will drown out the others on TV and win without a runoff."
- "Only Dewhurst will have the money to go this long, long, distance."
- "A runoff advantages Ted Cruz over Dewhurst"
- "Tom Leppert"
- "Where have all the Rs gone, as evidenced by Santorum's showing in Tx polls?"
- "Dewhurst will come in at 47% which will delay his inevitable win. Yes folks, Mr. Dewhurst goes to Washington."
- "Still can't see a combo of Cruz/Leppert/James getting to 50%, but the later we keep moving the date back, that probability increases exponentially."
- "Cruz doesn't have any name ID or money... last I checked, those things matter."
- "Whether or not Dewhurst can get to 50% in the first round is an open question, but he better hope he can. A low turnout runoff would be a nightmare scenario for him, and would render his name ID and financial advantages irrelevant. Look for the Dew to launch a takedown of Cruz in the next couple of months."
- "It depends on if some of the lesser candidates continue with their vanity campaigns."
- "Absent a major misstep by Dewhurst, there will be no runoff. Polls that say otherwise are not credible."
- "Sadly, no runoff. Dew will probably get it on his first try."

- "Between Dewhurst (money) and Cruz (because he's the most conservative)"

- "Don't buy the Cruz hype."

Who will win the race for Elizabeth Ames Jones' seat on the Texas Railroad Commission?

- "No idea"

winner of that will be the next Commissioner."

- "Who's for eliminating the agency?"

- "Don't have even the faintest idea."

- "Not the most-qualified, the one who has worked in the industry for decades. Instead it'll likely be the flake who's-out-but-may-now-be-back-in after winning the Ft. Worth straw poll, or the entitled daughter of a certain former speaker, or the far right's favorite legislator."

- "Daddy's \$1M is significant"

- "Wily, veteran politician should prevail."

- "Warren has all of the advantages of experience in the industry, personal connections galore, and decades as a public figure. He's campaigning with all the energy of a 20-year-old to boot. Christi might make it in politics one day, but this isn't the day."

- "In a down ballot this cycle, Chisum's history of social conservatism gives him a huge edge."

- "Craddick will win, but not until the July runoff."

- "No idea."

- "No idea"

- "Don't know."

- "All one had to do is look at the resumes. I believe Chisum will be strong and have what it takes to win it. Those that support him publicly, however, will feel the pain next session. Dads hate when someone messes with their daughter."

- "Craddick is as dumb as a post!"

- "Someone has to win."

- "The one woman with the last name people have heard before? Yeah, that one."

- "All of the conservative talk about the need for a meritocracy goes out the window when they want a family member to get ahead."

- "Would hope one of the others, but the name CRADDICK will be the most recognized name in this race"

- "I pray."

- "Becky Berger will be disappointed to learn that 'Inside Intelligence' does not have her in the race. A runoff in the GOP is likely between Craddick and one of the white guys. The

- "Names are powerful. Look at Carrillo, the odds-on, industry-backed

favorite, an incumbent no less, getting upended by Porter, a complete unknown. Craddick could win this on name alone."

- "Several senior state house members will not file for re-election...those which have not yet announced they'll retire."

- "That's if daddy's money doesn't upset the most qualified with his money contacts"

- "I'm stumped on this one"

- "I say Warren only because I have to believe daddy's money will not work to buy this election. Sadly, I'm probably wrong."

As soon as election dates are set, the federal redistricting judges have said they will set a new deadline for campaign filing, allowing candidates to sign up for races, to drop out, or to amend filings they made earlier. What will be the biggest surprise? [Editor's note: We asked this before the court set a May 29 primary and a March 9 filing deadline.]

- "Retirement reversals"

- "Amount of money David Dewhurst has raised."

- "No one will want to run. They are fed up with the polarization."

- "Pete Gallego might actually have a real race."

- "The number of candidates who drop out."

- "Lloyd Doggett will have to run for a seat in El Paso"

- "A last minute serious challenger to a 'comfy' incumbent."

- "DC courts invalidating certain district, creating an open election for certain seats in the fall."

- "Doggett drops out."

- "An actual election!"

- "If the discriminatory GOP maps survive the DC court."

- "Doggett switches to us senate race."

- "Debra Medina for Railroad Commissioner"

- "After the final votes are counted, their will be no or minimal change in the ethnic make up of the Legislature."

- "Incumbent retirements???"

- "That anyone other than the candidates' immediate family members will actually vote when the primaries finally occur"

- "Who doesn't run again!"

- "The biggest surprise will be that no bright, experienced, and reasonable citizens will serve their state to solve important issues. Politics is too dirty."

- "Whatever happens to Doggett's district will surprise somebody."

- "Who drops out. There will be some sudden retirements that make things very interesting."
- "North Texas state senate races"
- "Not sure"
- "Who gets left out on the maps; sitting electeds drawn out of their district or paired up with a strong opposition candidate"
- "The biggest surprise will be the return of Scott Hochberg. Wait, I guess that won't be a surprise."
- "Very few will file or change districts. Everyone is sick of the process."
- "An even later date for the primaries."
- "Who moves to other districts to run"
- "How long this takes"
- "The biggest surprise will be the number of members who have announced their retirements...AND they decide to come back!"
- "Ron Paul runs for re-election to Congress"
- "That the judges got their work done...that will be biggest surprise"
- "Debra Medina runs for something."
- "More House members announcing their retirement."
- "Finding out who has been wasting there time working in the wrong race or in the wrong district."
- "Probably some senate candidates drop out."
- "You tell me...."
- "That there are few surprises."
- "New Supreme Court entrants"
- "There likely will BE a surprise but it's simply not knowable at this point."
- "The big surprise will be the number of incumbents who 'un-file' and decide to hang them up."
- "How few real challenges there are because this was so screwed up."
- "We are cancelling the primaries this year."
- "Elizabeth Ames Jones will decide to seek re-election to the RRC."
- "What Roger Williams does"
- "We'll have a primary. :)"
- "The high number of incumbents who choose to retire"
- "That someone actually cares."
- "Who doesn't run."
- "A credible challenger to Randy Weber for the GOP nomination in the 14th District. If Weber is the GOP nominee, he could lose to Nick Lampson."
- "Ted Cruz will drop out of Senate race."
- "Who bails out"
- "Don't have any idea."

- "No surprises. It's hard to keep a secret in our political world. The birds like to sing."
- "That we'll finally be able to hold our primaries!"
- "That we will still be a player in the GOP Presidential Primary"
- "No real surprise that many members will remain in the 'dropped out column'"
- "How few people move races."
- "Kelly Hancock will file to run in Senate District 9.5."
- "If I told you it would not be a surprise."
- "The surprises will depend upon districts as drawn. Highly publicized U.S. House candidates such as Roger Williams and Michael Williams may not have an open district to run in."
- "More incumbent St Reps will announce their retirement."
- "Crazy prediction: Rick Perry files for U.S. Senate, sending shockwaves throughout Texas politics and giving Paul Burka morning wood."
- "Phil King will file against Craig Estes."
- "How Solomons actions will impact his fellow Republicans."
- "Ted Cruz will drop out."
- "If I knew that, it wouldn't be a surprise."
- "Dewhurst decides to stay as Lt. Gov.!"
- "Stumped again. Too many variables and things just keep getting weirder."
- "Who withdraws from the races."
- "Todd Smith, paralyzed by indecision, will fail to file for anything."
- "Leo Berman will withdraw and retire."
- "No surprises."
- "How about the biggest surprise is that the courts decided to act after wasting weeks of time and tons of money?"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Mike Barnett, Eric Bearse, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Tris Castaneda, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, Ryan Erwin, Jon Fisher, Terry Frakes, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, Kathy Grant, Anthony Haley, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Albert

Hawkins, Susan Hays, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Billy Howe, Laura Huffman, Kathy Hutto, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, J. McCartt, Parker McCollough, Mike McKinney, Debra Medina, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, John Pitts, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Kim Ross, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Dan Shelley, Bradford Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Leslie Sullivan, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Ellen Williams, Michael Wilt, Seth Winick, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.