

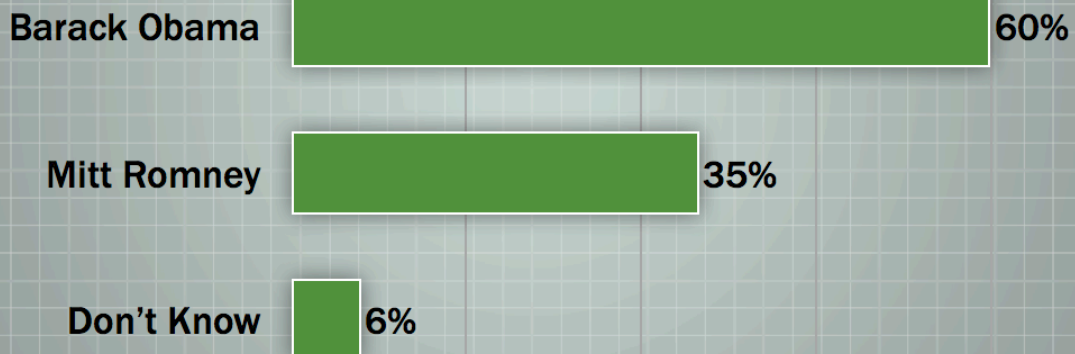
# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

Sponsored by: **Hahn, Texas**

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of September 3*

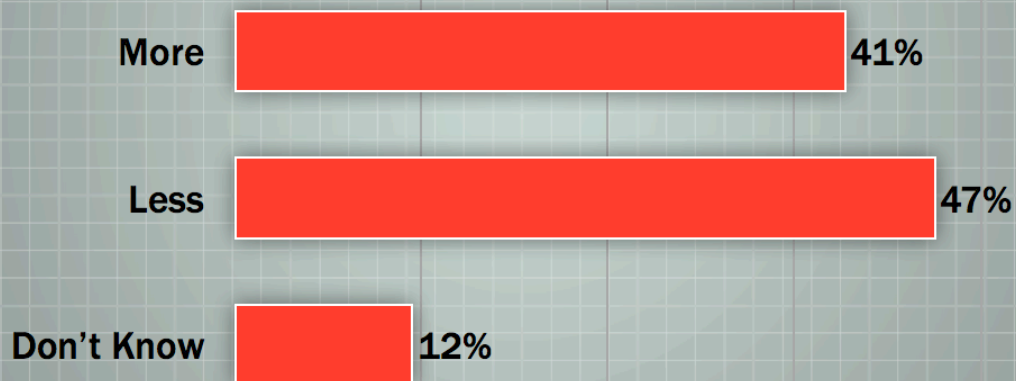
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who will win the presidential race?



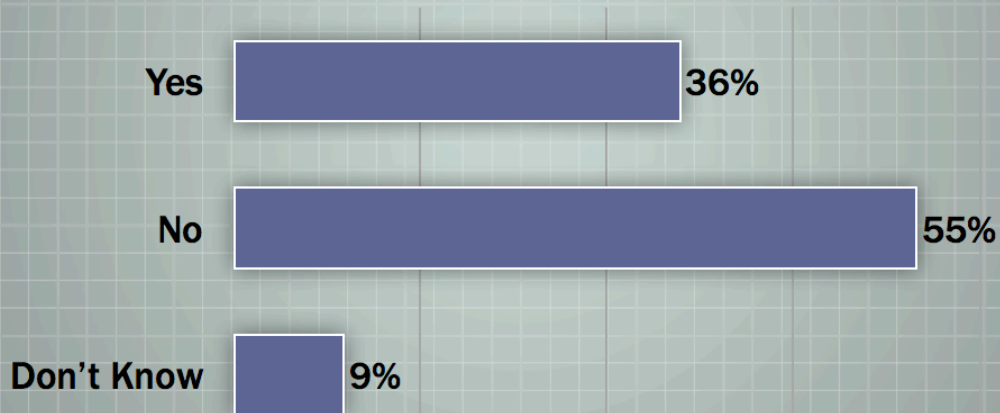
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

If Romney wins, is Perry more or less likely to seek another term?



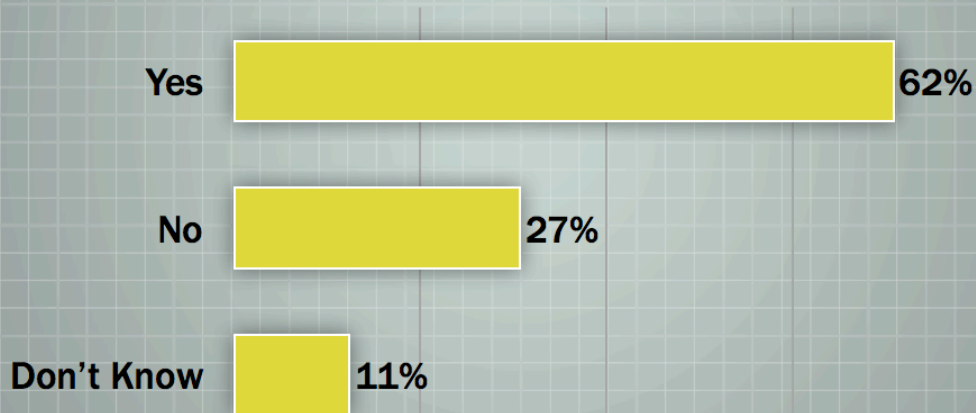
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

**Dewhurst says he will seek re-election -  
is he the favorite to win?**



## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

**Do recent appointments and actions  
improve chances for school vouchers?**



## *Who will win the presidency in November?*

- "It's the ECONOMY and JOBS that the voters are focused on. BHO had made matter WORSE!"
- "It don't mean a thing if you can't win the swings"
- "It is too early to call the election, anything can happen between and November. With the Conventions, then the debates as well as the economic forecast anything is possible. What is clear is that the GOP white voters according to a recent Pew Survey has grown by almost 8%, this clearly gives Romney the advantage."
- "Depends on the debates, but the economic trend line will sink Obama"
- "This week's hoopla aside, Obama still leads in most of the battleground states -- and the Dem's haven't yet begun to fight."
- "Obama will benefit again from facing a weak candidate -- is Mitt Romney really the best the GOP has? Despite the sluggish economy, polls are showing that more American's blame Bush for the economy and that Obama is much more likeable than Romney. It will be a close race, however."
- "When it's all said and done - it always boils down to who the majority of voters on election day believe is the most charismatic. This pains me greatly this election."
- "All these close polls in swing states over-sample Dems without regard to Dem performance in those states in 2010, 2011, and 2012."
- "Our nation has fallen to an insufferable depth; thus we will re-elect the worst in history."
- "It's the economy stupid."
- "Obama wins electoral college, Romney wins popular vote. Ain't karma awesome..."
- "This is an inverse of the 2004 election. Hatred of Obama is enough to get close, but like John Kerry, Romney is an unappealing, lousy candidate. Obama wins ugly, but he wins."
- "The tide is turning. Obama is under 50% in all polls. Sour economy. No effort to paint a vision for the future. All negative. No reach to the middle. All of these are signs of a losing position. It may not be even close before it's over."
- "The race was Obama's to lose... And then the heavens opened and out stepped the worst possible candidate the GOP could have produced."
- "There does not appear to be any real excitement for either candidate. When apathy is a factor, the incumbent benefits."
- "If Romney beats Obama, he will perversely have Bush 43 and Wall Street to thank."
- "Look at the Electoral College map, not the nationwide polls. Unless, of course, something happens - Euro collapses, Israel bombs Iran, Zombie Apocalypse, etc."

- "I am banking on Romney-Ryan ticket; although election history would support Obama winning a second term as the incumbent. My assumption is based upon the frail economy, the continued low performance on Wall Street and the expectations of increased unemployment as the election nears. I have great hopes that the fragmented Republican Party will come out to be cohesive force following this week in Florida. Within the last week, Romney's has engaged his wife and children with the media, which will soften his demeanor and increase his likability. For goodness sakes, he has 18 grandchildren! That said, from what I have read, Americans seem to see Obama as more likable despite his lack of any true successes other than killing Osama bin Laden. They also see Obama as more in touch with the needs of average people, which truly amazes me. Obama has done an impeccable job of disassociating himself from economic responsibility. Ironically, he takes credit for saving us from another Great Depression which I am not certain we have seen the worst."

- "Too many dominoes have to fall Romney's way (too many swing states). Women are leaving Republican Party in droves. All spells doom for the GOP"

- "Obama faces a head wind but despite those challenges his numbers are not low enough to make him vulnerable. Romney can't win unless he runs the table in the swing states, which seems extremely unlikely. For its own purposes the press is sensationalizing the situation by making a big deal out of Romney's very small chances - and that skewed

coverage makes the race seem more competitive than the electoral math indicates."

- "More than half of this country does not see Romney as a 'likeable' guy, and it's 70 days before the election so he's already off to a really bad start."

- "Polls have been very steady for months, suggesting a narrow Obama victory in the popular vote and a significantly broader victory in the Electoral College."

- "We are doing everything possible to get Romney elected . . . so I'm saying and hoping he'll win. Am a bit disturbed over the rules drama unfolding at the convention. Not the best time to upset the apple cart. R's need to get it together or they will blow this golden opportunity."

- "Electoral votes are in the constitution. Romney and team are thinking about votes. Obama and team are thinking about winning."

- "But close -- 5 points or less."

- "Romney likeability will drag his ticket, and the Chicagoland street fighters will continue to punch him hard."

- "You're welcome, America."

- "Hope triumphs over past results"

- "It's the economy, stupid!"

- "With right track/wrong track this low, high gas prices, high unemployment and the lack of the Hope and Change stuff from 2008, Romney wins by default. NC, WI and Ohio go for Gov."

- "It's the economy stupid."
- "The president won't lose by Jimmy Carter proportions, but the result will

be the same. There just isn't enough 'there' there to motivate the swing voters who swept him into office four years ago. Aloha, Barry!"

***If Mitt Romney wins in November, is Rick Perry more or less likely to seek reelection in 2014?***

- "The only thing Rick Perry is weighing regarding his re-election decision is whether or not he can win and it's too early for the polls to tell him that -- although they must surely be telling him he is vulnerable. The presidential victor isn't a factor. Romney is not likely to appoint Perry to anything even if he wins."

- "Makes no difference. Perry needs an exit strategy that keeps him, Toomey, MQS, and the TLR money apparatus paid. If they can't find a way out for him, he will be encouraged to stay."

- "It would push his chance to run for president to 2020, at which point his slogan will be 'one tough grandpa!'"

- "He doesn't stand a chance at a high level Romney Administration appointment, so what else is there to do?"

- "I don't think the two are really related. Barring a significant development, Perry is unlikely to get a second chance to run for President, even if Obama wins. There are just too many qualified candidates in front of him."

- "What else is he gonna do?"

- "Not sure it would matter."

- "But he will lose in his primary if he doesn't bluff the other name candidates out of race. His brand is forever tarnished after woeful showing on national stage."

- "He is going to run for re-election no matter what."

- "The results of the November will not really impact Gov. Perry's decision to seek re-election. It is a matter of staying politically relevant."

- "The perceived path to the White House for Perry gets four years longer. He won't want to wait that long and voters may finally seek a change in the Governor's Mansion."

- "Perry will seek re-election regardless unless Abbott challenges him. For the good of the state, some corporation -- or group of them -- should pay Perry handsomely to sit on their boards so that the state can finally be rid of him. The world is rapidly changing and Texas is moving in the wrong direction."

- "Doesn't matter what happens to Mitt. Rick is done going forward even if he does run."

- "More: a sympathetic ear for reining in EPA, Medicaid block grants, etc. Less: cut out of Presidential race until 2020, so why bother."

- "I don't think it really makes a difference in Perry's calculus."
- "I assume less since successfully running for state office means running on federal issues and railing against Obama"
- "Way more. Or bow out."
- "Seriously? What's Rick gonna do? It doesn't appear that there are many options for him besides being the longest, slickest, boringest governor of Texas."
- "It is difficult to take seriously the idea that Perry will run for the presidency again -- so I have decided not to."
- "Romney Presidency = Perry Appointment?"
- "Has to keep his name in front of the public, whether it is good or bad."
- "No difference -- he's said he doesn't want to go into the Administration, so what else is he going to do?"
- "But I believe he can be beaten by the person who has the chutzpa to take him on including in the primary."
- "It's the only life he knows."
- "Great question. With the presidency off the table, maybe he won't want to exit the stage, making it more likely that he holds onto the mantle to win funding for Mixed Metaphor Malady."
- "Dewhurst runs Perry in 2014 Abbott becomes Lt Gov"
- "That is if Romney doesn't ask him to run homeland sec."
- "One more reason to support Mitt Romney."
- "It does not matter!"
- "What else is he going to do?"
- "The Guv is done and it has everything to do with this year's primary. Who would've thought the Guv would become a moderate/establishment figure."
- "Adios, Rick! Everyone knows he hates living in the Guv's Mansion. He'll take the first cabinet post he's offered."
- "Romney would never appoint him to the administration. You cannot predict what he might say on any given day."
- "Absent Obama, Perry has no natural message foil to push against."

***Now that David Dewhurst says he will seek reelection, would you say he is the favorite to win the race for lieutenant governor?***

- "We need to see WHO is in the race before committing too early."
- "Wasn't he favored for us senate?"
- "Field will need to narrow but he is beatable in the right circumstance"

- "Any grassroots conservative could take him out -- Patterson, Patrick, someone we haven't thought of yet --"

- "He's probably weakened beyond the point of being able to win again statewide, but this coming session will tell a lot."

- "Why are we acting surprised that he said he would run for reelection? As if the Dew were going to grant himself lame(r) duck status right before session? C'mon. His claim that he'll run is meaningless for now."

- "This is normally an obstacle difficult to recover from, but in this political environment - his biggest problem is keeping a clean primary. Given the indications that there will be others in the race, he will be a favorite target."

- "If Greg Abbott or Todd Staples runs, I don't see Dewhurst being successful. However, I don't believe that Dewhurst will run again, aside from what he says right now."

- "Provided Abbott doesn't get in the game. Honestly, does anyone see the General wanting a non-executive position herding cats on the green carpet?"

- "Eeny, meeny, miny, mo..."

- "No but he should be. He deserves another term if he wants it."

- "He has just shown he is easily beatable in a primary. What is going to make him a stronger candidate in two years?"

- "School people will finally get off of their backside and let there rep and

sen know that they are through voting in the REP. column. But it may be to late."

- "Clear posturing before the upcoming Session."

- "Hard to beat an incumbent...even when the playbook to defeat him has been written."

- "Some folks can't hear what the voters are saying!"

- "Dead. Man. Walking."

- "I am thinking other party operatives will have a chance to unseat him."

- "Staples or Patterson"

- "Talk about a vulnerable candidate!"

- "That all depends upon who finally decides to run. If Abbott chooses to run for Lt. Gov., that would be a significant challenge."

- "Damaged good is damaged goods. Someone will 'out right' him again (probably someone from out of nowhere like Cruz who has never held office and doesn't have a voting record)."

- "It would be spin (or worse) to call Dewhurst the favorite. As Patterson is definitely in, there will be a contested primary and that may entice others to join the fight. To accurately handicap the race we need a fact that is not available yet: how many candidates will be on the Republican ballot for Lt Gov in March 2014 (and who are they)?"



- "Other statewide electeds are not going to sit still. Is Dewhurst really going to spend tens of millions to fend off Abbott, Staples, Patterson, or another tea party darling with strong grassroots after already losing a statewide primary?"
- "Abbott. Will use Cruz playbook."
- "Unless Lt. Gov. Dewhurst has a substantially more conservative agenda that actually passes and becomes law in 2013 he is susceptible to attack from the right. Just passing conservative legislation out of the Senate does not seem to placate the Republican Party faithful. Quite simply, Ted Cruz has given Greg Abbott the roadmap for how to beat Dewhurst."
- "I'd say that it is now a toss up between Dewhurst and whoever runs against him. All of Dew's wealth and power couldn't convince people he was worthy of being Texas' next junior senator, so he may have to reinvent himself again just to have a decent shot at keeping his current job."
- "The grassroots will not warm to him, so that makes Patterson a threat to him."
- "There is substantial restlessness among those wishing to move up the food chain. If Perry and/or Dewhurst decide to run again, it will be a cycle from hell for those of us in this biz."
- "The last impression was not positive."
- "No -- totally bloodied after the Senate race; he will have to tack to the right during session to try and court the right; depending on how effective he is, Staples et al may still have a good shot."
- "What have we just learned - money really doesn't matter - nor does being conservative - it's all perception baby!"
- "Favored but not favorite."
- "If Romney wins, I predict that either Perry or Dewhurst will leave for an administration post."
- "Yes, but not a prohibitive favorite. He's not scaring anyone out of that race now."
- "The last I checked, he still has a few million in the bank, however, his brand has been tarnished. A moderate Republican in our primaries [don't] work."
- "Depends on who else runs at him. If Abbott throws his hat in the ring, DD is DDone. Anyone else will be a crapshoot."
- "The frost is off of that pumpkin."
- "Seriously?"

*Do recent appointments and comments from state leaders improve the legislative chances for school vouchers next session?*

- "Even with a big push from above, the people will have to decide whether they will let any regulatory strings be attached to private schools."

- "Why not add another explosive issue into the session mix?"

- "Hopefully. It is time. Democrats should stop protecting lousy schools and fighting this issue as if it were a crime against humanity. Give parents a vouchers option -- can't be worse than what the public schools are already doing."

- "James Leininger will finally get his wish and he won't even have to sell it as a 'disadvantaged children' argument. He can say 'children of job creators deserve school choice!'"

- "'Remember the Ardmore,' will be new Texas battle cry."

- "Probably the best chance in over a decade."

- "Appointment and comments can change all you want, but unless the Repubs pick up enough seats in the Senate to overcome the 2/3rds rule, school vouchers ain't happenin'."

- "Improved maybe but there are too many chefs in the kitchen and while everyone agrees that vouchers are a good idea, there are too many options for what a program would look like. It's going to take a few sessions to get the coalition on the same page."

- "House repubs are scarred to death of political ramifications. Bet pub Ed chair will find a way to stand up to

Dan Patrick and let it die a slow death in committee"

- "If passed you will see another sea change of house membership as voters respond to attack on public schools."

- "The school bureaucrats have overplayed their hand yet again - wanting more money and continuing to sue the state to butt in line for money, while trying to deep-six the accountability system they agreed to 4 years ago. Well - now they get to play defense on vouchers and will likely lose on it. Just desserts for the greedy."

- "It is going to be a battle."

- "All eyes on Straus. If he continues his hands off approach of letting committee chairs run the show and keeps his hands clean by picking an anti-voucher Pub Ed Chair, all hope is not lost."

- "They improve it doesn't mean it will happen"

- "They don't 'improve' the chances but they reflect where the leadership stands."

- "Recent appointments and comments do not improve the chances for school vouchers. The new make-up of the legislature - in the House and Senate...THAT'S what improves the chances."

- "There are too many areas without private schools & the education establishment will paint a picture too ugly for majority support."

- "You have a bunch of freshmen who don't know any better (and their elders aren't that old, either). They increasingly feel that public schools don't educate 'their' kids and that property taxes are akin to a taking."

- "Democrats + rural Republicans who listen to their constituents + moderate Republicans = No Vouchers"

- "Not so much the appointments as the rightward lurch in the Lege."

- "There's always a chance for vouchers to be approved by a republican-led legislature, but talking points and unsubstantiated evidence in favor of vouchers will not be enough to take public money out of the classroom and hand it over to private enterprises."

- "Support of school vouchers does not necessarily make it smart to beat up the public schools unless you like putting a bulls eye on your chest."

- "Even without Patrick running Senate Ed (and he might be even more effective on vouchers if he's not chairing), the fear of the right from

Dew and others will move this along, and huge freshman/sophomore classes in House will be happy to oblige."

- "Vouchers will never pass without the blessing of teacher unions. They'll bless across the board pay cuts before vouchers."

- "The House will vote it off the floor but D's will use every parliamentary tool to kill it. Parent PAC endorsed electeds will be in tough spot. Senate likely to pass it as well."

- "Williams will do anything Perry wants."

- "Should be talking about vocational education instead."

- "The option to 'fix-it-in-the-senate' no longer applies."

- "Duh! The perfect storm is aligning."

- "Ultimately the Rural and Urban minorities will shut it down...again."

- "Vouchers still don't help the rural members."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, David Anthony, Jay Arnold, Tom Banning, Mike Barnett, Walt Baum, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Tris Castaneda, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Rick Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, Scott Dunaway, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Rebecca Flores, Robert Floyd, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Michael Grimes, Jack Gullahorn, Anthony Haley, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman,

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