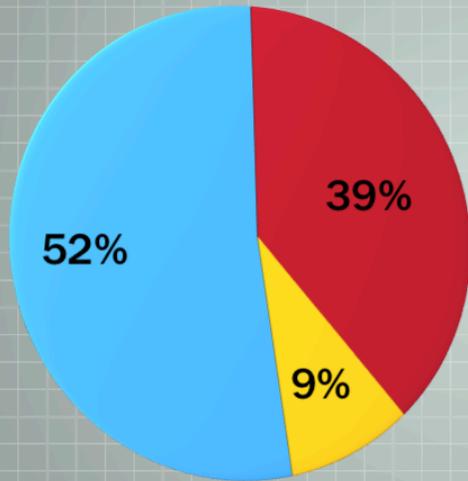


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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of October 8*

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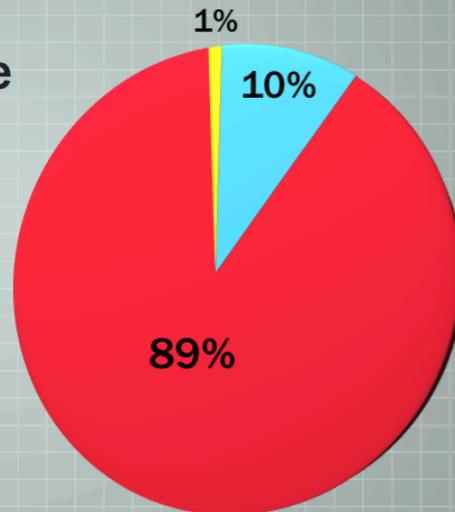


Will the presidential debates matter?



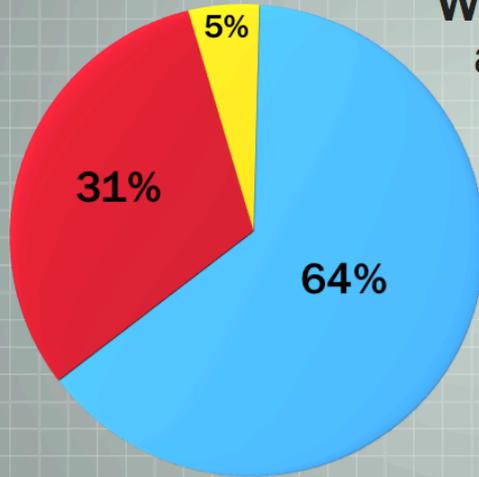
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Will the Texas Senate debates matter?



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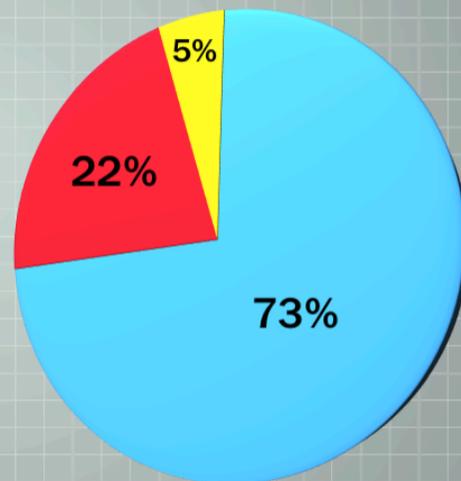
Will the presidential race affect any Texas races?



- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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Will the outcome of the presidential race affect who runs here in 2014?



- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Will the presidential debates make any difference in that race?

- "Obama's to blow up; advantage is his politically and policy wise, given openings provided by Romney"
- "Both Romney and Cruz are so far ahead of their opponents that anything that happens in either debate will likely make no difference."
- "Romney's only chance!"
- "Not unless Romney does surprisingly exceptionally well. Otherwise, this race is over."
- "Is there anyone in this country who is still undecided?"
- "Romney has to change the narrative and a tie is a win"
- "I hope so-called independents won't base their decisions on sound byte answers (not to mention non-answers)."
- "Romney's too far behind at this point."
- "Very little, barring a major gaffe."
- "Only if one of them totally screws up."
- "Based upon the recent polls, I certainly hope so."
- "Mittens is such a compelling presence, surely the country just needs to hear more from him directly to turn the tide in his favor. I'd bet \$10,000 that Obama will fight Romney to a draw, if not beat him outright in the debates."
- "I doubt the debates will have much sway. Neither candidate seems likely to have an oops moment."
- "These national debates seldom turn a race around, but always influence the outcome."
- "It's a chance for many people to see Romney for the first time - unfiltered."
- "More so for Romney. Not because of his standing in the race but to be able to deliver an unfiltered message."
- "Unless Obama admits to being the anti-Christ chosen by the 33 degree Scottish Rite Freemasons to bring in tyranny under a communistic regime; no it won't make a bit of difference as Mitt is toast."
- "It would take a major positive (or negative) performance by Romney or Obama to alter the race much at this point, which is unlikely. Romney is behind and has to score points, while Obama just needs to play for a draw."
- "Obama should be able to extend his lead."
- "Debates always matter for President. They magnify negatives and solidify positives."
- "R's could lose more ground in the debates."
- "Debates can help close the deal for or against, but the effect is in the margins and really only for the sliver of undecideds."
- "The only time a debate becomes a game changer is when the candidate

does (GB41 and his watch) or says (TXGuv Oops!) Something that defines them in the wrong light."

- "It will likely seal the deal for President Obama. We have yet to see Gov. Romney perform well in high pressure situations and for him the stakes couldn't be higher."
- "The bar is set high for the President and if Romney appears to outperform expectations, then Romney will get a bump from the debates."
- "It is Romney's best chance to look presidential and that has traditionally helped the challenger regardless of his performance."
- "It's Romney's last chance to recover. His candidacy has broken legs."
- "It's a bigger opportunity for Romney, if he can score points or even force Obama into some kind of gaffe. Conversely, the pressure could cause Romney to commit a gaffe, if he tries to come out swinging but muffs it. Obama just has to hold serve, as he normally does in debates. (Mixed sports metaphors.)"
- "Unfortunately, it will enhance Obama's lead. Romney will be unable to connect with anyone besides an elitist piece of cardboard and the brilliant general public will prefer to vote for the 'cooler' of the two candidates."
- "They could matter in one or more of the swing states but I don't think that's likely."
- "At a certain point, Obama will challenge Romney to back up one of

the myriad false assertions he's made in this campaign, and Romney will soil his drawers."

- "Certainly not in Texas"
- "Most times they don't, but sometimes they do and it is the sometimes that Romney is banking on."
- "Who would have thought a President with this poor of an economic record would be trouncing a business executive. Oops."
- "Most voters are not political junkies. But too many are TV junkies."
- "I think Obama might actually stumble without a teleprompter"
- "The debates will either give Romney the charge he needs to keep running through November or it will lock the race for Obama. Both camps are playing a game about expectations, but the truth is that Romney needs a big win in the debates or the President will stay ahead until the end."
- "Only if there's an Oops moment"
- "It will create more for pundits to talk about but will not change the trajectory."
- "Romney has a chance to make the public comfortable with the idea of him as president. If he succeeds, the race is his to lose."
- "Most likely not, but something might happen."

Will the U.S. Senate debates in Texas make any difference in that race?

- "But not so you'd notice--for those who watch, contrast will be obvious, as well as out of bounds policies of Cruz, some of which run 70-30 against voters' views could be trigger for \$ raising"
- "That old 'if a tree falls in the woods and now one is there to hear it' question...same principle here."
- "If anyone watches them, that is."
- "Can't imagine anything short of a major blowup changes the outcome of this race, especially with Obama at the top of the ticket."
- "The press will not publicize the debate enough for it to matter."
- "Too many Republicans"
- "This one's over."
- "Dems are not yet competitive"
- "I haven't given up on Sadler just yet, so if he can be passionate enough to distinguish himself as a moderate - even as a democrat - against a federal government hatin', conspiracy mongerin', Obama bitchin', anti-immigrant lovin', Rogain usin', triflin' politician then yes, it could make a difference."
- "Sadler has no money, so Cruz doesn't need to spend any. Few Texans will even watch."
- "Unfortunately, even though Paul Sadler will likely out pace Ted Cruz, not enough people pay attention. Paul Sadler is clearly the smarter and more balanced candidate."
- "They will make a difference, but not change the outcome."
- "Sadler a great candidate. Cruz playing not to lose."
- "I thought Ted was already in DC, there will be debates? With who?"
- "As we say in the Valley, 'Ese arroz ya esta cozido.' The rice is done and ready to be served, Senador Cruz."
- "Only political junkies who fill out online surveys will watch!"
- "What race??"
- "It might change some votes, but the outcome of the election is already determined."
- "Not unless Cruz defecates on camera."
- "Both Sadler and Cruz will debate well. However, Sadler will come across as rational; Cruz as radical. The only way these debates don't make a difference is if no one is paying any attention and the press highlights the show and not the substance."
- "There's a Senate race?"
- "Absent the money to take his message to the public, Sadler would

not be in a position to build on any misstep that Cruz might make."

- "There's a US Senate race in Texas?"
- "I thought the race for the US Senate was ended in the GOP primary... The Democrats have a candidate? Seriously?"

• "Cruz will convince everyone that he's the best qualified candidate. Sadler is yesterday's news."

- "Only junkies will watch"
- "Sadly we are on Cruz control"
- "Sadler is fool"

Will the presidential race affect any Texas races?

- "The bubble races tend to be highly localized"
- "Look for Senator Wendy Davis to benefit from Obama turnout as she did 4 years ago."
- "Any marginal D districts will suffer because of the lack of enthusiasm for the President;"
- "It will help Republicans in a very small number of close House and Senate races. It is absolutely amazing how many people confuse the Texas Legislature with federal congressional seats, and people are angry with Washington."
- "It will help some of the marginal Republicans over the 50%+1 threshold."
- "State senate"
- "But primarily in urban areas, and perhaps in the Gallego-Conseco race."
- "Presidential race will increase turnout for Democrats. Even though they won't win, they'll want their voice to be heard. Republicans vote no matter what, so the impact won't as visible."

- "Will carry Weber over the line in TX-14 -- unclear how it will impact Canseco/Gallego"
- "Turn out and voter enthusiasm won't help Dems. In the Texas Senate, no Obama coattails to help Wendy Davis."
- "Some legislative races in Dallas and Houston will be affected."
- "Judicial races in Harris"
- "Maybe in close swing districts in lege races, but there aren't many of those!"
- "Obama baggage will hurt Dems in swing districts."
- "SD 10 Wendy Davis will benefit if Obama supporters turn out in her district"
- "It will be interesting to see how the presidential race impacts the SD 10 race. Obama turns out Davis's base, but he will also turn out Rs and Texan independents who want to make him a one term president."
- "With Romney winning handily the D's are out of luck."

- "Lack of enthusiasm for Obama could jeopardize some Democratic candidates, including Wendy Davis"
- "Enthusiasm from one side or the other might play a role in the Fort Worth Senate seat"
- "Yep, they'll be used to raise some money, but they won't affect the outcome one iota---except maybe in SD10."
- "Every national race has a coattail effect. If you don't believe that ask all of the Texas House democrats who lost in 2010."
- "The presidential contest will impact some local races, largely because of its effect on turnout. This will benefit Democrats running in urban areas, and Republicans in suburban/rural Texas."
- "Could, depending on turnout"
- "The tight races it could impact Congressional District 23 Consecro v. Gallego Senate District 10 Davis v. Shelton House District 23 Eiland v. Faircloth House District 114 Villalba v. Kent"
- "The Romney enthusiasm gap is offset by Obama's declining appeal. Gallego, Davis, Eiland (among others) are on the presidential turnout bubble."
- "Davis race"
- "Wendy Davis needs a strong showing by President Obama to have any chance of holding her seat."
- "The animosity against Obama is amplified at such level that close races will hurt democrats."
- "Romney's poor showing and Cruz's extreme views will breakup a small percentage of straight ticket Republican ballots in some key house races."
- "Shelton and Davis race."
- "Davis-Shelton and probably a couple of Dallas & Harris County House races."
- "If Romney can not do a better job upping Republican enthusiasm, the D's probably pick up a couple of more House seats and Wendy Davis is viable."
- "Will be interesting to see how voter turnout in places with hotly contested primary runoffs plays out. Think Veasey/Garcia. Lots of new voters who will be thrilled to vote for Senator Wendy Davis."
- "The question is whether Rs will turn out because they're sick of Obama, or whether they won't turn out because they're sick of Romney. Which makes you feel sicker? Voting or not voting? All races in Texas will be affected by this presidential phenomenon. Ds will turn out in their usual humdrum numbers."
- "The Obama haters are who they are, but Romney's flagging campaign fails to generate excitement that could motivate GOP voters."
- "US Senate"
- "It could have an impact on turnout in places like Harris County."

- "Obama's coattails will help numerous Democrats across the state in close contests."

- "Very little coattails for either candidate."

- "Turnout could affect Davis Senate race and a handful of House races."

- "Absent pivotal local issues (TWIA in Galveston) or dominant personalities (Nick Lampson) every competitive race will surf on the Obama-Romney tide."

- "It will have some impact on close House races."

- "State Senate Dist. 10 and U.S. House Dist. 23"

- "The higher turnout of presidential elections over off-year elections will benefit the Democrats. Democrats should pick-up 6 to 10 seats in the Texas house."

- "Heavy pro-Obama turn-out in El Paso means Dee Margo is probably done."

- "Voters are so eager to get the economy and jobs on an upward trend that they'll be more likely to

vote--and to vote for a NEW President. Down ballot races should capitalize on that FEAR over jobs and the economy."

- "Huge GOP turnout to vote against Obama helps down ballot, it's a fact Jack."

- "There will be some down ticket impact in places like El Paso county; the Margo/Moody race will be closer likely impacted by the national race."

- "Close downballot races"

- "It may help D's in some of the marginal districts"

- "There does seem to be some new enthusiasm in the Latino community in Texas which could help Pete Gallego, Wendy Davis and some other candidates."

- "The presidential race will have impact on CD 23."

- "Likely Legislative races south of I 10, particularly those (maybe only one actually) involving a GOP incumbent."

- "Will help Wendy Davis with large turnout in minority pcts"

Will the national outcome of the presidential race affect who might run in 2014 in Texas?

- "If Obama wins (probably) opens up the field"

- "There are so many scenarios floating around as to who might run for several offices, including

Governor, Lt. Governor, and on down."

- "All politics is local and until you start seeing suburbs of the major cities shift more to the center, it will be very unlikely a major Democratic

candidate will make a run at a statewide office."

- "The 2014 Presidential outcome will not effect near as much who will run, as to what they will run for."

- "Look for San Antonio Mayor Castro to run for Governor if Obama is re-elected and Perry runs for re-election. He might keep his powder dry until the following cycle if Obama loses and someone like Abbott is running for Governor."

- "If Romney wins he could appoint Perry to something, which would re-arrange the dominoes."

- "If Romney wins, I suspect Perry will not seek re-election"

- "I think it might affect what office for which individuals might chose to run. I think most non-judicial statewide officeholders will run for something notwithstanding the outcome of the presidential race. But the Governor may or may not run in Texas depending on the outcome, which then affects the office for which General Abbott runs, which affects the field of candidates for Lt. Gov and Gov which then affects decisions elsewhere."

- "Unless it is Romney"

- "With a 2nd Obama term, Perry's team cooks up their story about pain killers and lack-of-sleep as an excuse of his poor showing. They dust off the boots (with lower and more comfortable heels) for a 2nd run."

- "If indeed Perry is considering another run for the WH, may impact his 2014 plans for Gov."

- "If Romney loses, look for Perry to gin up loudly and quickly."

- "If Obama wins, Perry has a clearer shot at the 2016 national nomination. That probably means he'll run for re-election, since governorship brings so many perks (free travel, security, etc.)."

- "Duh."

- "Depending on how statewide Democrats perform, given that no money is being spent, it may affect potential candidates' decisions about whether or not to run in 2014."

- "Regardless, Rick Perry is on his way out. . . looking for a graceful exit."

- "Perry watching all the angles."

- "Romney win means Perry rides off into the sunset"

- "The governor's lease on life is renewed if Thurston Howell III and Lovey lose. Hence the fire and brimstone babble from brother Perry."

- "Governor Perry is more likely to run for reelection if Mitt Romney is defeated so that he is better positioned to run for President again in 2016."

- "Those wanting to run for office have a unique ability to convince themselves that it's always the right time to run."

- "Some officeholders will go to DC if Romney wins"

- "A Romney victory would plug the ambition tubes."

- "If Romney loses, GRP is full steam ahead for '16, and I don't think anybody serious in either party wants the headache of tangling with that."
- "Sure, Obama wins, Perry for four more 'absentee' years while he is running for President."
- "Please, let's not start with the Perry 2016 nonsense. Republicans outside of the state are now 'Once Bitten, Twice Shy' when it comes to supporting a Perry presidential bid."
- "Obama will win and Perry will persist in his delusion that he will be the Republican presidential nominee in four years if he gets re-elected as Governor. The real question is whether Abbott finds his juevos and runs against Perry. Abbott wins if he does."
- "If Romney wins, it will be 2022 before Governor Perry has another shot. That's probably too far down the road, and the Governor might decide to get out of government and make some real money."
- "The Cabinet is a soft place to sit for a while."
- "An Obama win will further strengthen the hard right. A Romney win will open up more opportunities for Democrats in the midterms."
- "If Obama wins as expected, 2016 will feature an open presidential contest with a scramble on both sides, particularly the Republican side. Having been out of office for eight years and with a full Democratic record to run against, Republicans will be highly energized."
- "If Perry is serious about being President, he needs to leave office at the end of 2014 and campaign for that office."
- "Only to the extent that Texans are plucked to serve in either an Obama or Romney administration."
- "The biggest change would be if Romney loses. Then Perry will prepare to seek re-election so that he can run again for President in 2016. AG Abbott would win the Governor's seat if he runs--regardless."
- "I am sick of 'what ifs'"
- "The Guv. Might get an opportunity to move to DC if and get some cabinet post if Mr. Romney wins. Then you can put the title Governor before Greg Abbott's name. Heck, he might just run regardless. Now that would be political theater of all political theater. And it would be fun to watch."
- "Run for what?"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Blaine Bull, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Rick Cofer, Lawrence Collins, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller,

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