

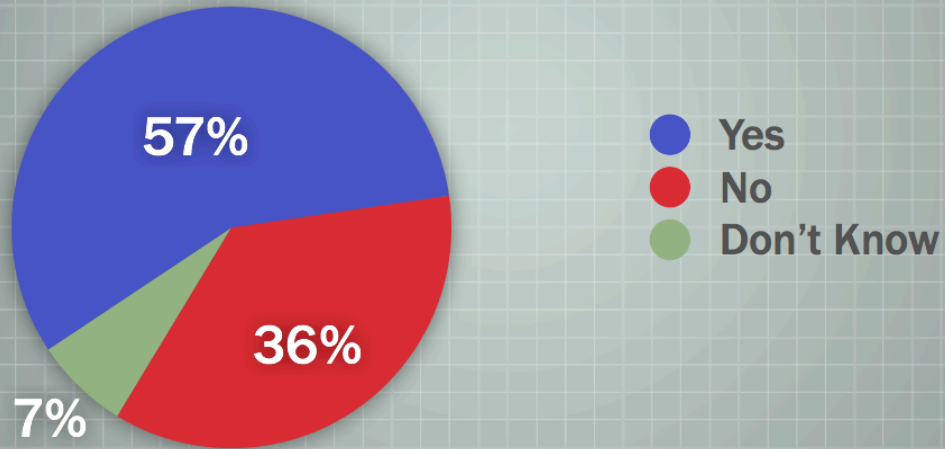
# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

Sponsored by: **Hahn, Texas**

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of April 15*

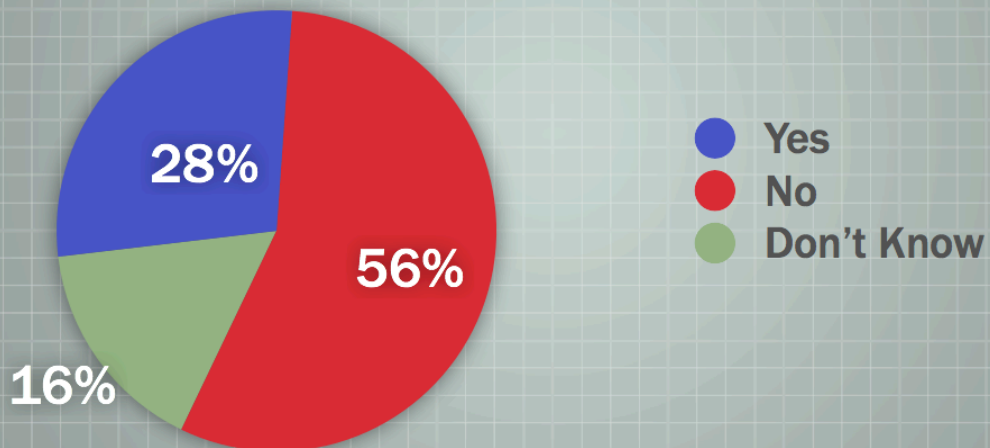
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should the court-drawn  
redistricting maps be permanent?



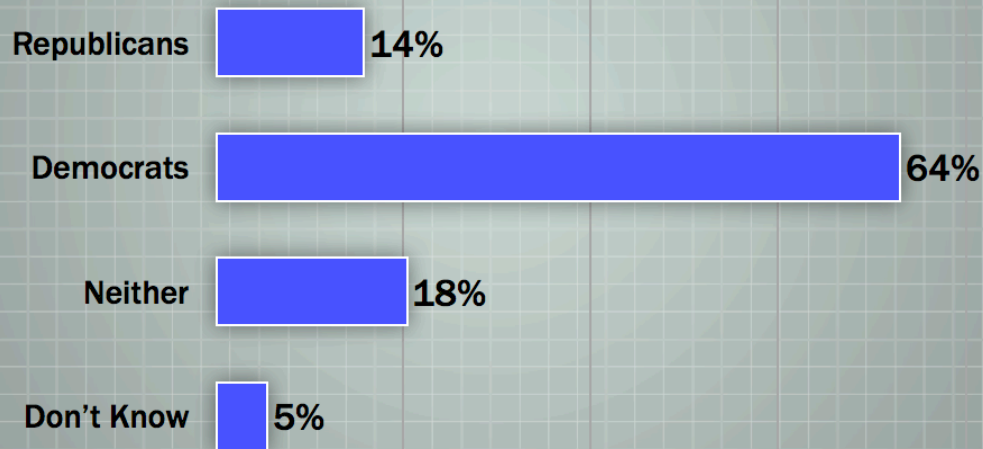
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will the courts uphold the maps  
drawn by lawmakers in 2012?



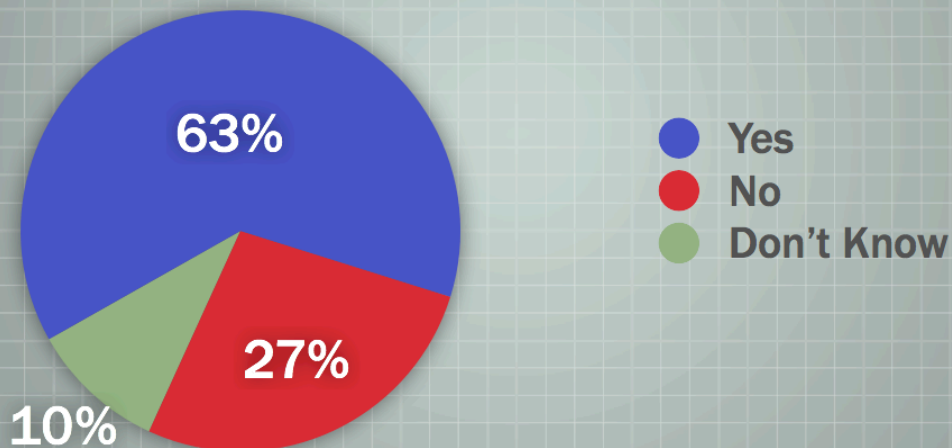
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who would benefit most  
if redistricting stays in court?



# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will the 2014 elections be conducted  
with the maps used in 2012?



## *Should the Legislature make permanent the temporary redistricting maps drawn by the courts for the 2012 elections?*

- "We need stability in our districts (area, not necessarily people). Now is the time to promote the use of less partisan commissions for redistricting."
- "Don't let unelected, federal judges control our elections for a decade."
- "If legislators insist on waiting on the outcome of appeals before fixing school finance, I suppose they should wait for the conclusion of redistricting challenges as well."
- "The legislature is running on all cylinders for the first time in a long time. Big-ticket items are getting accomplished and there is cordial debate amongst its members. Redistricting is the type of issue that will end the peace treaty."
- "Sounds like such action would create further confusion, which would prompt further legal action, which would lead to a potential Special Session. And no one should like a Special Session at any time, especially an elected official right before or during an election."
- "The temporary maps still contain too much of the retrogression that was in the original legislative maps."
- "If judges want to draw maps, they should take off the robes and run for the legislature!"
- "Time to move on."
- "Doubt it will happen, but avoiding another messy fight by redrawing the lines is desirable."
- "Please clean up the maps, please make them truly reflective of 'communities of interest'. There is NO reason for Travis Co, Jefferson Co, etc. to be in two or more senatorial districts! There is no reason for the rice farms and shrimpers of Matagorda Co. to be lumped in with the 'suburbs' of Houston in a district! Of course, nothing will be done to truly rectify this, but I feel better for saying it."
- "Time to move on in redistricting. Texas will never get a fair shake at the DOJ."
- "Those maps do not adequately provide for the increase in Hispanic population."
- "It now seems apparent that the long term impact of the various 'voter's rights' laws and redistricting efforts by both Ds and Rs have resulted in material erosion of the relevance of the general elections. This reality, particularly for Texas state legislators and congressman, has materially eroded their flexibility in the compromise process so important to good democratic government. My hope--albeit a faint one--would be that the maps would be withdrawn to eliminate, as much as reasonably possible, 'slam dunk' districts, both 'republican' and 'democratic'."
- "No question of court approval."
- "Still time for the legislature to do its job"
- "Catch me up: Which maps are the ones that screw Democrats, and which

maps are the ones that screw us with our pants on?"

- "Don't open up that can of worms!"

### ***Will the courts ultimately uphold the maps drawn by the Legislature last session?***

- "Everything involving redistricting is left up to interpretation."

- "It is clear the maps were drawn w/ a purpose of diluting the Mexican American vote."

- "Probably not, but it all depends on the SCOTUS ruling on Section 5 this summer."

- "Senate - maybe; House - no way"

- "There's a chance, but not a strong one"

- "The Supreme Court's decision on Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act will have some bearing on the final outcome, but the courts have already ruled that intentional discrimination occurred in the Legislature's plan, which suggests that at least some changes will have to be made."

- "You want me to predict the mind of John 'Obamacare' Roberts?"

- "If SCOTUS kills off Section 5, then the Congressional and Senate maps should pass muster, but the House maps were so over the top that they will be vulnerable under Section 2."

### ***Which party would benefit most by keeping the redistricting cases in court?***

- "The country is losing in the redistricting battles. It is beneficial to the Republican Party right now because they have the heavier hand, but the division which has been fostered by the packing of districts is preventing civility and search for common ground and preventing progress. That is bad for everyone."

- "Abbott is posturing, on the taxpayers' dime, for the Republican base."

- "Republicans will be able to hold on to some seats for a few years longer, but it all comes to an end next decade."

- "If for no other reason than a delayed primary most hurts Republicans by dragging out intra party fights."

- "These maps were pencil-whipped to dilute minority voting strength and create safe R districts despite the growth of populations that are stereotypically Democratic."

- "Dah! Majority of republicans today drawing the maps is the same as democrats skewing the maps in the 80's and 90's to punish republicans."

- "Court-ordered maps and rules are seldom as good for political majority as the majority could do for itself."

- "Republicans never seem to win when the Constitution defines the parameters. They'd much rather whip us with rubber hoses under the pink dome."

***Do you think the 2014 elections will be conducted with the same maps used in 2012?***

- "With the earlier filing deadline"

themselves to be non-political. And the rest of us laugh at them."

- "We may have a few tweaks here and there, but ultimately, every incumbent, including Democrats, loves the new maps."

- "We'll likely see a 'grand bargain' similar to what we saw in 2006 where an agreement is made among the affected parties."

- "Yes, with a few edits. But mostly the same."

- "The typical insider answering these survey questions has no better idea about the likely future course of Texas redistricting than your average 2nd grader. People are making guesses based on misinformation and partisan wishes."

- "It depends upon the timing of the Courts' final decision, and whether or not a special session is called to address redistricting."

- "We will have new maps."

- "Inertia rules"

- "Judges do not want to deal with this issue because they view it as political and judges believe

- "With minor exceptions in DFW metro area and maybe Harris County."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Dadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Adam Haynes, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Pat Oxford, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Jerry

Polinard, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Tom Suehs, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.