

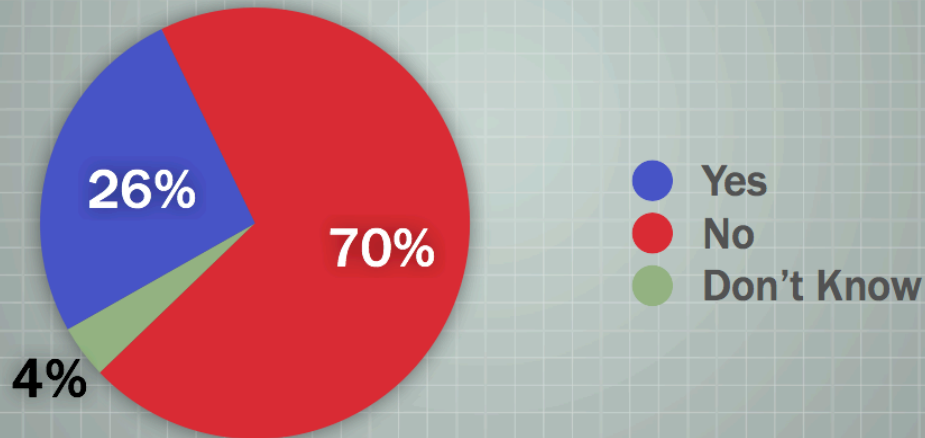
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of July 1*

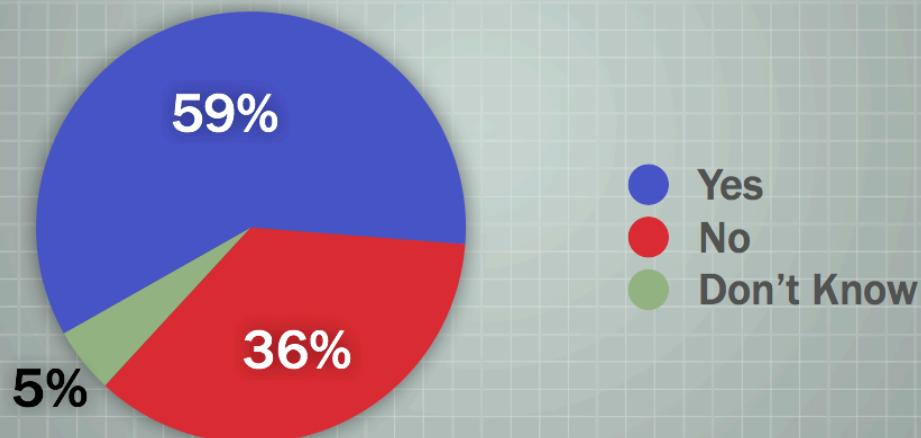
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should Perry run for governor again if he's planning a presidential run?



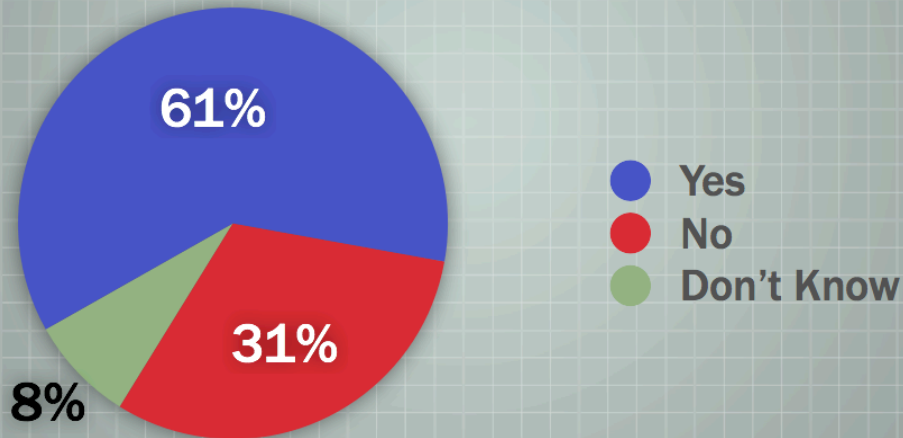
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should Texas Railroad Commissioners resign before seeking other offices?



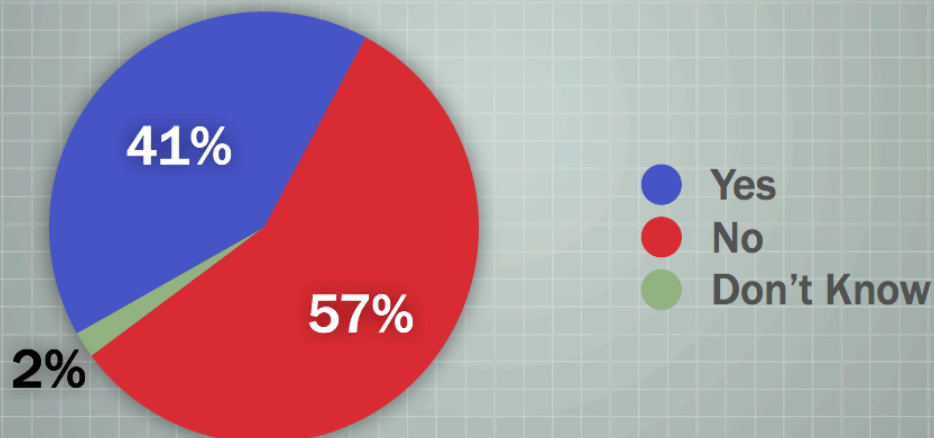
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should all state regulators have to resign before seeking other offices?



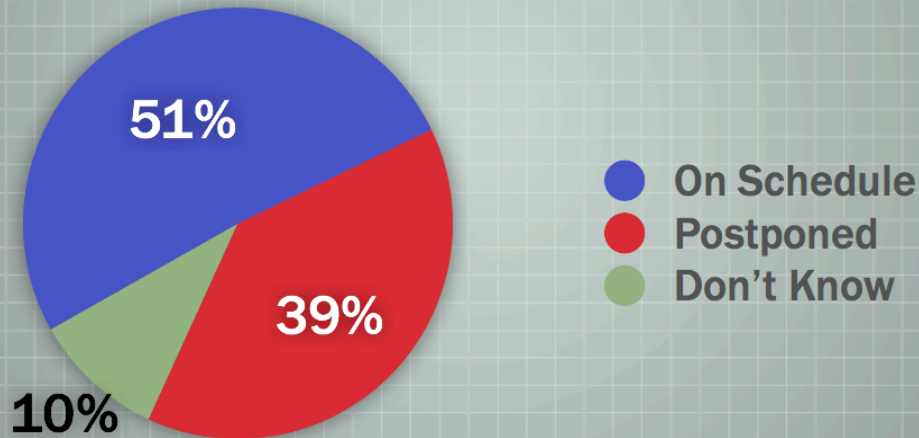
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should changes in Texas voting laws require federal approval?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will next year's primaries be postponed by redistricting litigation?



If Rick Perry wants to run for president in 2016, should he seek another term as governor in 2014?

- "He currently has no active campaign apparatus in place and his new plan is to seek appointed national office or Huckabee type bully pulpit because he could not get elected to squat outside of Texas. A good plan actually."
- "It's time for Governor Perry to move along in 2014 either way. He's been governor long enough."
- "Us Texas taxpayers have carried the bill for Perry's lifestyle long enough."
- "He should focus on the rest of America and "De-Texanize" his message. The oil and gas economy speaks for itself."
- "At this point for him he could do it either way - but perhaps not running for governor makes him a more serious presidential candidate - at least in terms of mass appeal. He can do either."
- "One of many lessons he may have learned from his last presidential run. You can't run a focused campaign AND be Governor of Texas."
- "Just because"
- "Let's see: As governor he can fly around the country--including key early states--on "official" business to raise his profile and raise cash or he can call it quits and pay out of his own pocket to travel to key early state and

have a harder time raising money. Even an Aggie can figure out this one..."

- "The Governor doesn't need to add to his long and successful tenure in order bolster a bid for president."
- "Obviously it's easier to run as a sitting governor; this does not suggest that he SHOULD run for either office."
- "Better to be a sitting governor than a former one. And he'll keep doing crazy things for our amusement!"
- "I think Perry has almost zero chance of being the GOP nominee in 2016, but if he does run, he would be better served doing so as a sitting governor. It gives him a platform he would not enjoy as a former elected official."
- "If he is going to run for president, he has to be all-in to be taken seriously by the voters in my humble opinion."
- "You could argue it round or argue it flat. Typical factors don't seem to precisely fit Perry's situation."
- "Dedicate full time to running."
- "He's got a great record to run on nationally."
- "Decide what you really want and go for it. Perry proved the last time only a full time commitment to seek the Presidency will do."
- "Without the governorship, he would otherwise be the most irrelevant candidate for president"

• "Why the hell not? Being The Guv will help raise a lot of money...No Money, No Homey!"

- "Should not seek another term regardless. Staying longer will only diminish his legacy."
- "He should free his time to go to debate preparation and world geography quiz school."
- "The State of Texas, courtesy of taxpayers, provides such a generous housing, transportation, and security package for a presidential campaign, and also allows the governor to continue receiving his full salary and retirement, I don't see why he would want to give up this gig. The person harmed most by this decision would be Dewhurst. Abbott would turn his attention and his overflowing campaign account to the Lt. governor's race."
- "But why would that stop him? He is NEVER had a job other than with the Government - from the Air Force, to State Rep. the AG Commissioner, to Lt. Governor to Governor. He is been on the Government dole his ENTIRE adult life! That is why he makes such a good "business" leader governor - all that GREAT experience he has had in the private sector (of his MIND!)"
- "If he loses, his presidential quest is over. He needs to step down a winner."
- "Politically, yes. Responsibly, no. In January 2015 he'll need to be in Iowa courting votes, not naming the official citrus fruit of Texas."
- "If he plans to run in 2016 it will be an uphill battle, so why give up the

vice grip on Texas donors and the other benefits of being Governor?"

- "This question is confusing -- from whose standpoint? If you're seeking my opinion, it is this: he should not use Texas public resources to partially fund his presidential campaign. It is an abuse of his gubernatorial office. But from Perry's viewpoint, he probably should keep the governorship. There's little work involved, it has a nice salary and benefits, and provides him with security and transportation as he travels the country."

- "As a former governor, he'd have time on his hands to move to Iowa, but little campaign money to tell voters he was there amongst them."

- "If Rick Perry seriously wants to run for president in 2016, then he enjoys a richer fantasy life than I've given him credit for."

- "The state's top post should be held by someone fully committed to running the state."

- "Do not under-estimate Tom Pauken and others waiting in the wings. Governor Perry's ability to run for re-election without leaving Austin or engaging his opposition is over. If he wants to be viable in 2016 it would be wise to avoid a bruising primary that highlights 15 years of cronyism and will likely include numerous gaffes and "oops" moments. Come into the sunshine, Governor Perry."

- "Hello Greg good bye Ricky!"

- "Please send him back to the farm!"

- "He needs time to fully run for President and Texas needs a full time Governor."

- "The 2013 session was close to perfect for national aspirations. Budget surplus; big Rainy Day Fund balance; funded water plan; transportation funding; tax cut; abortion. Why mess that up with potential 2015 issues?"

Should Texas Railroad commissioners be required to resign if they declare their candidacies for other offices?

- "No - but if the Legislature tries it again, they should include themselves and every other state elected official."

- "Sure the RRC has become the launchpad for other elected offices but they shouldn't be singled out over any other elected office."

- "Why is resign to run good for local officials (who might run against state officials) but not state officials?"

- "They should not be required to resign. The agency and these offices should be abolished, instead."

- "Let's get some commissioners that are serious about being commissioners. This will always be a stop along the way to something else."

- "Somebody has to keep the trains on time, oh wait, what do they do? - Never mind"

- "Should be no such thing as safe harbor / lobby hostage doctrine; hard to distort an already given the lack of campaign finance limits and related transparency requirements to implement, but nonetheless"
- "What does "AG" stand for? Aspiring Governor (not Attorney General). All offices are stepping stones to something else. No need to punish folks for being ambitious."
- "Good question. Maybe so. In which case, the same rule should apply to Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Land Commissioner, and Agricultural Commissioner... On the other hand -- it's a really stupid idea."
- "Why are these office holders being singled out? Or, is this simply the first step down the slippery slope?"
- "Why should they be different from everyone else?"
- "Local officials have to, so why shouldn't state officials have to do the same..."
- "RRC and all elected offices should be subject to such a requirement. This "free shot" crap has got to stop. It's just a shakedown of everyone in sight."
- "This should be true of all elected office holders not just RR commissioners."
- "Yes. Barry Smitherman is a perfect example. He wants a government-parachute in the event he is not successful running for Atty. Gen."
- "Any statewide seeking another statewide office should be required to resign"
- "The six year term has proven to be too tempting for ambitious politicians. The energy industry is too important to continue to be regulated by politicians who or only passing through."
- "All elected officials should resign to run for a different office."
- "Why should the RRC be held to a standard different than members of the legislature or executive branch?"
- "As should all state wide officials"
- "The Agency is becoming a joke."
- "The agencies name should just be changed to Texas Statewide Election School."
- "Smitherman so WANTED to be a RRC member - it was a job he felt WELL prepared for - and his opponent, who truly wanted to serve as an RRC member - was just a political hack! REALLY? Mr. Smitherman is trying to map out his road to the White House - don't believe me - ask his consultants! And Ms. Craddick - a few months on the job and already considering another move?"
- "Only if similar requirements are adopted for other elected officials."
- "Not unless other statewide office holders are held to the same standard."
- "And Senators do too unless it is a special election"

- "Don't think they should be different than any other elected official (i.e. state senators). I believe all should be required to resign to run for another office."

- "Should not use position to raise money"

- "No reason to single out one office for a "require to resign" rule."

- "The RRC is in part an adjudicatory office. If judges must resign to run, commissioners should be required to do so as well."

- "Why should this only apply to Texas Railroad Commissioners? Why not legislators? Oh... Right."

- "If the voters are responsible and do not like what the pols are doing let

them decide. This is a Republican state. And Republicans always say they are about individual responsibility right? Then the individual voters need to decide. Since when is letting government and more regulation (because that would be more government and a regulation) a Republican idea?"

- "If you want to be something else then you should move on!"

- "Treat them the same as all state office holders"

- "But not just RRC, all statewide elected officials."

- "Oil & gas is driving the Texas economy. It'd be nice to have those overseeing the industry actually want to be there."

Should government regulators — appointed or elected — be required to resign if they declare their candidacies for elected offices?

- "If they are an appointed official (PUC, TCEQ, etc.), I think they should be required to resign before seeking elected state/statewide office."

- "I hate to say this but I think it depends on the office seeking and sitting in."

- "What is a government regulator? Sounds Yankee-like."

- "Appointed yes, unless appointed to an elective office, elected no."

- "If the resign to run practice is good enough for our supreme court justices, then it should be good enough for everyone else."

- "For crying out loud -- they are POLITICIANS! They run for office, and move up the ladder. If they are always resigning to run for other office, we'll have mayhem."

- "Why would we stifle ambition and the desire to serve from candidates already serving the state expertly in other positions?"

- "Only appointed ones."

- "Absolutely!"

- "Not required but I their action to do so, or not do so, should be noted by the voter."

- "Requiring resignation will force many regulators to stay put and do their jobs. It's the best method to take away the competitive fundraising advantage they have over others running for the same office."
- "Too many times the regulated industry feels "pressure" to support candidates or be subjected to subtle retribution if the individual is not elected."
- "See how much money you can raise when you don't have any "authority" over any one!"
- "If there is more than a year left on their term. One office per person at a time"
- "Should not use regulatory votes to raise money"
- "They probably should resign, but I'm not certain whether it should be required by law."
- "We have regulators? In Texas? Working for the government? Is Rick Perry aware of this?"
- "Yes as to appointed officials. No as to elected. Silly question, by the way."

Should Texas continue to be subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires federal preclearance before any change in the state's election laws?

- "Gerrymandering is not illegal and for that matter neither is stupid. Section 5 has run its course in time and history."
- "Thank God we have the federal government to save us from ourselves."
- "This continues to be a federal "Mother May I?" requirement for only a few states. If it's that necessary, make all 50 states comply."
- "Let's not forget we're subject to Section 5 because of the discriminatory actions of Democrats. Dems don't run the state no mo', let our people go!"
- "This oversight needs to stop. It has morphed into a tool to provide seats in the legislature to Democrats."
- "Sooner or later we need to move on."
- "This state is NOT ready to be out of VRA. Witness the many attempts at voter suppression laws."
- "While strides have been made in making voting rights available to all eligible citizens, discrimination still exists. Section 5 should be kept."
- "The Act has outlived its purpose. Next thing you know, we'll have to gerrymander districts to give whites representation."
- "Equal protection in my mind means minority populations should be protected in New York and Maine to the same level they are in Texas or vice versa."
- "A relic of the past."

- "First prove you can redistrict without intentional discrimination, and start making it easier to vote instead of harder, then argue to be let out of the Voting Rights Act."
- "Demographics will influence results at the polls, which is the best and fairest way to insure the people's will."
- "Enough already. End interference by the federal government in Texas elections."
- "YES! Love my home state but we still have problems with voting - just look at the proposals which have been introduced the last few sessions!"
- "It is the guarantee of one person, one vote. Preclearance is not a problem for anyone if the maps are fair for all Texans."
- "Based on the intentional racial discrimination employed by the Rs on voting rights and redistricting, the answer is clearly yes,"
- "Given the population migrations of the last 50 years, all 50 states should be subject to the same standards of review."
- "Good for the goose, good for the gander. Think that all states should be subject to requirement or none. It shouldn't be selective."
- "The mess with Leg lines is a great argument for outside review."
- "There is no more discrimination or bias or segregation in Texas now than there is in many or most northern states."
- "The alternative is that Texas Republicans can stop being so racist."
- "Wow, there are is only racism south of IH 40? I did not know that is where all of the White racists lived. And there is no such thing as a Black, Hispanic, Asian, Democrat/liberal racist? And a white cannot represent a minority? Wait, they cannot if they are conservative. But if they are a liberal/Democrat that is okay right? Section 5 is Unconstitutional and in and of itself it is blatant racism."
- "Obviously"
- "Preclearance is foolish, especially in that some states are subject, while others are not."

Do you think the 2014 primaries will occur on schedule in March or that redistricting litigation will cause them to be postponed, as they were in 2012?

- "I think the Democrats and Tea-Partiers would like that."
- "Not even a Federal Judge would want to live through that again!"
- "Even the most minor changes to district boundaries will ensure delay due to court intervention."
- "Been there; done that."

- "I do not believe the courts (both DC and San Antonio) are finished with the House and Congressional maps. No doubt the Supreme Court's decision on Section 5 of the VRA, which is due this week, will have some bearing on the courts' disposition toward the plans. If maps need to be finalized by September 1 to hold a March primary, we are already getting dangerously close to blowing that deadline. And the courts have demonstrated an indifference to maintaining election schedules as they deliberate. Not their concern."
- "The current Atty. Gen. has screwed this up again and it will become apparent the Primaries will be delayed yet again."
- "God willing. The Courts need to butt out and let elections occur on schedule"
- "I asked the Magic 8 Ball and it couldn't predict now. If the 8 Ball doesn't know, we don't know."
- "For my own sanity, I am praying they are on schedule."
- "Tough to call, if Section 5 ceases to exist after Shelby then in March for sure, but if Section 5 lives, then a delay is more likely."
- "If court maps are largely ratified by legislature, then there's plenty of time for court review (of their own work) by next year."
- "I betcha the Supremes overturn Section 5 and Perry calls the legislature back into session to declare the Democratic Party illegal, and they spend so much time drawing maps with red crayons that they force us to postpone the primaries."
- "Well, probably not since the liberals will try to scuttle everything in their attempt to move Texas left. I say liberal because I have D friends who are not crazy, nut job, whacko, illogical, mean spirited people. It is the lefty, socialists who have ruined the Democrat Party."
- "The republicans will get screwed again!"
- "Hopefully"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, David Cabrales, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, John Colyandro, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Kathy Grant, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon,

Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Gerard Torres, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.