

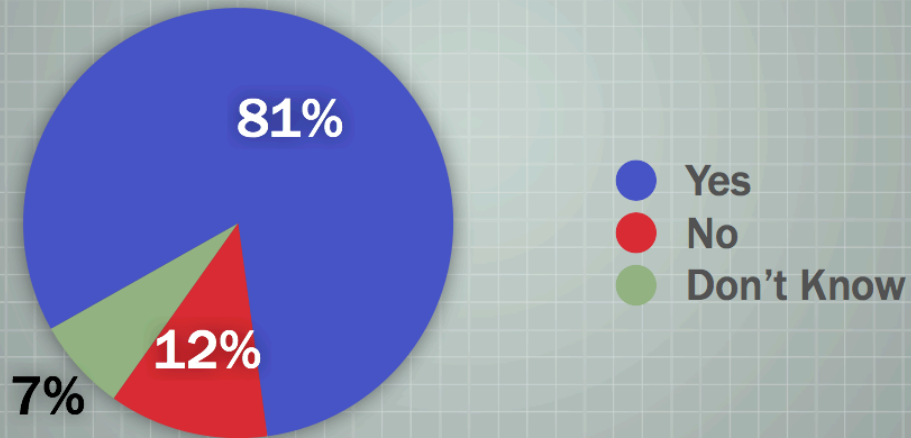
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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

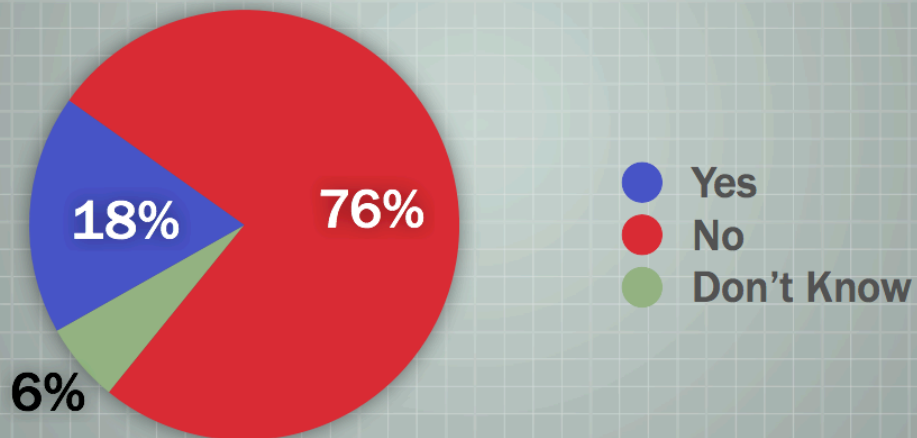
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will Rick Perry run for president in 2016?



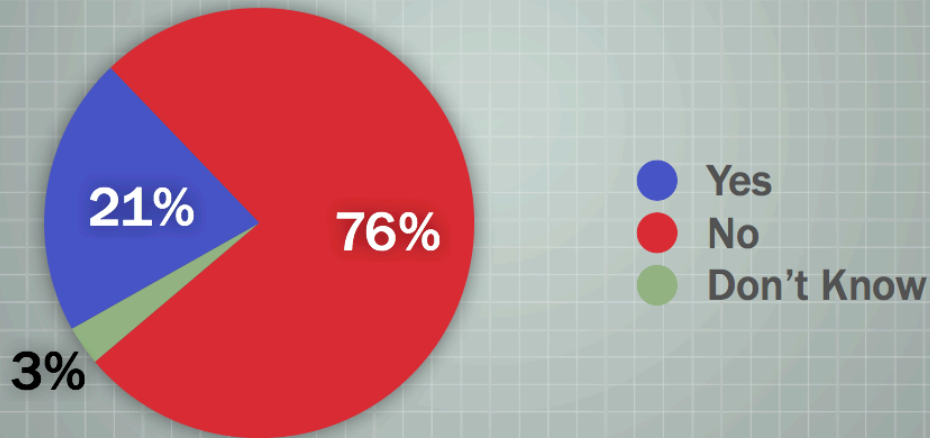
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Can Rick Perry win the presidential primary in 2016?



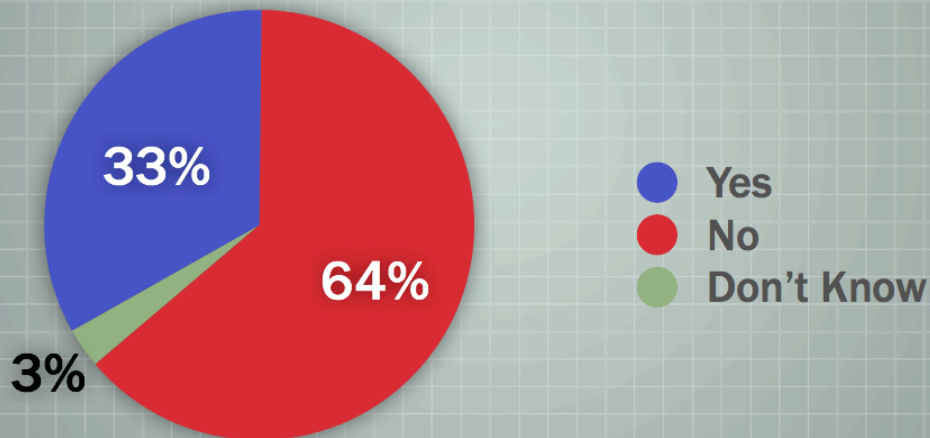
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will Greg Abbott have a serious challenge for governor in 2014?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will John Cornyn have a serious challenge for U.S. Senate in 2014?



Do you think Rick Perry will run for president in 2016?

- "Of course. It allows him to be in front of a camera, he can stay in the finest hotels, and someone else pays all the bills. But don't expect him to start construction on a 'Crawford-like' western white house at Paint Creek. He'll be staying in the New Hampshire mansion on the Carney-Toomey Island!"
- "His degree from Texas A@M in the end will help him distinguish mature thought from manure thought. If he can convince Anita that being a regional El Jefe has its pleasures then life won't be bad at the end of the public trail."
- "Earrings on a pig, but still, pigs is pigs, to borrow from one of my ancestors, John Nance Garner, all the preparation and expertise that might be made available to him in terms of foreign and military policy, to mention only a couple of blind sides, you can explain it to him but you can't understand it for him"
- "He is doomed to failure. The public has decided he's not very bright, and there are plenty of bright candidates available."
- "Americans want a conservative choice."
- "What else is he going to do?"
- "Yes, he can't help himself."
- "Smirking all the way!"
- "Perry is very disciplined at executing campaign plans. IF he gets good advice on what that plan should be and pays attention to all of its elements, including becoming more conversant with some national and foreign policy issues, he could put himself in a credible position to throw his hat back in the ring."
- "Yes. But will fail and drop out early."
- "He believes he has a message from God which needs to me delivered. And he just may."
- "Does Perry wear pointy boots?"
- "Perry's retirement from the Governor's office will greatly reduce his public profile and ability to raise money. His dismal showing in 2012 leaves him starting a race for the nomination nearly at zero."
- "Mrs. Perry is looking for a new address"
- "Depends on whether he decides he has the fire in the belly to run, and it depends on whether he has the blessings of his family to see it through. Presidential campaigns are grueling experiences that expose candidates and their families to intense scrutiny."
- "There is no reason for him not to run."
- "Ego demands it."
- "There are two avenues he can take: 1) Run for President; or 2) Be the head of an organization that needs someone

with 'Perry Skills' to lead them in troubled times such as the NRA. I still believe those advising him want another shot at President. They now know the landscape and where the land mines are buried."

- "It depends. If he gets strong national financial support, yes he will run. If he does not, he will politely bow out."

- "Yes, and make Texas look stupid again."

- "I think he burned his hand on the stove and won't be touching it again. He'll pull a Palin and bask in the glow of the celebrity spotlight...and then take a pass."

- "He'll start making money and not want to risk it. He will be a voice in the election, but not a candidate."

- "Does the Pope wear a funny hat?"

- "To quote someone else's bumper sticker ... Why the hell not?"

- "His appeal runs thin north of the Red River, but those who talk to him are south of it."

- "As if Lorne Michaels needs this, but why not!"

- "Why not?"

- "Why not? If he can raise the money."

- "He's a great fundraiser.... perhaps head of the NRC? He'll do something high profile at a national level. He's not done yet."

- "He'll show leg, but I doubt anyone's going to want yesterday's reject."

- "Too early"

- "No Doubt."

- "Of course he will.... he thinks... 'if GWB did it, I can too!'"

Do you think he can win the presidential nomination in 2016?

- "Nope. Good looks and Texas job creation record will get you a seat with Mike Christie in the back of the bus."

- "Pigs is pigs"

- "No, but he'll raise his media profile and maybe land a Fox news slot, or infowars."

- "He will again be the laughingstock of the republican field!!"

- "I think America has had enough of Texans in the White House."

- "Dead man walking. 'He's dead, but he won't lay down.'"

- "I don't know if anyone not named Rick Perry thinks he can win."

- "The economy is a winning issue."

- "I suppose he can. The real question is 'will he?'"

- "No, he can't help himself."

- "Can he win? Yes. Should he win? No way in hell, but the American people love the chance to give someone a second chance. If he ACTUALLY STUDIES this time, he has a shot."
- "Too many gaffes last time, and that won't change this time."
- "The bigger question might be whether any Republican that wins the nomination has a chance to win the presidency. For Perry to win the nomination he would have to re-frame himself as a leader rather than try to overcome the perception that he is not a good debater or that he is not knowledgeable about all the relevant facts. This could happen. We don't need the smartest man in the world as president, or the best debater. We need a leader, a person who will inspire public service and surround himself with smart people in their respective areas of expertise. We need someone who is well grounded with a core set of principles that he or she uses to make difficult decisions. No one ever accused Ronald Reagan of being the smartest man in the room."
- "He will need to run a flawless campaign. He will be a better candidate, but the field will be immensely tougher. Iowa or bust. Probably has to win Iowa and SC to be viable -- a very tough road."
- "No. That's funny!"
- "The national media will Dan Quayle him. They brought up his debate memory lapse when reporting his announcement that he would not seek re-election."
- "A lot can happen between now and then and who knows what the major issues will be in 2016, but if the economy continues to sputter along, place a side bet on him--he seems to have impeccable timing."
- "When you stumble as badly as he did in 2012, you don't get a second shot at the title."
- "Maybe - depends on the final two years of the current Administration."
- "Yes, I think he can if he runs a disciplined campaign that also allows voters to get to know him, and not just through the eyes of the media."
- "There are too many other candidates with actual competence."
- "It is too soon to determine that. Until we know what happens in the 2014 elections, we will not know how the primary field is going to shake out -- and we must know that, at a minimum, before we can assess Perry's chances. What the Democrats do will also matter. If they nominate Hillary, as we assume, R's will need to look at the best candidate to beat her."
- "Oops"
- "Can? Anything is possible. At this time, it's way to early to tell but he can make a compelling case for himself. As many jobs created nationally as all other states combined? If I were living in a struggling state, that message would resonate."
- "His conservative family values and job creation record play well, but not sure if the nation has fully recovered from its hangover from the last presidential run."

- "His last run was rushed. I think if he can rehabilitate his image (big if?) then he has a good shot."
- "Can he? Yes. Will he? Not sure yet."
- "No because 1) his job poaching tour is poisoning giant pools of voters he would need in the primary 2) you only get one chance to make a first impression 3) oops, I forget."
- "Not a snowball's chance."
- "Nope. He is tilting at windmills. But as long as he can do it with other people's money, why not?"
- "He won't even come in first in the state of Texas! Be lucky to get a secretary position if the next president happens to be Republican (maybe Commerce, Education or the uh)."
- "Perry's been a good Governor for Texas, and is clearly up to that job, but he just doesn't have the upstairs room for the Presidency."
- "His first run left a bad taste in the mouth of republicans. Is he going to be ready for prime time this time? Are the voters looking for a new face or a recycled candidate? Too many questions for Perry here."
- "America needs a strong conservative leader after 8 years of big government growth and spending."
- "The rehab tour is too long"
- "There is going to be a very crowded field filled with very interesting folks. John Thune, Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush. A 2012 candidate retreat just won't spark much interest."
- "Absolutely not."

Do you think Greg Abbott will face a serious challenge in the governor's race in 2014?

- "Davis"
- "I like Tom Pauken but he has no money and practically no audience. Senator Wendy Davis has about as much a chance as Sissy Farenthold. Who I voted for."
- "But Pauken could provide a credible place for the mainstream conservatives to park their vote, if he can provoke Abbott into enough of those forums."
- "I wouldn't underestimate Tom Pauken. Pauken could probably get a lot of independents to vote for him only if he can distinguish himself separate and apart from Abbott and the crazies."
- "Only one person in the world thinks Pauken should be governor."
- "Abbott is too formidable an opponent for a late comer."
- "Hard to compete with pockets that deep."
- "Abbott has been strategizing for the governor's job for years. He's got too much money and too much credibility (with the right people) to lose."

- "Smooth sailing for the \$18 million man (...and counting...)"
- "Abbott is a shoe in"
- "Unfortunately."
- "The position is too important and too powerful for General Abbott to win by acclamation."
- "Define serious. Right now it doesn't appear so, but what if Dewhurst decides he wants to be governor instead of lite gov? All of a sudden that \$20M war chest Abbott has is negated. Still, Dewhurst will have issues in a GOP primary, but he could be a serious contender."
- "If Davis runs, she makes a strong race against him, while falling short."
- "Mrs. Abbott can start measuring for curtains"
- "Greg Abbott is a strong candidate. The race is his to lose."
- "It's too bad Abbott won't face a challenge because that will further the myth that Jason Johnson is a genius, when he most certainly is not."
- "I don't know anyone else on the horizon."
- "You mean Pauken's not considered to be serious?"
- "Name a viable statewide Democratic - bring it W. Davis!"
- "Abbot will Roll into Victory. I believe his wife will be the secret weapon in attracting the Hispanic vote. Democrats will be surprised at to see how well he does in Latino communities."
- "Here is the real and exciting question for the upcoming election, will Patrick's past actions in the U.S. Senate race where he was heavily behind Dewhurst and not Cruz hurt him in the primary race? Ted has very, very very strong, did I say very strong tea party support, and Ted has a long memory."
- "You kidding! In a walk!"
- "Despite his lame Twitter attempts, he's no Tea Partier. As a Justice and AG he has largely been able to avoid taking detailed positions (or any position at all) on controversial issues, as well as avoiding contentious debates. He is a prime candidate to get Cruzed in a primary."
- "Abbott is the shoo-in of all shoo-ins."
- "There could be a re-emergent Democratic party this time, but no victory for them. Should be the most interesting since George W's first run. Abbott will get it."
- "While Abbott is popular and well funded is it realistic that the top job is just handed off. Also when did he have his last competitive race? Is he ready for one?"
- "Just call him governor-elect."
- "I think Tom Pauken will be able to mount a strong challenge to Abbott."
- "He's untouchable this cycle. He has the money, the grassroots credibility, and the brains--an unheard of combination."

Do you think U.S. Sen. John Cornyn will face a serious challenge in his bid for reelection in 2014?

- "Most everyone likes vanilla."
- "Certainly not from the Ds, who have reportedly rushed the Dallas County Sheriff, as yet another manifestation of cluelessness. From the far /Cruz Right? Seems they will be preoccupied w/Lt Gov and Gov, and Cruz seems likely to stick w/Cornyn"
- "From Wendy Davis. It is the only race she can loose without loosing face and only enhancing her national political stature."
- "If no one runs against him then I'll saddle up and take him on."
- "There are no logical challengers in either party."
- "There will be some Tea Party rumblings, but he's turned himself into enough of a Ted Cruz clone in his votes the last year that he should squeak through without a serious challenge."
- "Lots of frustration among the grassroots about Cornyn's middle of the road votes."
- "Ted Cruz blazed a trail for everyone who will come after him for the foreseeable future. Cornyn is not immune anymore than any other R out there."
- "In races for US Senator, Ted Cruz was a one-time phenomenon. Yes there will be a Tea Party candidate running against Cornyn, and yes that opponent will be attacking Cornyn for not being conservative enough, but the opponent (whoever that turns out to be) will not have the skill, resources, plan, personal energy, speaking ability, fundraising ability, etc., necessary to win statewide."
- "Yes. From the Tea Party/Right-Winger Side."
- "Cornyn's polling numbers have always been weak, and his long tenure in office makes him vulnerable to a Tea Party challenge in the primary."
- "He may not be drinking as much tea as others, but he is still a proven leader and strong republican in a state where proven leaders and strong republicans get re-elected."
- "This is still a solidly Republican state."
- "There may be a tea party candidate but Cruz Jar should prevail."
- "He's a public servant who approaches policy from a thoughtful, rational perspective, not through an ideological lens. He'll be challenged by a non serious group who place no value in someone who actually produces results as opposed to rhetoric but those people will have a hard time gaining any traction."
- "The Democrats are at least 6 years away from fielding candidates."

- "It's all about the money, money, money. They all need money, money, money."
- "You can be they are preparing themselves for a challenger"
- "Not in the General."
- "Next to Dewhurst, Big John is the most vulnerable of the Republican statewide incumbents due to low name ID and no personal connection with the Republican electorate."
- "Certainly will be challenged, but think this race will show the weakness of the TEA party, representing about 30% of the primary voter."
- "Who?"
- "He'll be challenged, but it won't be a close nail-biter of a race."
- "This is sad, because Cornyn's the more vulnerable of the two."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Jennifer Ahrens, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Addie Mae Crimmins, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Dadrack, Roberto DeHoyos, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Gay Erwin, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Alan Gray, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Tim Lambert, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Mark Lehman, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Brian Rawson, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Kathy Walt, John Weaver, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.