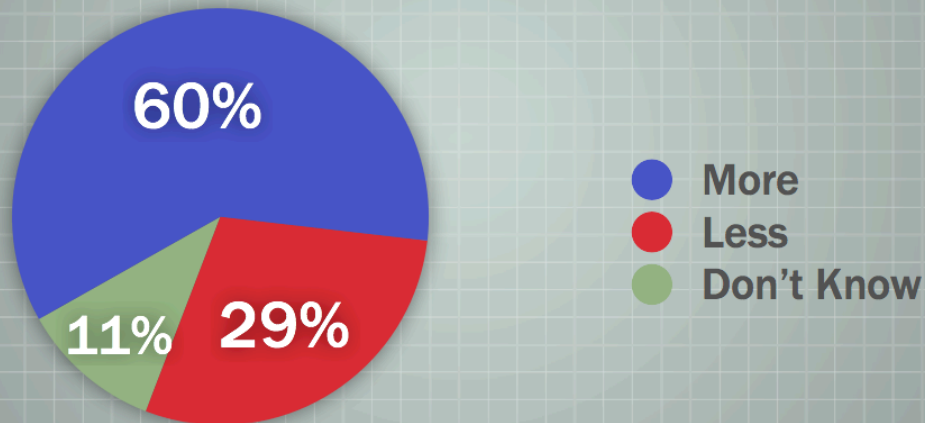


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of October 28*

## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

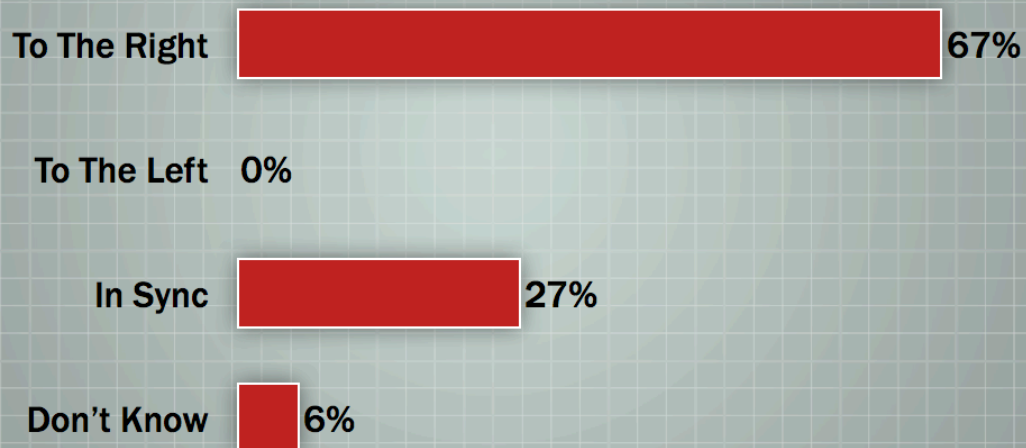
Is Cruz more or less popular with Texas Republicans than before the shutdown?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

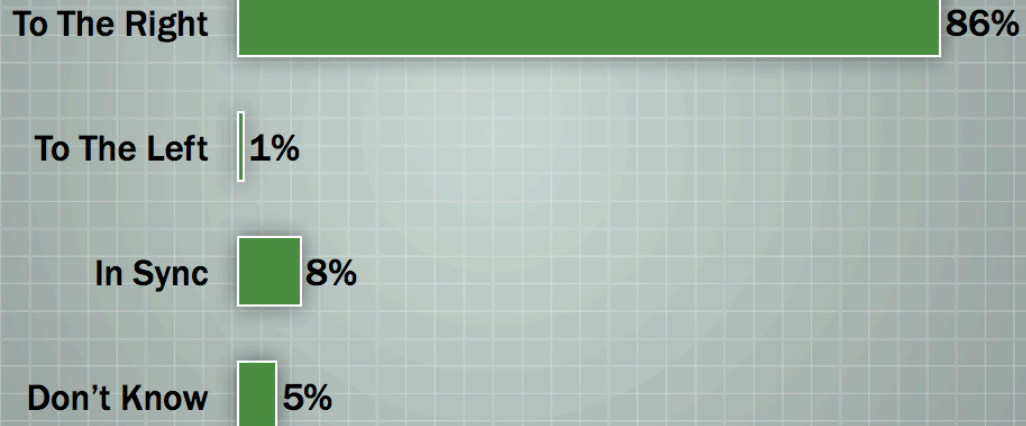
Where is Cruz in relation to the average Texas Republican?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

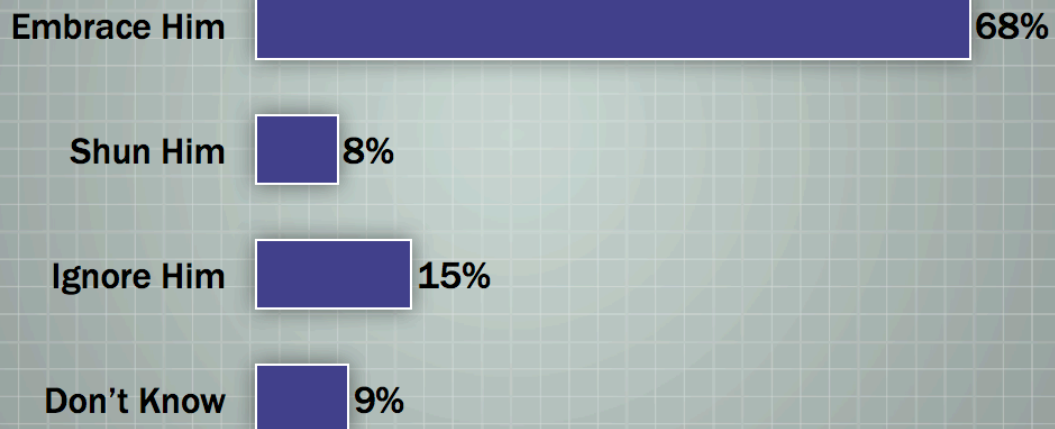
Where are Texas Republicans in relation to their counterparts?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will Texas Republican candidates embrace, shun or ignore Cruz in 2014?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

*Is Ted Cruz more or less popular with Texas Republicans now than he was before the federal government shutdown?*

- "They like his stand against Obamacare - the base loves it."
- "I think it depends on which group of Republicans to which you refer. The hacked off far right, he is more popular. For the more moderate and mainstream Republicans, less popular."
- "With Business Republicans, Less. With Kool-Aid drinkers, More."
- "Some more, some less..."
- "He pissed off a lot of Rs but his popularity with the conservative base had to go up."
- "Primary voters mostly"
- "With our dumbass tea party followers he may be more popular."
- "Senator Cruz provides bite-size, ain't-gonna-happen phrases that a vocal minority salivate over; he doesn't speak for Texas or republicans."
- "From personal observation there are some county club Republicans who are uneasy with the intensity of Cruz's approach, but the great majority of R primary voters are very happy with Cruz. Want proof? There are currently 21 statewide Republican candidates running for 7 executive offices. Name one of those 21 who is publicly distancing him or herself from Ted Cruz."
- "The rank-and-file is as crazy as he is!"
- "You have to start categorizing Republicans in different camps now. The primary-election Republican believes Ted Cruz is the second coming. However, the general election Republican is starting to question his tactics."
- "He's doing exactly as he said before elected."
- "Has any Texas Republican ever become less popular by opposing President Obama on anything?"
- "Sadly, more."
- "If he is not less popular, the R's are crazier than I thought."
- "The better question is how popular Ted Cruz is with Texas Republican primary voters, and it seems that their tea can't be strong enough."
- "At least w/ the Republican Primary Voters, and those that supported him last year."
- "Depends. Can't tell if it's new growth or old growth. Given our aggressively ignorant political subcultures, May just be galvanizing a previously untapped base from the flat earth society."
- "Republicans want someone, anyone to address the debt. They don't draw distinction between battlefields, any battlefield will do."
- "I think from now on a distinction needs to be made between the Tea Party and Main Stream Republican when asking these kind of questions,

as he seems only to care and appeal to the Tea Party"

- "He's most popular with Texas Democrats because Ted is helping to tip balance towards a two party state. He gives Wendy Davis a foil to rail against and reason for national democratic money to flow into Texas. When was the last time that happened?"

- "Cruz is a growing hero in a shrinking church. Think David Koresh."

- "Less overall, but the Tea Party folks are giddy."

- "Umm, more and less popular, although probably net more popular because we Texans are really bad at admitting when one of our own has shot himself in the foot."

- "More and Less. The extremists driving the party off the cliff love him. The rational business types have confirmation of his singular focus on self."

- "Depends on how you define a 'Texas Republican'. The Tea Party loves him. Business Republicans (aka the establishment) are generally less fond of him than they were."

### ***Is Ted Cruz ideologically to the right, to the left, or in sync with the typical Texas Republican voter right now?***

- "I don't think there is a typical Republican voter right now."

- "Ted Cruz is a radical, fanatical, extremist Republ Libertarian that can never be out-flanked to the right because he is just that crazy-smart."

- "Objection. Assumes facts not in evidence: 'The Typical Texas Republican'."

- "But only slightly"

- "There is a big difference between the ideology of those who are the most active and the balance of those who vote in November but skip the primary."

- "He's embarrassing"

- "Pick the most conservative member of the Texas legislature, and Senator

Cruz wakes up each morning trying to make them look like Rep. Lon Burnam."

- "Ted Cruz is in sync with anyone who is paying attention. It's been 10 years since the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs testified to Congress that THE major vulnerability of the United States is our public debt. The problem has ballooned massively in recent years, sustained almost exclusively by low interest rates. The revised CBO numbers show that Obamacare will heap a huge new public obligation on top of the existing mountain of debt. There is no serious effort from either party to get a budget which does not borrow 39 cents out of every dollar the federal government spends. It has gone beyond just living off of our grandchildren. We've reached the point that, without a dramatic change of direction, the entire US government

will become a public Ponzi scheme. Any educated person understands why this is a serious threat to our republic, and why our top military leaders are rightly concerned about it. Ted Cruz is the only elected official in DC addressing the crisis with the directness and intensity that is fully justified by the problem we face."

- "He is in sync with primary voters. General election Republicans are starting to think he is the uncle you don't take out in public."
- "Everyone admires political courage--and kept promises."
- "Depends on what part of Texas you're talking about. In Dallas and Houston, Cruz is further right. In many parts of West and East Texas, Cruz is just another Republican."
- "Typical Texan finds D.C. appallingly inept-- if you can't even propose a BUDGET for 5+ years, what basis is there to claim you can govern?"
- "He's in sync with typical Texas Republican values and principles, but his brash style offends many of us."
- "The real question is whether he is in the same universe with the typical Texas R."
- "Like any zealot -- or addict -- they keep chasing a purity, which remains ever elusive."

- "IN sync, if talk radio is any gauge."
- "Lets see, 60 percent..."
- "If you define 'typical' as Marchant, Brady, or even Cornyn. Less so if typical means Gohmert, Neugebauer, or Stockman."
- "Cruz is an opportunist who is primarily all about Cruz; but the Taliban-right of the party is where he is now and where he is being rewarded; even in Texas, the 'typical' primary voter would be hard pressed to get to the right of him."
- "Recent statewide survey results of likely GOP primary voters show Cruz as the most popular Republican in the state with a +58% favorable to unfavorable spread. Less than 15% of Republicans have an unfavorable opinion of him."
- "Sadly, evidence suggests that he falls within the mainstream of an extreme party."
- "Like a moth to a flame he will burn bright until he catches fire and flames out. He is Dan Patrick with 75 more points on the IQ scale."
- "There is no typical Republican voter, as there is no typical Republican party. The country club crowd will never love the cultural warriors."
- "I have been to several Cruz events and they love him"

*Are Texas Republicans ideologically to the right, to the left, or in sync with their counterparts in the rest of the country right now?*

- "Texas Republicans are leading the National GOP's rightward march."
- "I think Texas Republicans are not in sync right now."
- "To the right and Texas is better for it. Take a look at the prosperity we enjoy in this state while the rest of the country is still rebuilding or in recession."
- "The optimist in me hopes that Texans will continue to be rational, rather than solely ideological."
- "Comparing ideology misses the whole point. The press, the pundits and the RNC elders fail to recognize that Cruz is playing a different game, with different rules and different goals. He is not playing a statutory game to struggle over inches or to get the position between the lines; he is playing a Constitutional game outside the normal lines and in which he is disputing miles and miles of territory. The critics are 'misunderestimating' both Cruz's sincerity and the significance of the issues he is pursuing. Cruz will continue, by default, to run up the score unless either 1) events make his game irrelevant, or 2) someone shows up to vigorously confront Ted on his own terms, neither of which seems likely any time soon."
- "We are in sync with those who believe like us. Everyone else lacks purity."
- "Most are fed up with excessive spending and unaccountable politicians."
- "For the most part, Texas is in sync. However, Texas Republicans have the luxury of getting to go farther right and being praised by their voters."
- "Smaller government, fewer regulations, less taxes, strong military...we agree on the big picture."
- "Around the country there is a growing group of Americans who are Rs, Ds, Libertarians, Independents and Other who are sick of government taking more and more of their money. And, there is a growing group among what we might call 'younger voters' who are fiscally conservative and want the government out of their life and want the government to quit spending. The problem is Republicans are clueless on how to message this and take advantage of the angst among the general public. Oh wait, that has been the problem for decades. Here is how you spell it M E S S A G I N G!"
- "Chris Christie may be the Republican nominee for president, but is there any question how he would fare in our corner of the country?"
- "Not sure about their hearts, but their voting heads appear to be."
- "Potentially leaving in their wake an exploitable and militant center comprised of X/Y gen'ers, women of most ages, and most college educated males under age 60. However, to quote the late great Edmund Kuempel, who stood up to those pressures and cheap shots, 'if a frog had a back pocket he'd carry a pistol and shoot snakes.'"

- "Really? We have to ask this question? Why isn't 'duh' a possible answer?"

- "The typical Texas Republican is in sync with those across the country but the extremes are more vocal and demand attention. The rest of the GOP voters should get moving..."

- "It appears the tea part wing of the Republican Party is still ascendant in Texas, even as it wanes across the country."

- "Seriously? Anyone who responds with anything besides 'To the right' should have their head examined."

- "You can't get much further to the right and still walk upright."

### ***Will Republican candidates in Texas embrace or shun Cruz's ideology and style in the 2014 cycle?***

- "All of them will embrace it in the primary - some may drop off a bit for the general - but Cruz will be in demand."

- "Unfortunately, although not as drunk on the tea, they are afraid to shun it."

- "It appears they are all pandering to the mystical TEA party for the primaries. Cruz's ideological supporters vote. While efforts are being made by the Republican Party to support and push thoughtful and pragmatic candidates, it appears being reasonable won't be a campaign strategy until after the primary. Impeach the president?"

- "The evidence thus far is that the majority of Republican candidates for statewide office are embracing Cruz's far-right ideology and style. Some, like Branch, who has had a fairly moderate reputation in the House of Representatives, have chosen to embrace the Cruz ideology and Cruz himself. Ditto for Abbott and Cornyn."

- "I hope they simply speak the truth and develop their own style and

approach but I fear they will adopt his swagger to get elected."

- "Unfortunately, many are embracing it, but I have hope that they will one day find their spines."

- "That's what it will take to win a Republican primary. It's a toss up with the general election."

- "Again mostly primary voters"

- "Ultimately they will shun it, but it is has to continue to be outrageous for a while."

- "They'll embrace it through the primary election."

- "Only because our legislature is headed further to the right."

- "Cruz's efforts will inspire a whole new wave of Tea Party candidates, volunteers and donors. The liberal fantasy (offered by Obama, Schumer, and others) that the fiscal conservative 'fever' is going to break any moment now is deeply out of touch with the lives and beliefs of millions of working Americans, and especially



out of touch with a very large number of Texas voters."

- "Could this state get any nuttier???"
- "Republicans will embrace it in 2014, but run away from it after the primary. We are witnessing and internal war for control of the party between Cruz Followers and everyone else. As Clemenza (from the Godfather) said: '[It's gonna get] Pretty GD bad. These things gotta happen every five years or so, ten years. Helps to get rid of the bad blood. Been ten years since the last one. You know, you gotta stop them at the beginning. They was just asking for trouble.'"
- "We are recruiting and planning to elect more like Cruz."
- "As long as the voter numbers show more Rs in Texas than Ds, embrace it. You gain nothing positioning to the left (or looking like your moving left in any way)."
- "Smitherman will FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT for us...so will Paxton. And Dan Patrick. And Staples. And Patterson. And Abbott. And Toth. And Creighton. And Opiela. They're all reading from the Cruz play book and embracing his style and brash rhetoric."
- "By and large, Republican candidates will run their own races."
- "It all depends on the race in question."
- "Because they have always made the same mistake--that you can placate that wing of their party by sounding like them. Witness Sessions baiting the

French, Dewhurst calling for impeachment, or Culberson mistaking nihilism with fighting terrorists. All seasoned public officials who should know better."

- "Embrace it in the primary and move a bit more to the center in the fall."
- "I've seen a great number of candidates at all levels already campaigning as 'Ted Cruz Republicans.' In the short-term, it's going to get people elected in the primary. In the long-term, it's the politics of suicide. As our party becomes more and more exclusive, rather than inclusive, our prospects for long-term viability dwindle. Our inability or unwillingness to bring Hispanics into the party will ultimately be our downfall in Texas, but people like Cruz, Patrick, Paxton, et al. are just serving to speed the process along. In 20 years there won't be a single statewide Republican elected official left, but at least we'll know who to thank for our demise."
- "I don't think that the hand wringing and protestations about how Cruz has acted is justified. Regardless of whether I agree with him, he's doing exactly what he said he would do: not be part of the establishment in DC and play their game. At least he is doing walking the talk, which is more than most of the people complaining can say. I think the jury is out on Cruz and he may come out of this a whole lot more influentially than most think."
- "They will do both"
- "These guys shun evolution, think birth control causes abortions, and

believe people choose the life of discrimination, bullying and alienation that comes with homosexuality. Cruz makes sense to these special little children of God."

- "As long as he stays popular they will embrace if the changes they will dump him"
- "This may all be wishful thinking..."
- "In state House and Senate races if it will earn them one more vote - they will bolt themselves to Ted."
- "Cruz will ultimately be deposed by the majority of Republicans who view victory at the polls as more important than glorious oratory."

• "It depends on the race. For Lt. Gov where there are lots of Rs running against each other, it looks like they will try to out Ted Cruz each other. In the Governor's race, where for the first time in forever there is a credible and potentially electable D, Abbott is likely to try to ignore Cruz and the Ds are likely to try to paint Abbott with the Cruz brush (his boss and mentor...)."

- "Embrace until the Primary, then run from in terror."
- "As Constanza says, ensconced in velvet (Cruz)"
- "To their detriment"

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Amy Beneski, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Chad Crow, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, Nora Del Bosque, Holly DeShields, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Scott Gilmore, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, Luke Hayes, Ken Hodges, Billy Howe, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Richard Levy, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Brian Rawson, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bryan Sperry, Jason Stanford, Bob Stein, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.