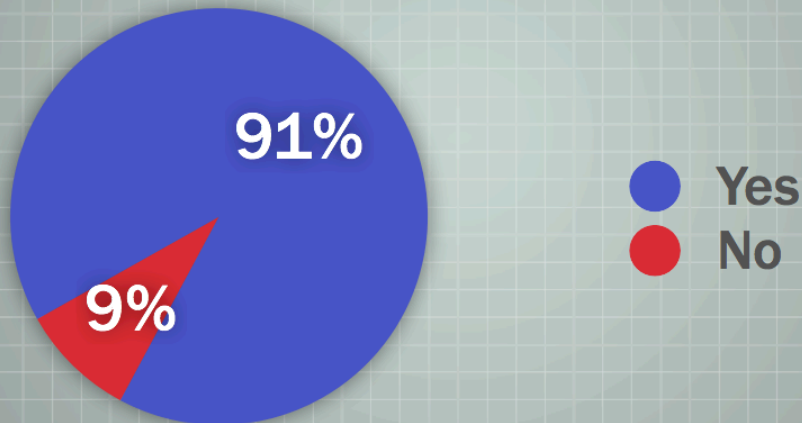


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of November 11*

## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

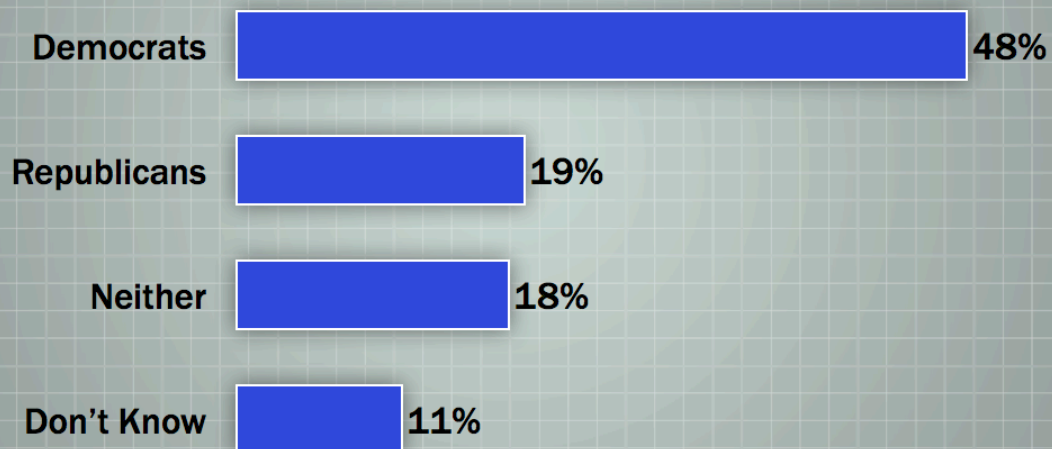
Will abortion and women's health be a 2014 campaign issue?



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

## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

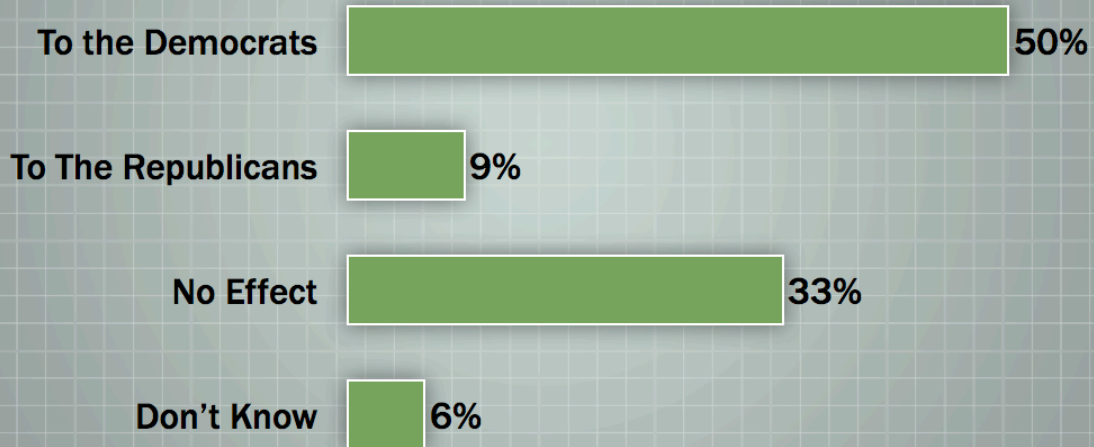
Will new laws on clinics move voters to Republicans or Democrats?



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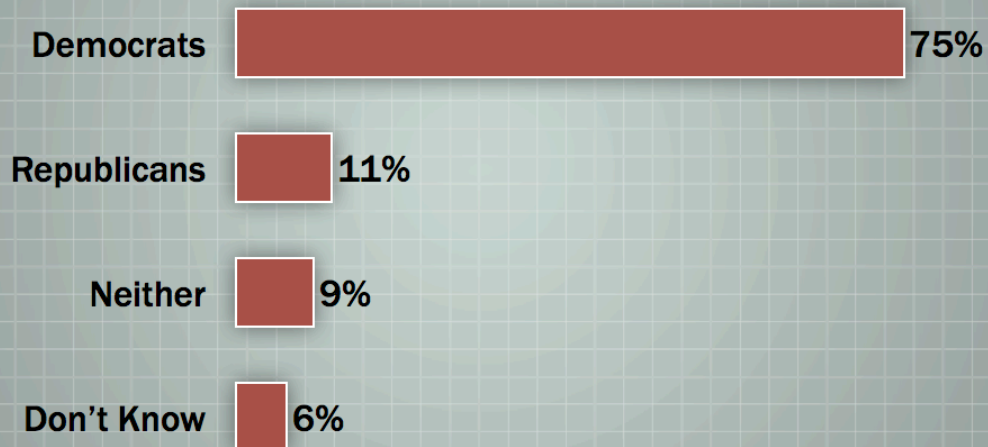
**If clinics close, how will that move Texas voters?**



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

**Who gets a bigger fundraising boost from the debate?**



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## *Will the state's new laws regulating abortion and women's health centers be an issue in the 2014 elections?*

- "I believe it will be a losing issue for democrats in Latino communities. There are precedents from previous elections that make the case."
- "Regardless of whether SCOTUS takes up the case, both sides will use it to their advantage (to raise money and GOTV)."
- "Wendy Davis got the exposure she wanted and clearly hopes to move beyond this issue. However, the R's will make every effort to saddle her with it."
- "It will have a major impact as middle class voters are impacted like the couple featured in the tribune or God forbid someone dies from a botched procedure or while driving hundreds of miles to access a clinic because the one nearest them has been closed."
- "But not in the way conventional wisdom expects. Democrats will talk about women's health and GOP candidates about late term abortion bans. Both positions represent majority opinion in Texas."
- "Let's not limit ourselves to 2014 alone; the issue is already front and center, even in Railroad Commission online campaign videos."
- "Yes and No. Yes, for a very small subset of voter - both Democratic and Republican. No, for the vast majority."
- "Both sides think the issue will help motivate their base."
- "Yes, but not to the extent either side believes it will. Taxes. Economy. Those issues resonate far stronger - and impacts more voters - than abortion."
- "Women will come out and vote - in large numbers! Further, while they may share their husbands, father's, boyfriends desire for fiscal conservatism, they DO NOT want the state of Texas to dictate what they can and cannot discuss, do, etc. with their private healthcare decisions."
- "Wendy Davis, dubbed 'Abortion Barbie,' cannot hide from the issue that made her famous. The majority of voters do NOT support abortion after 5 months when babies feel pain according to science. She owns the issue. Painful killing of innocent babies is what Davis filibustered for."
- "It already is an issue leading up to the 2014 Elections"
- "Less of an issue than is currently believed...Davis doesn't want to talk about abortion, which tells you anything"
- "Its ironic that the NEW Republicans want government out of their life but choose to put it right in the life of women! What a bunch of goons."
- "Yes, but it will cut both ways and be nearly or close to a wash. Abortion is not a issue that anyone wants to have as the centerpiece of their campaign."

- "Wendy Davis will particularly have to defend her support for expanded abortion rights."
- "This issue has already engaged people and will aid in turnout in 2014. Doubtful it will be a part of the closing arguments for persuasion, however."
- "Yes, to Wendy Davis' misfortune. Democrats need to 'turn-on' people to restore their political fortunes, but they will be turning-off voters with a pro-abortion message."
- "I hope the republicans will have to defend a policy that begins at conception and ends at birth"
- "For Sarah Davis."
- "Of course HB2 will have an impact on the elections in 2014. Wendy David is known for 1 thing, a filibuster on late term abortion. She can't stop talking about abortion, even if she is denying that she supports it. It is consuming her campaign and will until the last vote is cast"
- "Yes, I can't recall an election when Republican candidates did not make abortion an issue."
- "It should be. When you hear a report that a woman was 'disappointed' that the clinic she wanted to go to for an abortion is closed and she says in a negative tone, 'oh no I guess I have to have the baby' really? These types of stories need to be highlighted by pro-life groups to show that the law is actually working."
- "With Senator Davis on the top of the ballot, there is a 0% chance it won't be an issue."
- "It will be an issue to the extent the opposing sides use it to drum up money and volunteers from the fringes, but it won't be the decisive issue for the vast majority of voters."
- "Does red meat end in b.s.?"
- "Pro choice votes by branch and Hilderbran will hurt them"
- "Though Wendy Davis focus broadly on women's rights and opportunities generally and not narrowly as a pro-abortion candidate."

### ***As a matter of politics, do the new laws help Democratic candidates or Republican candidates?***

- "Democrats and swing-voting women now know definitively that elections have consequences. They'll show up."
- "It helps republicans because it is the only issue left that they can use to reach out to Latino voters. Democrats will disagree. However, look at the age group of Latinos that actually vote."
- "It's helps both. Repubs: see, we're trying to protect the sanctity of life. Dems: see, they hate women!"

- "The issue is going to move some women to the Democrat Party. That will be off-set by right leaning D's who don't appreciate East Coast liberal issues being run in Texas."
- "It helps both. It will drive the base of both parties out. Which helps Republicans since their base is bigger."
- "It will help the crazies get elected in the GOP primaries in March and then help the D's (especially Davis) defeat some of them in November."
- "Both - the issue ignites the party faithful in both sides of the street."
- "There should be a category for BOTH. Will help Ds with women and Rs with nut cases."
- "In theory, there are many suburban women who usually vote Republican but who might be tempted to cross over. I'll believe it when I see it."
- "Only ONE republican had the guts to vote against these CRAZY harmful pieces of legislation."
- "Across board being by women, seen as being an intrusion into woman's medical health decisions by the Government which is predominantly male..."
- "Both - It will continue to help Wendy as she used this to launch her career into the national spotlight and as a gubernatorial candidate, AND it will help the R's since they were still able to pass legislation after her filibuster. Each side will play their angle."
- "The pro-LIFE position is shared by both younger and older voters."
- "I think it helps the Democrats because everyone wants to save precious lives in the womb. But Republicans get hit hard because after the baby is born, the R's don't care anymore about this precious life. Just look at their proposals to starve government, cut infrastructure spending, cut public education, cut health/human services, don't want to give health care coverage to these 'precious lives.' If the D's can figure out a way to tap into this messaging, they win."
- "Helps with the 'women' vote"
- "Both. Not indication that this issue is fading for either side."
- "Voter ID and abortion laws make Republicans happy, but motivate Democrats"
- "Dewhurst needed this to help him for re-election. Whether it carries the day for him is immaterial. Had he not passed HB 2, he'd be worse off than he is now. On the other hand, Wendy Davis wouldn't be WENDY DAVIS without HB 2. I would have answered "both" but it wasn't an option."
- "People don't want 'politics' inside their lives, even if they agree with the policy. And there's the Warren Chisum enigma: now what do we do?"
- "Both."
- "The Rs have found the issues on this sensitive topic where they earn support from a majority, while exposing the extreme side of the Ds."

- "Congratulations, Democrats -- you have successfully snatched long-term defeat from the jaws of victory by putting the radical abortion-politics of liberal whites ahead of the religious values of Hispanics. The GOP appreciates your contribution."

- "The Republican anti-abortion base voter has been given new, more restrictive laws just about every session to keep them motivated. They'll still show up on Election Day, but this time they'll be outnumbered."

- "If Abbott can point out that this is about people defending a multi-billion dollar industry and it has nothing to do with women's health he wins. As a matter of fact, those on the other side of this issue are actually the ones concerned about women's health. Having abortion clinics keep the same standards as other health facilities is bad? Wow what a bad deal for a woman. Safe and clean clinics. Abbott needs to have his wife talking about it and messaging on the issue."

- "Both actually - both will have raw meat to come to table with or seek from their elected. It just divides."

- "I think it solidifies the base of each party, but that the election will be won or lost on the economy."

- "Both."

- "It's a wash."

- "Hell hath no fury like a few million women scorned. The selective hypocrisy of R extremists has literally handed Ds the moment they need to rebuild and maybe (just maybe) win."

- "Keeps Wendy Davis identified solely with abortion, rather than broadening her image."

- "It's a toss-up, though polling shows Texans more willing to limit access to abortion than other Americans."

### *If some clinics close, how will that move Texas voters?*

- "Older Latino voters will vote their faith."

- "Some young, moderate women will move to the left and some pro-life D's will move to the right."

- "Independents and moderates may be swayed to favor candidates who support getting government out of this issue."

- "There are successful women on the very edge of income-earning levels that rely on these services daily

because they are limited in choices or they are contract employees with no coverage."

- "Abortions are sought by young women - a demographic with low registration and even lower turnout rates. Their impact in elections is negligible."

- "Not in great numbers either way."

- "Most of these clinics offer a broader range of a woman's health care than abortion..."

- "I think this depends on how the media portrays the closing of the clinics. Are we closing bad actors to protect women's health or are we closing clinics to limit women's choice? My gut feeling is that the closing of clinics will be centered around the latter."
- "Abortion facilities can upgrade their clinics to stay open, but they're less interested in women's health than they are making a hefty profit."
- "If a substantial number of clinics are closed, women will give stronger support than normal to Democratic candidates."
- "Last month the state released the results of 2013 medical inspections of existing abortion clinics. The reports show systemic failures to comply with minimal medication and sanitation standards. It's hard to claim you are supporting women's health if that means rusty and unsterilized medical instruments. If Republicans can explain those problems to voters, then closing dirty clinics is a good thing and the pro-choice forces will lose big time."
- "It would be a talking point for both sides, but not a persuasive one. Abortion will continue to be available, so impact on both sides will be muted."
- "Women are already moving toward the Democrats."
- "They will close in rural West and South Texas, and the blame will be laid at the feet of pro-life groups. 1/2 the people will say the clinics brought closure upon themselves by providing abortions. The other 1/2 will work to

open clinics that don't offer abortions."

- "Both."
- "Depends on how many. My bet is few will close. The providers make a lot of money, and they'll find ways to get sympathetic docs to serve. Their profits will go down a bit, but most centers will be open for business."
- "This topic has been around so long everyone that cares about this issue have picked a team."
- "The closing of abortion facilities is not about women. It is about Planned Parenthood profits. Texas voters don't care if PP is open or closed."
- "The Republican posture on this issue is so far out of the mainstream of voters that it can't help but benefit Democrats."
- "Both parties will move to their respective corners as a result. Wagons are circling."
- "Pro-choice voters will move Democrat, pro-life will move Republican, and the rest of us, who aren't single issue voters, will not be affected. By the way, those voters it 'moves' are already in their respective columns."
- "The Democrats who believe in abortion are likely to be more motivated."
- "No movement, because the voters who make that their primary issue have already decided. This is just red meat for the fringes."



- "Moderate Republican women don't like old white guys regulating their bodies."

### ***Who gets a bigger fundraising boost from the debate over abortion and women's health?***

- "Rs have been raising money off of it for years. Ds in Texas have never tried to raise money on the issue. Ds have the most upside."
- "Democrats are better adapted to harvest donations via digital avenues. It will not be close."
- "Based on a number of New Yorkers sporting one-day passes when Wendy Davis spoke at TribuneFest, Texas D's are likely already cashing in."
- "Republicans get something better than money; committed primary voters!"
- "The issue of abortion restrictions has long been a pet issue for the Hollywood liberals. It will undoubtedly encourage them to write a check to help mask their degenerate lifestyle."
- "Democrats find themselves excited about a statewide candidate, whatever her actual chances."
- "Democrats get the benefit of cash from outside the state in hopes of turning the state blue. Not enough green to turn Texas blue."
- "From outside Texas..."
- "Can't think of one person I know who is pro-abortion...however interfering in a woman's right to make decisions on their own healthcare decisions?? As a male I certainly wouldn't want that intrusion!"
- "Wendy, Wendy, Wendy."
- "LIFE is precious."
- "That is all the air in the D's sails"
- "Passion often translates into increased fund-raising and pro-choice Democrats are nothing if not passionate about the issue. (See the Wendy Davis phenomenon already well documented). But the money will ultimately not matter if they can't use it to broaden their ideological appeal. Abortion is not a particularly attractive issue on which to build a campaign for office."
- "See answer to question 2."
- "Actually both parties will see fundraising boost."
- "And pray the money gets used with civility."
- "Both."
- "Let's see, cannot live in the past and blame Dewy for complete and unmitigated disaster he created with his horrible lack of leadership and any sense of legislative strategy on the issue so let's say yes it helps the Rs because this issue is important."

- "Going to say the Democrats here - I think they have less hot buttons to throw their money at and this is one they are most passionate about. If you get your way you tend to tap the brakes and let off the gas."
- "It's a small dollar donor thing, and the Democrats are just better at getting the small dollar donors."
- "Wendy and the Ds will bring in more out-of-state money ... which will promptly be wasted on a loss."
- "Who cares!! People have too many fears today to be concerned with ancillary issues."
- "Republicans do. With the wide distribution of sonograms, the number of old white 'abortion on demand' centered feminists and their screaming zealot daughters are dying out. Thinking people in both parties, both women and men, want to rein in the easy acceptance of what has become an increasingly disturbing practice."
- "For the first election in a generation Texas will IMPORT campaign money. Thank you, HB2! Thank you, Ted Cruz!"

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Chad Crow, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Dominic Giarratani, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, Dick Lavine, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.