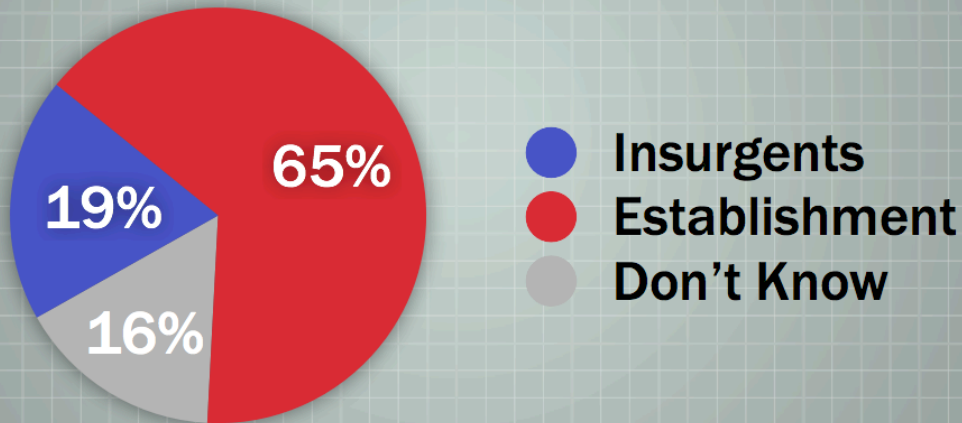


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of December 16*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

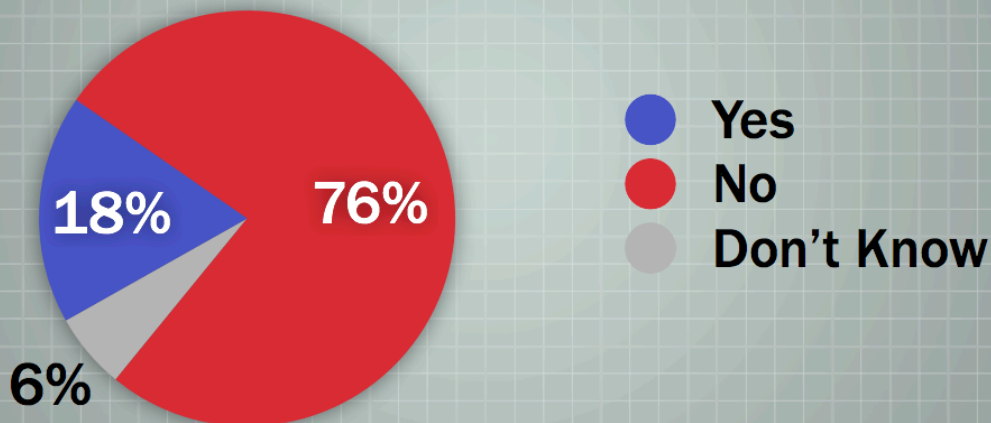
Who'll do better in 2014:  
Republican insurgents or the establishment?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Does Stockman pose a serious threat to  
Cornyn?



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

## *Will this be a year for the insurgents or the establishment in the Republican primaries?*

- "Too uncertain to predict, but the process will be interesting. It remains to be seen how much the moderates will gain support as part of the effort to not let the opportunities the Democrats have handed them go to waste in fighting over who is the most conservative."
- "I'm the quintessential 'I don't know' answer... I do, however, firmly believe this is the watershed election that will answer the question as to who owns the primary voters in the Texas GOP."
- "They hold off the torch and pitchfork mob and start to reassert some semblance of sanity."
- "The 'Insurgents' are about to be dealt a blow to their cause. They have overplayed their hand since last election cycle."
- "Some of both"
- "The business community has been all talk up to this point. Their concern has not resulted in action. They either need to put up or watch our Open For Business state become a joke."
- "Big turnout of 1.6 million 'insurblishment' voters."
- "Texas is doing well relative to rest of the country, with no major insurgent push noticeable except in isolated offices."
- "Normal people are getting tired of guerilla politics"
- "The Tea Party has become the party of anti-business -- and that dog don't hunt in Texas."
- "The \$ folks are tired of the unpredictability of the insurgents and will support establishment candidates. Then again establishment voters better show up at for the primary!"
- "Most establishment Rs will prevail, but insurgents will relish their victories. More attention will be paid to the successful insurgencies, though they won't take over the party."
- "Like always, it'll be a mixed bag depending on the candidates in each race."
- "What is an insurgent? What is establishment?"
- "The insurgents are spread too thin. They may pick off one or two but the establishment is watching its candidates carefully and taking credible challenges seriously."
- "Establishment. My clicker isn't clicking, so I am typing instead."
- "The party needs to understand that to stay viable, it must maintain a sense of democracy to listen, compromise and legislate with a better understanding of what's good for the state and the country. The party will not survive in the future being closed minded."
- "2014 will be a year full of surprises."

- "If the insurgents win one more time, they WILL be the establishment."
- "Tired of the MQS special interest drones. NO is not a solution for the state."
- "Like a pack of wild hungry wolves, they'll end up eating each other."
- "How is a sitting elected official NOT part of the establishment in some way? Taking the Lite Guv and AG races as an example, each candidate holds and has held for quite a few years now an office--they've been around the block before. How are they outsiders?"
- "If by insurgent you mean, Steve Stockman, then let's call it an establishment year."
- "Unless the Texas Republican Party is suicidal, it will purge itself of the Young Conservatives of Texas ilk that came in last session. If Representative Stickland is the future of the Texas GOP, the end is nigh."
- "Fingers crossed"
- "They are more angry now than they were two years ago."
- "There are so few 'establishment' Republicans left, I'm not sure the question works."
- "Both sides will be victorious in different races."
- "Some establishment loses would be nice. If I could have one thing from Santa it would be a Harris county Republican party chair who will actually do something? If the same do nothing leader remains the place will be bluer than Elvis' blue suede shoes."
- "Are you kidding?"
- "The goal is to win elections. Republicans know that. They will back winners -- who are mostly establishment. Of course, there are a few flagrant, anti-Tea Party moderates who should worry."
- "It seems like the establishment has begun to organize and rally."
- "Establishment will blow out the insurgents.... if they don't they are through...."
- "All politics is local so I suspect it will be some of both depending on the local conditions on the ground."
- "It's time for the pro-business Republicans to stand up and be counted."
- "Tea party fatigue (sent in too many clowns)"

### ***Does Steve Stockman pose a serious threat to John Cornyn in the 2014 primary for U.S. Senate?***

- "If he does, crazy has legitimately overtaken the GOP in Texas"
- "This time two years ago, most of us would not have thought that Ted Cruz was a contender."

- "Not saying he wins, but he can be a serious threat."
- "Does Santa wear a red hat?"
- "Cornyn ultimately wins but it's scary."
- "Is this a serious question?"
- "Will get 30% as protest vote"
- "The only reason he is running for Senate is because of the FEC is about to come hard on him. His only salvo is to make himself the victim. Sadly, the Tea Party is about to fall for yet another one of his cons. I'm looking forward to what \$1 million of op-research will do to him."
- "And poses a threat to Freedom Works and Cruz who look like armadillos trying to figure out how to cross the road."
- "Cornyn has been in hiding all year, hoping to avoid this situation. Will he continue to hide, try to ignore Stockman, refuse to debate, avoid tea party events? Will the press allow Cornyn's well-financed campaign to plant stories trashing Stockman without Cornyn's hands being seen in them? Remember, Cornyn is an advocate of openness and transparency, so he's going to have an uncomfortable three-four months. Stockman may get a third of the vote if he effectively mobilizes the base anger towards Washington."
- "No, but the entertainment value of his campaign will be fun to watch!"
- "In theory, one can't run a credible statewide campaign without money."
- "Looking at definite run-off with Stockman given # of challengers in Primary."
- "Damaged goods."
- "Depends on whether he can raise money and how many crazies will believe his Kool-Aid. I think Cornyn will pull it out but don't ever deny Stockman's deceptive tactics in running a campaign. In his last congressional race, he used 'Re-elect Steve Stockman' yard signs in a district that was just created."
- "No. And thankfully he is running for re-election to House. No matter who wins CD-36, it will be an improvement."
- "Please, and I'm a Republican"
- "Irritant to Cornyn, but no real threat."
- "Steve Stockman brings new meaning to the term 'goofball.'"
- "He's way beyond Ted Cruz. In fact, just based on some of his public comments on various national issues he seems to be out of touch with the 'normal' Tea party folks, if even there is a 'normal' margin in that political party."
- "Stockman himself isn't a threat, but outside forces--like the Senate Conservatives Fund and FreedomWorks--might potentially pose a threat."
- "Silver lining of Stockman opposing Cornyn: we soon may be able to call Doug Centilli, 'Congressman.'"

- "He got in too late and without consulting his base. And he's crazy."
- "Many a far righter thought 'If the crassly (and brilliantly) opportunistic Ted Cruz can do it...' Only one far righter had the guts to take a crack of his own. Gotta respect his spine, even if the policy and words send shivers down my spine."
- "He will force Cornyn to spend more money, but Stockman is not a Ted Cruz."
- "Stockman's exiting congress with nothing to lose."
- "Anyone who says and does with no regard for the truth is a danger to anyone."
- "Anybody but Cornyn."
- "Not a serious threat but Senator Cornyn will have to spend money in the primary that could otherwise go towards defeating David Alameel in November. Republican primary voters need to seriously consider the likelihood of Stockman or any of the other challengers being able to defeat a well funded conservative Democrat

next November and rally behind the only conservative in the race who can actually win in the fall."

- "WHO in whoville? Oh, I'm sorry was watching the Grinch."
- "After the media decides there is no more of a story here than there is with any candidate who enters a big race with only a few dollars, it will be over."
- "Steve Stockman poses a serious threat to people who take politics seriously. That guy is going to entertain us for a couple months."
- "He will say anything at anytime and this time will hopefully be exposed as the person he is. He is a bomb thrower of the worst kind since none of them are based on truth."
- "Not even close to a threat.... more like a whine!!"
- "LOL"
- "Speaking of clowns"
- "Except Big John and his team will have 10 weeks of ulcers..."

***Which incumbents (for any offices in Texas) are most likely to lose their seats in 2014?***

- "Stickland"
- "Lon Burnam"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Cornyn"
- "Dewhurst."
- "Phil Johnson, Texas Supreme Court"
- "Diane Patrick... Tarrant County has gone the way of nut-ville."
- "John Carona"
- "Stickland; Schaefer; Dewhurst"

- "Congressman Pete Gallegos and State Representative Phil Cortez"
- "Dewhurst and Carona."
- "Dewhurst; Seliger; Carona"
- "David Dewhurst"
- "Dewhurst"
- "JM Lozano will face a well funded Democrat challenger. This race will foreshadow the future of Texas elections."
- "Lt. Governor Dewhurst"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Possibly Schaefer, JD Sheffield and Stickland in the House. Harper Brown is on the edge. There could be some changes in El Paso especially Naomi Gonzalez. Donna Campbell could have a run for her money with Bexar County's Novak."
- "The Dew."
- "Stickland, Charles Perry, Marisa Marquez"
- "Linda Harper Brown"
- "Dewhurst has to be at the top given his loss to Cruz."
- "Very few if any in the legislature because so many cast CYA votes!"
- "Dewhurst."
- "Don't want to say because I don't want it to be a self fulfilling prophecy."
- "John Carona"
- "David Dewhurst; Todd Staples"
- "No one"
- "David Dewhurst"
- "Carona, Lt Gov."
- "The truth is that most establishment incumbents are safe - even the one's who are most often cited as vulnerable. They're polling these races and know what has to be done to keep good members in office."
- "Senator Campbell and possibly Carona"
- "Dewhurst, but don't bet against him. Congressman Gallego will have a tough time, as well as Matt Shafer and Mary Gonzalez."
- "Carter"
- "Dewhurst, J.D. Sheffield"
- "Stickland"
- "Dewhurst (if he's not careful)."
- "Why... the emperor with no clothes... of course.."
- "Sheffield"
- "Reynolds, S. Carter. Moody, Keffer, J.D. Sheffield, Vo, Stephenson"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Dewhurst; Rep Carter"
- "David Dewhurst"
- "Dewhurst, Stickland"

- "J.M Lozano, Linda Harper Brown and Kenneth Sheets"
- "Linda Harper Brown; David Dewhurst; Donna Campbell"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Dewhurst; Stickland"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Texas Supreme Court"
- "Schaefer; JD Sheffield; Stickland; Ratliff; Keffer; Dewhurst"
- "Rep. Mary Gonzalez; Rep. Naomi Gonzalez; Rep. Sheffield; Rep Giddings; Rep. Toni Price"
- "Donna Campbell, J.D.Sheffield, Lon Burnam; Stefani Carter"
- "Lite Guv"
- "Senator John Carona; Rep. Linda Harper-Brown"
- "Carona seems especially vulnerable."
- "Is it still accurate to call Stefani Carter an 'incumbent'?"
- "John Carona"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Stickland, Stickland, and - oh yeah - Stickland"
- "Lt. Gov. Dewhurst; Reps. Burkett, Sheets and Loyozza"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Don't know..."
- "Ralph Sheffield - name confusion."
- "Dewhurst"
- "Rep. Stefani Carter, Rep. Naomi Gonzalez, Rep. Diane Patrick, Rep. Jonathan Stickland"
- "It gov"
- "Matt Schaeffer"
- "Jim Keffer"
- "J.D. Sheffield; Linda Harper-Brown; Donna Campbell; Ralph Hall; Lon Burnam; Naomi Gonzalez; Kel Seliger; David Dewhurst"
- "Naomi Gonzalez, Bennett Ratliff and David Dewhurst."
- "Jim Keffer and Kel Seliger"
- "Carona, Keffer, Sessions, Cornyn"
- "Dewhurst, even though he has led the Senate through a few of the most conservative legislatures."
- "Nathan Hecht, Phil Johnson, Jeff Brown"
- "David Dewhurst"
- "Diane Patrick"
- "Supreme Court justices are all big targets for the Democrats."
- "Dewhurst."
- "Governor Perry. Oh wait, he isn't running. I must be on autopilot."



- "None at this time"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Matt Schaefer"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Stickland"
- "David Dewhurst"
- "Fake Tea Partiers in House districts close to major cities facing business-minded Republican challengers - Stefani Carter"
- "Too early to tell; Dewhurst on everyone's list"
- "Dewhurst"
- "David Dewhurst"
- "Cornyn. He cannot convince the crazies that he's one of them."
- "Dewhurst, Stickland, Schaefer"
- "Dewhurst"
- "Lt. Governor"
- "Dewhurst has a big challenge, as does Sen. Carona."
- "Carona, Keffer, Schaefer, Lozano"
- "David Dewhurst"
- "Dewhurst"
- "David Dewhurst"

***What did you think was the biggest surprise in this year's candidate filings?***

- "Steve Stockman v Cornyn; opponent to Seliger"
- "Stockman"
- "Stockman"
- "Stockman is an obvious answer, but certainly others were ready to immediately take advantage of the opportunity."
- "Stockman; Talton"
- "That Charlie Geren did NOT get an opponent... what was MQS thinking? Tarrant County? They should have flooded him with opponents."
- "Stockman"
- "The biggest surprise/disappointment is that someone like Van Taylor will be a new state senator barring a Libertarian miracle."
- "The biggest surprise was who didn't get an opponent...a lot of freshman get a free pass. Not good."
- "Bexar County Commissioner challenging County Judge"
- "Stockman; Talton"
- "Stockman"
- "Stockman"
- "Larry Meyers for Supreme Court"

- "Stockman running against Cornyn"
- "I was surprised the Texas GOP took action on extending the filing deadline for Stockman's congressional seat. It was the right thing to do."
- "Judge Larry Meyers"
- "Stockman coming from nowhere to file against Cornyn. No real competitor."
- "Stockman and Merritt."
- "Not much surprises me, but Steve Toth for Senate seems like a stretch."
- "Stockman"
- "So many Libertarians."
- "No qualified Comptroller candidates"
- "Huffines v. Carona"
- "Apparently Mr. Stockman didn't like Washington, so a good exit strategy would be to run unsuccessfully in 2014 for statewide office."
- "Stockman vs. Cornyn"
- "Beebe can't learn."
- "Lawrence Meyers switching parties for a statewide race. We're still a red state. Guess he's ready to give up public service as a living."
- "Wendy Davis giving a safe Senate seat to the Republicans in order to feed her ego in what will be a disastrous campaign for her."
- "Stockman"
- "Stockman"
- "Larry Meyers. But he is totally nuts so it probably should not have been"
- "Stockman and no Pauken"
- "Stockman"
- "Stockman"
- "Judge Meyers filing as a D."
- "The good fortune of Stockman trying to take his gig from the village to statewide."
- "Van de Putte for LT. Gov."
- "Larry Meyers filing as a D"
- "The number of down ballot democratic challenges to incumbent republican county office holders-intended to drive turn out for democrats"
- "Stockman. I thought it would be Gohmert. But I was more surprised that only the Republicans could extend the filing deadline, particularly since there were already other candidates on their ballot."
- "Cornyn opponent"
- "Stockman deciding to go down in flames"
- "Stockman"
- "Mike Canon taking on Sen. Seliger."
- "Judge Larry Meyers changing from R on Court of Criminal Appeals to D running for Supreme Court... followed by Stockman going into the U.S. Senate race at the last minute"

• "Harvey Hilderbran did NOT switch to agriculture commissioner"

• "Stockman"

• "The weak Ag Commish field"

• "Democrats didn't field a stronger slate."

• "Stockman"

• "Stockman"

• "Stockman; Republican trial lawyers for Texas Supremes"

• "What surprise? Everyone's been campaigning for higher office since 2012."

• "Stockman for Senate"

• "Stockman"

• "Rep. Steve Stockman filing against Senator Cornyn."

• "Wendy Davis. Just kidding--I wanted to see if you were paying attention..."

• "That Dewhurst didn't reconsider and file for Governor - there are fewer candidates in that primary than in his own."

• "Stockman filing for senate."

• "Stockman"

• "Stockman"

• "Wendy Davis"

• "The lack of depth of the Democratic candidates past Senators Davis and Van de Putte. If the young Democratic

guns of the House don't believe, why should the rest of us?"

• "Stockman"

• "Stockman"

• "Talton"

• "Dens gained a statewide seat, at least temporarily."

• "Stockman vs. Cornyn Senate primary race; Straus vs. Beebe House primary race"

• "Robert Talton"

• "Stockman"

• "None."

• "Stockman running against Cornyn."

• "Talton trying to make a come back. Tanned, rested but not ready for this kind of position. And, Dewhurst not retiring on top...sort of."

• "Steve Stockman for US Senate."

• "Stockman"

• "Stockman's 12th hour switcharoo."

• "Stockman"

• "Stockman, without question."

• "Stockman"

• "Meyers switching from R to D and challenging Hecht. Who saw that coming?"

• "Van de Putte running for Lite Guv."

- "Leticia"
- "Stockman"
- "None"
- "Stockman who really needed a job."
- "Van de Putte for Lt gov"
- "Doug Centilli..."
- "I think Stockman giving up his seat to make noise in the US Senate race takes the cake."
- "Don Huffines"
- "stockman"
- "Leticia Van de Putte"
- "Robert Talton vs. Nathan Hecht"
- "Stockman followed by the Republican judge who switched parties."
- "Judge Meyers switching parties and running for the Supreme Court."
- "Stockman"
- "Senator Van de Putte's run for Lt. Gov"
- "Cornyn primary challenge"
- "Stockman"
- "Stockman"

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Chad Crow, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jon Fisher, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Bill Lauderback, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Matt Matthews, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Debra Medina, Robert Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Dan Shelley, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry

Sylvester, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.