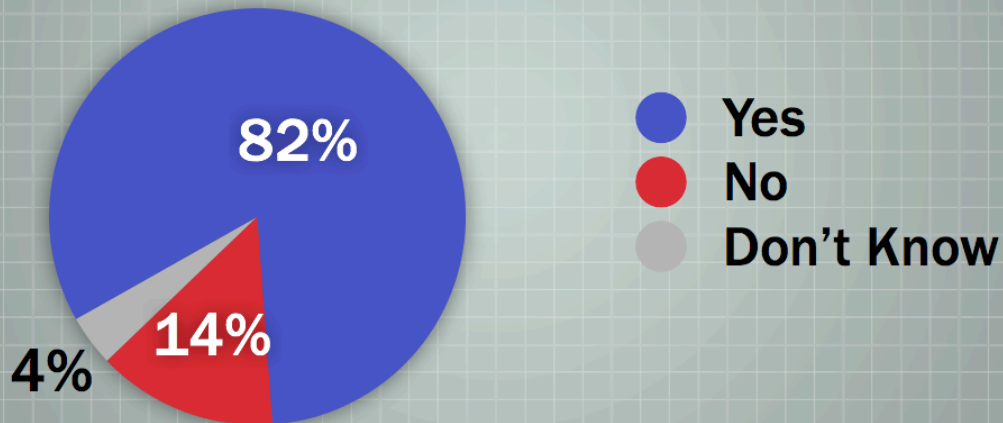


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 31 January 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

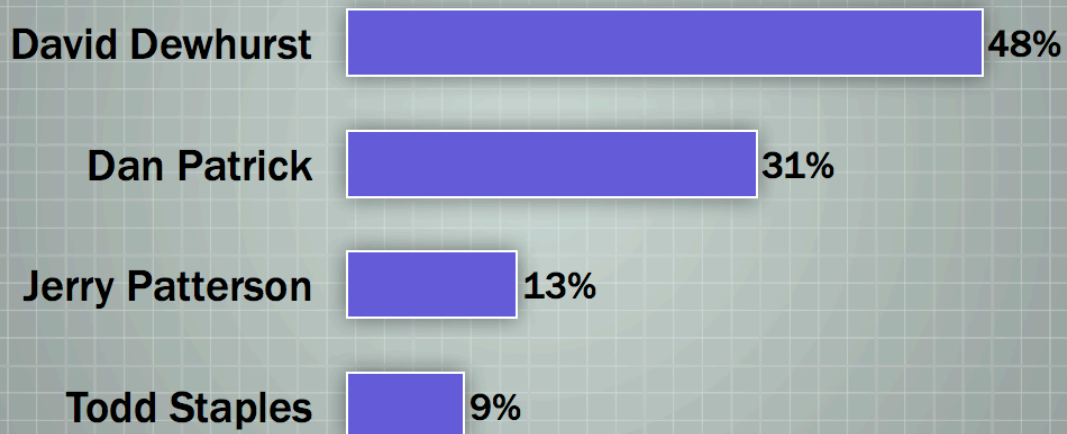
Will there be a GOP runoff for lieutenant governor?



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

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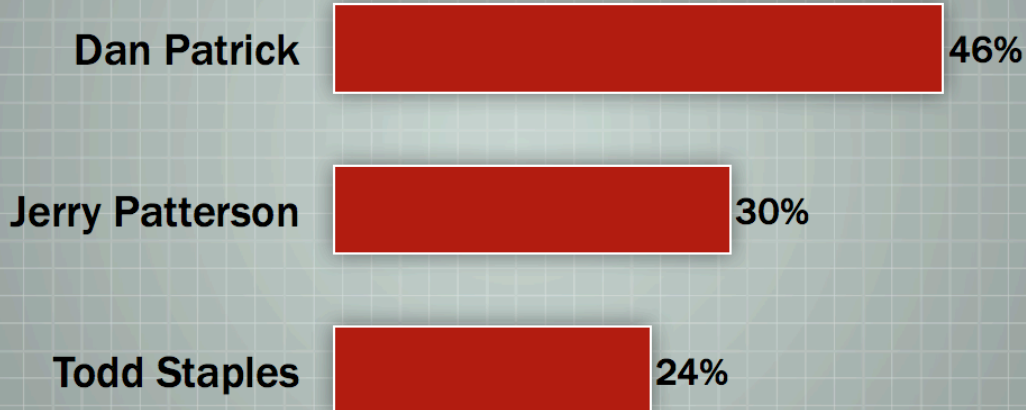
If there is a runoff, who will be in it?



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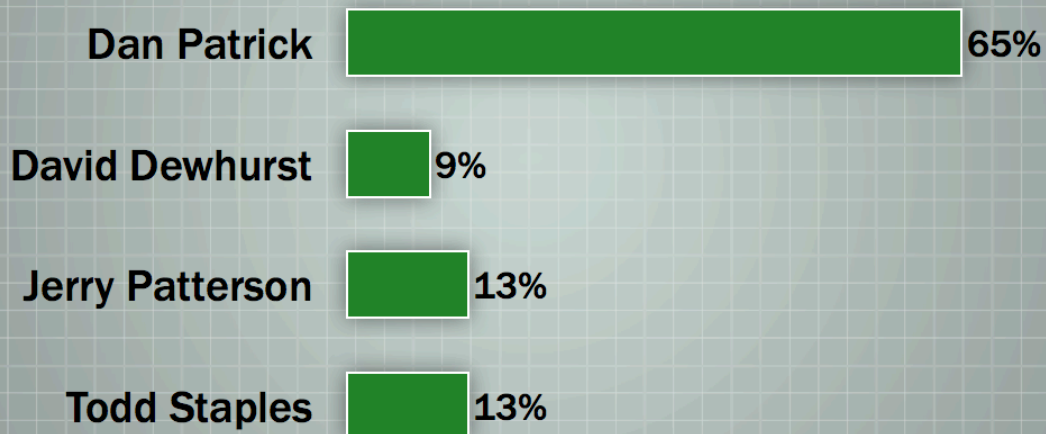
Who has the best chance
of beating the incumbent in a runoff?



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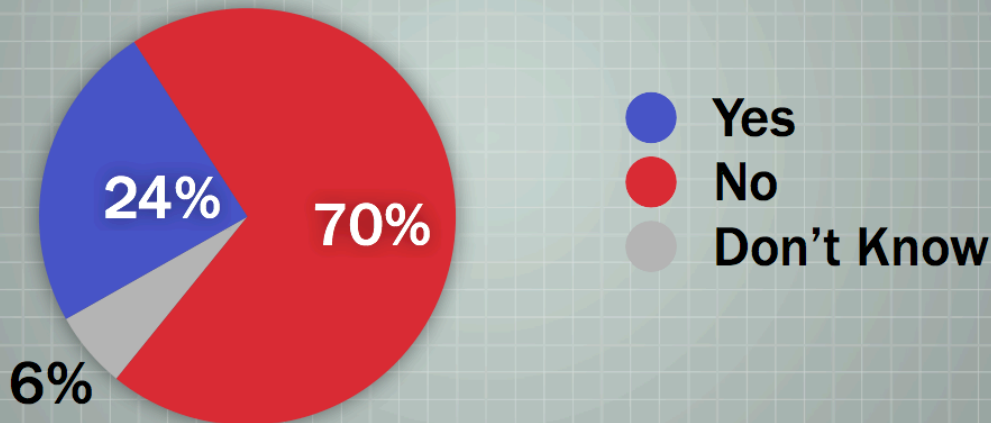
Which Republican would be weakest
against Democrat Leticia Van de Putte?



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INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Do you think Van de Putte can win the general election?



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Do you think there will be a Republican runoff for lieutenant governor?

- "With 4 skillful candidates fighting for a single spot on the ballot, 'heading for a runoff' is about the only reliable prediction we can make about this race at this point."
- "Seemed almost certain there would be a runoff a few weeks ago, but the challengers are falling short of expectations."
- "Dan Patrick's debate gambit with Mayor Julian Castro is brilliant politics. Many Democrats at the Capitol accurately believe the Mayor got 'played'."
- "I think I saw the Dew last Sunday lighting some candles and praying to the election gods to avoid a run-off."

He did not look like someone who had his prayers answered."

- "By failing to knock out any candidates with his December campaign finance report, Dewhurst has all but ensured a runoff. The only question now: will he be in it?"
- "Dewhurst Nightmare on Main Street, II. Run-off with Patrick. Will Ted Cruz get to interview Danny Goeb?"
- "The Dew won't eke out the win outright and may lose the runoff."
- "Patrick, Patterson and Staples all have significant constituencies -- enough in total to force a runoff."

- "Staples, Patterson, and Patrick are all vying for the same slice of pie (tea party voters), and after the recent televised debate I'm not convinced Dewhurst can shrink the size of that slice."
- "Dewhurst will likely win outright, IF he opens up his wallet."
- "Dewhurst wins."
- "Dewhurst gets 50.2 percent."
- "Six months ago I thought Dewhurst was toast. Next month he'll win the primary without a run-off. Amazing turnaround."
- "Three of the four candidates are currently statewide officeholders; greater than 50% will be tough for several seekers, this race included."
- "Let's see if the Dew has his mojo back."
- "It will be close, but Dewhurst could pull it off without a runoff."
- "In what will be the most stunning political comeback this year, Dewhurst will win without a run off."
- "Unfortunately, more talk about abortion and illegal aliens."
- "The question is who will be in the runoff with Dewhurst? I once believed it would be Danny Goeb, but his awful performance during the debate hurt him. It now may be Patterson."
- "Has to be. Too many names."
- "I thought there would be a runoff early on in the campaign but candidly several of the candidates have underperformed and the Lt. Gov. appears to be in position to money whip the field with TV ads over the next few weeks."

If there is a Republican runoff for lieutenant governor, which two candidates will be in it?

- "In the last 5 months I've changed my mind 3 times about who is going to make the runoff, and since it is still in flux I'm just in 'wait and see' mode."
- "Patterson by far made the best showing of the three challengers at the debate."
- "Dewhurst and Patterson"
- "The Dew is in because he has the money to compete. Patrick is in because he knows how to handle the circus of a republican primary."
- "Patterson's debate performance will get him a fresh look and more than a few dollars; Patrick's toxic cocktail of piety and moral relativism may have done him in; it's a toss-up whether the establishment will stick with Staples or retreat back to Dewhurst."
- "Will Ted Cruz get to interview Danny Goeb?"
- "If Dew matches up with Dan, he wins. If the others - who knows."
- "Dewhurst gets in on name recognition alone. Patterson has solid

pockets of support around the state, although either Staples or Patrick also have plausible chances."

- "Patrick is glib enough and crass enough to continue his distortions of history and facts; too many Texans will fall for it."
- "Patterson will get the most votes in the class clown competition, but won't break 12 percent in the popular vote."
- "This would be a dream for Dewhurst. Given the multi-foot files on Patrick's past, that should make for some killer ads. Those ads plus Dewhurst's wallet equals total combustion."
- "Made that observation after debate"
- "N/A"
- "Wish it would be Patterson, but it won't be."
- "Dewhurst makes it because of his money and the (I) by his name; Patterson joins him because he was Tea Party before the current Texas House freshman made it uncool."

• "If Patrick is in it, it will be something like 47, 22, 12, 10, 8."

• "Dumb and Dumber, but democracy in a TX R primary means you get the kind of public officials you deserve"

• "Could be either Patterson or Patrick in a runoff with Dewhurst."

• "Patterson and Staples have screwed each other; if only one of them was in the race, they might be able to consolidate the ABP (Anybody But Patrick) opposition. Instead, they will split it and both get less than 15% of the vote."

• "The Money and The Mouth..."

• "Dewhurst is in automatically. And I think Patrick's Houston connection gets him in, too."

• "David Dewhurst vs. What's His Name"

• "It all comes down to who wins the Harris county vote"

If there is a runoff and David Dewhurst is in it, who has the best chance against him?

- "As the insiders' comments on the last Dewhurst race showed, our group isn't very good at predicting Republican runoffs."
- "I think he would lose to any of them."
- "In a run-off, any of the above win."

• "The business community would get behind Staples. Early fall, the inside intelligence group was hoping the Dew would resign into the sunset because they wanted a pro-business, level headed candidate to support."

• "I am picking Patterson because he's right for the job and you didn't offer an, 'any of them' option."

- "They are all fatally flawed candidates."
- "Jerry would clean his clock, but lacks the funds to get there."
- "Any one of the three would beat Dewhurst in a runoff"
- "Patrick's pitiful (and scary) performance the other night at the debate should not hurt his chances with his supporters. Angry and ill-intended are not negatives with them."
- "Who turns out to vote in runoff elections? Die-hard party supporters. In the Republican Party of Texas, that means tea party types, which doesn't bode well for Dewhurst. See e.g., 2012 U.S. Senate runoff."
- "I used to think any of the three could beat Dewhurst in a run-off. But Patterson and Staples are clearly not ready for prime time. Patrick has the only real shot at beating Dewhurst."
- "N/A"
- "Depends on if they have resources. Runoffs are bad for incumbents, so anyone that would make it would probably have a puncher's chance."
- "Patterson - the battle among Dewhurst, Patrick and Staples is like a race for Class President and who can get more coke machines and longer playground time."
- "Two reasons Ted Cruz"
- "Because of his Houston burbs base."
- "All would likely defeat him. I think that it would be very difficult for Dewhurst to secure the Republican nomination. His best chance would be to win without a run-off."
- "Either of the 3 would be Dewhurst if this goes to a runoff."
- "Patrick and Patterson can beat Dewhurst in a runoff. Staples probably can, too, but it'll be more difficult."

Which Republican candidate would be weakest in a general election race against Democrat Leticia Van de Putte?

- "His persona could potentially play right into her wheelhouse (assuming she has one)."
- "Weak is relative. Any of the four would still be heavily favored, but Patrick is the most extreme."
- "Democrats are hoping for Patrick and it's not because he would lose, but because he would be the one factor that could speed-up Texas turning blue. Patrick is the Texas Pete Wilson and the one person that can push the Reagan Democrats back into voting for democrats."
- "There isn't much to like about Patrick."
- "Patterson is one 'Daisy Petals' TV ad away from defeat."

- "Patrick alone would lose serious Republican votes in November."
- "Patrick's kookiness might be revealed in the general election race. But no D can win yet."
- "Patrick would be weakest--but that's not saying much because Texas is still Republican Red and will remain so in this cycle--because he's the only one of the four who hasn't run statewide; he doesn't have the infrastructure of supporters in all the corners of the state like the other three (each of whom has run and been elected statewide at least twice); he doesn't have the experience raising that kind of money (to go up on 20 media markets); he doesn't have the experience on that stage. Neither does Van de Putte, and Patrick will the benefit of being a Republican in a Republican state. He'll win, but he'll work MUCH harder than most folks realize."
- "Staples has come off very mean spirited. He would be a train wreck on stage with Leticia."
- "A D might actually win, if Patrick is the nominee."
- "Staples is running a pretty good campaign, but he still struggles with name ID. He also doesn't stand out."
- "Although Patrick is more conservative, Dewhurst's record/leadership is more damaged and he'll have to explain the steak dinner during the Special."
- "If it's Danny Goeb from B-More, just tell me where to pick up my Leticia for Lite Gov signs!"
- "Misogyny thy name is Patrick"
- "Either David Dewhurst or Dan Patrick will be the weakest against Van de Putte."
- "No one knows Staples."
- "Hypothetically, it's Patrick. But this is a nonsensical question, because there is a 0.00% chance of the GOP candidate losing."
- "None of the above."
- "Patterson has a great message, but is not a great money raiser."
- "Dan Patrick - hastening the end of Republican dominance in Texas!"
- "Best chance for Dem win, an anti business nut like Dan Patrick"
- "None of the above would be considered weak against her."
- "Danny Goeb would be the best gift the Republicans can give to the Democrats in the Fall."
- "Weakest? Sen. Patrick. But weakest means he only wins by 5 points instead of 10."
- "The contrasts are too powerful for Patrick."

Do you think Van de Putte can win in the general election?

- "Democrats need to have a full slate, including Van de Putte, for 2 major reasons - and the likelihood of winning is not one of them. Reason #1 - A full slate is important for rebuilding efforts. #2 - A Republican candidate might self destruct and hand the seat to a Democrat by default."
- "But not likely. Depends on whether Patrick is the nominee"
- "Senator Van de Putte's biggest challenge is the fundraising competition she faces from Wendy Davis. The oxygen of money has been sucked from the room."
- "Yes, IF AND ONLY IF, Patrick is her opponent and continues with his circus act. Eventually he will say something that will unite every woman and ethnic group to beat him in the literally sense. Since assault is a crime, they will resort to beating him at the polls. This would be the time Team Wendy is kicking themselves for passing on the lite guv race."
- "Texas is very conservative and very Republican and Van de Putte is not nearly a transcendent enough candidate."
- "Only against Patrick."
- "Not unless Patrick is the nominee, and probably not in that event, either."
- "Not enough experience running statewide (network, staff, etc.), not enough money, and not enough Democrats in Texas."
- "Zero"
- "...Unless Patrick is her opponent. Then she might be a 45-55 possibility."
- "Could but most likely won't"
- "When Texans learn how LIBERAL she is, they'll turn out for the Republican."
- "Great lady, but the state hasn't turned purple or even a faint shade of blue yet."
- "She should promote the job-creating, Eagle Ford Shale - which is in her backyard - to a majority of Texans who are hard-working, pro-family, pro-life Spanish-speakers"
- "She's got one shot to win it...and she's the biggest Patrick fan in the world right now."
- "Against Patrick"
- "Not really, but why fold this early in the hypothetical gender and Latino are X factors-not what Leticia will do as much as what her opponents' enthusiasts will say about women, vouchers, and Mexicans."
- "So you're telling me there's a chance..."
- "Only if the GOP candidate is caught with a dead girl or a live boy."
- "VDP is not on the ticket to win. Ds are just using her to get Hispanic and female votes. They could care less about her campaign. Check out her fundraising numbers. There ain't a rich west Austin doctor writing VDP a million dollar check."
- "It will be difficult, but she can win. I believe that there will be many new

voters at the polls in November, and that these will not be voting for Republican candidates. I also think that if a hard core Tea Party candidate wins the nomination, their message could turn off many new and historic voters."

- "Texas is a Republican candidate...Van de Putte is a Democrat. Enuf" said."

- "No way."

- "See comment above"

- "If it's vs. Dan Patrick"

- "Against Patrick? Yeah, buddy."

- "But it would be a tremendous upset and we would also be getting ready for Gov. Davis to take office as well!"

- "Who?"

- "If all the stars align. She is a far better politician than any of the Rs on the ballot."

- "Outside chance - I'd say 10% or so, but win or lose, will be best performing Lt. Gov. candidate since John Sharp"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Blaine Bull, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Billy Howe, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.