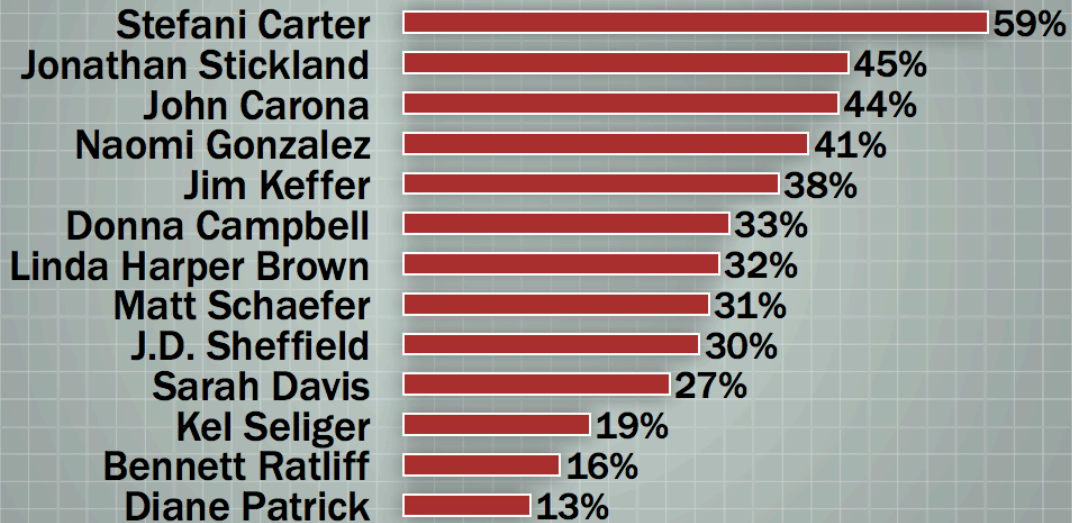


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 14 February 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

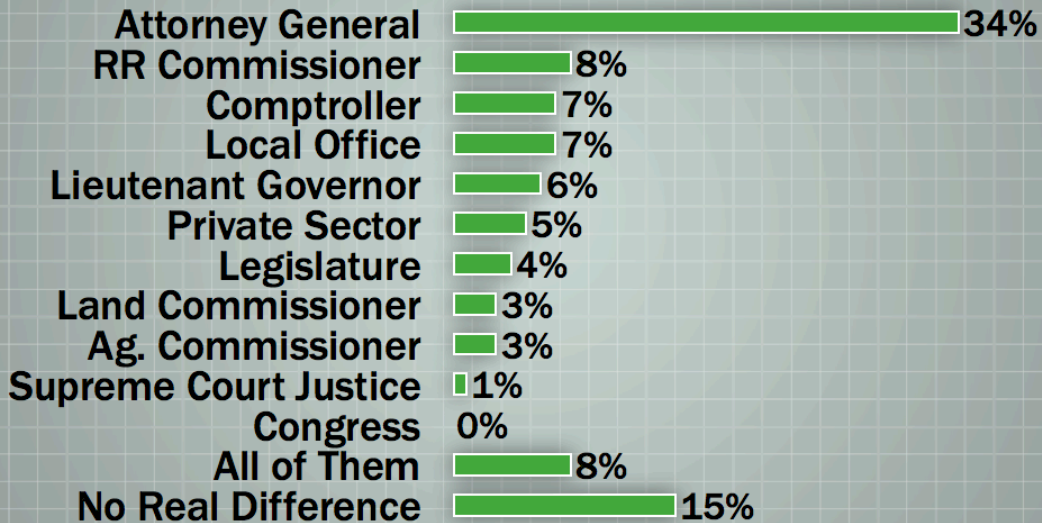
Which incumbents are in real trouble in their primaries?



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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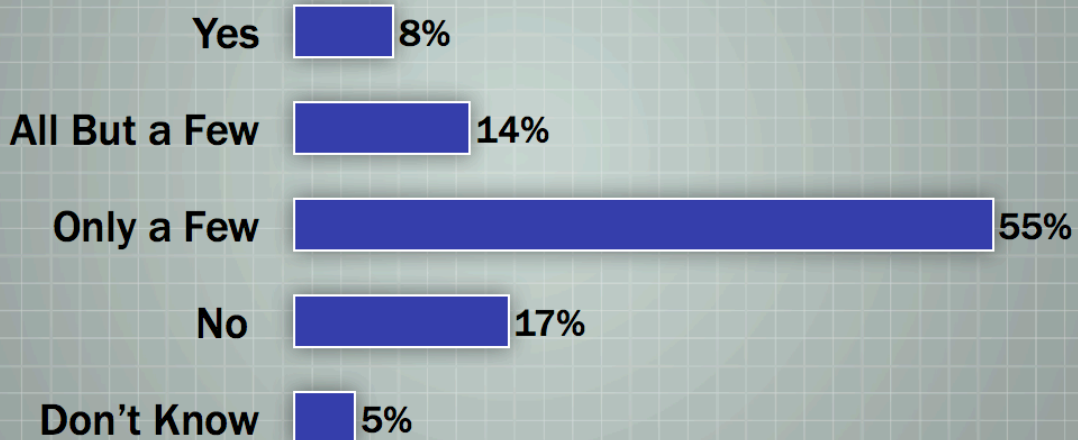
Which is the best launch pad for higher office?



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Will this year's statewide losers be viable in future elections?



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Which incumbent legislators do you think are in real re-election trouble in this year's primary elections?

- "Potential run-offs, 2 or more primary opponents!"
- "In many cases 'real' trouble comes into focus in the rear view mirror. I assumed Donna Campbell would be facing a huge challenge in February but now that we are here she is doing well and it seems like she is going to hold her seat."
- "Long-term incumbents have the tendency to get lazy and surround themselves with YES men/women. They fail to recognize any threats, which leads to tough elections. Freshmen legislators are victim to a political Darwinist environment. They are the weakest, so it becomes easy to take them out."
- "It's safe to say that when you either abandon a core value of your party's platform, or you spend the first part of an election cycle running for a different job, you are probably at risk of being defeated in a primary."
- "And Byron Cook"
- "Lon Burnam may have some problems."
- "Turn out will determine whether the small per cent of GOP primary voters will grow enough to be more representative of November republican voters. If so the embattled incumbents will probably survive"

- "The grassroots are eager to replace the OLD who refuses to listen to them. If they won't vote conservatively, then they're doing a poor job."

- "Couldn't you ask me this in a month? I feel pretty good I'd pick the right ones then."

- "Sarah Davis thumbs her nose at her party -- predict she will lose and come back as a Democrat. But Keffer and Carona will pull it out."

- "Ogle making HD 6 close, but Schaefer will win by single digits ..."

Hopefully that'll put him on notice. Campbell will be fine, but I'd rather deal with Elisa Chan any day. Koop is a way better candidate than Carter and I hope she wins. Also, I think Carter pissed off that district by bailing for RRC and coming back. Dumb move. LHB's time has come ... she's probably gone. Sarah is probably gonna be fine, but I think it's a serious challenge, and that's too bad, cuz she's a good rep. Naomi is gone. Huffines is pissing people off with all the negative mailers"

Which is the best launch pad for higher office in Texas?

- "It's easy to extort the entities regulated by the Railroad Commission as they continue to meet almost weekly (one day) while the Commissioners campaign six days a week on a six-figure, taxpayer-provided, salary. This is commonly known as the 'Smitherman Subsidy.' No other office provides such efficient access to both graft and coercion."

- "All of them depending on higher office. Statewide-Comptroller"

- "Isn't higher office relative? I'll offer District Judge as my choice--how many Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, and courts of appeals justices and judges first sat on a district bench before rising up to a higher office/bench? Additionally, Abbott and Cornyn both started as a district judge. And don't forget about congressmen Carter, Gohmert, and Poe or state senator Huffman (former district judges all). Seems like being a district judge is a nice, little known launching pad for many folks."

- "The best launch pad depends on your party (different answer for Dems), your current position, and the opportunities at the moment (scandals, open seats, etc.)."

- "More RR Commissioners elected to higher office in recent years than anything else"

- "The best launch pad is to be wealthy, come from a wealthy family, or have wealthy friends that are willing to gamble on you,"

- "While the current occupant may not realize this, Lite Guv is arguably the highest office in Texas (e.g. Bob Bullock)."

- "All of them are good as long as the candidate has some spark and can build a strong base."

- "OAG, or 'Office of Aspiring Governor.' When's the last time an AG did *not* run for higher office?!?"

- "Depends on how you define 'higher office' since any of these can be a step on the way to something higher. At one time or another most of these have been a base from which higher office was sought."

- "Remarkable to see that the only 'private sector' candidates are for the most part Latino and African American."

- "You get in all the cool legal fights that you want to and avoid those that are messy."

- "Actually the House. Few ever leaves the Senate by choice."

- "The AG can earn statewide media coverage every day of the week, if he/she wants to."

- "It depends on how well they've done in the jobs they hold. It's irritating to the grassroots for candidates to use any office as a launching pad for higher office--while neglecting their current jobs."

- "The best way to move up is to start small, which is a local office. From there, it's much easier to 'move up' to the legislature, Congress, etc. The higher the office you're in, the more

limited your options are for moving up."

- "So far, Republican AGs are undefeated in bids for higher office. That's 1 in a row."

- "Not Congress - it's very difficult to serve in DC and to keep a broad base of support beyond your district."

- "It depends on the person. Any office can be a stepping stone."

- "Attorney General has the ability to generate more coverage and thus raise name ID -- ergo Cornyn and Abbott."

- "Hard to argue against ag commissioner. John C. White, Rick Perry, Susan Combs. Preston Smith was the last lite guy to get a promotion."

- "It's all about Name ID and raising money... if running for statewide, it clearly helps to have won (or at least run for) another statewide office. It's all about moving up the ballot. City council is a good springboard for Rep. Likewise, Rep is a good springboard for Senate."

Will the candidates who lose this year's statewide primaries be viable in future elections?

- "Depends on whether they lose in March or in a run-off. And whether adults in their party come to their senses later on down the road."

- "If they are rich or can raise money, they will always be viable."

- "Some got to run for free and will still be elected officials at the end of this cycle; some are not running for high-profile enough positions for a loss to permanently damage their careers; and some will not be in politics for some time if they lose their upcoming primaries."

- "Losing this time will not be a disqualification, if that is the only issue. If you've lost 2 statewide races in a row - you're cooked. If voters have reason to doubt your mental stability (say, abandoning a safe incumbent Congressional seat on a lark) - you're done. If you will be over 70 before the next election, that is not 100% fatal but it could be a significant issue. The biggest single factor that prevents winning in future elections is that candidates choose not to run again because they have moved on in their lives and the timing is no longer right."
- "The great thing about politics is that there is always a 2nd, 3rd, 4th ACT."
- "The GOP farm system is so loaded up, it is hard to imagine any of the current statewides losing and being viable in a later cycle."
- "As 'viable' as they are today, one would suppose"
- "I think if Stickland loses, god willing, he will run again and possibly win. The people in his district are possibly that crazy. If Campbell loses, there is little doubt in my mind that she will run again for something. Hopefully dogcatcher."
- "All but Dewhurst are still viable. A second poor showing will put an end to his political career."
- "Dewhurst would be an exception."
- "Republicans who win will continue to wage a war of revenge on their former opponents."
- "Too many new voters and too many young guns out there. It's one and done in both parties these days."
- "Politics move fast in Texas. You don't see many retreads. Almost all failed statewides are 'one and done' with very few exceptions."
- "Too many other ambitious politicians coming up and many contenders are too old to wait 4 to 12 years for races opening up."
- "You never know what tomorrow will bring. It's best to never burn bridges."
- "Staples and Hegar, if either lose, are probably still viable. More so for Hegar, because he'll still have an office."
- "Only the younger ones: Staples, Hegar, Van de Putte, Boyuls. The older losers are going down for the last time."
- "Jerry Patterson lost, and he's viable now."
- "Sure. Apparently anyone can run for Ag and Railroad these days."
- "No, happily they are done. They will whine about some kind of ultra-conservative wave, but the press may make heroes out of some of them, but it doesn't matter. Game Over."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton,

Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Jenna Dailey, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Richard Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, 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, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.