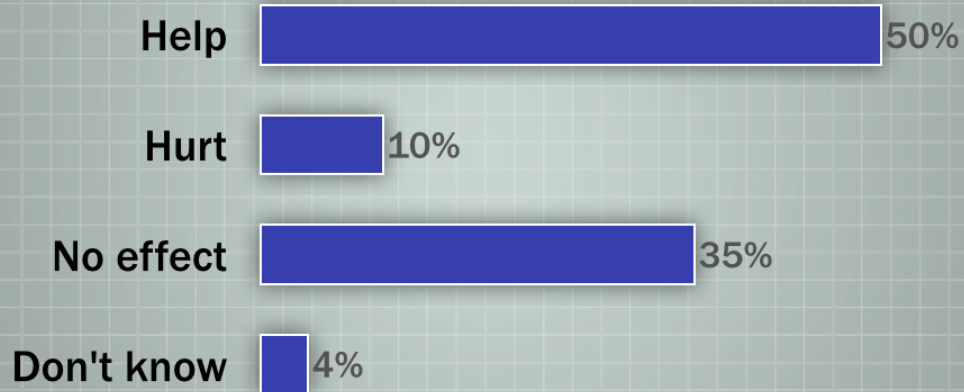


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 28 February 2014*

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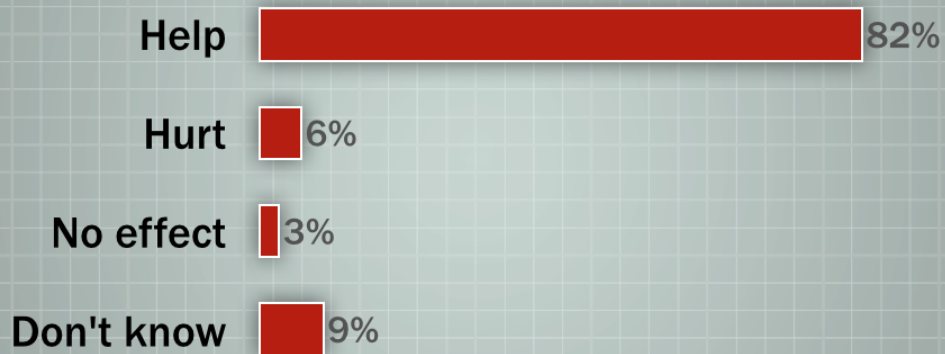
Rick Perry's endorsement in the GOP primary would...



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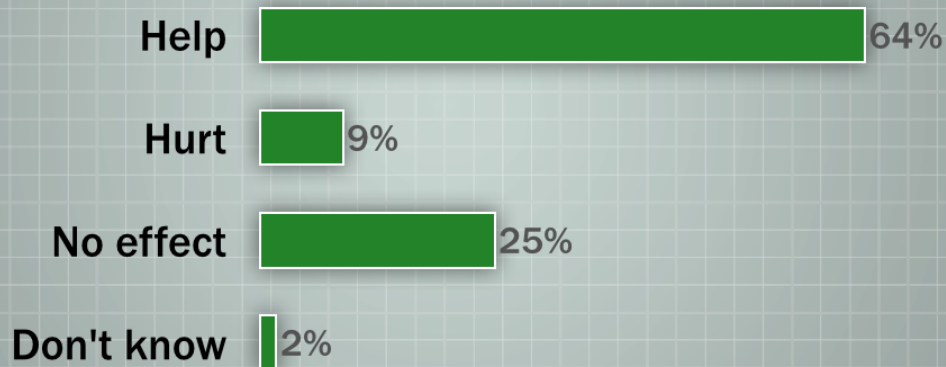
Ted Cruz's endorsement in the GOP primary would...



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Wendy Davis' endorsement in the Democratic primary would...



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Would a Rick Perry endorsement help or hurt a Republican candidate in the primary?

- "Who is Rick Perry?"
- "A Governor's endorsement helps even if it's just for the press event."
- "Depends largely on the part of the state and the candidate, but a lame duck is a lame duck."
- "Many local County officials are angry with Perry over a variety of issues. Their endorsement would be more important than his."
- "At this point, I don't think he matters."
- "He's gone!"
- "But hurt in the general election with November republicans and independents."
- "Perry still carries some clout among Rs in Texas. In a primary, a Perry endorsement has weight."
- "Hurt in 2012. Helps now."
- "There's nobody more conservative than Rick Perry! Wait...yes, the guy in question 2."
- "In June it will be very interesting to see how the RPT convention delegates receive Perry (current officeholders speak on Friday, candidates on Saturday). Is it too soon for delegates to feel nostalgic?"

- "Endorsements are overrated, period."
- "Totally depends on the candidate and race in question."
- "But only a little. I think endorsements somewhat overrated generally."
- "If it didn't help, Perry wouldn't be giving endorsements."
- "Governor Perry is the face of Republican politics in Texas. If he were running again, he would be re-elected. In a landslide."
- "His fav/unfav rebounded."
- "Rick Perry still has the flare and the hair to give a candidate a bump in the Republican Primary."
- "He's still the Man."
- "He is now, for the first time in my political life, irrelevant!"
- "Oops"
- "Is he still around?"
- "The governor jumped the shark a long time ago."
- "Perry appears to be a spent force, both nationally and in Texas."
- "He's done. Not much either way. His juice is in the freezer for the moment. It may be defrosted in the future, but it's not flowing now."
- "I don't know what the hell to think about that. Is RP still a Tea Party favorite? If yes, would it matter? If no, would it matter? Is he an influential lame duck? (If there even is such a thing...). I guess it would help with some segments, be neutral with others, hurt with yet more."
- "There's a (second) reason Rick has been in Davos not Denton."

Would a Ted Cruz endorsement help or hurt a Republican candidate in the primary?

- "I believe it won't have any impact. The 'love affair' with Cruz is over."
- "Sadly, it helps."
- "He will help some candidates depending on where they run. I hope people will realize that Cruz's extreme views are not good for Texas. However, he will continue to enjoy an audience."
- "Tougher question. It might help in specific areas/communities and/or races. Like or dislike him and his politics, he has an amazing following."
- "At least that's what Sen. Paxton thinks."
- "If turn out low but maybe a problem in the General Election"
- "Nothing is more valuable"
- "But only a bit at the margin"

- "He's the one saying what people think and doing what people want. Not that people know what they are thinking or know what they want, but they know they like Ted."
- "Some help and some hurt but probably net positive."
- "Ditto"
- "Same as for Perry. May help some but hurt others."
- "It would help the people he would endorse, the far right and tea party candidates."
- "Same as above"
- "Premier endorsement. There is no place in the state where a Cruz endorsement doesn't provide a boost."
- "It unquestionably helps in a primary and probably scares moderates or independents away in the general."
- "Ironically, Senator Cruz's endorsement would most help the run-off candidate who isn't already identified with the TEA Party. P.S. Where's our Cornyn question?"
- "His fav number is high. His unfav number is high, too."
- "It might help in certain areas."
- "Ted is the conservative 'Cruz' missile. His endorsement carries more weight in a Republican Primary than any other statewide official. Looking at some recent commercials, you would think he is running for AG, state rep, or congress."
- "Cruz's blessing is also a curse. It's arousing to both sides."
- "It pains me to say it but this tea bagger is relevant!"
- "Endorsement is in the eye of the beholder. Ted Cruz is a ticket to success for some candidates. But for others, voters may view the candidate with a suspicious eye due to the junior senator's reputation for rancor."
- "Will elect Konni Burton"
- "Definitely helps, but only if you have the money to get the word out that he's endorsed you. Absent the money, it does no good."
- "For Senator Cruz, it doesn't matter much to him if his endorsement wins; he thrives more on a pep squad of staff and consultants who tell him it's better to be king, than king-maker."
- "As FWST recently documented, his backing is gold for lesser-known candidates in the primary."
- "Demonstrates that people are easily swayed by demagoguery."
- "In certain districts it would be a big lift."
- "I think it would solidify people's stances. Most voters have already determined who to support and will find media outlets and endorsements to justify their vote..."
- "Depends upon the area of the state. In Dallas and Harris Counties, it would probably help."
- "Moderate Republicans and independents will come out very big

in the 2014 Republican primary. They are embarrassed and want to straighten things out."

- "Really, you think there is any question about this?"
- "If a candidate has no established credibility of their own to stand on (e.g. Burton, Pierson, Campbell, and even Paxton) it gives an air of

adequacy. If Cruz is really supporting Huffines, then that is all about his 2016 super-pac aspirations.

Endorsements keep Cruz on the campaign trail and talking--just like Obama. It's so much easier than working on actual solutions. So, the Cruz endorsements are a product of boredom or whoredom."

- "Depends on the race."

Would a Wendy Davis endorsement help or hurt a Democratic candidate in the primary?

- "Wendy who?"
- "She helps, but her help and six bucks will get you a venti non-fat soy latte at Starbucks."
- "Again, it matters where in the state. Dems in urban areas would benefit significantly from her endorsement but any one in a swing or conservative race would not."
- "She doesn't have enough horsepower to make a difference."
- "Davis needs d incumbent endorsements. They don't need hers."
- "Urban areas...it helps. Everywhere else in Texas...Wendy likely gets the Heisman pose from most candidates."
- "Earned media and fundraising assistance is valuable"
- "You have to assume the leader of the ticket will help the rest of the ticket."
- "Again"

- "A Wendy endorsement in a heavy LIB urban district would probably be a wash -- Democrats know they are tied to her and are willing to be excited because they hate the Republicans so much -- but while she might boost some unknown Dem challenger somewhere in a primary -- I predict few candidates will ask for her endorsement."

- "Are the Democrats actually having contested primaries??"

- "Will help among Harvard graduates."

- "BOTH: It would definitely help those candidates running in urban areas. However, her position on abortion and the recent findings that she gave up her daughters are too much baggage for border county candidates."

- "Patterson come is 2nd to Dewhurst"

- "Who?"

- "Depends on the district, and there are so few in Texas that there isn't a challenge to merit the need for one."
- "It would help generate name identification, which is what counts when unknowns are running down ballot"
- "Watch how many Ds try to ride WD and LVdP ... it will be breathtaking and gross."

- "Depends on the district, inner city, yes. Rural Texas, heck no"
- "Again, really, do you think there is any question about this?"
- "Statewide candidates and urban counties, likely to help. But I suspect whatever democrat candidates are left in rural Texas want to stay away from her like all Texas Democrats are staying away from Obama."

Make a prediction: What do you think will be the biggest surprise in the primary election results?

- "A Huffines upset of Carona"
- "Opiela"
- "Debra Medina in Republican Primary for Comptroller"
- "Glenn Hegar will not make the runoff. He was poised to be the next comptroller of Texas; but bad consulting and a bad campaign will do him in."
- "Todd Staples makes the run-off."
- "Medina leads the number of votes in the Comptroller's race despite having the least amount of money. Smitherman fails to make his runoff despite being the only guy in the race already elected statewide."
- "If any of the top ballot races below governor do not go to a runoff."
- "There are no surprises expected in the primary elections."
- "Debra Medina wins"
- "Patrick doesn't make the runoff."
- "Todd Staples v David Dewhurst in the runoff!"
- "Patterson in the runoff."
- "The winner of the US Senate primary for the Democrats; it's a crap shoot, one week out."
- "Jerry Patterson gets into a runoff for Lt. Gov. race."
- "If John Whitmire lost his primary or Steve Stockman beat Cornyn. I don't think either will happen but it would be a big surprise. Dan Patrick doesn't make the Lt. Gov. run-off."
- "Jerry Patterson"
- "Todd Staples makes the run off"
- "That in the end we'll find out the bottom line \$ on all the Dark Money spent by third party PAC's will probably dwarf the \$ attributed to the

Candidates TEC raised and spent reports."

- "The Comptroller's race!"
- "Dewhurst loses"
- "Medina in a run off for Comptroller"
- "Smitherman not even close to the runoff due to a campaign that never got above the noise"
- "Debra Medina."
- "Paxton within single digits of Branch--and beats him in runoff."
- "Comptroller's race"
- "Debra Medina"
- "Hilderbran"
- "Rodney Anderson beats Linda Harper Brown by a healthy margin."
- "Patterson"
- "Barry Smitherman misses runoff"
- "Jerry Patterson does better than predicted"
- "Medina"
- "Medina will win and spend little money doing it."
- "Tea party takes a bath in House races. Is that a surprise? Maybe, one supposes."
- "Land Commissioner Watts"

• "Dan Patrick fails to make the runoff."

- "Debra Medina. But that's because I live in the Austin fishbowl, not because it's actually surprising."
- "MQS will have stuck in hand so far into the fire ant mound that no matter the outcome of the primary his woes at the ethics commission and interim studies on 'dark money' will write his obituary."
- "The ability of incumbents to hold off the anti-incumbent efforts."
- "Dan Patrick will finish third."
- "Every tea party candidate will lose."
- "Patrick finishes ahead of Dewhurst"
- "J.D. Sheffield and Jim Keffer both go down,"
- "Jerry Patterson for Lt. Gov!"
- "Harvey Hilderbran wins without a runoff"
- "Kesha Rogers does NOT win dem primary. Note hint of sarcasm..."
- "Hildebrand beats Hegar and gets in Comptroller Runoff with Medina."
- "Debra Medina makes a runoff for Comptroller."
- "Debra Medina is leading vote getter in Comptroller race after spending less than \$100k."
- "In a last-minute surge, either Patterson or Staples will squeak into the run-off instead of Danny Goeb."

- "Debra Medina - Comptroller"
- "New GOP Party Chair in Harris County."
- "David Alameel vs. Kesha Rogers run-off."
- "Debra Medina in the Republican side and Kesha Rodgers on the Democratic side."
- "Medina; no cash, just ridin' the wave...."
- "Lite Guv. Patterson will get 80% of the vote. One can hope!"
- "Medina gets 50.0001% of the vote."
- "Harvey Hilderbran. Seriously! The guy every insider thought was crazy to run is proving that we are the crazies."
- "Runoff for Democratic US Senate nomination"
- "If Dems turn out and it's a closer election in terms of votes; could be a signal of what's to come!"
- "Lt. Governor's Race. Staples or Patterson will make runoff; not Dan Patrick."
- "Alameel will come in first and the Democrats will actually avoid total embarrassment -- a shocker."
- "Hilderbran v. Medina in the Comptroller runoff"
- "Dewhurst survives despite two years of political obituaries to the contrary."
- "Debra Medina"
- "Debra Medina, with no money and no elective experience, will get 50% more votes than the next guy in the Comptroller's race."
- "Joe Strauss squeaking out a primary victory."
- "Debra Medina"
- "Todd Staples edges out Dan Patrick to be in run-off with Dewhurst"
- "Debra Medina will make the runoff for comptroller."
- "Comptroller race"
- "The look on MQS and Tim Dunn endorsees' faces when they see the election results."
- "Dewhurst weaker than anticipated"
- "Medina and Hilderbran make runoff - Hegar is odd man out. Paxton goes into runoff leading Branch. Paxton crushes Dan in runoff. Patrick finishes ahead of Dewhurst in first balloting."
- "Debra Medina in runoff"
- "Any favorite not being elected"
- "End of Barry Smitherman's political career -- wait, that won't be a surprise!"
- "Dan Patrick coming 1st against Dewhurst."
- "Medina runs third for Comptroller"
- "Paxton lead in race for att gen"
- "Comptroller's race."

- "Supreme Court races will be very close and there may be an upset."
- "Medina"
- "If independent, academic, non-profit polling means anything, Ms. Medina leading the pack for tax collector."
- "Wendy Davis wins governor"
- "Hildebrand leads comptroller race"
- "Right-winged crazies will be thwarted (or God help us)."
- "Dewhurst wins outright."
- "Nothing surprises me, but I'll play along: Rinaldi destroy Ratliff (not because Rinaldi is good, but because Ratliff's 'campaign' came to play too late ... and that's too bad.)"
- "Paxton"
- "Carona will be defeated and Staples will make the Lt. Governor run-off with Dewhurst."
- "Lack of success of tea party challengers"
- "Debra Medina"
- "The lite gov race, don't be surprised to see Todd Staples in run off with dewy or dewy walks away with it, the warfare in the Harris county republican party might be the thing that kills Patrick's chances since he is placing everything on Harris County."
- "Dan Patrick comes much closer to Dewhurst than anyone expects."
- "The Texas Tribune is upside down in the Comptroller and Lt. Governor races, at the very least."
- "The high number of voters skipping the Land Commissioner's race."
- "Lt. Governor"
- "Debra Medina leading into a run-off"
- "Dewhurst finishing first"
- "Hegar loses Comptroller race."
- "Keffer going down if you can call that a surprise."
- "All the major statewide R races except governor will be runoffs"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Jenny Aghamalian, Jennifer Ahrens, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Blaine Bull, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Gay Erwin, Wil Galloway, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Anthony Haley,

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