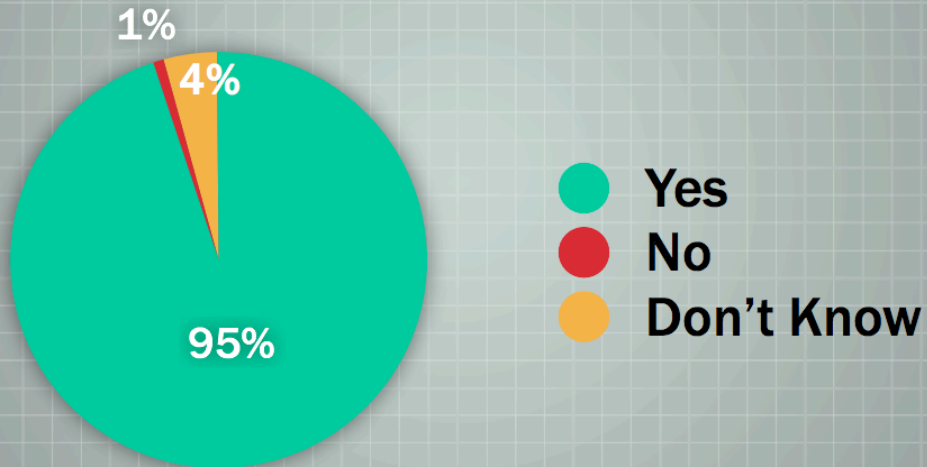


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

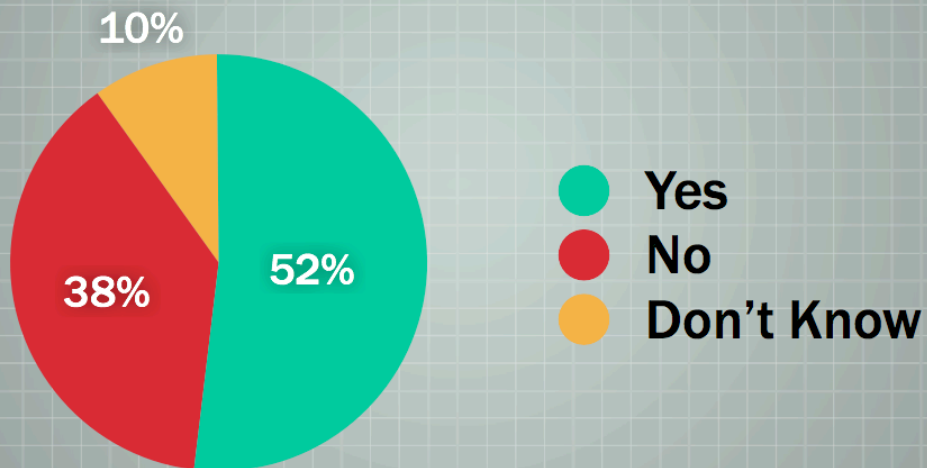
Should women be paid the same as men?



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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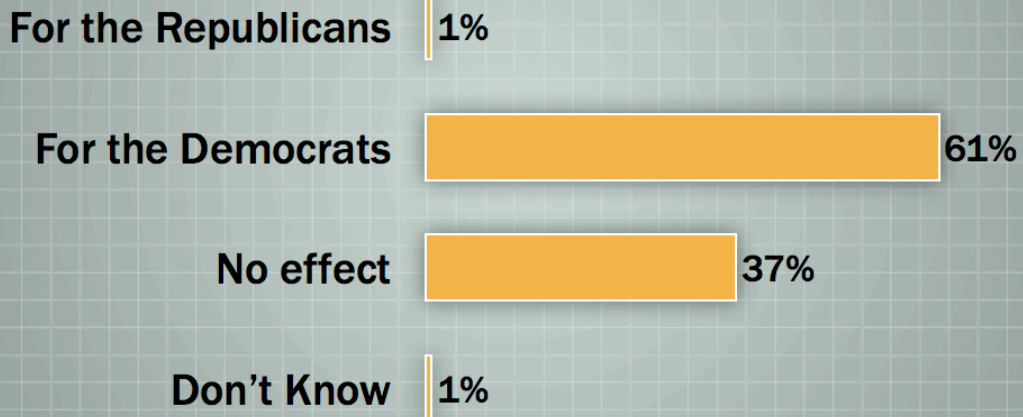
Should the state have a Lilly Ledbetter Act?



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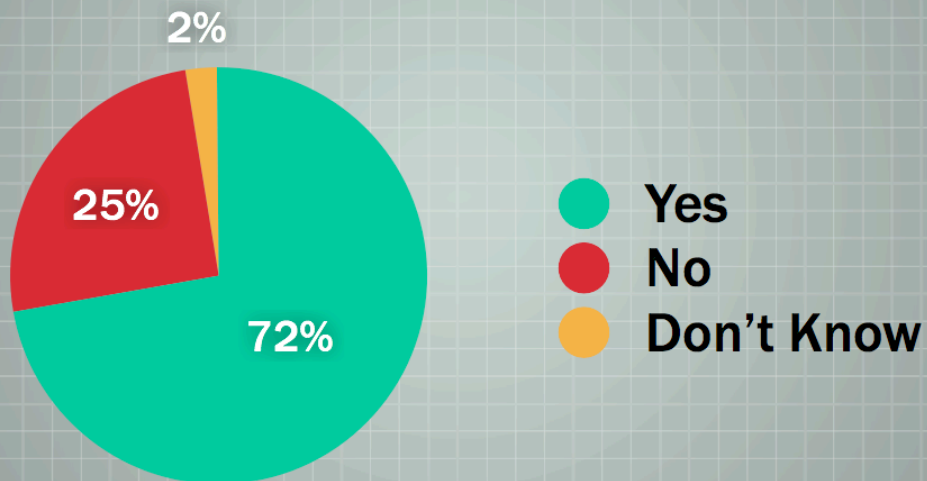
How will equal pay play in this year's elections?



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Are women's votes up for grab this year?



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Should women be paid the same as men for equivalent work?

- "A closer look needs to be taken behind the numbers before we assume this is not already happening."
- "Anyone who answers 'no' should post their name in the comments and then go home and answer to their wife."
- "Is this even a question??"
- "Duh!"
- "Please find me the person in Texas that thinks men should be paid more than women for the same work. Someone is living in the 60s"
- "The real issue is that women are demanding the same pay for UNEQUAL work."
- "Duh!"
- "Is this really a question????"
- "Depends on the work, right? Digging a ditch? Sure. Leading a division of a company? Possibly--but other intangibles are at likely in play: experience, training, past performance, etc."
- "What percentage of the TT 'insiders' is men on an average week? Might want to lead your write up on these questions with that info."
- "Equivalent work deserves equivalent pay."
- "Dear Republican Party: You're being rude and offensive, again. There are a couple of chapters from 'How to Win Friends & Influence People' you should probably brush up on. Sincerely, Civilized Society"
- "How many variables apply? What is equivalent work? What if a woman worked out a better deal than a man did and was paid more or vice versa?"
- "Tough to define equivalent"
- "Equivalent work is not the proper standard to determine pay, Pay should not be determined by sex, but rather the scarcity / commonness of the skill(s) possessed, the value added that those skill(s) bring to the organization, and finally the amount of access the employer has to that skill set (i.e. 40 hrs. a week or 24-7?)."
- "Y'all really asked this question?"
- "Duh."
- "For same quality of work."
- "All things being equal, yes, men and women should be paid the same."
- "As long as someone does the same work it should not matter."
- "Of course"
- "It all comes down to competency and work ethic, if those are the same, then yes."
- "Seriously, who checks 'no' here?"
- "How do you measure equivalent? Work product, position, responsibilities, etc."
- "Silly question"

- "Seriously? Is this even subject to debate?"

Should Texas pass a state version of the federal Lilly Ledbetter Act, a version of which was passed by the Legislature and vetoed by Gov. Rick Perry last year?

- "The long limitations period encourages people to sit on their hands rather than act if they think they are being treated unfairly."
- "As Perry said, it's already illegal. Not sure what going on double secret probation adds."
- "This is a non-issue in the real world. Let the FREE MARKET determine wages."
- "Equal pay (non discrimination on the basis of sex) is already the law in Texas. Under the guise of equal pay the Legislature passed a bill that left employers liable for actions that could date from decades past. This open-ended liability for employers is a bad policy and Perry was right to veto it. The whole 'equal pay' issue is a smokescreen."
- "Oh wait, they did pass a state act that was subsequently vetoed!"
- "I generally think we don't need more laws--that the State has no role in deciding pay structures of private companies...but I want my girls to earn every dollar they can and not be shortchanged because they're females."
- "Biggest winner is the plaintiff's bar."
- "But you know these knuckle-dragging Republicans won't do it as they like to keep women down."
- "Doesn't federal law cover this already?"
- "Wendy Davis used the Lilly Ledbetter Act to drive NFIB and other small business owners firmly into Republican hands."
- "Only because it's hard to make sure you are being paid a fair salary when you don't know what others are being paid. If you knew, then you could represent yourself better in such negotiations."
- "The federal law was a payoff for trial lawyers, and any state version would be the same."
- "What a quandary: Which do I hate more ... discrimination or laws that should be unnecessary???? I really question the court decisions that render the federal law meaningless."
- "If the federal law applies, is there really a reason for a state law as well? Belt and suspenders or a real need?"
- "We already have laws that make discrimination on the basis of gender illegal. Why add another one?"
- "I'd prefer to leave it to the market."

- "If I were a plaintiff, I'd think it would be easier to file in state court

then federal court."

How will equal pay play in this year's state elections?

- "Repubs will focus on abortion and it will be their downfall"
- "Feminist Wendy Davis is desperate to find something--anything--to earn relevance."
- "Joe Six Pack ain't paying attention to the issue now and it'll be played out by the time Nov. rolls around."
- "In the context of other women's issues being raised by the Democrats, it 'could' show how different each party is in regards to women."
- "If the issue of equal pay drew a large number of people in Texas to the polls, this card would have been played a long time ago."
- "Politically tone deaf veto followed by equally politically tone deaf Republican Nugents and comments."
- "This year's state elections are all about Hilary's prez run."
- "The issue fires up Democrat base, but ticket-splitting voters will believe Democrats are just playing politics."

- "As long as Abbott et al continue their sexist ways on equal pay, the Ds should drive it home for suburban women. However, the Ds have a recent record of piss-poor execution."

- "The Republican Party has trouble hearing women's voices."

- "It will play for the Democrats, but not enough to win."

- "For the Ds, to limited effect"

- "Much ado about nothing if you know the true story. The Ds tell so many lies about this issue. If you compare job to job the data tells the truth pay is equal. The 77 cents on the dollar is a lie."

- "Under normal circumstances, when the R's best argument against equal pay is that men are better negotiators than women, the R's should be lucky to get any women votes."

- "I think the Dems can use the issue, but to be clear I don't think it will have that much of an impact on actual votes. It will not swing Republican votes."

Do you think women's votes are up for grabs in this election year?

- "Not those on the fringes, but for all of those more in the middle (that are also informed voters) they have to be questioning who support policies in their best interest."

- "Women will determine who wins this year. Don't think the wacky Repub women are voting that way - they just tell you they are! Surprises in store."

- "Tables are set"
- "Jobs and the economy are the issues, which are gender neutral."
- "To some extent, but perhaps only where you would expect it. Will it determine the outcome of any significant race? Probably not."
- "Somewhat, but only somewhat, more than normally."
- "*Which* women? Younger, older, single, married, mothers? Seems like each subset has picked a side and is likely not to be persuaded to move anytime soon."
- "I think the female vote is up for grabs every election, but even that statement pigeon-holes women into a singularity. You're ignoring the fact that women care about other issues, and that in this election they will vote only for candidates that support equal pay or abortion rights."
- "As they are every year, along with Male votes."
- "Don't see conservative Texas women jumping the fence for this."
- "For now, but the window's closing daily for r's."
- "President Obama's negative image continues to be the roadblock to any Texas swing voter."
- "At least suburban women will be attuned to the equal pay message IF the Ds stay on message. And If Dan Patrick is the lite guy nominee, there are many women's issues that the Ds can use against his nutty ideas."
- "I can't answer this because that will make me an old white guy making decisions about a woman's voting preferences."
- "They are every year. But it's not a monolithic block and efforts to treat it as such are foolish."
- "The Ds have a chance with young, single women. Older married women may be too set in their ways."
- "Gender issues will move votes; but the extent of the move is not determined. Republican intransigence on those issues could increase the move."
- "Everyone's vote is up for grabs this year. That's how elections work."
- "A certain group of women will always stand by their men, but there is privacy in the ballot box. Everyone just wants a level playing field, why isn't that a no-brainer?"
- "Not any more than any other election."
- "Not at the moment, but ask again in a few weeks. This has been the Davis campaign's best week (although 'best' for this campaign is a fairly low bar to clear given that it has been a train wreck so far). A few more weeks like this, and women's votes may be in play."
- "I don't think grabbing women is appropriate"
- "Some women, if the Republicans aren't careful."

- "There will be minimal shifts with some Republican women, but again I do not believe that will be seismic."

- "Not all women's votes are. But they are more in play than men's votes."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Billy Howe, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Robert Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.