

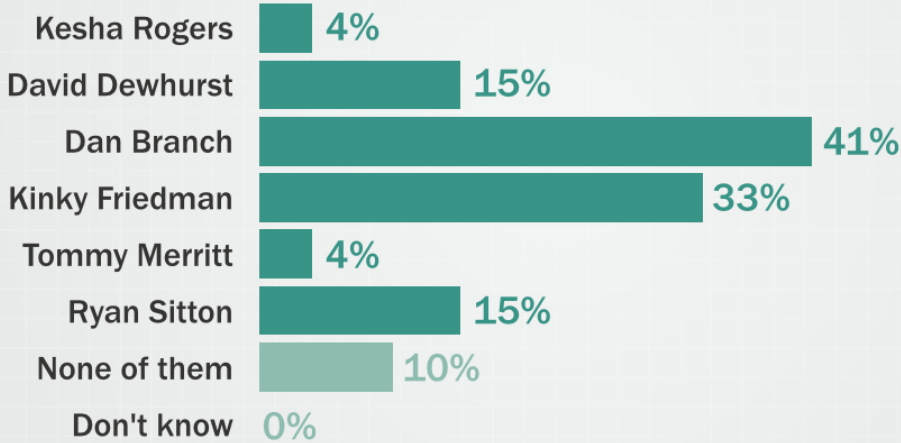
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll

for the week of 23 May 2014

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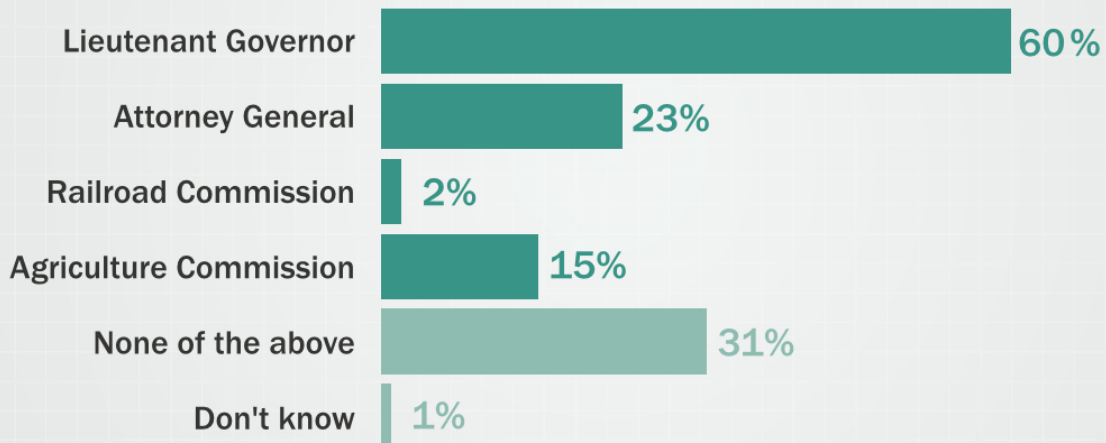
WHICH 2ND PLACE FINISHER WILL WIN A RUNOFF?



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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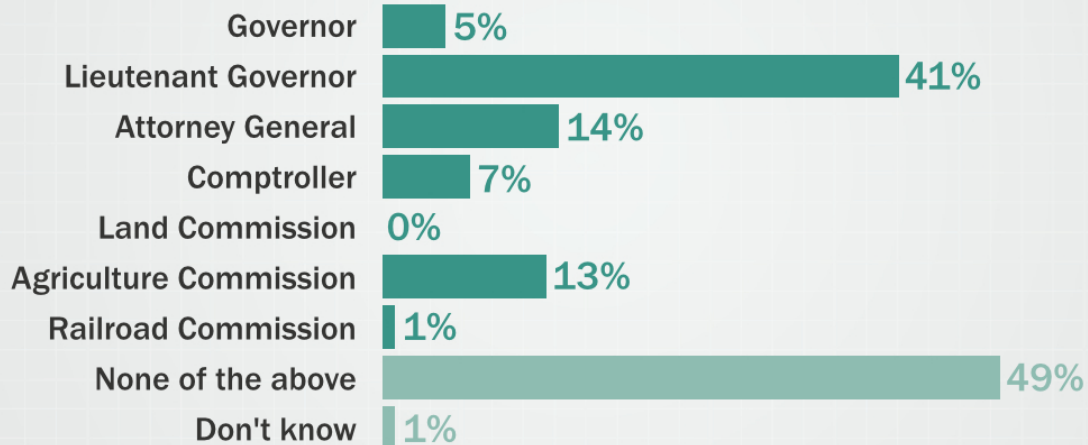
WHICH GOP RUNOFFS CREATE OPENINGS FOR DEMOCRATS?



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Each of these candidates finished second in March, but made the runoff. Which ones do you think will win their runoff?

- "None and it does defy conventional political wisdom that the second place in the first round has the advantage in the run-off. Political Science professors will be scratching their heads to explain this one."
- "'Think' is one thing, 'want' is quite something else--that is useless at this point."
- "Rare year in the R primary that none of the 'second place with a bullet' guys is going to win. Look what they all have in common and how much things have changed in 4 years.... the insurgents are becoming the establishment (that ought to scare the hell out of them!)."
- "At least I hope and pray they both win!"
- "Rodgers has a name that will have people vote for her. Dewhurst is making a comeback and many moderate GOPers will support him"
- "Dan Branch, Mr. Ethics, will learn a lesson in republican primary politics,"
- "I wish Dewhurst, Branch, and Sitton would win, but ... they won't."

- "Best shot at winning from 2nd is Bob Hall in SD2."
- "Paxton's ethical baggage should be enough to knock him off, but just barely. Sitton is emerging as the most qualified of the 2 RRC candidates left on the ballot."
- "Their supporters won't show up in the numbers that they need."
- "You would hope that your AG candidate would not also be a candidate for indictment."
- "Having a 'chief law enforcement officer' facing indictment, plus multiple ethics violations, is probably too much even for Texas right wing GOP primary voters."
- "I just can't believe that Texans will blame Dewhurst for Patrick's FACTUAL record."
- "That'll make it an incredibly fun ticket to watch."

Do any of the primary runoff battles on the Republican side of the ballot create an opening for Democrats in the general election?

- "Opens the window just a crack."
- "Very minor openings depending on voter turnout."
- "Patrick's lack of appeal to the establishment, coupled with his strident rhetoric gives the Democrats' strongest statewide candidate a slight chance for success."
- "If the smoke in the Paxton story is real fire, then that could be an upset."
- "The Democrats only win when they run as Republicans. The Democrats only have power when they co-opt Republicans. The Democrats are a dead party among Texans."
- "It will be hard for Paxton to win if he gets disbarred or indicted for scamming money from law clients!"
- "Van De Putte over Patrick is all the buzz, but its not going to happen. Sen. Van De Putte's platform and views do not represent mainstream Texas and she's been trash talking to the left wing for so long, she probably doesn't even know it."
- "Lt. Gov. will be closest, but not close..."
- "Still a Republican state. For now. With these clowns winning, who knows how much longer it will remain so."
- "Paraphrasing Mitt: D's stuck at 47% this election."
- "An opening doesn't mean they can win. Just allows gap to close some. GOP candidate would have to stumble."
- "Leticia, you never, ever looked so good!"
- "If it is Mr. Patrick versus Ms. Van de Putte, lots of switch over vote in

November. Not nearly enough, though."

- "If Dan Patrick wins, a number of Republicans will vote for Van De Putte."
- "What about Comptroller?"
- "Good long shot if Patrick is the nominee."
- "Van de Putte still a real long shot,"
- "The fact that our Republican AG nominee may be under indictment creates somewhat of an opening."
- "Those 'Rs for VDP' bumper stickers will be popping up soon - and not just in Austin."
- "Nope."
- "If shock-jock Patrick wins the R primary, Wendy Davis will wish she had run for Lite Guv instead."
- "Leticia has some chance if it's Patrick. Not much. But some."

• "Very, very narrow openings... but openings nonetheless."

- "There is always the danger, with both Patrick and Paxton, that another shoe will drop."
- "The Lite Gov food fight leaves the GOP nominee tarnished, but Democrats aren't going to win any statewide race in Texas anytime soon."
- "Patrick's deposition calling a woman a 'B' will come back to haunt Texas voters."
- "In reality none will create an opening for Democrats, but Paxton and Miller both have serious legal and ethical problems and should create an opening for Democrats in most other states."
- "Seriously?"
- "The most negative campaign for Lt Governor in Recent Texas history leaves a lot of work to be done for the nominee to rebuild a positive image"
- "Don't be silly."

At this point in the election cycle, do you think the Democrats can beat the Republicans in any statewide non-judicial races?

- "Minor chance."
- "Slight chance."
- "Maybe?"
- "The only truly credible Democrat is LVDP for Lite Gov, but the resources won't be there to make a real run. It will be fun to watch."
- "The State is too red for a Democrat to win a statewide."
- "Sam Houston has a real shot at reestablishing a family dynasty."
- "No chance."
- "When you mix a cocktail of ho-hum Republican candidates for Ag Commissioner, a larger-than-life

Democrat, and a job the voters don't understand, you may wake up with a post-election day hangover"

- "There's a D in these races?"

- "'Can' is the operative word . . . not ready by any stretch to say 'will'. November is a lifetime away at this juncture."

- "Virtually every race will have a ten-point advantage for the Republican candidate."

- "Could have a disqualified Republican AG candidate after it is too late to replace him on the ballot."

- "Texas isn't competitive yet. But, if the GOP keeps nominating a group of clowns as bad as what they will probably throw at us this year, competitive statewide races are sooner than later in coming."

- "Sorry, Dems. Reality bites."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Billy Howe, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Tim Lambert, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Dan McClung, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Tim Reeves, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, John Weaver, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.