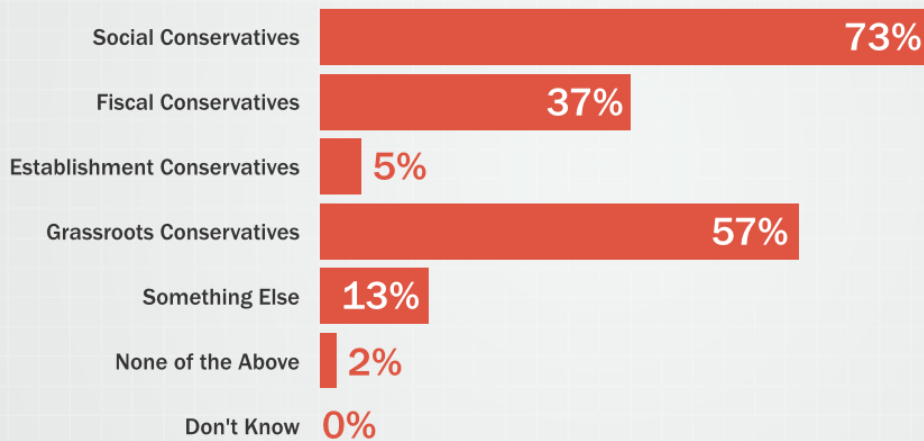


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 6 June 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

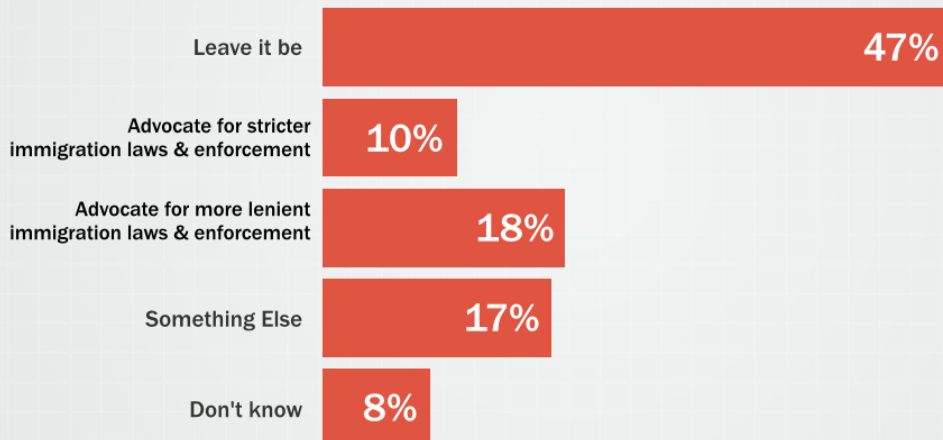
WHO DOMINATES THE TEXAS GOP?



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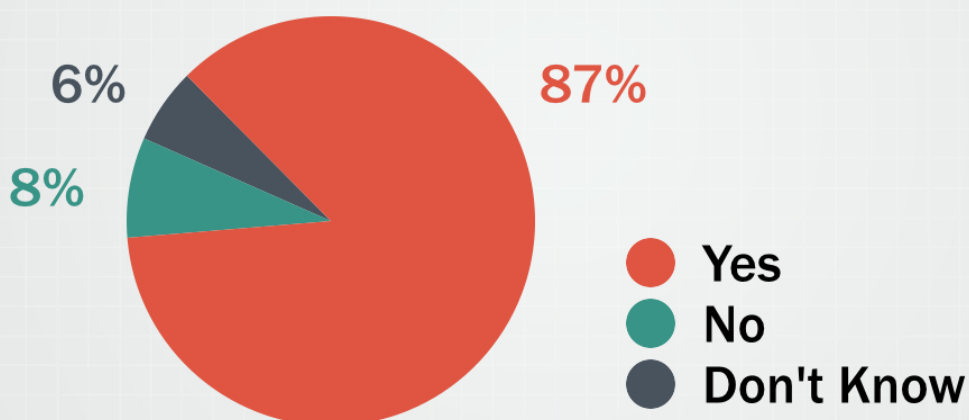
WHAT SHOULD THE GOP DO WITH ITS IMMIGRATION PLATFORM?



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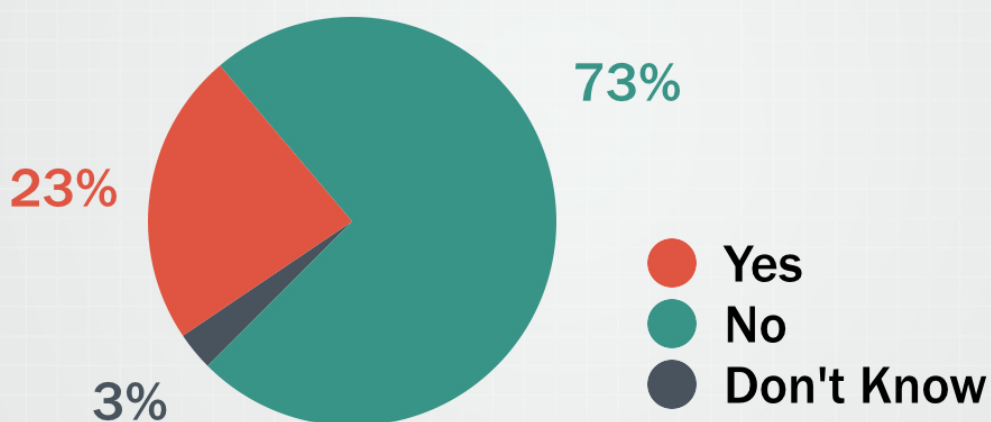
SHOULD THE GOP LET THE LOG CABIN
REPUBLICANS RENT A BOOTH?



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DO PARTY PLATFORMS MAKE
A DIFFERENCE TO VOTERS?



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The Texas GOP is holding its state convention this week. Based on the primaries and the runoffs, how would you describe the dominant forces in Republican Party politics in Texas right now? [Check all that apply]

- "When the candidates for Ag Commissioner have to come out in support of traditional marriage (one heifer for every bull?), and property tax reform, I think it's clear who's running the show."
- "Right wing extremists works for me."
- "Weird, anti-government"
- "What is best description for evangelical, theocratic, gun loving, gay baiting, government hating beneficiary, wimmin belong in the kitchen, fence off the brown people throw backs. It ain't 'conservative'. Perhaps that's the code breaking definition for 'true conservative.'"
- "Racist/Wacadoodle Conservatives!!!!!"
- "Open Carry gun supporters will further ingratiate the party to women and sane people."
- "Teavangelicals...that's one part tea party two parts social conservative."
- "Not fiscal conservatives, if they were, Texas would not be leaving our kids with a debt of unmet needs in human and capital infrastructure."
- "If you look at the statewide winners it will be clear that the 'abortion issue' played a significant role in who emerged from the crowded fields."
- "All of the first four are well-represented, though the establishment conservatives are a bit stunned at their loss of historic control."
- "We are seeing different regional forces that are fighting for control. The easiest way categorize them is Urban Conservatives, Suburban Conservatives, and Rural Conservatives."
- "Irrational and gullible forces appear to dominate the GOP primary. See Exhibit A: Dan Patrick, Ken Paxton, and Sid Miller; despite their separate personal and profession baggage, each was overwhelmingly chosen to be a nominee in Nov. Where are the rational adults?"
- "Interesting that all categories are 'conservatives'. I suppose some 'forces' will be a bit louder than others."
- "As I like to say, Reagan sought out the 'white trash Democrats' in the 80's. He pushed hard to bring them into the Republican fold. Now we can see the result of those efforts."
- "Tea Party"
- "Anti-government."
- "Combination of fiscal and social. People just tired of government."

- "Uber libertarian evangelicals"
- "Tea in Texas blends together religious and fiscal conservatism. You don't see fissured between those factions quite like in some other states or on the national stage. There isn't much of a libertarian wing in Texas and the establishment was never a big player in conventions."
- "Highland park just has rich people"
- "MQS and the money behind him"
- "See Ben Sargent's cartoon from the June 1 Statesman. I'm no fan of Sargent but he nailed that one."
- "The Crazies"
- "Social conservatives are over-represented in the primary-- particularly the run-off. But they seem to be the balance of power in the Republican Party."
- "Oh yea, and a bunch of idiots!"
- "The religious right is taking control. The Tea Party movement is dying off and the vacuum is being filled by an even more intolerant group."
- "Church goers that live in Tarrant, Collin, Denton and Montgomery counties."

Republicans are expected to debate their immigration platform at the convention. What would be the best outcome?

- "The surest way to undermine the party's state-wide dominance is to backtrack on the current immigration plank."
- "Best outcome for whom? The Democrats are of course hoping for a series of Patrick Buchanan you tube op moments of gun waving, race baiting lunacy to galvanize the sleeping minority majority, and the Y and X gen- ambivalents, (however futile.)"
- "Why do they need to have a 'platform' according to all of their candidates all the problems in the state of Texas are caused by the THOUSANDS of immigrants pouring across our WIDE OPEN borders (well those problems not cause by President Obama that is!)"
- "Any discussion of the platform's racism is a good outcome. For Democrats."
- "Set sanctuary cities on fire. Burn the house down."
- "Keep the guest worker plank"
- "Nothing good will come out of this debate. The GOP can expect democratic moles to infiltrate the convention to video some of the stupid s#%t that will be said and then create 30 second adds out of them. I'm sure we will witness a 'MACACA' moment."
- "Moderation died with Jerry Patterson's candidacy and Dewhurst's @ss-pounding."
- "Best outcome for whom? For Dems, the best outcome would be a platform

of stricter immigration law and enforcement--the better to drum the Republicans. For Republicans, it would be to leave it as is--the better to appear to be solving a problem and not creating huge divides and tension."

- "How about a reasonable plan to further secure the border and establish a workable guest worker program . . . that perhaps wouldn't alienate a growing sector of our population?"
- "Allow people in the country to start and go through the process of citizenship.... no short cuts"
- "Best for who?"
- "Keeping Rule of law with a program that provides people an opportunity to become a US citizen"
- "A hybrid approach supporting strong enforcement measures, coupled with a guest worker program (without citizenship) to fill some jobs we don't want to do, such as agriculture jobs, construction, landscaping, and service industry jobs would be the most pragmatic resolution. Realistically, I do not see this version of language gaining enough support of the delegates attending this week's convention in Ft. Worth."
- "Create pathway without automatically legitimizing current non-residents"

• "Considering the fervor coming out of Dan Patrick's mouth, I expect a platform that requires 'the federal government to send'em back home!'"

• "If they're smart, they'll listen to the calls from Hotze et al. and soften the hardline stance a bit. That probably won't happen, though."

• "One can safely expect them to get this wrong of course."

• "Vow to assist reviving Mexico's energy industry so expanded employment opportunities will keep them happy at home."

• "And don't care."

• "Guest worker plan."

• "Best outcome for whom? For Texas? For Democrats? For the GOP? If the GOP had any sense, they would moderate their position on this issue. Politically, it's good for Democrats if the GOP continues to hang themselves by taking a hardline stance on immigration. But it's bad public policy."

• "'Leave it be' would be the best outcome after the common-sense changes made by Norman Adams et al. last time around. Because it's the best outcome is precisely why they'll jack with it and go negative precisely at the time they should be ordering a bigger tent."

• "Leave Texas Solution in platform"

Should the Texas GOP allow the Log Cabin Republicans, a group that advocates for gay and lesbian rights, to rent a booth at its convention?

- "Republicans believe theirs is the party of the better ideas. They should not be afraid to test that in the marketplace."

- "But to borrow from the late great Edmund Kuempel, if a frog had a back pocket he'd carry a pistol and shoot snakes. Another faint hope from the Dems that the village (and village idiots) will self-immolate in order to save the State."

- "Heavens if they are CRAZY enough to be republicans and want to associate with those WACKOS who clearly HATE THEM - then yes, they should be allowed to participate in the convention. (Please remember these are the BIG tent folks - they welcome everyone! Well that is White, male or female as long as they do not think, reason or read for themselves!)"

- "Money and guns before freedom!"

- "The GOP should be supporting civil unions and protecting the definition of marriage. These are two different things. The party is alienating the only conservative group that can spread this message."

- "Few will stop by, but yes, allow them. To disallow them will hurt the GOP more than it hurts."

- "What do the party rules provide for? Are other groups--like gender-based, sexuality-based, racially based, and religious-based groups--allowed to have booths? The party has a right to reject any booth application for any reason. Should the Texas GOP allow

the Democrat party to have a booth? Emily's List? Planned Parenthood? Should the Texas Democrat Party allow the Texas State Rifle Association and NRA to have a booth? The parties have to be able to select the vendors they want and need at their respective conventions."

- "Yes . . . but only if they wish to remain viable over the long - or even the 'mid' - term. Another purity over pragmatism position that will speed the process to turn Texas blue."

- "They should allow for symbolic purposes. By not allowing it, they clearly indicate that their tent is closed. It may give them one more election but ultimately, it will hurt."

- "Should be a free market decision. Let them pay for a booth. If you don't agree, don't visit. That's free market (which the GOP favors, right?)."

- "You might not agree with them but why act like the fascists on the left and completely shut out another voice on issues."

- "Why not? There won't be many visitors at the booth unless they are there to pray for them."

- "But it won't happen until Greenpeace and the ACLU are invited in."

- "How many times are the Log Cabins going to be refused entrance the convention before they finally get it??"

- "Denying these folks a booth is idiotic. Let them come in and make whatever case they want. What are the conventioners afraid of?"

- "Don't know what those folks are doing in that Party!"

- "Why does Texas Tribune only allow for two gender options?"

- "Like the Delta House, we need the dudes!"

- "Yes but they won't"

- "They can decide to do whatever they want."

Do political party platforms make any difference to the voting public?

- "Candidates invariably must emphasize the key points of the platform. THAT affects what voters think of the GOP."

- "Sadly, the voters who read those polemics and provoke a gag reflex don't vote in sufficient quantities."

- "Sadly I am probably one of the only people that reads the party platforms. I read the Republican Party platform to see just how much they hate me. I read the Democratic platform in the hopes of helping make it better for my party!"

- "Platforms matter only when their contents include examples of rank extremism - AKA the Texas GOP Platform."

- "Voting public??? Only those that care about party platforms vote anymore."

- "Yes, though general election voters tend not to know the details of platforms."

- "Party platforms make a difference when it can be used against a candidate in a general election."

- "To most voters, no. No one even reads those silly platforms. And once elected, few legislators give them much weight."

- "They do when they're reported on. But when was the last time the Tribune wrote about the Texas Democrat Party's platform and how it's not (allegedly) representative of the people of Texas?"

- "If outrageous enough, contents of a platform make great campaign fodder. Other than that, only the hyper-engaged and those with little else to do even know that the parties HAVE platforms."

- "Most voters - what's a party platform?"

- "Platforms are developed by the diehards - and then quickly forgotten."

- "Too long, too many issues dealt with so basically ignored. When it comes to platforms simple is best."
- "Of course not. Second-biggest waste of time in politics (next to legislative interim hearings). But it gives the party apparatchiks something to do and it gives them a (false) sense of importance, so platforms serve a purpose for the officeholders that need the apparatchiks' support come election time."
- "To the extent the opposition is able to use it against a candidate it does make a difference"
- "They probably would if they made any difference to the parties themselves."
- "Nobody reads it or even pays attention to it."
- "Both parties' platforms are crazy so it must matter to some people."
- "No, BUT. The but is when something is so egregious and out of the mainstream that the opposing party's candidate can try to use it as a cudgel. But we're such a Republican state right now that I can't see what could be put in that would help Ms. Davis out enough."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Allen Blakemore, Allen Place, Andrew Biar, Andy Sansom, Bee Moorhead, Bill Hammond, Billy Howe, Bill Stevens, Bradford Shields, Brandon Aghamalian, Bruce Gibson, Bruce Scott, Barbara Schlieff, Tom Duffy, Cathie Adams, Chris Britton, Charles Bailey, Cal Jillson, Clyde Alexander, Colin Strother, Corbin Van Arsdale, Carl Richie, Christopher Shields, Dennis Speight, Dale Laine, Darren Whitehurst, David White, David Cabrales, Deborah Ingersoll, Denise Davis, Doc Arnold, Dominic Giarratani, Robert Kepple, Elna Christopher, Ed Small, Jason Sabo, Gary Polland, Gene Acuna, George Allen, Gerard Torres, Stephanie Gibson, Glenn Deshields, Gardner Pate, Grant Ruckel, Hector De Leon, Holly DeShields, Jack Erskine, Jenny Aghamalian, James LeBas, Jay Arnold, Jay Pritchard, Jeff Eller, Pete Laney, Jerod Patterson, Jerry Philips, John Greytok, Jim Grace, Janis Carter, J. McCartt, Jon Fisher, Jim Sartwelle, Jason Skaggs, June Deadrick, Ken Whalen, Karen Reagan, Keats Norfleet, Kinnan Golemon, Ken Hodges, Kathy Hutto, Kim Ross, Keir Murray, Kraege Polan, Nick Lampson, Laura Huffman, Lydia Camarillo, Lisa Kaufman, Leslie Lemon, Luis Saenz, Larry Soward, Luke Legate, Marc Campos, Matt Mackowiak, Mike Moses, Mark Jones, Martha Smiley, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Myra Leo, Nora Del Bosque, Nef Partida, Nelson Nease, Norman Garza, Nancy Sims, Pat Nugent, Dave Beckwith, Wayne Pierce, Jay Propes, Peck Young, Raif Calvert, Randy Cubriel, Richard Pineda, Richard Dyer, Richard Khouri, Richie Jackson, Bob Strauser, Robert Jones, Robert Scott, Royce Poinsett, Robert Peeler, Ruben Longoria, Seth Winick, Steve Minick, Snapper Carr, Steve Scurlock, Stan Schlueter, Jason Stanford, Sherry Sylvester, Tom Blanton, Thure Cannon, Tom Kleinworth, Tom Phillips, Trey Trainor, Eric Glenn, Vicki Truitt, Victor Alcorta, Corbin Casteel, Wayne Hamilton, Ware Wendell, Woody Widrow, Angelo Zottarelli.