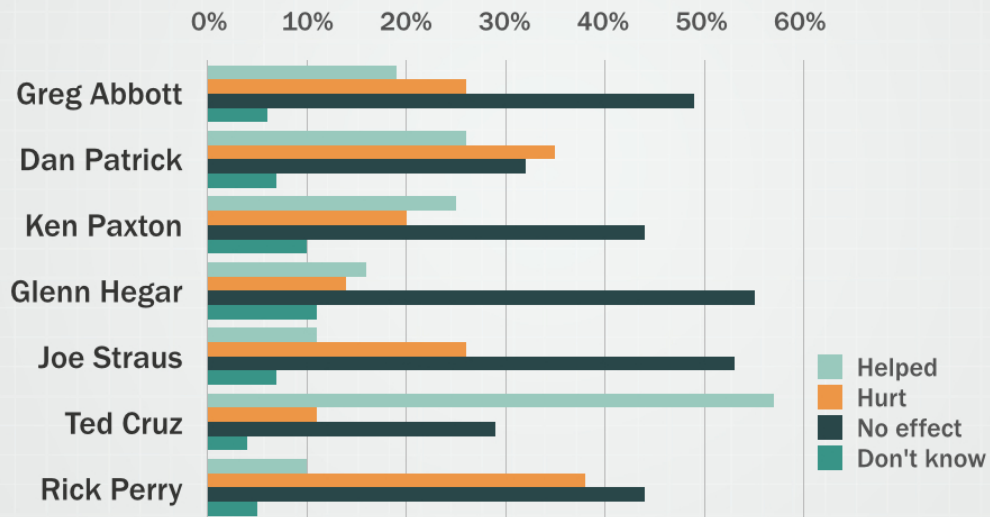


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 13 June 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

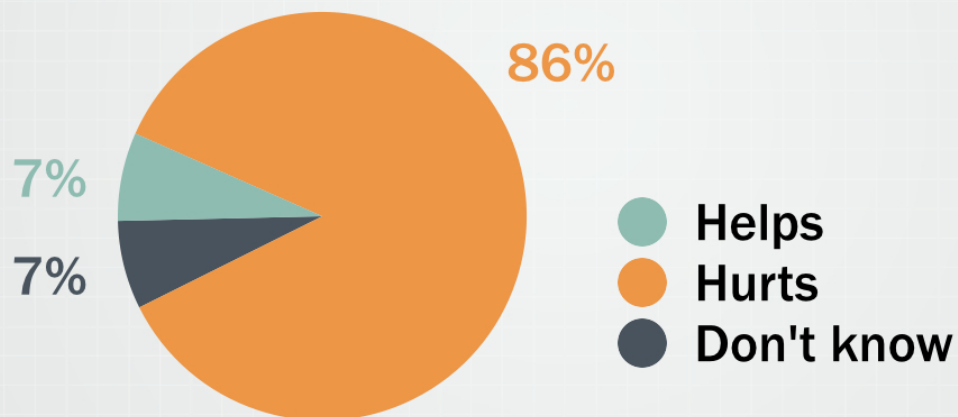
HOW DID THE GOP CONVENTION AFFECT :



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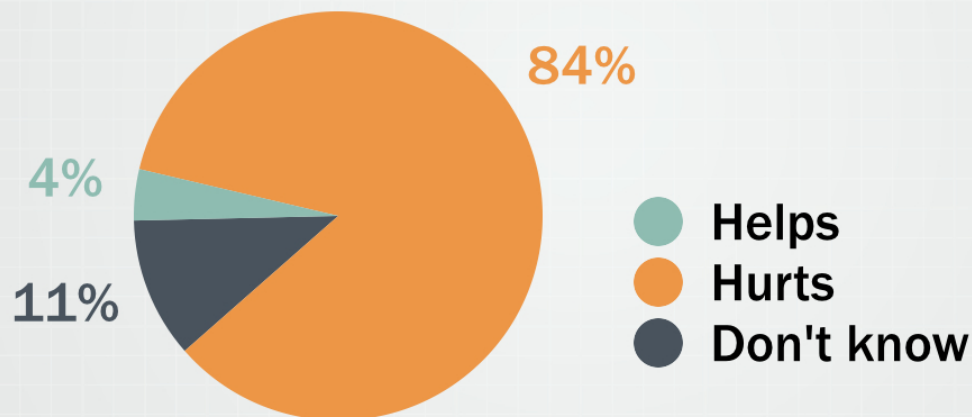
HOW DOES THE IMMIGRATION PLANK EFFECT THE GOP?



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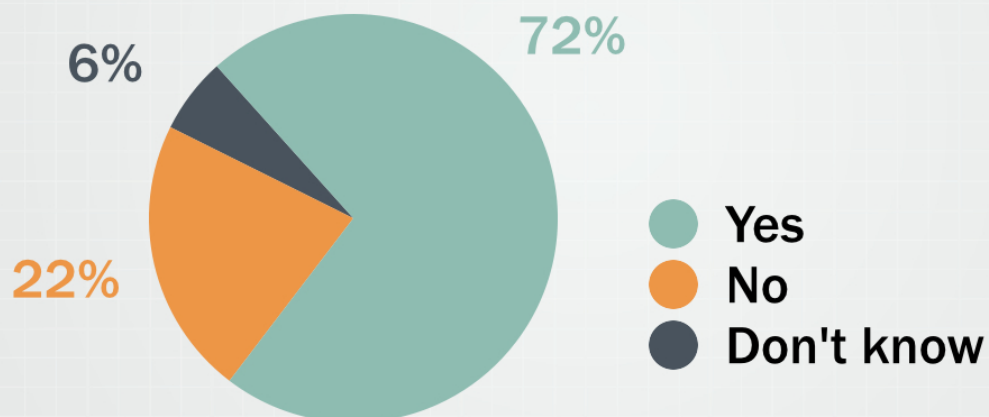
HOW DOES THE "REPARATIVE THERAPY"
PLANK EFFECT THE GOP?



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DID THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTIONEERS
CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEMOCRATS?



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How did the state Republican convention affect the political prospects of these candidates and officials?

- "Cruz, Patrick, and Paxton bet correctly that the TEA Party is alive and well in Texas; Straus is fortunate that the D's will continue to support his speakership; and Governor Perry will need to explain how a viable presidential candidate comes in 4th in his own state party's straw poll."
- "We'll have to ask Governor of Texas Dan Patrick in 10 years what the effect was."
- "The convention affirmed what we already know - that faith based and tea party conservatives are ascendant in the activist ranks of the Republican Party. Emboldened by Cruz and Patrick."
- "State government candidates had a largely error-free convention, exactly what was required. The big winner was Cruz...enthusiasm for him was palpable. Big loser was Perry, now an after-thought in Texas. Whether Perry can generate anything resembling his old level of financial support now is the major outstanding question."
- "Scott Turner WON the TX House Speaker Straw Poll."
- "Party unity is first and foremost coming out of convention. It may diminish a bit as time goes on, but being united is important."
- "The folks who pay attention to and/or attend the convention made up their mind a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away."
- "Who the heck pays attention to state conventions?"
- "The convention was a double negative. Tea Party candidates double down on crazy. Cruz, however, beat Ben Carson for the Texas primary vote, a huge victory for the junior senator."
- "The vocal minority has been allowed to takeover operations of the TX GOP. The 5.5% of voters finding it worthwhile to actually vote are getting to write the rules for the majority. The silent majority seemingly prefers to simply complain about the current state of affairs as opposed to doing something about it (i.e. voting). Our low voter turnout is an embarrassment!"
- "Stars were Cruz first, Patrick second -- Cruz is the king of the party -- Patrick is less well-known, so the party got to see him more. Abbott made less of a splash, but no negative -- lots of behind the scenes worry expressed about Paxton's legal problems. Straus is lucky he wasn't booed. Perry reminded everyone why they loved him -- but still not enough to outshine Cruz."
- "No effect--each was projected to win easily before the convention and afterwards, that remains the case."
- "Rick Perry is fine with the delegates until he's compared to tea party rock star, Ted Cruz. If you can't win your home state, do you have a chance? Very doubtful."
- "Its a good thing for the Republican candidates that no one outside politics pays attention to party conventions especially this one. If they did they

would vote against every one of them, for being out of touch with reality. I'm surprise they didn't endorse a flat each plank."

- "Performing so poorly in the straw poll hurt Perry, but in no way should it be viewed as THE fatal blow."
- "Passing of the torch to a new generation."
- "How bad a 'hurt' is it to fall from 57% to 56%?"
- "Turner wasted a lot of money on swag for people that don't vote for Speaker."
- "Gov Perry can't even get 12% of the R delegates to support him."

• "The convention was an embarrassment that hurt all Republicans."

• "Generally, people forget about the state convention as soon as it is over and the breathless next reports about how far right the platform has slipped off the front page. Platforms rarely affect election outcomes."

• "Tea Party type republicans couldn't 'hurt' themselves by adopting whacko positions. They like 'em some Ted Cruz and dog whistle racist politics and no position is too far. Straus has a limited future and Perry has ironically left at the train station holding his bags in his hands."

Does the Texas GOP's position on immigration hurt or help the Party?

- "Conservatives should have focused on lambasting the failed Central American governments that cannot put their own citizens to work, and our federal government for being too distracted to call them out, rather than attack people who are desperate to find a better life for their families."
- "The GOP loses, like Cantor, when they go against the grassroots. This will keep those eager folks eager to go back to the polls in November."
- "Hard to grow the party with this message. Platform doesn't matter, but the rhetoric will help turn Texas blue one day if they stick with this line."
- "Does not matter."

• "It's minor damage, but there was no good reason to alter the 'Texas solution' put in place by the last convention."

• "ALL Texans, especially those near the border, want a secure border first."

• "Depends whose voting - I believe it hurts the Republican Party but not the TEA Party"

• "You can be for law and order and message on it better. This is such a simple message and the Rs are dropping the ball."

• "Two edge sword, with all these children coming in, we need a strong case for border security, but the party

platform is hard and fast against negotiations of any kind. There's got to be some give and take."

- "As we used to say about a friend, they saw their chance to screw up and leaped on it."

- "If you're a Latino, and the RPT chose the harshest of platforms over what was proposed, then it'll hurt the party when it comes to recruitment."

- "Words matter and the rhetoric is too harsh and divisive. That being said getting the border secure is more important than ever"

- "Our nation is a land of immigrants, yet there are some of our current immigrants who don't want any other kind of immigrant to stick around, which ironically includes the very immigrant whose family land was stolen years before when the current immigrants were immigrating to this land."

- "If people even know about it."

- "The platform puts candidates in the position of having to 'explain'. And when you're explaining, you're not winning."

- "For years Democrats did everything they could to elect more Republicans; Republicans are simply returning the favor."

- "Texas has been the thinking leaders on this issue for decades -- we have now thrown that away in favor of this reactionary stance -- very bad move on the part of the Tea Party."

- "It will hurt the party in the long term. But it juices their electorate in the short term."

- "Helps with the closed borders crowd, but it hurts with expanding the elusive Big Red Tent."

- "Why the party leaders can figure out what to say and do to win a republican primary and can't figure out how to gain the upper hand long term against the democrats remains a mystery."

- "Their platform is the gift that keeps on giving to Democrats."

- "Reality is there are an estimated 12 million people from Mexico who have established their lives here (outside of the legal immigration procedures); some are a productive part of our economy (working and paying state and federal taxes) and some being a drag on our services (just like some legal citizens); and we do not want, nor would it be possible to achieve, a government big enough to round up and deport all of them. Reality points to establishing a process for reaching a legal status (NO AMNESTY, perhaps probation, maybe even never citizenship or voting rights); creating workable solutions for those only interested in work to cross back and forth through the border legally; and dealing more severely with the reduced traffic at non-checkpoints which could viewed as ill-intentioned thugs deserving more focused and aggressive tactics."

- "Doesn't anyone remember Pete Wilson?"

- "When are people going to recognize that this is a federal issue?"

- "Helps for a while, then hurts unhappily ever after."
- "Tea Party type republicans couldn't 'hurt' themselves by adopting whacko

positions. They like 'em some Ted Cruz and dog whistle racist politics and no position is too far."

- "No effect"

Does the Texas GOP's endorsement of 'reparative therapy' for homosexuals hurt or help the party?

- "This is one of several shameful and embarrassing sideshows that make it difficult for the Texas GOP to call itself the, 'Big Tent' Party."
- "No effect. Media all worked up about this more than voters. Come on...how many gay votes would GOP gain if that wasn't in the party platform?"
- "Not sure that anyone will benefit from trying to 'pray away the gay'"
- "Everybody has a gay relative. The term reparative implies they are broken and that's not the case."
- "It's a bruise that will eventually go away. Once Republican candidates distance themselves, this will be a non story."
- "Makes them sound stupid, and will push some tea types who are more closely aligned with fiscal conservatives and libertarians out of the tent."
- "Does not matter."
- "Party has yet to face up to changing opinion on homosexuality. Again, not major damage thus far."
- "How many days did it take Houston residents to gather

signatures to put a provision on the ballot to push back on the activist homosexual mayor's agenda? Reparative Therapy is VOLUNTARY. It was necessary to address it because Texans don't want it outlawed as has happened in NJ and CA."

- "Depends who's voting again - same answer as above"
- "Yes, very little science in this notion. Sets the party back with this theory."
- "Scientists have proven that humans contribute to climate change, but republicans call it a conspiracy. Yet, these people think that 'reparative therapy' will change a homosexual into a heterosexual when MDs and therapists have shown it does not work. The irony..."
- "More wasted money in health care the similar but opposite to free sex change operations under Obama care"
- "As if the Party's position on immigration wasn't dumb enough, they had to outdo themselves and roll out an even dumber policy platform."
- "Greg Abbott will spend valuable resources disagreeing publicly with Dr. Hotze and Pastor Mark Gonzales."

- "The Texas GOP position on homosexuals is an abomination."
- "This confirms that the Texas GOP is anti-science and antithetical to an educated society. This should make the RNC run like hell from a Dallas 2016 Convention proposal."
- "Does anyone in the middle really care about this issue? NO!"
- "Helps the party become a laughingstock and punching bag for non-Texans, liberals in the state, media, and most logical and rational conservatives."
- "But not to great effect."
- "It puts them way out of the mainstream."
- "It's a wash. Short term - no. Long term - probably, if they don't alter stance."
- "Why is this even a topic of conversation? Is the PC rule now that

if you're straight but want to be gay, that's good; but if you're gay and want to be straight, that's bad? This whole issue is silly."

- "Will tax payers pay for this therapy?"
- "This is about the stupidest thing I've ever heard. Why doesn't the GOP focus on the economy instead of idiotic social issues?"
- "Good Grief! What a bunch of ignorant, hateful, close-minded, selfish, scared, willfully stupid, bunch of self-righteous idiots!"
- "Trying to 'fix' homosexuals gets no one new to vote for you, but drives some away."
- "Tea Party type republicans couldn't 'hurt' themselves by adopting whacko positions. They like 'em some Ted Cruz and dog whistle racist politics and no position is too far."
- "No effect"

Did the Texas Republican conventioners create any political opportunities for Texas Democrats?

- "By disturbing the immigration plank that didn't need to be touched, the GOP has made it harder for its candidates to have a meaningful conversation with Latino voters."
- "Yes, but it won't matter."
- "Texas will see is a repeat of what the exodus of Reagan Democrats did to the Texas democratic party. This time around, Chamber republicans will lead the movement."
- "Maybe, but the Dems are not ready to seize it..."
- "Just like Democrat convention creates opportunities for the GOP. The crazy right and loony left control the conventions."
- "They will not take advantage of them though. There is a huge opportunity for moderate D's to make headway for their party but the party is mostly run by party purists, Ann

Richards dinosaurs and people slightly right of Lenin. Democrat incumbents are being criticized by other Democrats for taking money from donors that also contribute to Republican members. They have no chance this time."

- "Yes, but the opportunity is small. Like the number of democratic voters."
- "The fights will be in the GOP for years to come."
- "Yes- this media circus is such an unnecessary distraction, for a week or two."
- "The underlying math in the near term hasn't changed, but a well funded Van de Putte could wipe the floor with Patrick on the immigration issue."
- "Convention gave Democrats some items to talk about, the underlying fundamentals remain. Texas is a very red state."
- "Only if the Moderate Repubs do what's right and come out and vote. It's obvious Jews / Hispanics / Homosexuals and Women are the target!"
- "Yes and no, if Dems. Could ever figure out how to get their people (black and Hispanic voters) out to the poll, they could win something. But, week candidates or worse yet bad campaign strategies makes it a long shot at best."
- "Nothing much beyond standard ridicule potential, and it certainly won't be enough to change the

outcome, but still a factor in some places."

- "I'll be optimistic and say they did, but I don't think the Democrats realize how far behind they are in regards to voters. Texas has ALWAYS been a conservative state, even during the hey days of the democrats, but that party has yet to adapt to the changing ways of our political state."
- "Possibly some political opportunities, but most definitely some media ones."
- "They always do, but whether Dems take advantage is another question."
- "The conventioners are only as right as the Democrat conventioners are left. It was the third party groups that created opportunity for Texas Democrats."
- "Just another opportunity for them to lose."
- "Not at this time, but without a move to be more inclusive, the Republican Party is advancing the clock to a blue state."
- "Yes, but probably more in tone than in nuance. The Democrats, however, will probably squander the opportunity with radical left wingers who show up at their Convention. Texas voters will say they don't totally agree with some of the most radical right leaning GOP views, but they won't be able to stomach the left."
- "The 'purity tent' is getting smaller all the time. Interesting that the ultra-conservative wing celebrates along with the Dems - but for completely different reasons."

- "Democrats at this point couldn't put their way out of a wet paper sack. No matter how bad the Republicans are, see all the statewide getting elected in November."
- "Many doors in history have been opened by stupidity. This convention and the last three elections cycles are chasing traditional GOP voters out of the system. They won't vote Democratic, but there staying home is worth half a vote that direction. That is what is changing Texas 'purple.'"
- "Those opportunities existed prior to the convention. The convention and its platform provides an opportunity to get a few digs in right now."
- "Now it is up to the Dems to capitalize both with fundraising and GOTV"
- "I said no because, for right now, it didn't change anything. In 8 years, sure."
- "Perhaps not measured in immediate results, but it lays the groundwork for the democrats to leverage the changing demographics."
- "But only slight."
- "Absolute intolerance and haters will weaken the party with general election voters."
- "Democrats still need a miracle, but every little bit helps in moving the needle."
- "We are still a red state but its beginning to bleed out."
- "Sure. But going from 47% to 48% still wont win them statewide elections."
- "No one pays any attention to state party conventions except the reporters paid to attend them and the true believers who pay to attend them. Next topic, please."
- "The entire convention was an opportunity - which will be promptly squandered..."
- "Head in the sand is no way to grow a party."
- "It's only a matter of time before the people who hold these opinions are dead or marginalized. Not very many thinking people with a heart want to be part of such a party."
- "If candidates take the campaign planks on immigration and gay rights into the campaign, it may harm them at the margins."
- "Not yet. But in the long run, heightening the walls of who can get into the GOP fortress while restricting its footprint will help Democrats in general."
- "Sure they did... because the Tea Party is not representative of the mainstream."

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

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