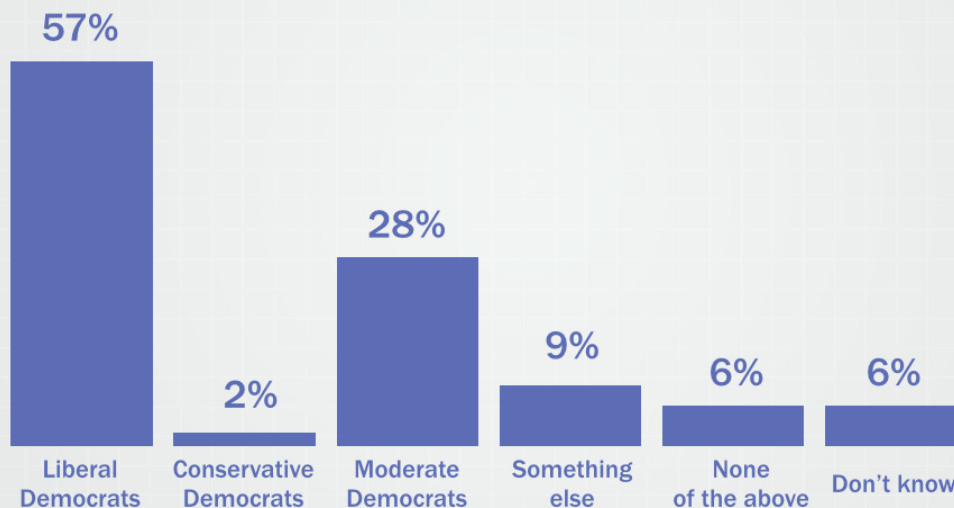


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 27 June 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

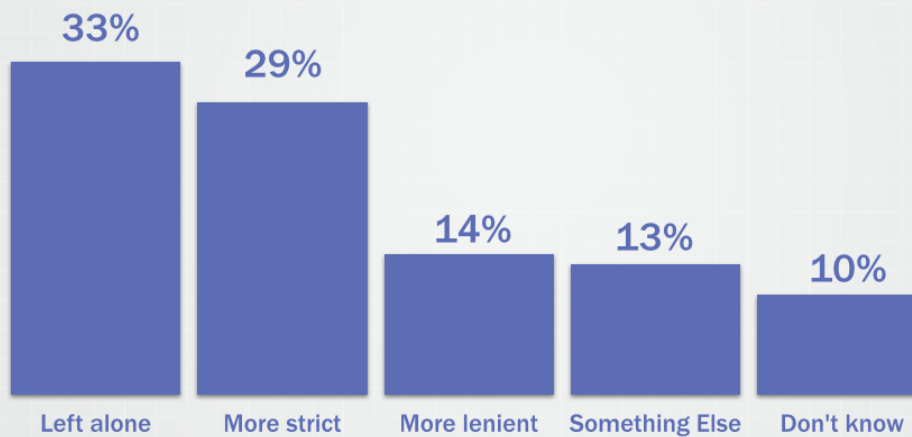
WHO DOMINATES THE TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY?



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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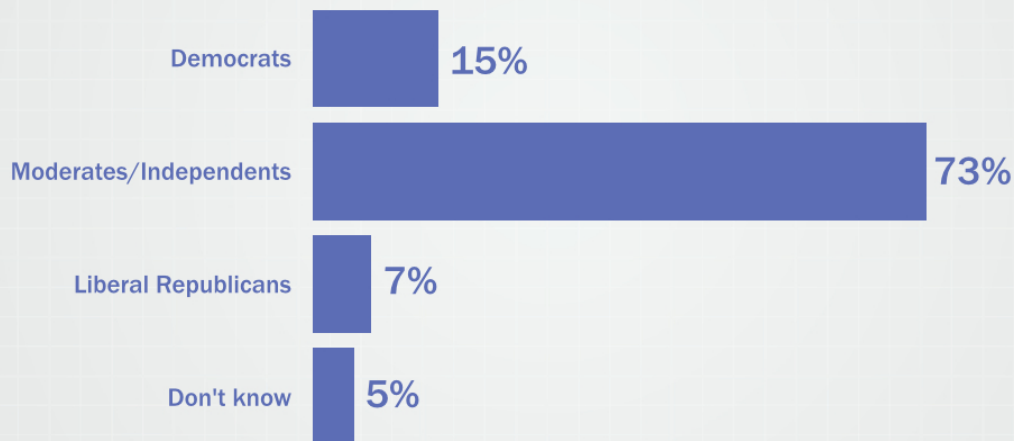
THE DEMOCRATS' PLATFORM ON IMMIGRATION SHOULD BE...



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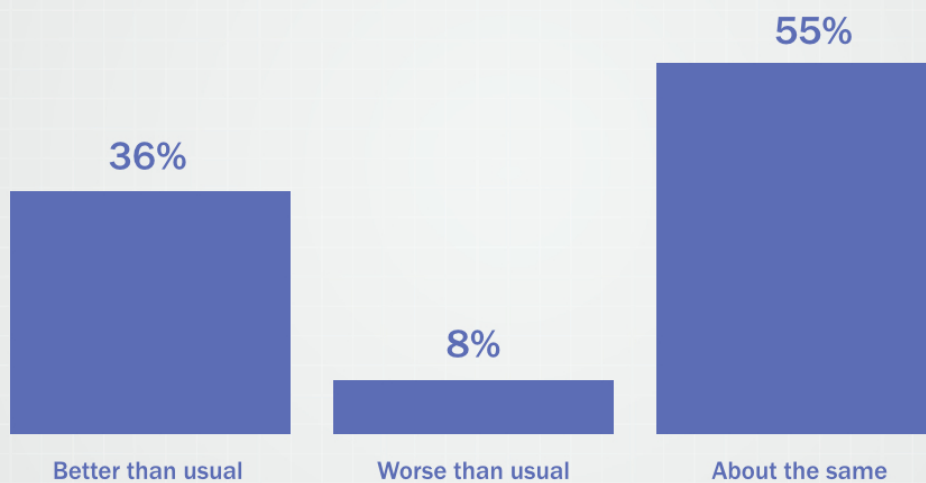
WHAT VOTERS SHOULD DEMOCRATS BE TRYING TO ATTRACT?



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HOW DO YOU EXPECT STATEWIDE DEMOCRATS TO DO IN NOVEMBER?



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The Texas Democratic Party is holding its state convention this week. Based on the primaries and the runoffs, how would you describe the dominant forces in Democratic Party politics in Texas right now?

- "You forgot to include as options, Park Slope New York liberals and Hollywood check-writers."
- "DeMostynCrats is the dominant force in Democratic Party politics. He who control the purse strings usually gets what he wants."
- "Pro-choice advocates."
- "The Democratic primaries did not have enough participation to clearly identify factions."
- "Dominant and Democratic Party are three words I wouldn't use together in a sentence."
- "Texas trial lawyers"
- "Let's see, late term abortion would seem a bit to the left, maybe liberal? Ya think?"
- "Who cares?"
- "Money: trial lawyers, unions"
- "I call them Business Democrats"
- "Way too left. This is why the Democrats will make no progress at electing statewide candidates in a year when they should have made progress. The absence of moderate influences continues to doom this party."
- "Ann Richards RUINED the Texas Democrats by throwing logic to the wind and replacing it with LIBERAL, BIG GOVERNMENT ideology."
- "And independents"
- "The Texas Democrat party has become little more than out of state choreographers that do not have a clue about Texas Politics. They try to present an unreal picture of what Texans are and claim that it is normal. They further try to make everyone believe that their left wing views are they way everyone thinks. And now we hear about how the strongest economy in the nation has it all wrong. Texans need to take back the Democrat Party or they will be nothing but a freak show."
- "Ultra liberals, Plaintiffs trial lawyers, immigration activists and labor unions. All that's left of the once proud Democrat Party of Texas."
- "Trial lawyer dominated Democratic Party"
- "Establishment Democrats and donors control the party apparatus."
- "I didn't realize there was still a statewide Democratic party."
- "There is a combination of liberal and moderate Democrats in Texas; however, the rhetoric seems to slant more liberal."

- "Sadly, the Democratic Party lost its identity years ago and has since failed to redefine itself."
- "Depends on the definition of liberal. According to some Republicans, Democrat means liberal,

but in reality, most Democrats are no more extreme than most Republicans."

- "Um, there's a Democratic Party?"
- "Trial lawyer cash"

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

- "That powder keg blew up on the GOP, so if the Dems are smart, they will leave it alone."
- "For the Republicans in November."
- "Ask any Valley Democrat and they will tell you that the party will have to start addressing border security. RGV voters have first-hand knowledge of the negative impact an uncontrolled border has in their communities."
- "Open borders and forgiveness for everyone!"
- "Show that you actually care about the rule of law and not just naturalizing new Democratic voters."
- "The latest lawlessness by Obama & Co. might back fire. When average Americans are hearing about criminals crossing, disease and unaccompanied children it makes them stop and think."
- "Passing the damn plank I helped write."
- "Immigration laws that respect family implications and societal reality accompanied by measures to insure a more secure border,

especially as pertains to the safety of the border from criminal elements."

- "I would not expect them to 'leave it be.' I would expect them to pander, which would not be the best outcome from their standpoint."
- "If you have any hope of winning in Texas, you have to address immigration (and by address, I mean get stricter). Recent polling suggests all Texans think it's a problem."
- "It's a Federal issue."
- "Join Wendy in calling for a Special Session so Democrats can continue hiding from a leadership position and please out of state Unions."
- "Texas, we have a problem at the border."
- "No win for the D's here because of the crisis at border."
- "Texas has a humanitarian crisis on its border and the GOP is responding w gun boats and helicopters. It is fundamentally UN-TEXAN to ignore the needs of children, regardless of their birthplace."

- "The basics use the laws we have and assure they are enforced, develop a guest worker program, better use of foreign aid to build education/job opportunities in their own countries (think the 'new deal' - infrastructure, schools, roads, etc.). We MUST increase the education/outreach to Central & South American countries regarding the status of children immigrants to the US - we MUST inform them with the truth - their children are NOT going to be given citizenship, education and homes in the US. We have a very sad situation on our border and it is not getting any better with parents believing if they send their child away - they will have

a better life. Most likely they will end up getting killed, maimed or harmed in some way; and when they make it here held in a camp. Just sad."

- "Who even knows (or cares) what their immigration platform is right now? It's moot--no one pays attention to party platforms anymore."

- "Path to citizenship. The vast majority of these people are seeking ether way of life for themselves and their families. Isn't that the way most of our families came over also?"

- "Or care."

What voters should Texas Democrats be trying to attract right now?

- "It depends on the Democrat. For example, based on Wendy Davis' primary performance in the Valley, she has a lot of work to do simply to shore up that part of the base."

- "The Democrat's problem is that their message is all wrong so it doesn't matter who they are trying to attract."

- "Somehow they're going to have to attract voters repelled by Sen. Patrick to help their most viable statewide candidate win the Lite Guv spot. God help us all if they are not successful."

- "All voters, especially white males and rural voters, as well as suburban voters (moms AND dads), and veterans."

- "If Democrats want to have immediate electoral success they need to engage on (and compete with their ideas about) the current topic: jobs, the economy, the Texas miracle.

Democrats have been trying for 20 years to change the conversation, to change the topic. History shows that is a strategy of wishing and hoping, because even before Bush won in 1994 that was the topic. Even when Democrats ran the state for 100 years, that was the topic. Today's Texas Democrats grossly underestimate cultural depth of that topic in our state and they mistakenly believe that, just any minute now, demography will overwhelm everything and the current topic will be banished from any further discussion. Demography may add some new topics to our political agenda, but it is not going to relieve Democrats of the hard work of addressing real economic issues. Democrats had better be able to speak about and lead on business issues if they hope to pull together a stable winning coalition."

- "And Hispanics"

- "We have more Democrats than Republicans, but they don't vote. Let's talk to them instead of the same alleged swing Republicans that never materialize."
- "Any voter they can get will be helpful..."
- "Activate the base while also appealing to moderates and independents on issues that are not alienating. Leticia Van de Putte understands this."
- "Millennial Libertarians and moderate/liberal republicans are the votes the D's need. The Tea Party is so far right that I could push more true libertarian repubs to vote Dem"
- "There is no 'all of the above' option."
- "Democrats should be trying to attract every Texan under age 30."
- "There is nowhere else for the moderate to go right now."
- "They need to do a better job of attracting Democrats. They are a scarce and rare breed. Until and unless they can build their numbers, they will continue to languish in the minority."
- "The most important thing is to get Democrats to the polls. These Republicans were voted into office in 2010 with less than 38% of the vote."
- "1.2 million presidential election year Democrats failed to turnout in 2010 and want to know why they shouldn't stay home again in 2014."
- "The base of the party and the big wigs ought to let the candidates reach out to the middle. The last time Ds won, which is now over 25 years ago, that was the magic. It will take at least another decade for this party to succeed if they continue on their suicidal path."
- "Big government spending and an open border are problems for ALL Texans."
- "All of the Above"
- "Latinos, Latinos! Mobilize the Latino Vote."
- "Primarily, they need a huge turnout."
- "EVERYONE. Too many republicans that are VERY scared of their candidates, platform and the direction of their party. I believe you will see that when they go into the privacy of the voting booth and cast their ballot."
- "All of the above!"
- "Anyone breathing. They're like Delta House: 'We need the dues!'"
- "The Texas Democrat Party should try to attract all people, but their far left out of state leadership will never let that happen."
- "And keeping the Hispanic base at home in the party."
- "For the most part, the Democrat Party is just waiting for the children of illegals to grow up and hopefully vote Democrat. The people of Texas have totally rejected the Democrat Party"

positions on public policy issues for over 20 years."

- "Only about one-third of eligible voters turn out in midterm elections, so lots of Democrats will stay home unless they can be motivated. Motivating your base is easier than changing people's minds."
- "Obama has caused such racial polarization in the electorate (not that it's his fault; rather his election has manifest racial tension), that there aren't enough persuadable voters to

win. The only path to Democratic victory in Texas is through expanding the electorate. It's just simple math."

- "They need more dead people."
- "Besides the dead ones?"
- "They would be smart to attract moderate and independent voters but with late term abortion being their most important issue, they won't even win the support of moderate democrats."

How do you expect statewide Democratic candidates to perform in the general election?

- "LVP's general likability combined with Patrick's over-the-top rhetoric should at least make the Lite Guv race fun to watch. Otherwise, no surprises."
- "This election cycle will be worse for the Democrats than 2010. Obama, the liberal DC crowd and foreign policy decisions by the executive branch will smother all Democrats nationally."
- "A year ago there was such hope and excitement from the Democrats; the expectations were high. A year later the spin machine has started preaching how this was never their year. Democrats will be drinking heavily at the convention."
- "Is 'worse than usual' a possible outcome? Is this like the college sports where we can go back in time and invalidate past statewide victories?"
- "Wendy et al. should expect about 40%, give or take a couple of percentage points."

- "In some cases but not all."
- "Barring a major scandal or other catastrophic collapse by a Republican nominee, it is impossible to even imagine a scenario in which a statewide Democrat candidate will win in November 2014. The two interesting questions for this fall are a) by how much will Wendy Davis's popular vote exceed 43% and b) by how much will Leticia's vote exceed Wendy's?"
- "I see nothing in the underlying dynamics of the electorate to suggest a shift."
- "Davis has zero traction in the valley. That will not bode well for the Dems."
- "We won't win, but it'll be the best step forward we've taken in over a decade."
- "LVP is the D's only shot."

- "There may just be a surprise or two out there."
- "I know too many Republicans who will NEVER vote for a democrat. Until that changes, Democrats are cooked (cuz we know they won't really turn out). The moderate Republican will only switch over (or turn out in higher numbers) when they see what kind of psychopaths they've allowed to be elected."
- "There is a palpable sense among Democrats all across Texas that 2014 will be their worst ever."
- "Wendy Davis can't get a break from Obama scandals and National Democrat politics."
- "...which is terrible, given that there are open seats and fringe candidates among the R nominees."
- "Davis is too far left--even for a Democrat."
- "Marginally improved because of somewhat stronger, more exciting candidates at the top, but I don't expect any race to be particularly close--other than possibly the race for Comptroller of Public Accounts."
- "Leticia Van de Putte is the one to watch. Now let's see if Battleground TX and others start putting their money into the state's one and only winnable race."
- "The drought will not be abated."
- "To think that a group of DC liberals can come in and have a dramatic impact on Texas elections is idealist but not reality."
- "At this stage of the campaign a few years ago, I actually was seeing more Bill White bumper stickers on cars than I am seeing Wendy Davis bumper stickers."
- "Credible Democrats have lost statewide races by 12 to 16 points over the past dozen years, less credible Democrats have lost by 30. If Davis loses by 7 to 9, it will be something to build on. If she loses by the normal margin of 12 to 16 points, that will deflate Democrats given the continuing growth of the Hispanic population and the work of Battleground Texas."
- "Davis will perform worse than Bill White. VDP will perform better than past Lt Gov candidates. Everyone else will be par for the course."
- "With the exception of Van de Putte."
- "Paging Tony Sanchez, paging Tony Sanchez..."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Eric Bearse, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Dominic

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