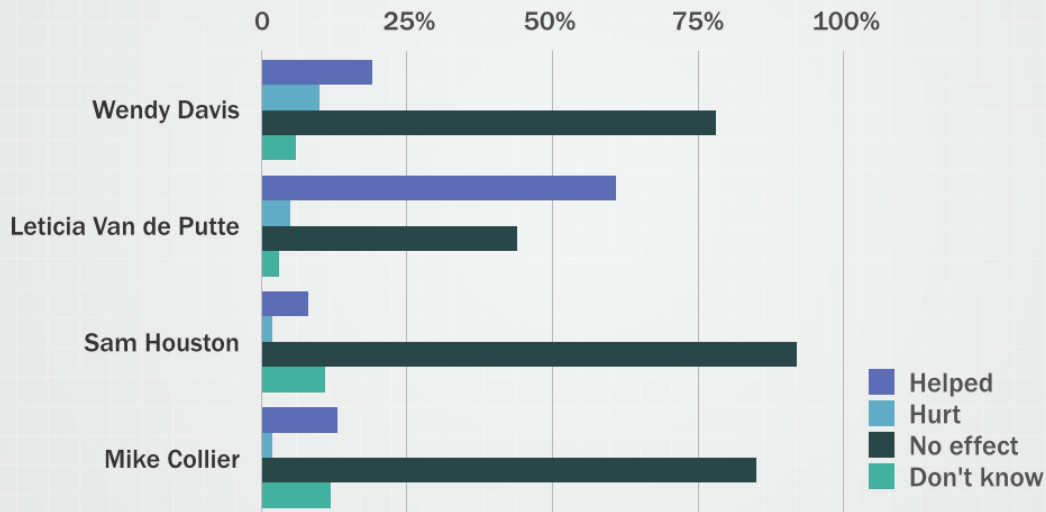


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 4 July 2014*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

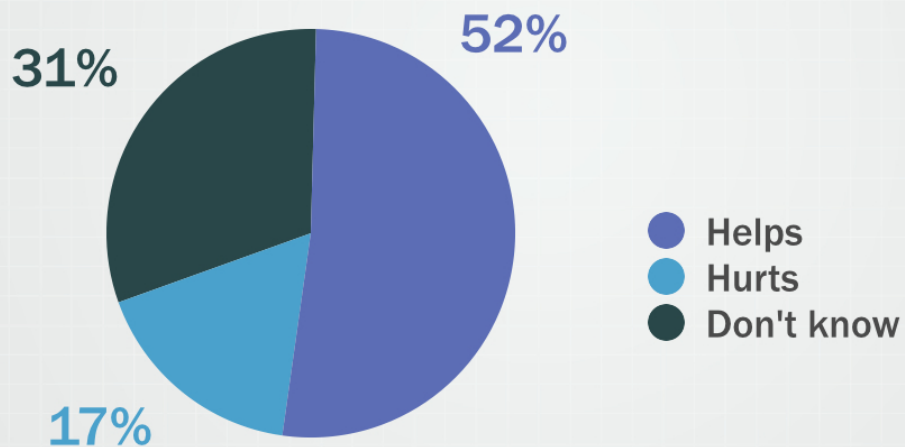
HOW DID THE DEMOCRATS' CONVENTION AFFECT...



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

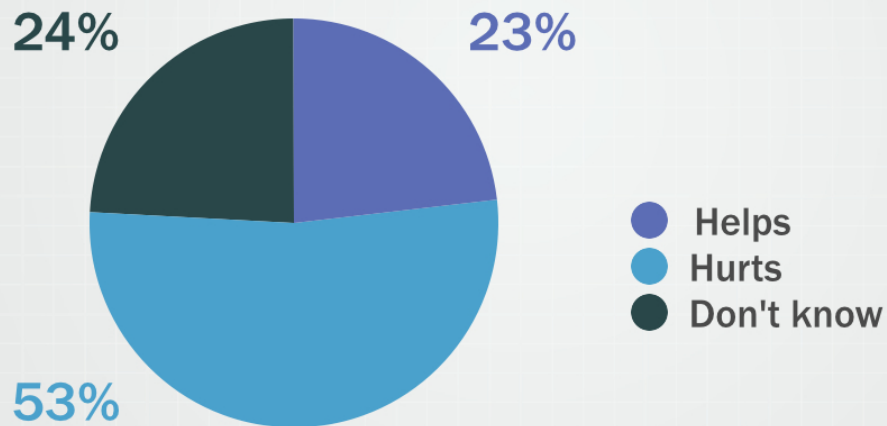
DOES THE DEMOCRATS' POSITION ON IMMIGRATION HELP OR HURT THE PARTY?



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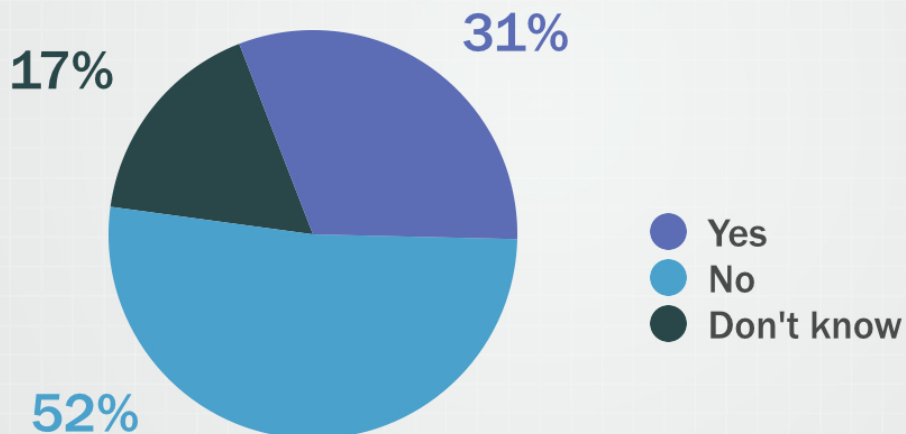
DOES THE DEMOCRATS' POSITION ON THE ACA  
HELP OR HURT THE PARTY?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

DID THE DEMOCRATS CREATE POLITICAL  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GOP?



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## *How did the state Democratic convention affect the political prospects of these candidates and officials?*

- "Democrats are now openly saying Davis is just a money maker for us, but Leticia can win."
- "By all accounts it appears that the entirety of the convention was the intro to LVP's speech, and the speech itself."
- "Didn't register at all, as a news event."
- "I still don't know who Mike Collier is."
- "Conventions have minimal impact. The same number of people who didn't know Mike Collier's name last week still don't know him."
- "Tiny convention scrum of an event with a left-wing feel to it -- it has always been the Republicans' election to lose -- if the Democratic Convention was the Democrats best shot, then the Republicans probably couldn't lose even if they tried."
- "Texas will elect no statewide democrat candidates. If they had a chance President Obama has now sealed their fate."
- "Mike Collier may have a snowball's chance, thus it was an opportunity for people to discover that the party does have a dog in the comptroller's race."
- "Was a non event for most Texans!"
- "Nobody cares about conventions except for the extremes of both parties. They were gonna vote for their candidates regardless."
- "Was there a Democrat Convention?"
- "These candidates had zero chance of success before the convention – and I have zero chance now."
- "The Democratic Party continues to fail to speak to a majority of Texans. In fact, it continues, unlike the party in the late 80s and early 90s, to overtly show Texans it stands opposed to their basic ideas."
- "So I guess you are writing of what's-his-name, the guy who will lose to Sid Miller?"
- "The Democrats had a convention last week? Reminds me of that Zen-like question: If a party hosts a convention during the World Cup and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?"
- "There was a convention?"
- "I don't think many people are paying attention, but some decent press for LVP."
- "They had a great political party but unless all the new people moving to Texas decide to vote Democratic, the great party won't change the political landscape. There are not enough Democrats in the state to boost Democratic candidates chances. Independents in this state lean 9-1 for the Republican candidates so

Democrats are unable to pick up swing voters. I've traveled to San Antonio several times and to the Valley recently and didn't see or hear any enthusiasm for a large Hispanic turnout for the Democrats. It might be early but appears the Hispanic voter turnout will under perform again and

the Democrats will fall woefully short again in every statewide election."

- "It was a strong convention and helped all of the democratic candidates. By comparison, they seem the rational choice."

### *Does the TDP's position on immigration hurt or help the Party?*

- "It is well thought out, well written."
- "It helps it in the long term but not in the short."
- "No one reported on the Democrat platform so if you weren't there, you won't know."
- "Neither."
- "Hurts in so much as it reaffirms the negative narrative that the Texas GOP has been brewing."
- "They don't seem to realize how damaging and condescending their rhetoric is. They are essentially willing to de-franchise everyone else in deference to immigrants who come here illegally -- The idea that TMF's thought his 'Gringos and Otros Pendejos' would sell is a clear sign of how out of touch they are."
- "With their base only. It does nothing to expand their appeal. I'm assuming their game plan is to wait for the brown wave."
- "No effect"

- "On immigration and ACA, the Democrats will benefit long-term by advocating positions most Hispanics approve and Republicans will be hurt in the long-term, but elections are held in the short-term. Until Hispanic turnout improves, Democrats will founder."
- "Only slightly"
- "Hispanics' don't vote and the people who do want to deport all illegals anyway."
- "In light of the virtually open borders in south Texas they are on the wrong side of the voters of Texas"
- "Regardless of the yelping on both sides, this is not a determining issue at the polls."
- "Head-in-sand politics at its finest."
- "What IS their policy?"
- "What is its position? I've not seen it covered in Texas media outlets."

## ***Does the TDP's position on the Affordable Care Act hurt or help the party?***

- "The Democrats can at least say they are 'for' something. Unfortunately it's not what Texans are 'for'."
- "Did they cover this at the convention? Who knows?"
- "They take a strong position in their platform endorsing and calling for the expansion of the Affordable Health Care Act, even though polls consistently show that Texas voters don't want Obamacare."
- "You're either relevant or your irrelevant. That's what the (i) after their name stands for."
- "Keep moving left on this issue and supporting a failed policy that even those in the middle and some leading Dems are against and it will continue to make the TDP irrelevant. Funny how Davis is running from her big day in the Senate and not talking about so called reproductive rights as it relates to healthcare."
- "No effect"
- "Republicans still hate it; people are benefiting from it; republicans will continue to say it is a horrible

program. It does not matter what Democrats say or do, republicans will blame them for EVERYTHING. Even though republicans have been in charge of this state for more than 20 years - all the ills that befall Texas are Obama's fault not that idiot Rick Perry!"

- "Hurts badly"
- "Depends on if they can get distance themselves from Obama. Most people support the principles of the ACA (as individual issues), but as soon as it's tied to Obama, it becomes a negative."
- "Again, though, this, like most publicized issues, alone, is not determinative."
- "'Obama, who is Obama? I don't know what he cares about.'"
- "Check the Obama approval rating statewide"
- "Until we learn how to message it, ACA will hurt."
- "What is its position? I've not seen it covered in Texas media outlets."

## ***Did the Texas Democratic conventioners create any political opportunities for Texas Republicans?***

- "El Jefe's use of the word 'Americans' as a slur isn't an opportunity, but shows TMF's desperate attempt to show he's not irrelevant."
- "State party conventions are irrelevant except for some momentary bad press while the fringe of the party enjoys its moment in the spotlight."

- "If TMF (F3?) qualifies as a conventioneer, then the answer is YES."
- "Shows the major differences between the direction for the state."
- "62 pages of non sense. What is the most ridiculous platform plank: all of the calls for increased spending with no mention of how to offset these costs, a claim that they support business development but call for unionization, or their support for equal opportunity of education but they refuse to support any type of school choice program for kids caught in failing public schools."
- "I don't think anybody is paying attention to anything they are doing. It's doesn't matter what they talk about."
- "Democrats just proved they can be as idiotic with their rhetoric as Republicans."
- "The Texas Democratic Convention goers were a demonstration about why Texas will remain in Republican hands. While voters have a variety of opinions on a wide range of policy issues -- they generally agree that wacky, left-wing, politics has no place here."
- "The Texas Democratic Party convention certainly created political opportunities for the other party but Texas Republicans continue to demonstrate a strong focus on imaginary universes so it's not clear that they can stay long enough in the real world to take advantage of such opportunities."
- "Who knows, given the Republican penchant for ridiculous fabrications, distortions, and racial slurs? I'm sure they'll come up with some other way to call Wendy a slut or whore and Leticia a dirty Mexican. Maybe some rape jokes, too."
- "Making it all about women is not a winning strategy. Furthermore, not all women in Texas think like the leftist feminazi women in the TDP"
- "No new opportunities."
- "Media didn't cover their absurd behavior in same breathless manner they did for TX GOP"
- "TMF call Anglos, gringos and dumbass"
- "What opportunities did the Rs need to be given in a one party state?"
- "Because it got little or no attention from the public"
- "By continuing to place itself too far to the left and creating a clear image of that, the Democrats broadly allow a newly fringe Republican Party easily to stay in power. When this group of Ds again only gets in the low 40s, it will once more discourage serious Ds from running for yet another round. Unbelievable."
- "Yes, radical liberalism don't float in TX"
- "'Gringos and pendejos.' Childish, makes any swing voter who has any sort of R vote history defensive, off-put. Abbott et al have the resources to make that one hurt."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Luke Legate, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Mike McKinney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.