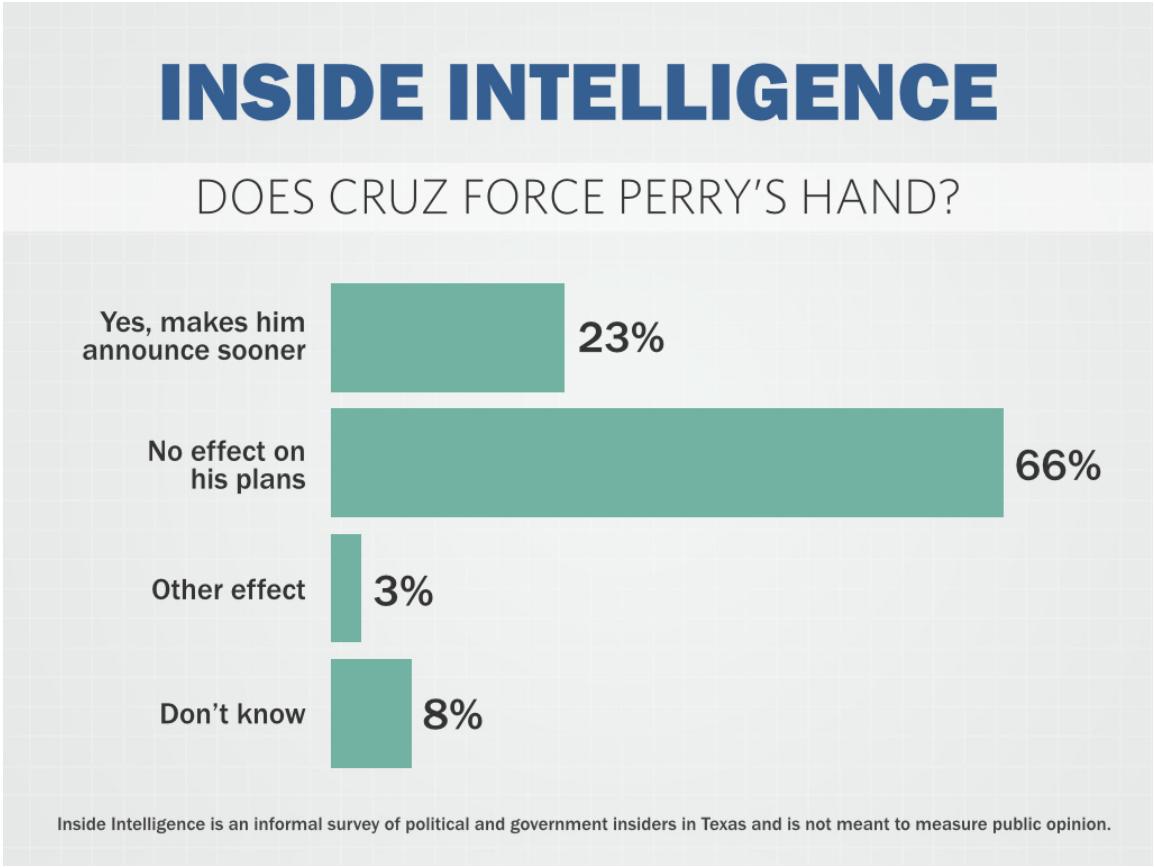
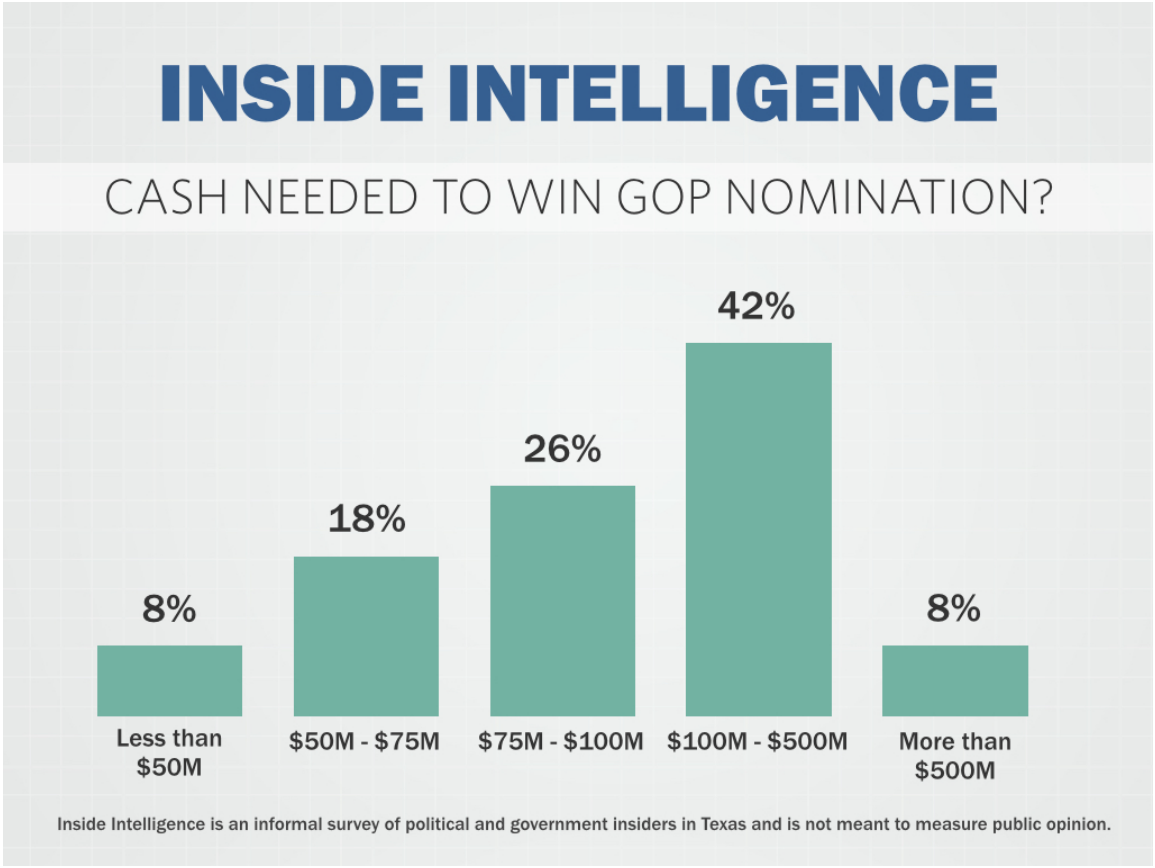
The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll

for the week of 27 March 2015



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE: The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll for 27 March 2015



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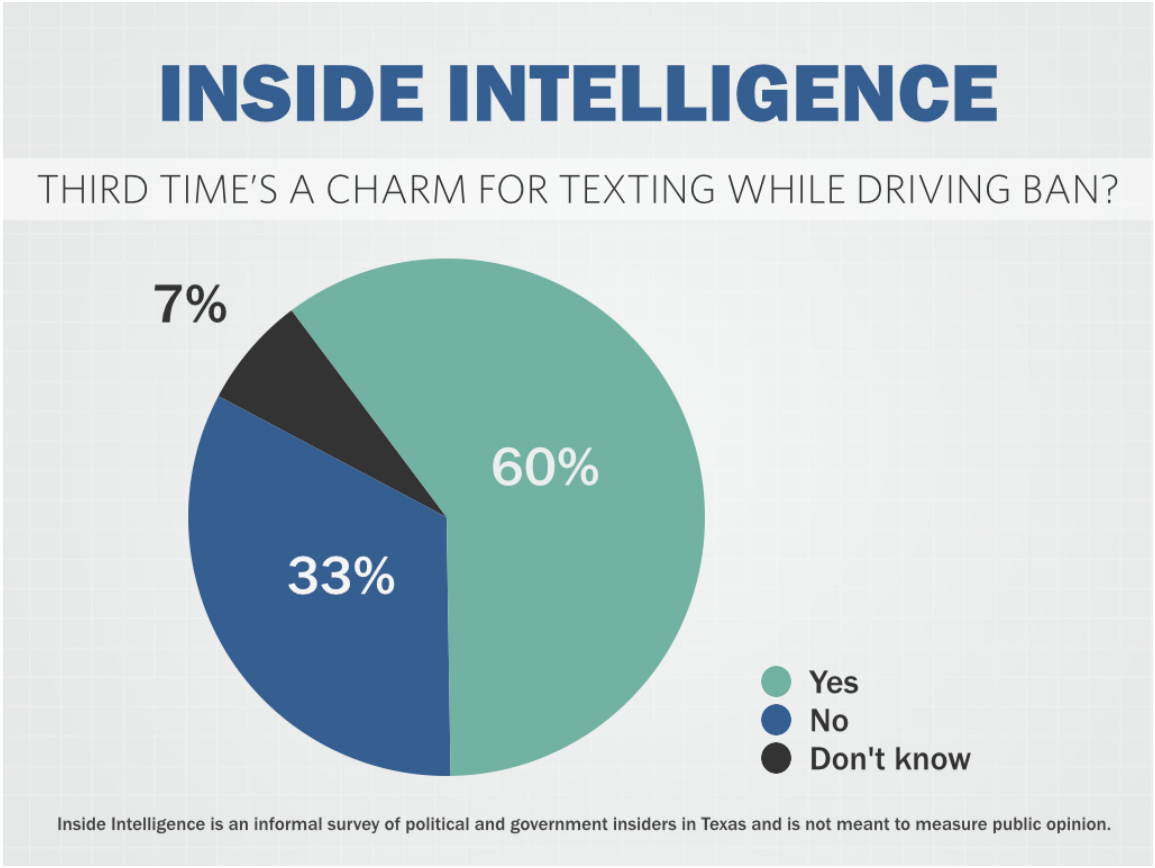
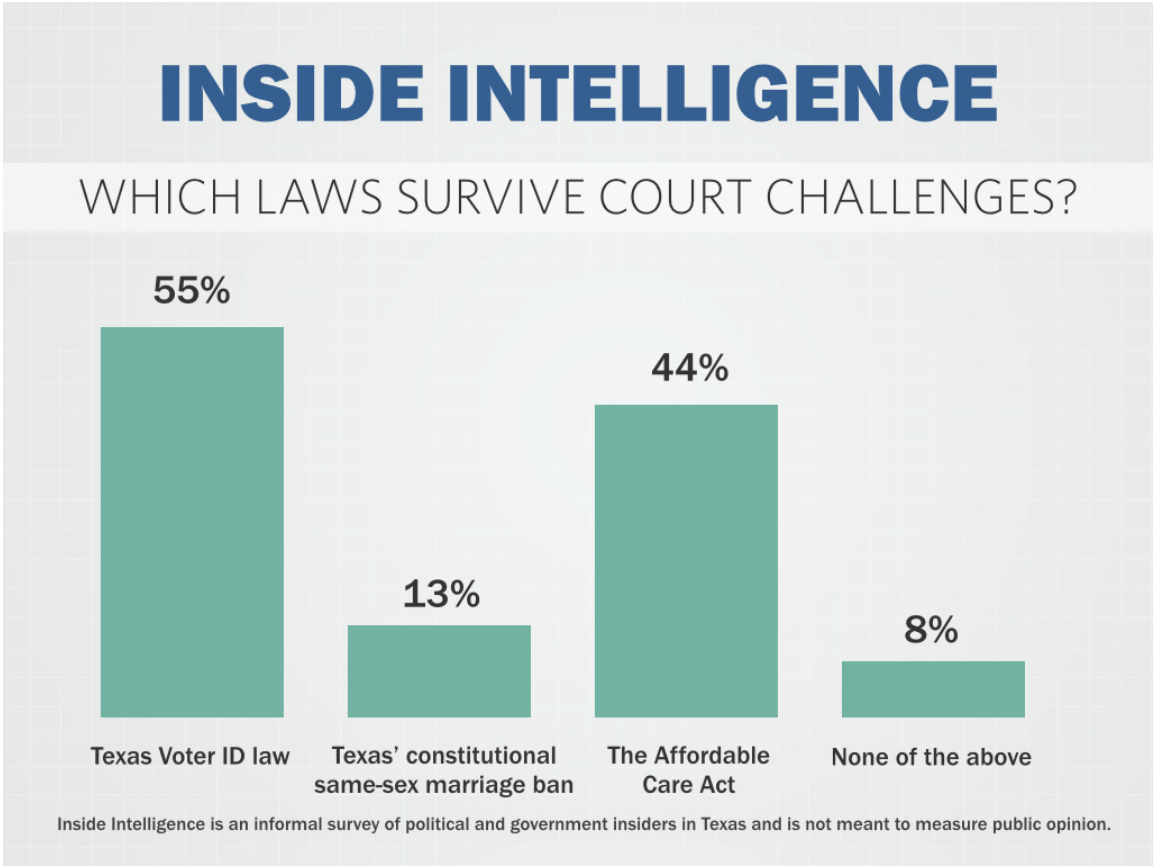

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE
THIRD TIME'S A CHARM FOR TEXTING WHILE DRIVING BAN?
7%
60%
33%
Yes
No
Don't know
Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.



Does Ted Cruz's announcement this week of his candidacy for president change Rick Perry's timetable for entering the race?

• "Everyone's timetables were disrupted when Jeb pre-announced. Everyone else's schedules were likely reset after that."

• "No one outside the Perry campaign knows WHEN he was planning to announce anyway."

• "Rick will announce soon, but he was already out on his 'announcement coming soon' tour."

• "Rick Perry sets a plan and sticks doggedly to the plan. He has had many successes with this tactic."

• "Cruz' announcement in no way affects Rick Perry's scheduled embarrassment of himself."

• "Nope. Governor Perry surely knew this day was coming."

• "Or care."

• "I don't think Perry will be bullied into altering his plans by the actions of Ted Quixotic."

• "Somewhere Bob Bullock must be smilin'."

• "Who is Rick Perry?"

• "There may be just as much value in the speculation on 'will he or won't he' for several more months. Why not ride that?"

• "Why would it? The man has to run his own race."

• "The field's schedule, including Perry's, was set once Jeb Bush started to vacuum up available dollars."

• "Insofar as they are competing for the same Texas donors, it makes Perry move up his timetable a bit."

• "What could go wrong with another Senator barely in his first term running for POTUS?"

• "Everyone knows that Ted marches to a different drummer. No one should be expected to follow his lead."

• "Who cares?"

• "Probably not - in fact, I don't think Gov. Perry is running. He's acting like he will so he can exit as gracefully as possible, just on his own terms."

• "Has Perry shaking in his boots and forces him to wonder if he's the next Dewhurst."

• "I think Perry will ask for Cruz's resignation from the Senate because Texas needs 2 full-time senators."

• "Each fishing in slightly different ponds, so Perry can let Cruz be the flavor of the day. Cruz's hope is he can keep building momentum. Perry's hope is Cruz and others will wither and he will be ready at the right time to make his case."

• "Perry has never been one to let silly things like data run his life. He's headed full steam to an Iowa loss regardless of who is in this race."

• "The horses are leaving the barn."

• "Depends on whether he's really running. I'm not convinced he is."

• "Can't announce with indictment."

• "Too many Texas bozos on Republican clown bus."

• "Perry will need to get in sooner since Cruz will now begin drawing money out of TX at a good clip. Perry's lack of holding an office is now going to hurt his fundraising potential."

• "The man does not care. He will announce when ready."

An early focus of talk on Cruz's candidacy is on his fundraising prowess. What will the winning GOP candidate need to raise to secure his party's nomination for president?

• "It depends on the candidate. Someone looking to build a grassroots movement doesn't need as much funding as a candidate who plans to gain traction using traditional media and mail."

• "Less than other candidates because he knows how to communicate well with the people. And to wisely use new media."

• "A complete shot in the dark. There are so many variables, but an awful lot of money will be spent by the winner and the losers, as well."

• "In 2012, Romney raised about $88 million through the 1Q of 2012. Considering the crowded field that will likely go as deep into the campaign as last time around, the fight for money will be vicious and the winner will need to raise more than what was raised in 2012 to secure the nomination."

• "Super PACs will dominate, and the competition to get too cute already creating campaign finance suspects among the Republican wannabes."

• "His money will come - he just can't lay an egg and won't."

• "Directly, a bunch. But not as much now that candidates can navigate within a super PAC's flight path."

• "Ability to raise money will be Cruz's Achilles Tendon!"

• "Big money in TX goes to Jeb. When RP lost Mica Mosbacher to Cruz, big blow."

• "Money talks and____ walks."

• "The gross fundraising number is much less important than how the candidate spends money and what his/her Super PAC raises and spends. We are working toward a day where the candidate committee only needs to pay a scheduler, press secretary and the charter jet company. The super PAC does the rest."

• "$41.6 million."

A texting-while-driving ban is being debated this week on the House floor. Will former Speaker Tom Craddick succeed on his third attempt to make this a law?

• "Passing the bill wasn't the problem last time; overcoming the veto was. Do we really think Governor Abbott will veto this bill?"

• "It's impossible to enforce."

• "The issue is ripe."

• "Abbott doesn't seem to love it any more than Perry loved it, which is approximately zero percent."

• "He should succeed. The ban is necessary."

• "According to The AP last year, Abbott said he is against government mandates that 'micromanage adult driving behavior.' Leads me to believe he'd veto it."

• "Now a daily occurrence that I get frightened for my life on Austin roadways."

• "Have you seen the Texas Senate?"

• "He'll pass it - but will it be vetoed? Two months ago, that looked likely. That may be changing."

• "Three sessions a charm."

• "This is big government at its largest. People recognize this as the 'pet-peeve' issue that it is. If Craddick wants to prove that this bill really IS about safety, then his bill should also contain a ban on the application of makeup while driving."

• "Craddick will move the bill. Abbott and Patrick need to show leadership."

• "Abbott may veto it."

• "A majority of the House wants to be sure Texans retain the right to kill themselves and others while trying to multi-task at 70 mph."

• "Who cares?"

• "The New Wild West don't need no stinkin texting bans!"

• "Veto victim again."

• "Trying to tyke this with talk-to-text, and this dang autocorrect keeps messing me pup."

• "What is next? The state telling us we can't put on makeup, or change the radio station. We don't need help from the Legislature telling us what we can and can't do. Let Jim Adler take care of those that text and drive."

• "Nanny state in full effect. Next session, there will be a clean up bill to ban Viber, Snapchat and WhatsApp in the car, too."

• "Probably in the House, but the Senate is doubtful, thanks to the seriously rightward shift in that body."

• "Many can vote no and leave to local control"

• "Yes. How can Abbott veto it if it seeks to standardize the law and eliminate the patchwork quilt system of different policies we have now? Isn't that the same thing he complained about in regard to plastic bag bans, etc.?"

Of these laws, which ones will survive a court challenge?

• "The U.S. Supreme Court has already created a path for a constitutional voter

ID law, and the U.S. Supreme Court will soon decide one way or the other on same-sex marriage."

• "State's rights are not obliterated by Judicial Supremacists - no matter how hard they try."

• "It should also apply to the same-sex marriage ban, but it doesn't. Federal courts seem intent on finding a right to gay marriage, even if they have to search the Constitution's mythical 'penumbra.'"

• "Roberts won't risk the reputation of the Court by overturning ACA. He is too busy remaking other, more important aspects of our democracy through the concentration of corporate power."

• "Who cares?"

• "The liberals have better lawyers than we do."

• "I can't remember the last time I voted with just my voter card."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Ted Delisi, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheauser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Russ Keane, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Mike McKinney, Mark Miner, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Barbara Schlief, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bill Stotesbery, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Tom Suehs, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli