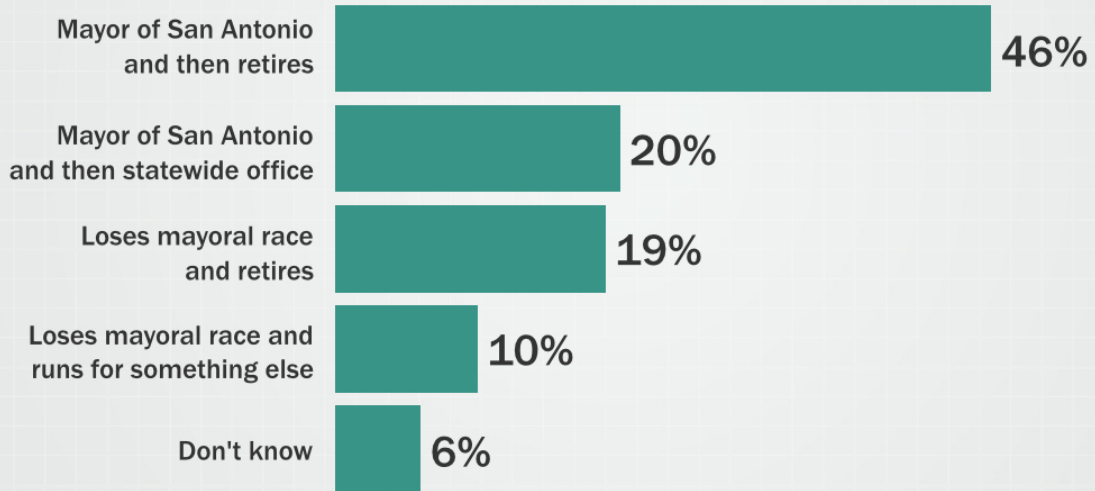


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 24 April 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

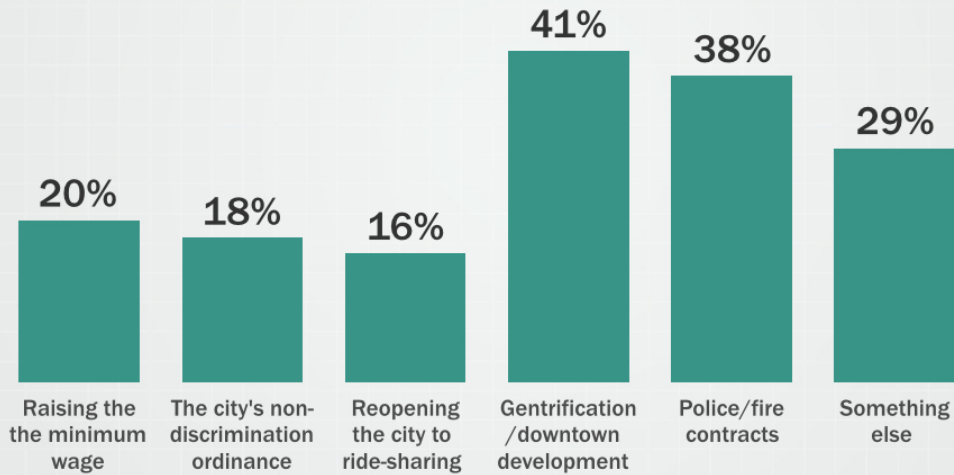
VAN DE PUTTE'S POLITICAL FUTURE?



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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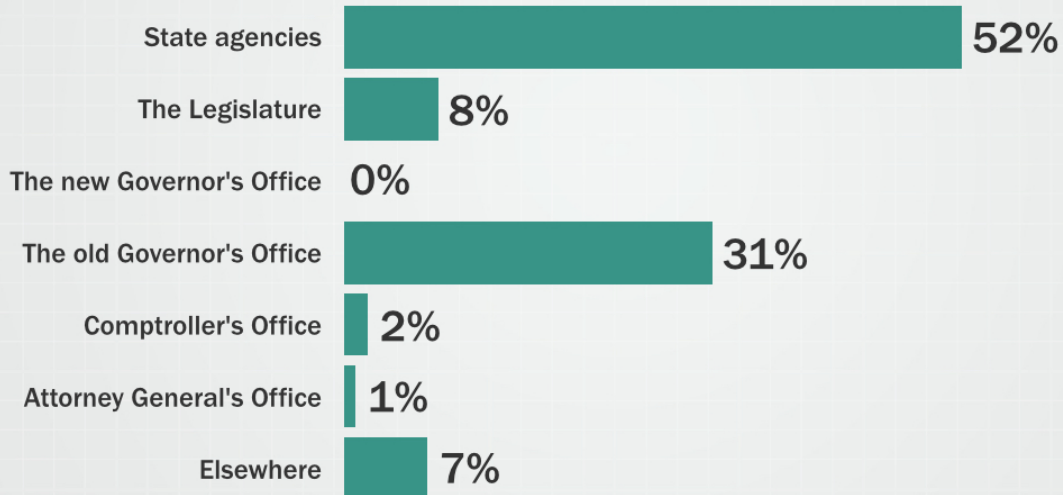
BIG ISSUES SWAYING THE SAN ANTONIO MAYORAL RACE?



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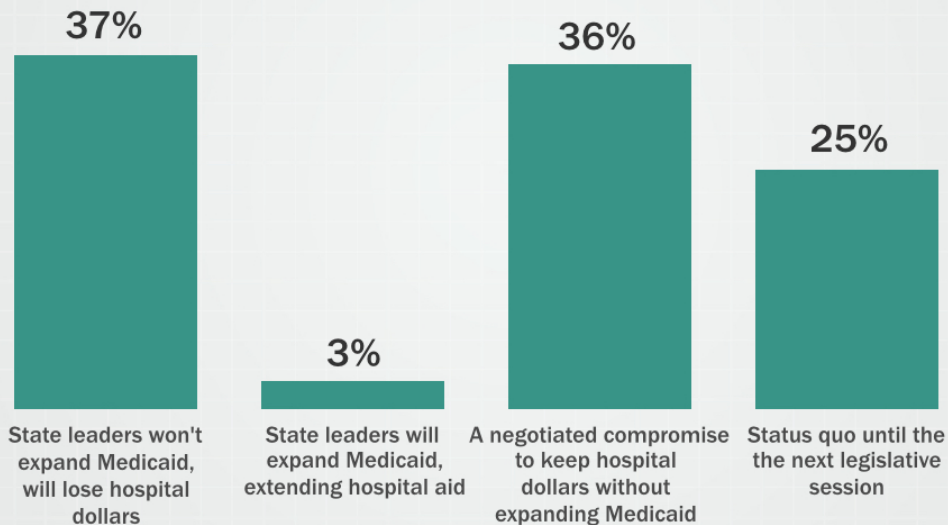
WHERE WILL BLAME FALL IN CONTRACTING FIASCO?



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WHAT'S THE OUTCOME IN FED-STATE MEDICAID SHOWDOWN?



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Predict Leticia Van de Putte's political future:

- "Mayor of San Antonio and then Cabinet position in Hillary's second term."
- "Why do we care?"
- "She is a true Texan, too valuable a public figure to retire from politics and she is the same gracious person I first met in 1991. I would beg her not to take the HUD Secretary position if it is offered, it is the Democrat 'minority' cabinet position. She could better serve elsewhere, Secretary of Commerce is more in line with her skill set."
- "She ain't done after mayor. Although being mayor of a somewhat major city in Texas and running for a statewide office usually translates into nada, nice try, loser, do not pass go and collect your office, see ya wouldn't want to be ya."
- "She will probably win but she was an awful statewide candidate and she has a weak resume. She won't win another election in Texas and even if Hillary is elected president, there is no place to put her."

• "Left off other choice. Mayor of San Antonio then cabinet appointee for

President Clinton."

Which issues will sway San Antonio voters the most when picking their next mayor?

• "How the heck am I supposed to know? I don't live or work there and my only exposure to that city is the Riverwalk. Is this really a question?? Maybe the correct answer is, 'Who's the biggest Spurs fan?'"

• "Budget, property taxes, debt"

• "How the hell should we know? Nobody outside of San Antonio gives a crap about the San Antonio mayor's race. This is a bad inside intelligence topic."

• "Controlling crime, economic development and job creation should be a part of the conversation, I would think."

• "Sustained economic growth and infrastructure development. Workforce development. Business-friendly city."

• "I grew up in San Antonio and most people care more about the Spurs bench players than they do about city politics. Mayoral races are inherently difficult to predict because it's such a small electorate. I don't think an issue will sway voters, more than which candidates get their people to turn out."

• "The city faces the same dilemma any other city headed by any Democrat mayor, progress at the expense of their political base, same song, next verse."

• "Taxes"

• "Traffic"

• "The issues you have listed will have nothing to do with who is elected. Most of the people who actually go to the polls in SA either work for the city or have a family member who do. They will vote for whoever they think is most likely to maintain the status quo. Police and firefighters will get out their vote because they have made a deal with Van de Putte. Some folks will vote against Taylor because she is African American or because she broke her promise not to run and some folks will vote for Villarreal because he is most like Castro. Age, race and gender will all matter more than your list of issues."

• "Economic development - bringing higher paying jobs to SA and providing the educational and training opportunities to do so. Uber/Lyft are being pushed by local and state lobbyists as more important issues to the city than they really are."

• "Economic development and city preservation"

• "Personality?"

• "Candidates' personal traits"

• "I'm not familiar enough with San Antonio issues to answer this."

• "I can barely keep up with what's going on in the Capitol and you want an

opinion on a non-legislative election in a city an hour away (on a very good day)?"

- "Galvanizes Anglos, minorities indifferent at grassroots"
- "It will be a combination of transportation improvements and economic development/jobs. I think raising the minimum wage doesn't get votes and alienates businesses."
- "Jobs and transportation"

- "Relatability of the candidate"
- "Picking the politically correct candidate."
- "Not a clue. I'm not paying attention to anything outside the Capitol these days."
- "Clearly a list written by someone who knows nothing about SA politics. These are all decidedly side issues."

A House panel is launching an inquiry into contracting practices at 11 state agencies following the HHSC fiasco. On whose doorstep will the blame for the state's contracting problems ultimately fall?

- "Round and round she goes, where the buck stops no one knows."
- "It rolls downhill to the agencies. The Legislature always blames agencies. The elimination of agency boards to provide oversight, a part-time Legislature and the lack of executive branch capacity and resources makes these problems inevitable."
- "Jack Stick. Remember the fundraising in the insurance building? He's got issues, and while there may be greater problems, that issue falls squarely on him."
- "There were a number of bills passed last session that attempted to do the very thing the Legislature is investigating, expanding the no bid list, favoring Texas headquartered companies, etc. The blame lies with the individuals, not the procurement/contract process itself."
- "It is always easiest to blame those that have the hardest time arguing against you, even when they are in the wrong."
- "Well, the question is pretty silly, actually. Who's doing the blaming? Certainly the public, to the extent that it is an issue, which is problematic, will look to the Legislature. That body, on the other hand, is likely to point a finger in other directions."
- "Nobody will be held responsible for such a mess. Business as usual. So sad."
- "Don't you dare blame elected officials for bureaucratic corruption. No one is more out of touch and entitled than a state worker."
- "Unfortunately, all state agencies are about to be punished for the ethical errors and misuse of power by a very small inner circle at HHSC. There are

more than adequate state contracting statutes and regulations already on the books - they just need to be obeyed and enforced."

- "The big guys never get the blame."
- "Of what political benefit is it to blame the guys who are no longer there? Not likely to blame the new guys. And we're (the Lege) sure not going to claim the blame. Let's get those all those darned bureaucrats, guilty, or not."
- "It's in the job description of a state agency head to take the blame."
- "If it's not a white whale hunt that ends badly, should be Perry and the lobby cartel that controls over two-thirds the campaign dollars and has steered contracts since Day One, with the active direction of Perry that benefits his 'blind trust.' Janek is a turtle on that fence post ... didn't get there by himself. The Stick overreach precedes a disastrous run at OIG that will also catch up to him and Janek. Whether cartel motivated or just old ties binding them, that's the politics. The likely reality is other minions will take the fall, unless plea deals come into play."
- "The process, the regulations, the laws will be blamed; all created by someone else. Oh yeah and Jack Stick."

The federal government is pressuring Texas to reconsider whether to expand Medicaid to cover childless adults by threatening funding for hospitals. What will happen?

- "Yeah, because Texas generally gives in to pressuring from the federal government. The correct answer is

- "Just the tip of the iceberg."
- "The old governor used to 'approve' contracts over \$100k. Something they don't want you to know."
- "State agencies always get the blame. Does anyone really expect elected officials to take responsibility for bad stuff?"
- "I like Rick Perry, but this is the kind of thing that happens when an administration is in place so long."
- "It will be the new Governor's if he doesn't start replacing the incompetent people like Janek... Perry appointment... Perry's political appointments do his and his friend's bidding, but with no qualifications will be his legacy..."
- "Especially those who were the ones whose negligence or venality caused the problems."
- "All the above."
- "Cronyism and RP."
- "Janek"
- "...and the HHSC commissioner. He chose poorly!"

Texas will file suit to maintain its FREEDOM. And probably lose. Again."

- "The question is inaccurate; the Medicaid expansion would cover low income adults with children as well as childless adults. Right now, women are covered by Medicaid during pregnancy and for 60 days post birth. We have a hodgepodge of state funded programs for women's health. Medicaid expansion would create a more uniform and equitable system of care for lower income women, married and single. If Medicaid is broken and bloated as claimed by the Governor, who broke it? Maybe the people who gave us an out of control OIG and kept payment rates too low to encourage doctors to participate?"

- "Another paper threat from Obama and his incompetent administration."

- "Obama will try to bully, but the state will hold on and wait for the next president to fix it."

- "Consider it the cost of Texas being left alone to do its own thing. In other words, it will gladly surrender federal dollars to avoid being compelled to act in a manner it deems not Texan and responding to federal threats is not Texan."

- "To threaten a Texan is a sure way NOT to get the result you're after. It

shows Washington's total lack of understanding about who Texans are."

- "Since when are blackmail and threats legal and acceptable behavior? Oh, I forgot, that is the M.O. of the gangsta in the WH who runs things like a banana republic dictator. What a joke! He is a disgrace. He demeans the office with such threats and heavy handed Chicago style tactics."

- "Should but will not."

- "Consequences are catastrophic for safety net and community, rural hospitals, and thus profound economic local consequences. Tragically, political consequences will be diffused by time and distance, and will lag the closures by one cycle."

- "They've each drawn their own political line in the metaphorical sand. On to litigation."

- "Are you kidding me? Take the FEDERAL money and solve a problem when they can just reject the money and then complain that OBAMA is the reason people have no healthcare!!! These wackos will do ANYTHING to blame the President and the Federal Government."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, James Bernsen, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn,

Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouiri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Mike McKinney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keats Norfleet, Robert Peeler, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, David Reynolds, Chuck Rice, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Bryan Sperry, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.