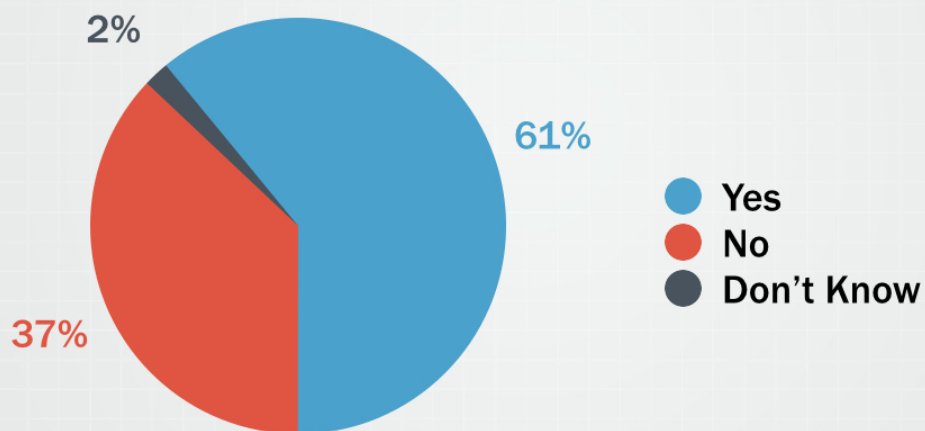


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 19 June 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

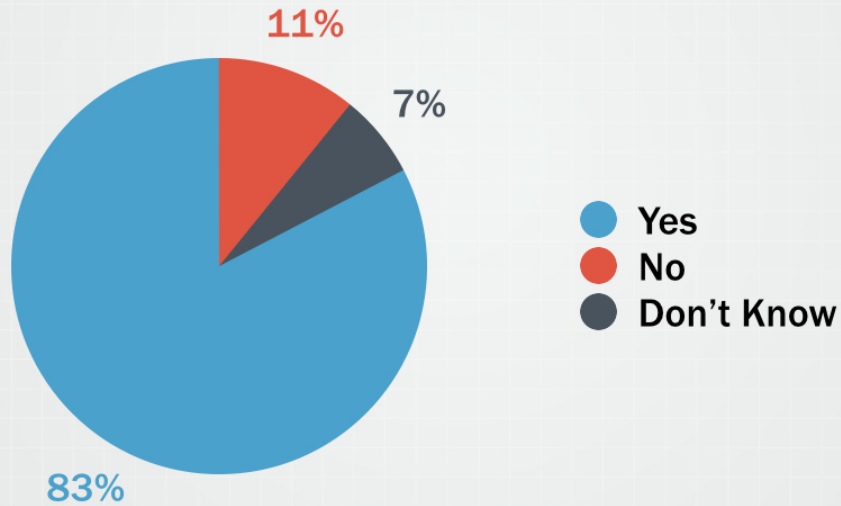
DO SA ELECTIONS SIGNAL BIGGER PROBLEM FOR TEXAS DEMOCRATS?



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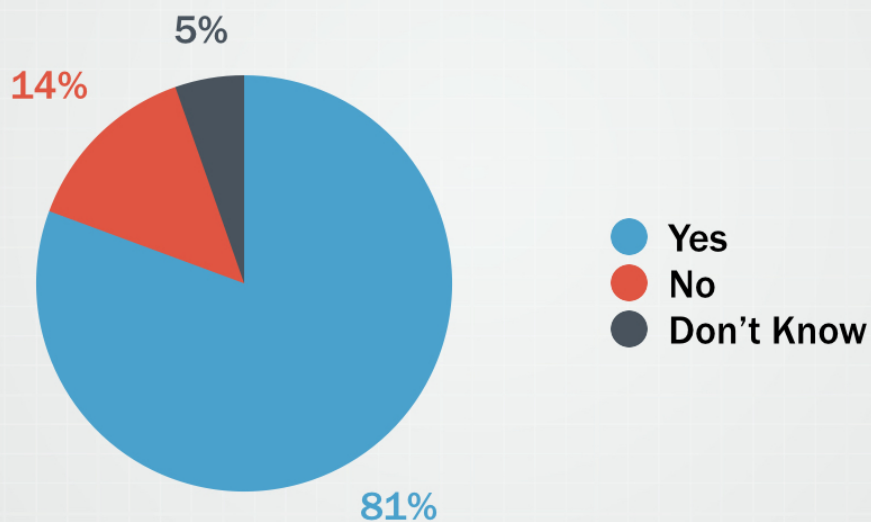
WILL TEXAS SENATE TURN MORE CONSERVATIVE IN 2017?



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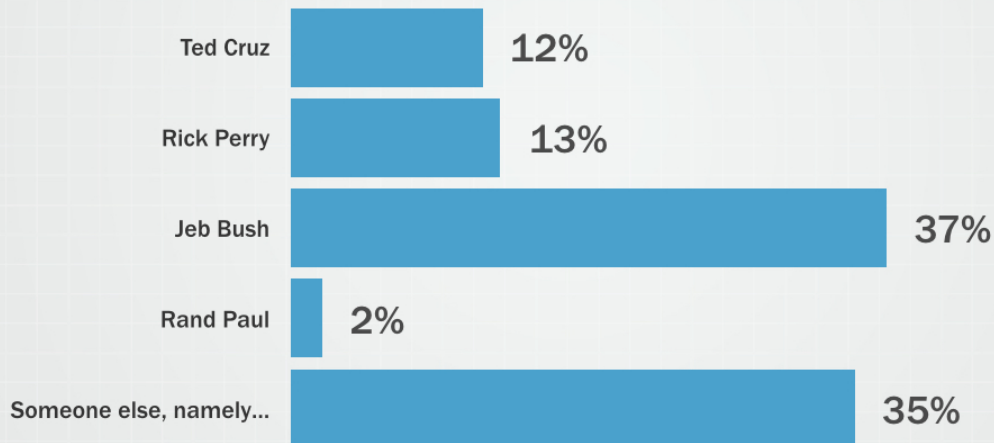
NEW PUSH ON "CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY" NEXT SESSION?



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WHO HAD THE BETTER PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF?



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Do the recent losses by Leticia Van de Putte and Trey Martinez Fischer in San Antonio signal a larger problem for Democrats in Texas?

- "Wendy Davis running as a generic national D was more problematic for Texas D's. Texas is not part of the liberal wing of the Nat'l D party that is currently in charge. In SA, LVdP and TMF lost on their merits."
- "Texas Democrats are in dire need of a rebranding campaign. The political environment is prime for a takeover. However, most voters tend to view the party as the Pro Abortion/Minority/Liberal Party and until that changes, they will be left making excuses for each defeat. And by the way, looking and canvassing reports, LVP lost a significant amount of African American boxes that tended to vote Democrat. Just saying."
- "It's the same old problems. Nothing new here."
- "No. It simply signals that, one, the inside the beltway group in Austin who happens to like those two particular

personalities were once again wrong about a local race and, two, that a mayor can usually whip a legislator if they want to give them a run."

- "Not really — just fatigue"
- "Dark money is a big problem for Dems."
- "Larger problems? Can the Texas Democrat problems get any larger after the wallop they took in '14?"
- "They have no political strategic leadership in Texas."
- "Yes. They are vastly outnumbered outside of the Valley, urban cores, and gerrymandered majority minority districts. For a political party, problems don't get any larger than that."
- "The problem stems from bad candidates and horribly executed campaigns. Oh, and the voters aren't buying the liberal ideology either."
- "Elections matter and there is a BIG disconnect with certain voters in Texas"
- "NO, it shows complacency and laziness on the part of voters. IF we want to elect Democrats or people who will represent you and your best interests, you will HAVE to go out and vote. You can have all the population numbers in the world, but until you exercise your vote with those same numbers you will ALWAYS lose and come up short."
- "Still have not learned to get out their voters!!!"

• "What problem can this possibly signal? Leticia and TMF both lost to other members of their parties? If it signals anything, it is the voter's appreciation of having real interparty choices, as both races were perceived as horse races until the results were tallied."

- "Ds still have a clear edge with Hispanics, but it's unclear to me that Leticia Van De Putte is identified as Hispanic outside the Austin 'beltway'. Ds do a terrible, terrible job of getting Hispanics engaged."
- "The clinical definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result."
- "Their problems were already big enough..."
- "The losses by Van de Putte and TMF can be viewed within the broad torrent of losses by Ds all over Texas, most notably the abject failure of the Wendy Davis race. They can't find their message or mojo. Conservatives seem to be maintaining their energy and sharpening their messaging all the while."
- "One would think San Antonio Dems would execute the ground game better than they have. That's easily fixable. Overcoming growing suburbs that might have a GOP bent to them is whole 'nuther issue."
- "They can't get their base motivated to participate! Latinos have the numbers in their favor but they've demonstrated they WON'T vote for some reason or another."

- "Partisan leftist ideology doesn't appeal to mainstream voters. Ds keep pushing candidates who please the core and not the average voter. This means Ds get to keep losing for yet more decades!"
- "The Democrats' problem is not turnout and it's not money, it is message. Democrats seem unaware that most Texans don't go through life feeling outraged. They do not view themselves as victims of unfairness or injustice. Their feelings about current conservative leadership may range from lukewarm to passionate, but few are moved to want to turn it over to folks who don't think you should be forced to show an ID to vote or who think it is noble to fight for the right to abort a baby at five months. Despite the media's efforts to make them heroes — both TMF and Van De Putte had broad support from their hometown paper and other media — in fact, Democrats have become little more than a fringe group. And when it comes to BGTX, don't get me started."
- "The recent losses by Leticia Van de Putte and Trey Martinez Fischer were to competent fellow Democrats. So the signal is not one of larger problems for Democrats in general. It is a signal to those Democratic candidates who think and act like they are entitled to your vote."
- "San Antonio is officially a purple city."
- "It's a recipe. The Rs have it. Use it, and you win."
- "And the problem is that Hispanics don't vote."
- "Their losses are not analogous to typical, November ballot circumstances. Sen. Van de Putte was a strong voice in the Senate who clearly should have stayed put or if tired of the position, simply retired."
- "Without a doubt. The business and regular Joes community at least at Mayoral level want leadership, not pure politicians that bank on abortion and calling people Pendejos."
- "It won't help to have a Hispanic majority if they won't vote. Or they vote based on conservative social values."
- "Texas Democrats have trouble articulating a coherent message in a state where low taxes and small government is popular. Liberal Dems tend to lose elections even in Dem areas when Republicans can vote."
- "It is problem of too many special elections that allow strange voting alliances."
- "San Antonio has always marched to its own beat electing Democrats, Republicans, Anglos and Hispanics during the same election cycle. Further, runoffs rarely are indicative of much except that one election."
- "It's not a larger problem — just more of the same in an electoral market that has been slow to catch up with the rest of the state. It was a close election with low turnout."
- "They have moved farther left than the right has moved right. I mean way downtown brown. They can use the word progressive to make themselves sound all nice and friendly and warm."

But they are still lefties who want to control people and take away freedoms. Everyone keeps saying the Castros are the second coming for the Dems. Their agenda and approach to government will turn away voters. Including the younger vote. The establishment, conservatives, blacks and others refuted the leftist agenda of Castro. She not only got beat, she was beaten handily."

- "Democrats and specifically Battleground Texas believes they are

With the exit of Troy Fraser and Kevin Eltife, will the Texas Senate be more conservative next session?

- "It won't be any less conservative."
- "I can hear the couple of consensus Republicans singing in tune, 'All by myself, I don't wanna be, All by myself.'"
- "Is this a real question?"
- "If assuming more Tea Party influence, then not a true conservative move. Power lies within those that can compromise effectively in favor of your cause — something the Tea Party hasn't demonstrated."
- "It depends on your definition of 'conservative.' They'll be more aggressive in pushing a conservative agenda, but sometimes a cautious approach to change is the more responsible approach."
- "Not if I have anything to do with it."
- "Jane Nelson should enjoy her final Session in 2017. She's next."

tapping into a unreported ground swell. Clearly, that is what they are telling people. In other states that may have worked but here in Texas no one believes them."

- "Democrats do not have a message. They are moving more to the left, which is not where Texas is going."
- "It was more about them than D's in general."

- "While more of the Tea Party may be elected — I think Patrick will tow the line much like he did this time around — also the House gets to work its 'magic.'"
- "Although it pains me to say this, yes! Hard for me to think of Senator Fraser as 'liberal!'"
- "Scarier and scarier will be the Senate unless the Rs finally decide to make a concerted effort to stand up to the wingnuts."
- "Eltife more so than Fraser (he was always pretty conservative)."
- "I wonder exactly who are the 10-25 percent or so that say 'no.'"
- "(sigh). Yes, if conservative means dancing around a fire pit full of burning books."
- "An increase in the number of Tea Party senators ensures a 'more conservative' Senate on paper. It'll

likely translate into more conservative bills being passed (compare 2015 with 2013). But, no matter how many or which conservative bills are passed by the Senate in 2017, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH! Simply put, there's no pleasing the Tea Party folks."

- "Establishment R's will reassert themselves and begin to take back their party before it's ruined in the name of ideological 'purity'!"
- "We are losing two very good/moderate Republicans who vote their district. I think Eltife's seat will end up much more conservative than we can even imagine."
- "Tell me exactly who the conscience of the Senate will be?"
- "Too early to know what will happen, and anyone who says otherwise is just running their mouth."
- "It will be Looney Tunes on speed. The only hope is Huffines goes to D.C."

Will there be a new push for "constitutional carry" gun legislation next session?

- "Why not? Bad ideas are rolled out each session. Plus, someone is bound to be making some scratch off the deal."
- "Yes and it will once again fail. Nobody wants the political/campaign consequence of defending a vote that will allow criminals to carry weapons."
- "Need as many people as possible brandishing firearms... What else can Stickland be for?"

- "It's Dan Patrick's dream come true."
- "Certain factions will call it 'more conservative.' But I won't call it that."
- "District 1 likely to pick up a more conservative Senator. Fraser's seat less likely to be filled by more conservative lawmaker."
- "But not way downtown brown as far as the left has gone left. Let's be clear leftie/progressive = less freedom, righty/conservative = more freedom"
- "If that's possible."
- "Chamber of Commerce Republicans are finally organizing to push back. Most likely the Tea Party momentum has hit a ceiling."
- "It will be the same makeup as the 84th Senate."
- "And not nearly as experienced or able to address real problems."

- "Is this a real question? I predict 98 percent yes response from the group. Does anyone think that the gun issue will go away?"
- "A few Tea Party reps will push for it, but the gun victories this session will keep it from gaining traction. Plus, the gun lobby would oppose it."
- "Doesn't mean the stupid legislation will pass though..."

- "Governor's open carry signing ceremony was a vendor fest. Harder to make money off of unlicensed carry and ghost guns."
- "Not sure if it will be 'new' — same faces, same arguments — but yes, there will be a push for it. And it will fail, again."
- "No one really wants convicted felons and registered sex offenders openly carrying handguns."
- "Always!"
- "Of course, the crazies think we have unfinished business here."
- "Not going to happen."
- "There has to be a stupid issue or two each session. Constitutional carry is as good as any."
- "There will be no satisfaction until we have the right to wear grenade belts."
- "Define 'push.' Will Stickland file a bill? Yes. Will it be heard in committee this next time around? Depends on how nice he plays in the primaries..."
- "You have to try! It took 5 biennial sessions to pass concealed carry after all — 1987-1995!"
- "But it will not succeed. Guns are over. There will still be pressure from the far, far right, but it isn't polling well and access will not be expanded."
- "My GOODNESS! Why don't they realize we are safer when the bad guys don't know if we are carrying, or not. Oh, I'm sorry. I guess they don't qualify for license carry. Constitutional BS."
- "Have you not actually READ the Second Amendment????!?!?!?"
- "We got enough. Keep the soccer moms."
- "Enough already"
- "But it won't pass!"
- "If Mr. Stickland is around, he won't be able to help himself."
- "Keep on truckin baby!"
- "There will just be the old push"
- "Of course but it will not pass. And NOT because of Speaker Straus."

Who had the better presidential campaign kickoff?

- "Trump. What could be better then a self-aggrandizing candidate with product to hawk goes off message for 9 minutes to remind us how RICH he is? The audacity. The brass clankers. The wealth. And the hair. Awesome!"
- "Donald Trump"
- "Hillary Clinton"
- "None of the above"
- "Good crowd, great enthusiasm..."

- "All were good, but Cruz benefited from being first."
- "Senator Bernie Sanders — but mostly by default"
- "Four swings, four misses. Have yet to see one we thought effective, counting both parties."
- "Rick Perry — knocked the ball out of the park!"
- "None!"
- "Donald Trump"
- "Who cares? None of the kickoffs were a disaster, so I find the question uninteresting."
- "Going first was a masterstroke."
- "Donald Trump!"
- "Hillary Clinton"
- "Marco Rubio"
- "Both Rubio and Walker are well positioned."
- "Carly Fiorina is distinguishing herself — she's picked up a following of women. Rick is great and Ted is Ted, but those of us who know them well find them increasingly hard to take seriously."
- "Hillary Clinton."
- "None of them. Too many people in the race and it's old news. "
- "But Jeb's was by far the longest."
- "Hillary Clinton"
- "I forgot Cruz announced!"
- "Bernie Sanders has been drawing good crowds..."
- "Rubio by a mile. Did you watch his speech? Hello? Hello? Anyone home?"
- "Since you're comparing more than two, the question should have been 'who had the best presidential campaign kickoff.' Cruz went first, in a packed venue — two good decisions."
- "Hillary"
- "RP and his order on HPV vaccine, just one example of cronyism."
- "Not sure any of them were remarkable. Does it matter?"
- "The others are clowns."
- "Does it matter?"
- "No one."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Holly DeShields, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, A.J. Rodriguez, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.