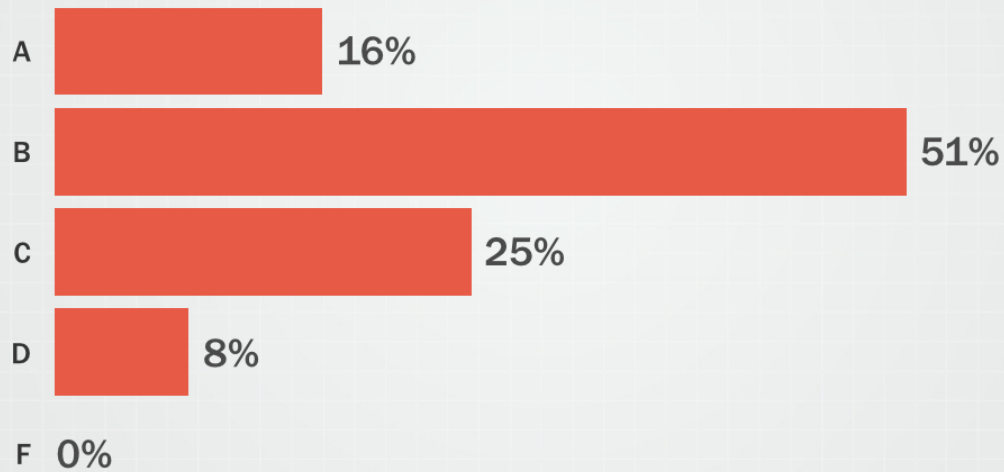


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 26 June 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

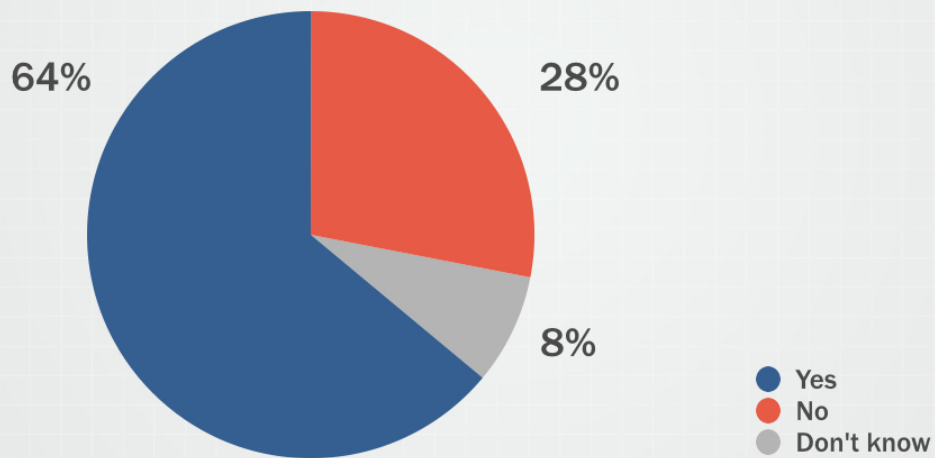
HOW DID ABBOTT DO THIS SESSION?



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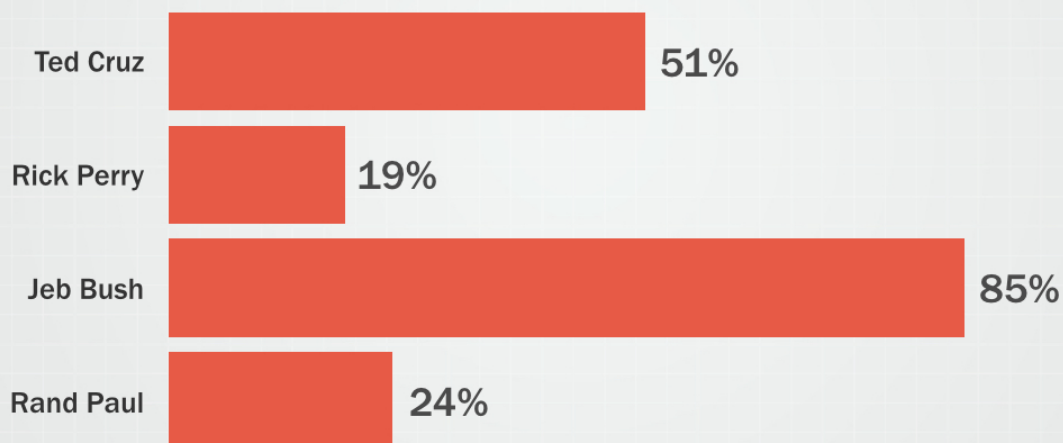
DO LEGISLATIVE SCORECARDS
INFLUENCE PARTY PRIMARY OUTCOMES?



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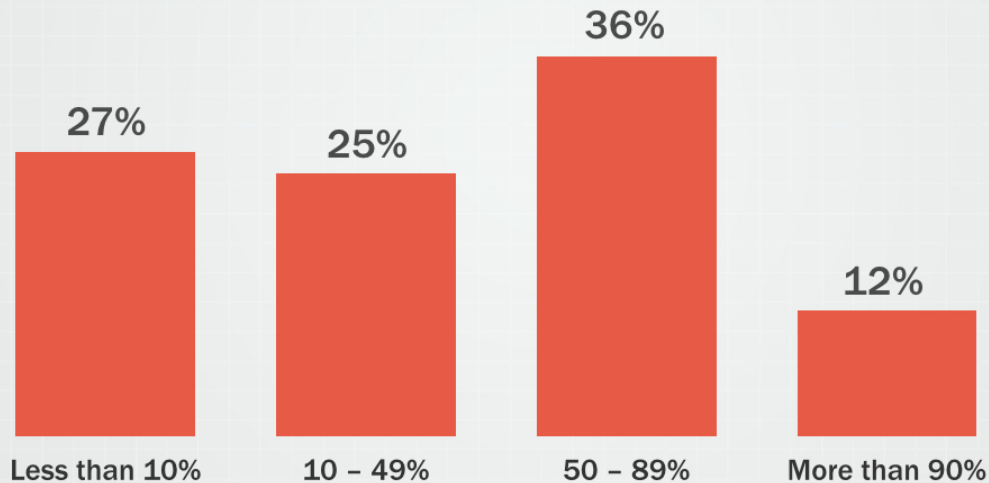
WHICH GOP CANDIDATES WILL STILL BE
VIABLE BY THE TEXAS PRIMARY?



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ODDS THAT REPUBLICANS WILL NOT HAVE SETTLED ON A PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE BEFORE THE CONVENTION?



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With Gov. Greg Abbott's session now done, how'd he do?

- "Would have been an A if he had the correct position on dark money for big contributors. The public needs to know when the very wealthy are trying to buy influence and control in the Texas Legislature."
- "Got Pre-K funding and Border Security funding, but no Ethics Reform. The people will get a chance to voice its approval or disapproval of the constitutional amendment for transportation dollars from part of vehicle sales tax funding. Better than average, but not great."
- "B+ really"
- "His office was curiously disengaged for much of the session and when veto time came, followed the advice too often of those who characterize legislation based on key word searches rather than actually reading the bills."
- "Before the veto party, I would've said C. He's dropped since then."
- "He (they) came on late, but did well for a newly elected statewide with no legislative experience. I hope he (they) takes note, the stage has been set for

next session: ethics reform; public school finance; whatever iteration of open carry; economic incentive programs; property tax reform; gay rights; abortion restrictions; and, the budget."

- "Too scared of DP"
- "Too much stupid legislation signed that should've been vetoed."
- "The press is now fawning over how judicious and measured he was. And he has kept his powder dry for any major initiatives he might want to push in future."
- "No harm — no foul, and very businesslike in approach. Didn't meddle with House or Senate, didn't get too far out there, played it safe and close to the vest. (Slight bobble with the war games...)"

Do legislative scorecards influence party primary outcomes?

- "The Primary electorate is lazy and believes the twisted, false drivelspoon fed by control freaks. Until more people start voting in the primary, these totally subjective, so-called scorecards will be an issue for candidates. If they were objective, and not targeted against certain individuals, they would be helpful."
- "Yes, but not always"
- "Maybe in Collin County."
- "Sadly, they do."
- "Maybe for Republicans..."

- "Absent."
- "In terms of influence, Abbott was on the D list. Publicly, I think he came off better than that, but as to his impact, actually changing what bills would pass and their content, he was the weakest governor I've ever worked with."
- "The Governor needs to lead on some big issues. If he showed the same leadership on other big issues as he did on Pre-K, he would have scored an A+!"
- "Pre-K effort was classic Lyndon Johnson... get a little, get started, and build it. All in the face of opponents on both ends of the spectrum."
- "Steady, measured, a few pitfalls, but a grown-up"

- "Sadly enough for the non-thinkers and followers, it does have an influence."
- "Certainly not for a majority of the races; however, many folks today receive their 'news' from non-traditional sources."
- "Mainly Repub primary, which in a lot of cases affects the general."
- "Not to the degree the scorecard scorers would like... scorecard scorers would like members to metaphorically look up to the gallery for signs on how to vote on bills... funny how the more

things change, the more they stay the same."

- "It can, if the particular party's base is exercised about wrongheaded votes."
- "Turnout influences party primary outcomes."
- "Unfortunately, yes."
- "I've seen people coming to the ballot box with those scorecards, so I'd say yes."
- "Sad but true. If people don't show up to vote, these special interest group

scorecards like Empower TX unfortunately matter in some races. The more voters who turnout the less they matter."

- "Especially the Fiscal Responsibility Index and the Texas Right to Life Scorecard."
- "It's still about knocking on doors."
- "Sadly, yes."

Which of these four GOP presidential candidates with the strongest Texas ties will continue to have viable candidacies by the time of the Texas primary?

- "Gov. Perry should play with his grandkids and go to Aggie games."
- "Perry can't explain his support of in state tuition of illegals in a R primary. Or executive order on HPV."
- "Jeb needs moderates to rise up to have a chance."
- "All things being equal, I do not think of Bush or Rand as being Texan or from Texas anymore. Bush had to have been a resident and a registered voter of Florida for at least seven years to run for governor of the Sunshine State. Though Kentucky law is a bit ambiguous on residency requirements, surrender of residency is an issue with Rand as well. There ain't anything more un-Texan than to surrender your residency, least of which for political purposes."

- "Jeb, because he could be president. Ted, because Texas primary voters want him to be president."
- "If the Bushies get moving, and the 'moderates' re-engage in their fractured party, then Jeb will be in play."
- "Poor old Perry — a good governor but when talking to a national audience, seems to turn into a stumbling boob."

What are the odds that Republicans will not have settled on their nominee for president before their national convention in 2016?

- "If the Bush Money Machine doesn't decimate the opposition, this could be the first brokered national convention since the 1950s. Particularly if Iowa and New Hampshire create completely disparate 'win/place/show' results, it could be a fascinating Spring for political junkies."
- "Contested national conventions are a thing of the past, till the primary system changes."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.