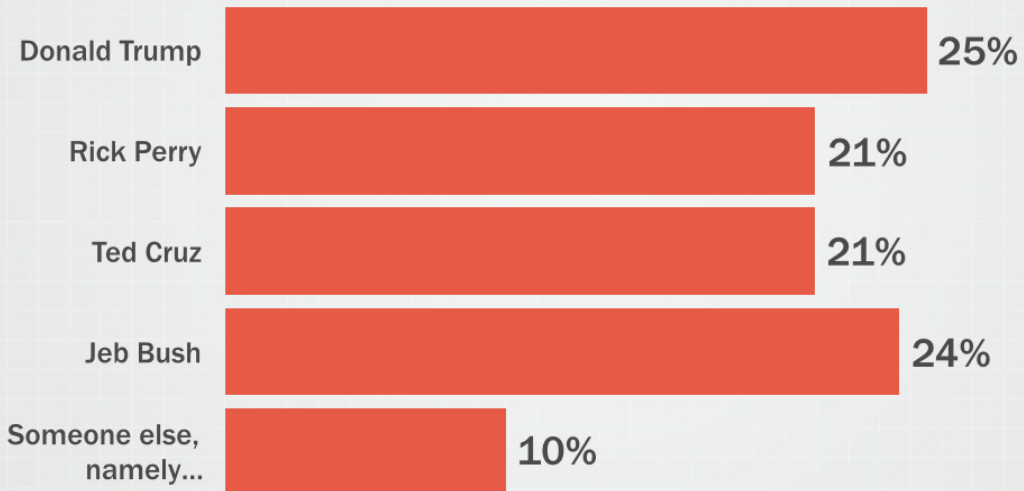


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 17 July 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

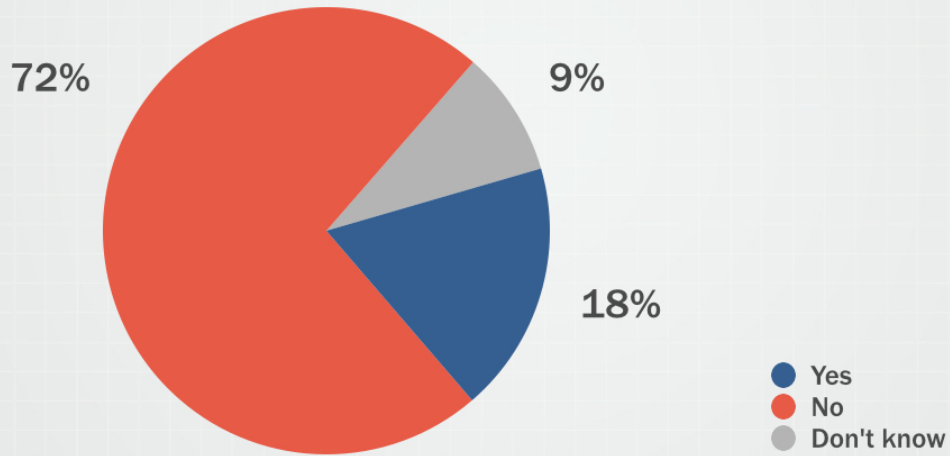
WHICH CANDIDATE REFLECTS GOP PRIMARY
VOTERS' VIEWS ON IMMIGRANTS?



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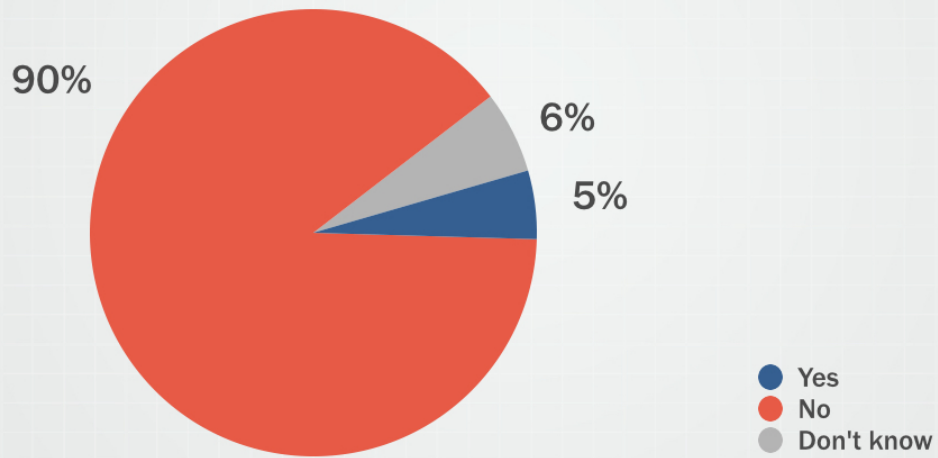
ARE STATE AGENCIES WRONG TO FUND SAME-SEX BENEFITS WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE ACTION?



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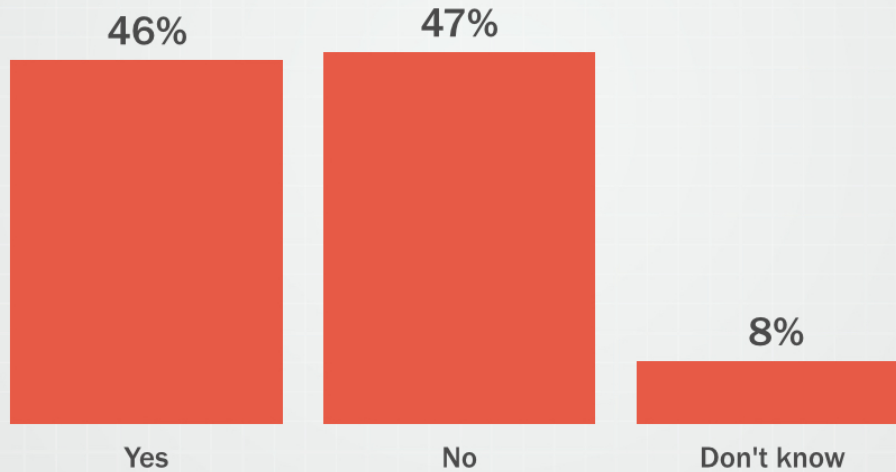
WILL ABBOTT CALL SPECIAL SESSION ON
SAME-SEX BENEFITS?



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DOES ABBOTT'S RESPONSE TO JADE HELM 15 CAUSE LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO TEXAS' IMAGE?



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Who in the GOP presidential field is closest to the majority of primary voters on immigration?

- "Couldn't say at this point."
- "...unfortunately."
- "Fiorina"
- "Marco Rubio"
- "GOP primary voters nationwide do not view immigration the same way Texans do. Jeb and Perry both reflect an intelligent approach."
- "At least Trump is not for death camps for Hispanics, like Bob Hall."
- "It is Perry that serves the red meat and Jeb serves the solution. Has Trump even been to the border?"
- "No one wants to say it out loud, but many GOP primary voters believe that Latin American immigration, legal or not, is bad for this country."
- "Fiorina"

Are state agencies wrong to fund benefits to same-sex partners without legislative action, as state Rep. David Simpson suggested this week?

- "Whether Simpson or anyone else likes it or not, marriage equality is the law of the land and Texas is part of the United States of America. State health insurance is funded for each state employee only as a part of their benefits package. Any additional family member coverage is paid for by that employee. If they truly believe what the Bible says, only God can judge. Maybe the SCOTUS decision was divine intervention?"
- "See Art. 6, clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution."
- "Texas is also WRONG to accept the bogus SCOTUS decision. It's as bad as blindly accepting Dred Scott."
- "They are complying with the law. As a public employee, you have an obligation to comply with rules, regulations, legislative mandates and court ordered rulings."
- "It is David Simpson after all."
- "You can make a technical legal argument that the Legislature should speak, but is Mr. Simpson going to fund the legal challenges?"
- "This is a done deal. Let it go."
- "Contrary to some opinion, the State still has to comply with the law."
- "It's the law!"
- "The law is the law."
- "As a Chamber of Commerce Republican, I refuse to answer this for a East Texas Senate."
- "For once it would be nice to have someone not sell their soul to the psycho tea party during a primary and then change their tune when they come to Austin. Get a backbone! Sincerely, Long time Republican"
- "The law is absolutely clear on this. No legislative action is needed, as the definition of spouse is automatically changed by operation of law. It's simply bizarre that so many supposedly educated people have suddenly gotten amnesia on basic law."
- "Simpson's comment was intended for primary voters, not for serious policy discussion."
- "For goodness sake, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled! Whether you like it or not is now irrelevant — it's time to accept the ruling and move on."

Will Greg Abbott call a special session to resolve the same-sex benefit funding issue?

- "As I said previously in this survey, no way they are bringing this show back before another election year..."

- "Texans are waking to the SCOTUS decision and the more they understand the ramifications, the more angry they become."

- "It's much easier to make a little noise than actually address the situation."

- "There is no issue to resolve. See Article Six, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution."

- "If we didn't have the money - maybe, but still not likely. When we have lots of unbudgeted money — why?"

- "Oh yes, the 'FISCAL CONSERVATIVE' Governor will call a special session to spend \$1.3 million a DAY to tell someone their 'spouse' cannot have insurance or be named their beneficiary if they die? REALLY — I am hoping he is NOT that crazy (but I could so easily be

With the Jade Helm 15 military exercise starting this week, does Abbott's response cause long-term damage to Texas' image?

- "It is unfortunate that Greg Abbott chose to feed the fears of a few with outrageous machinations, just before dinner at the White House... And, of course, asking for FEMA assistance. It's hard to keep up with the logic some time!"

- "What causes long-term damage to our nation are changes to the NDAA."

- "We need answers to simple questions like: Has this kind of exercise ever happened before? Why is it

wrong on this). Once we pass it, it will IMMEDIATELY end up in litigation — thereby continuing to cost the state money!"

- "Gov. Abbott knows the state has to comply with the law. See No. 2 above."

- "He was lucky to get the Lege out of town the first time--he doesn't want them back."

- "It Democrats are smart enough, they'll force Abbott to call a Special. Then watch Patrick vs. Abbott."

- "Like a deer in the headlights, he is frozen — all he while knowing the truck is fast approaching."

- "The gay thing is too good an opportunity for grandstanding to pass up. For both sides."

- "No"

surrounded by secrecy? Why not NYC where terror has already struck?"

- "Had to wonder how that was playing with the New York business crowd..."

- "I think the federal government and the military in particular will look to other states that are more welcoming. When it comes to another round of base closing it will be easy to make the argument that Texas doesn't want our resources so we can close them and move them to other states that are more welcoming. While engaging in

political rhetoric, our state leaders forget about the economic spending power the military has in smaller, less populated communities. When military assets move, businesses lose customers and communities and the state loses valuable tax dollars. It might be a while but the federal government will remember, especially when other states are opening their doors and rolling out the red carpet. The federal government has choices and free market Texas Republicans who advocate for choice quickly forget that the federal government has many choices."

- "I think people would expect Texas to respond this way. I also think most people outside of Texas already have their minds made up one way or the other about Texas."
- "See Doonesbury."
- "Too bad but everyone outside of Texas thinks we are Kooks."
- "EVERYONE thinks we are a bunch of CRAZY wackadoodles."
- "Not singularly; just one more thing piled on so many others."
- "We've been and always will be an independent minded state. Independent minded people don't care what others

think. As astronaut Gus Grissom is quoted as saying, 'Betty and I live our lives as we please. We don't care anything about fads or frills or the PTA. We don't give a damn about the Joneses!'"

- "Does he really need the 'tin foil hat' vote?"
- "Dukakis in a tank. Potatoe. Political flubs have a long shelf life."
- "Most people think Jade Helm is on the Bachelorette."
- "It's hard to imagine that it really makes any significant marginal difference given the many other problems with our state's image."
- "He has demonstrated little ability to navigate the responsibilities of his office. He is outside his depth."
- "The U.S. is going to conquer us? I think they already did that, and now they're here to take our flag."
- "Who cares what anyone else thinks? Texas' image to everyone else is that we are the place to come and be free, and if you don't like it, leave."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Tom Forbes,

Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Chuck Rice, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick.