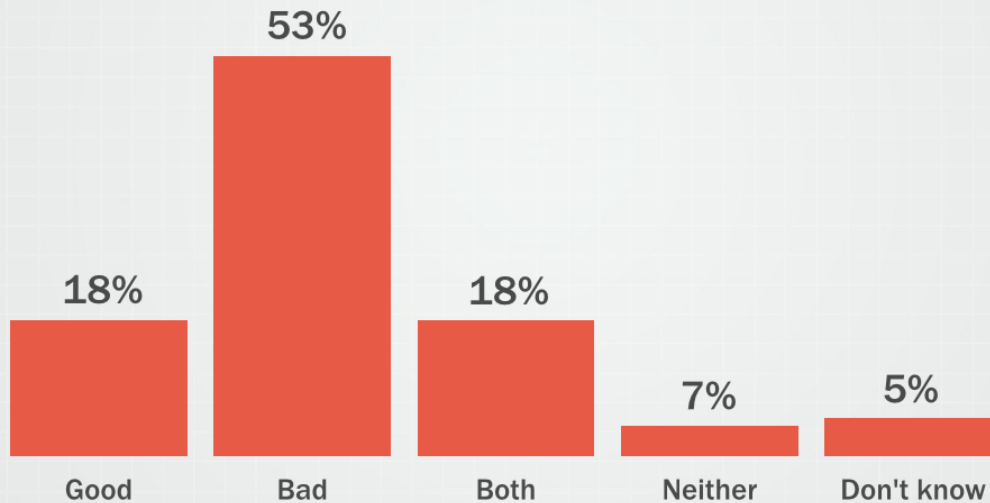


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 21 August 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

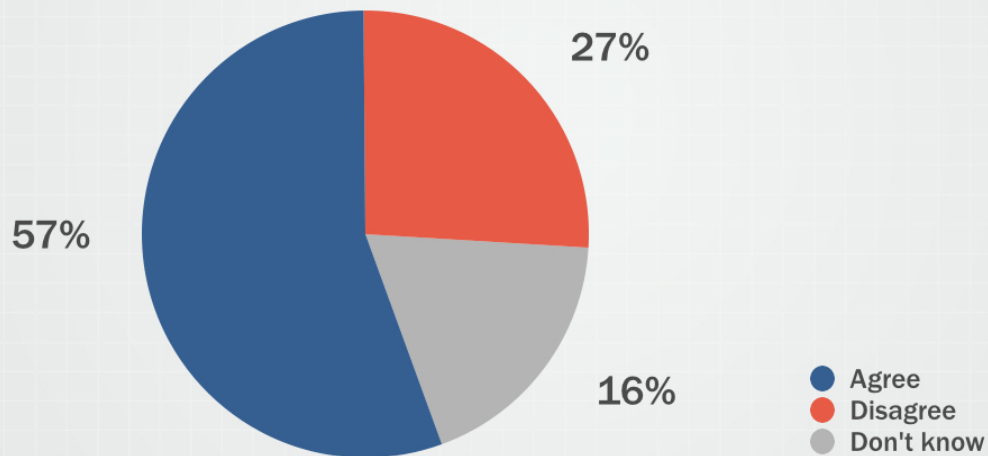
SUPER PACS CAN KEEP ZOMBIE CANDIDATES GOING LONG AFTER THEY HAVE NO MONEY. GOOD OR BAD?



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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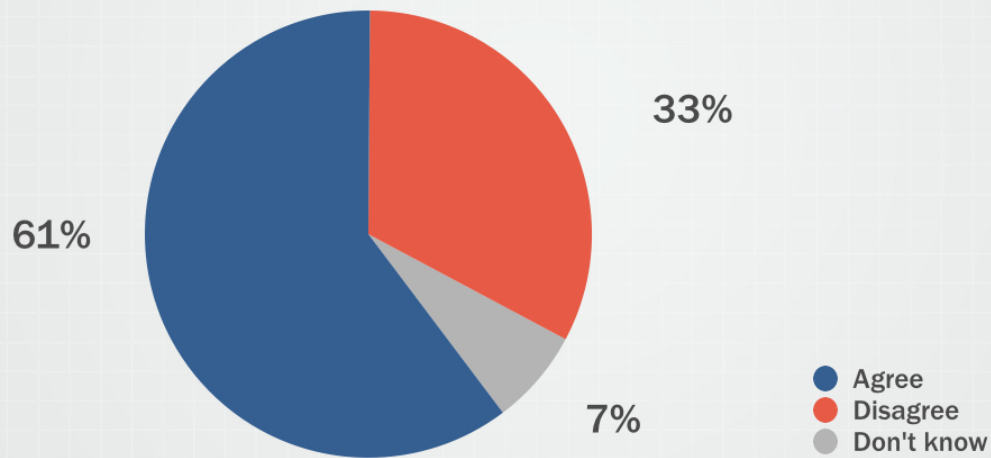
AGREE THAT ZOMBIE CANDIDATES CUT
EARLY PRIMARY STATES' INFLUENCE?



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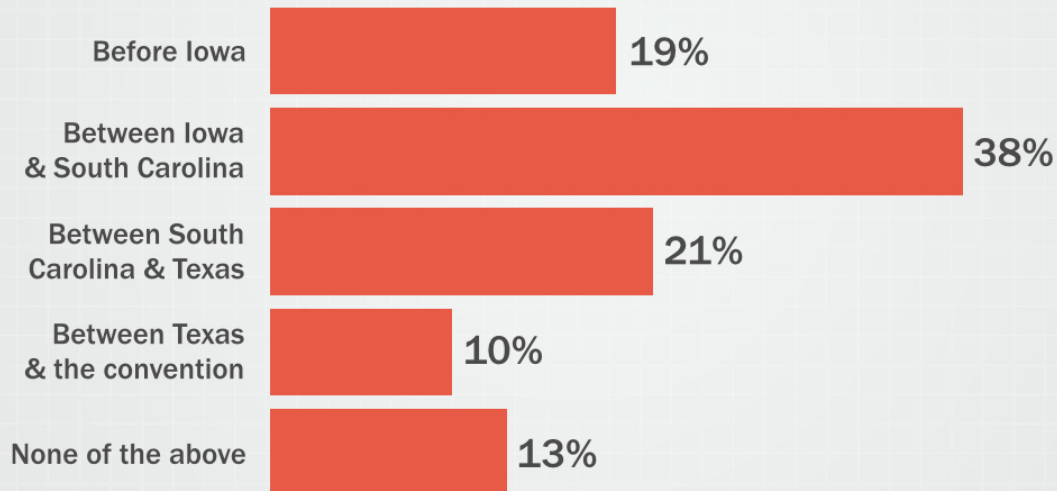
AGREE THAT ZOMBIE CANDIDATES OVERRIDE
PRE-PRIMARY POLLING?



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WHERE DOES RICK PERRY'S RUN TO
THE WHITE HOUSE END?



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Super PACs can potentially keep zombie candidates alive for months after their own accounts are empty. Is that good or bad?

- "Super PACs are about people expressing their First Amendment rights. Freedom is always good."
- "The 1st amendment is always good, no matter if we agree with the messenger."
- "The sooner the herd can be culled, the sooner a real candidate can emerge over the Trump noise."
- "The very existence of Super PACs is bad, let alone keeping Rick Perry alive when he stands zero chance of being nominated."
- "End of political life decisions should always hinge on dignity, which for some reason is elusive in that particular ward."
- "While we don't need rejects hanging around, but it sure does help give an unknown candidate a chance to run with the big dogs."

- "I guess it can be both good and bad. It is only good for the zombie candidate in that he still has a fighting chance, but it is bad for the other candidates struggling and competing for the same money and votes."
- "One of the best presidents of the 20th century was Truman. He nearly ran out of money on his campaign. Who knows how many other greats didn't quite make it far enough to show what they could do."
- "They are good because they keep candidates alive during all the clutter at the beginning of a campaign. They are bad because they keep zombies alive during all the clutter at the beginning of a campaign."
- "Before today's Super PACs, McCain almost ran out of money, used one of his wife's houses as collateral and kept the campaign going. The effect of Super PACs is really no different. Unless it's a 'bad' candidate who gets a second life and becomes a thorn in the side of the national party (either side)."
- "There have always been candidates who had no chance of winning who ran for office as a way to make a living (Al Sharpton) or to make a point (Ralph Nader, Ron Paul). Can't blame it on Super PAC's."
- "Straw men in a kabuki theater propped up by oligarchs feeds the circus and those who feed upon it but is an anathema to a competition of ideas and substantive debate. Voters with a functioning cerebrum and a brain stem are further alienated while those with the more primitive, binary mental faculties are empowered."
- "No limits, immediate disclosure would be a vastly better system."
- "There will always be poor candidates; until the law changes, Super PAC's should be able to make equally poor decisions."
- "But it does help demonstrate who's in charge — the guys with the big bucks."
- "There's always hope for zombies."
- "Depends on the candidate. Some zombies need to die. Some deserve to be kept alive until they can prove they deserve a second chance."
- "It's still money contributed to the candidate, just no names attached."
- "RP a zombie"

Keeping zombie candidates alive arguably cuts the influence of early primary states. Agree/Disagree?

- "Early states always weeded out the weak candidates b/c their funding dried up. Super PACs will indeed cut the influence of early primary states. These early states never have reflected the true demographic picture of the U.S. anyway..."
- "Just because the PACs waste their money on dead candidates does not

mean they will influence the primary outcome."

- "Iowa and New Hampshire have been afforded too much influence for too long. Good riddance."
- "At this point, the voter base has been dissected into so many small factions that it'll be hard to predict — or choose — a clear winner without a runoff."
- "Yes, and this is a good thing. Why should Iowa or New Hampshire always get to pick the candidates? Texas has one of the strongest economies, one of the most diversified populations, and routinely gives some of the most money to presidential campaigns — it's about time this state got a say in who runs for office."
- "And it's a good thing, too! Who the hell died and made Iowa kingmaker?"
- "In theory it could cut early states' influence, but that didn't work out so well for zombie Newt Gingrich in 2012."
- "It is good to cut the influence of the early primary states — folks in New Hampshire and Iowa are not a cross-section of America — and the early emphasis on them distorts both the Democrat and Republican primary

elections. If Super PAC's can override that, terrific."

- "But who really cares about Iowa, New Hampshire, or the recently de-flagged South Carolina?"
- "But this is a good thing."
- "Momentum will matter more than Super PAC \$."
- "To some degree, but an uninformed electorate and sensational campaigns are to blame, too."
- "Yes. Enough already with pandering to corn/ethanol voting bloc."
- "Dilutes the vote, so that even the 'winner' might get less than one-quarter of the votes."
- "Things are so convoluted and confusing anyway, what difference does it make? A handful of reasonably small, low-populated states decide the final choices for both major political parties. So a super PAC can keep a few extra choices in there. I repeat, what difference does it make?? The campaign schedules are all screwed up anyway."

Keeping zombie candidates alive enables rich donors to override the clear Go Home message visible in pre-primary polling. Agree/Disagree?

- "This exposes the fundamental problem with Super PACs."
- "I don't care what Iowa voters think of a candidate. Their population is over 90 percent Anglo, which does not represent the views of all Americans."

- "They will just be puttering away their money, but I guess the super-rich don't care."

- "In some cases, yes. Alternatively, it can simply give a candidate a chance to become better known."

- "At this stage in the race, polling is simply name ID. Until we get into November or December, nobody will be tuned in. A candidate sinking right now (or not rising) means nothing."

- "The best 'Go Home' message is conveyed at the ballot box, not inconsistent and poor pre-primary polling."

- "It's still early, check back in February."

- "Early polling is only for tabloid coverage and no serious person reads any 'go home' meaning into them. Even using them to pick 10 people for a

debate stage seems questionable. At this point in 1975, Jimmy Carter was in low single digits in national polls."

- "No doubt the oligarchs think there is an ROI somewhere in that pile of manure but I don't see it, unless they somehow think there is a cabinet slot in the end game."

- "The entire campaign finance system is now set up to enable rich donors to override most democratic processes."

- "Early polling is almost always useless, anyway."

- "Why does lily-white Iowa get to decide who has to 'go home'?"

- "Perry would be wrapping things up this fall if he didn't have a few multi-millionaire friends. He's dead, but he won't lay down."

Where does Rick Perry's run to the White House end?

- "Sooner than he thinks."

- "Under the current conditions, the convention will not begin with a single candidate having the majority. It will look more like a parliamentary election with no clear winner trying to form a coalition government."

- "RP wants to remain relevant so he can be in the mix/conversation for VP."

- "He really thinks people want him to be President! If he can't win in Texas, he will call it quits. Stick with it Ricky! Don't let big bad Donald push you around! Don't let that Canadian Ted

Cruz out Texas You! Scott Walker out 'governator' you!"

- "It's over."

- "He's polling in the low single digits in Texas. He won't go through the embarrassment. He's done after Iowa."

- "Too early. He's a great candidate and would make a terrific president. But it wasn't in the cards."

- "I like Governor Perry, but I think he's toast as a Presidential candidate. As a VP or cabinet secretary, he's still in the running."

- "It's over. Good hair and smart glasses can only take you so far."

- "It all depends on whether the super PAC can keep raising money at a level equal to (or even slightly less than) the burn rate. Even \$17 million can go pretty fast when you are pushing uphill in multiple states. But if you can refill the fuel tank through those few super wealthy donors then you can keep going."

- "Deja vu all over again"

- "He won't have all the money he wants; but he'll have enough to stick around. He's running for second place or a Cabinet position at this point."

- "Stick a fork in him now - he is done! Give the money to his consultant

buddies so they can hire him with it later for consulting."

- "11/09/2011"

- "Nobody is really enamored of Rick Perry anymore. Even his friends are tired of hearing him. He has nothing new to say."

- "Rick's candidacy ended in 2012. He is broke and a joke as presidential candidate."

- "He never had a chance... Oops!"

- "When Guy tells him."

- "He's got no natural base any more, and his lack of verbal dexterity means he won't ever get any traction."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Mark Lehman, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keats Norfleet, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, A.J. Rodriguez, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.