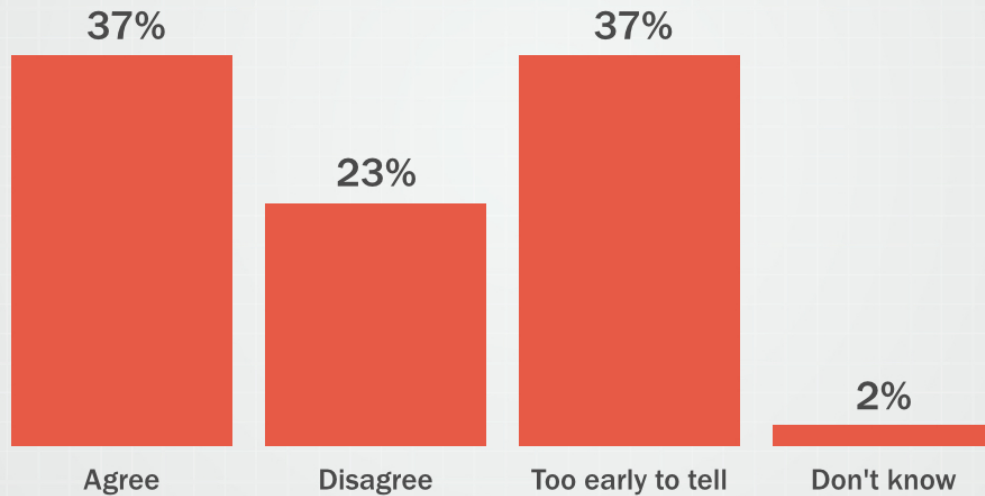


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 18 September 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

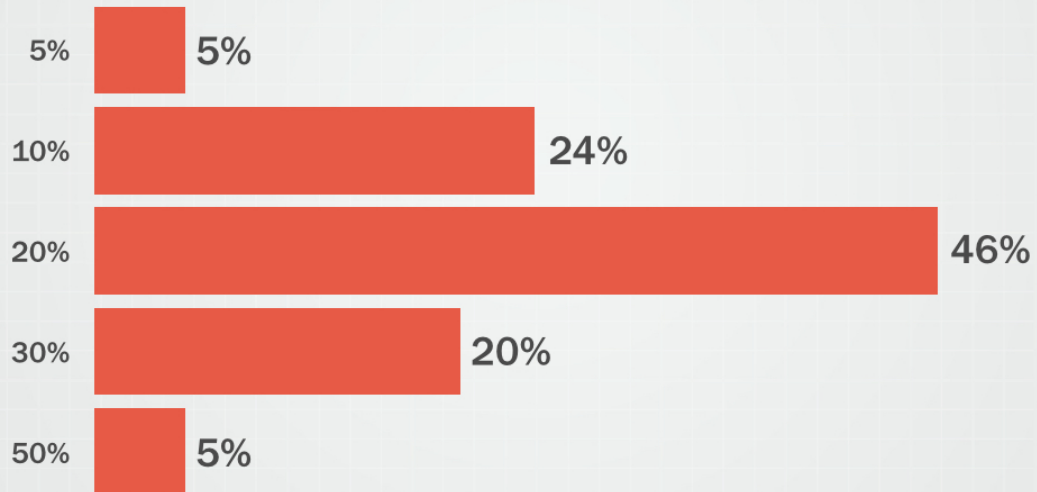
DEFIANT MOOD SPURS GOP WAVE ELECTION IN 2016?



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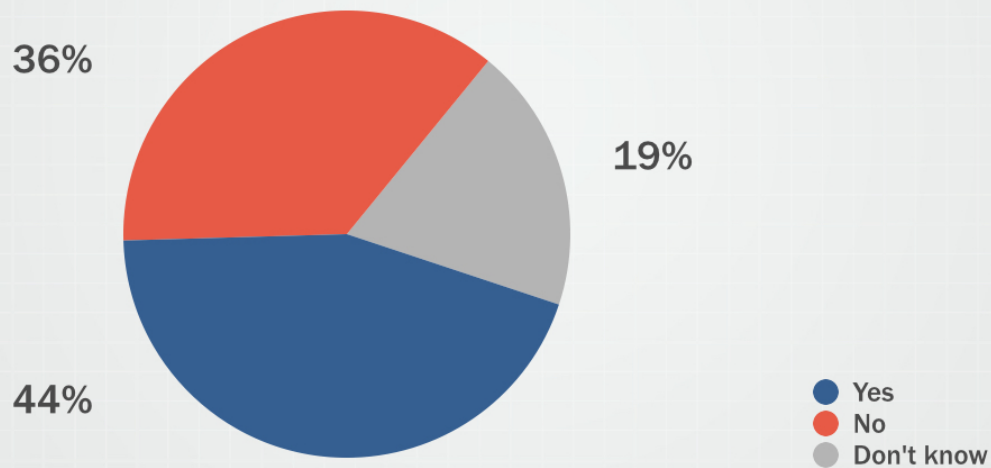
WHAT'S BEN CARSON'S CEILING IN TEXAS GOP PRIMARY?



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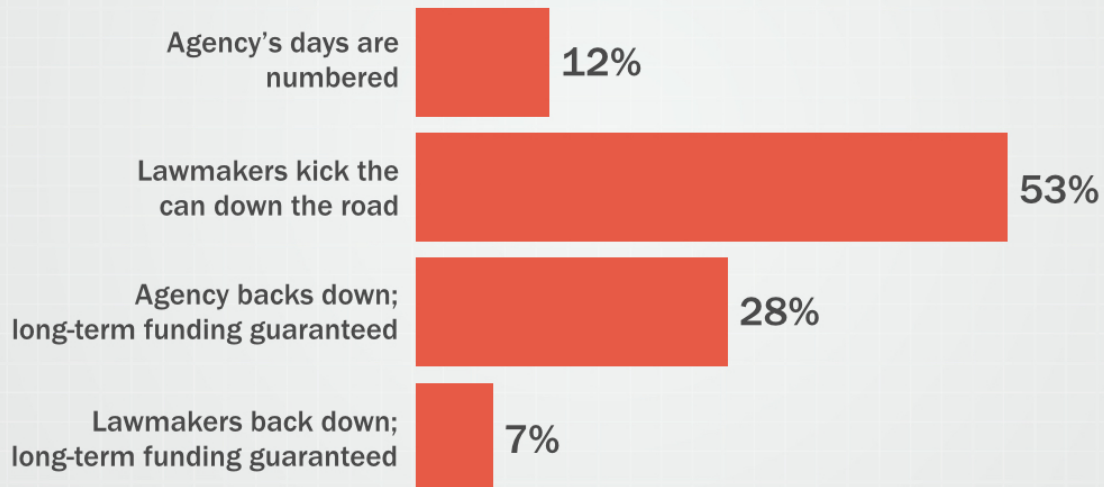
IS GEORGE P. BUSH SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ON
HIS DAD'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN?



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WILL LAWMAKERS STRIKE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON RACING COMMISSION FUNDING?



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An increasingly defiant mood among the GOP primary electorate leads to a wave election in 2016. Agree or disagree?

- "Democrats have nothing to worry about. However, there's a civil war brewing in the Republican Primary. Incumbents are warned; come out swinging like there is no tomorrow or you'll be joining the same lobbyverse you detest."
- "The angry few will not cause a tsunami."
- "Defiant is such a great descriptor and replacement for 'angry.'"
- "It's difficult at this stage to tell the difference between saying you want to throw the bums out and actually following through once you enter the ballot box."
- "Defiant... and angry, as well as uninformed and ignorant of facts and policy positions."
- "Yes, but not in their favor ultimately"
- "If defiant = Trump then by 'wave' do you mean the thing we do in stadiums between plays?"

- "They will either successfully nominate an extremist that mainstream voters cannot stomach or the establishment (safe) nominee will lose the support of the disenchanted extremists."

- "Donald Trump is this cycle's Republican version of Obama: an entertaining, feels good message with no details or substance. 'Hope and Change' = 'Make America Great Again.'"

- "Folks are angry and they don't trust those in the system to fix it."

- "2016 will present a stronger anti-establishment sentiment in the GOP primary but, unlike 2010, this wave will not play out among a general electorate. The 2010 general election wave was in a non-presidential year and grew out of more broadly shared anti-establishment sentiment, whereas 2016 is demonstrating more partisan and racial overtones."

- "The same folks will come out as in the past."

- "Who will the 'GOP' primary electorate be this year? ANGRY white people following The Don and have NEVER voted in an election in their adult lives? Original Tea Party people? Or will the TRUE members of the Grand Old Party show up and TAKE BACK their party from the crazies? Sadly, for the moment it would seem that The Don and his band of merry 'haters' are leading EVERYONE including Texas

(well actually Canada's own) TED CRUZ!"

- "How many more Democrats can we knock out in Texas?!?!?"

- "Texas was early in adopting the anti-Washington sentiment... it has now spread countrywide."

- "'Fed Up!' The voters are weary of electing Republicans who join the moderate wing upon entering office, yet campaign as conservatives."

- "A wave election... for the Democrats. They'll be able to pick up at least a handful of legislative seats."

- "Republicans are where Democrats were when they nominated President Obama. They are rebelling against their party's expectations."

- "The Texas GOP has long resisted the worst of xenophobic tendencies of their national counterparts. The wave of racism is creating."

- "A wave of bigotry, ignorance, and lack of real solutions to the problems our country faces! What a wave!!!"

What's the ceiling for Dr. Ben Carson in the Texas presidential primary?

- "Dr. Carson's luck runs out in Texas. This is Cruz Country."
- "Carson's only problem is the shysters running his Super PACs."
- "Theoretically, his ceiling is 100 percent. Realistically, it's about a fifth of the votes."
- "I reject the premise that Carson makes it to Texas."
- "GOP voters ain't electing an African American for president. It's what they're mad about NOW!! Get real."
- "Dr. Carson will be more liked than Donald Trump in Texas."
- "Um, the people hanging out at American Airlines Center do NOT want another black man in the WHITE house, they don't care if he can spout their issues back at them!"
- "He is a good and honorable man. He believes strongly in America compared to the current WH occupant. But, once the base finds out he is weak on the Second Amendment, he will drop like a rock."
- "Depends on whether Trump is still flying high. Lot of competition from Cruz, who'll have an organization."
- "The first debate closing statement has taken Carson to No. 2, but as voters get a closer look, they'll see his lack of experience as a weakness. Foreign policy is too messed up to elect another novice."

Is George P. Bush spending too much time on the campaign trail stumping for his father?

- "No one in Texas cares what the Texas Land Commissioner does with his time. Hell, no one knows what the Commissioner actually does for the state. Mijito (little-son) is doing good by helping his dad. Voters don't like mal-hijos (mall - eee - hoes)."
- "And, wow, talk about overreacting. Bush needs to thicken up the skin."
- "Et tu, Ross?"
- "By whose standards? Voters in Texas do not seem to care."
- "What would he do at the GLO instead? It's not a 24/7 agency... if not for his Dad, then he'd be out promoting himself. Can we get the same gig for Sid, too?"
- "Yes, but... It's not like the job is that difficult. Remember, Jerry Patterson was able to do it without disastrous consequences."
- "But it's an understandable choice. He's trying — to little avail — to save his name, which is worth less and less with each passing day."

- "If the Land Commissioner's name wasn't George P. Bush, would anyone (media, specifically) even care whether they showed up for work?"
- "My first response is yes... then when I see what he is doing to the agency he manages, maybe he should be gone more often."
- "No such thing as helping out Dad 'too much'"
- "If one of the hourly employees took that much time off, they not only would do it without pay but would probably be fired."
- "Jeb just isn't popular in Texas. George P. getting out in front is going to damage him politically."
- "Probably, but ask this question again early next year, and my answer will be a definitive 'yes.' Ask again if his father gets the Republican nomination, and my answer will be 'can we withhold his paycheck?'"
- "Of course he is. He doesn't care about the GLO; he only cares about his political future. However, when Jeb! flounders in Texas, it will be a new day in Texas. A day George P. won't like."
- "Well of course he is! IT'S his DAD! If my Dad were running for President, I would be out helping him."
- "He'd likely be more fruitful lobbying to return the Jefferson Davis statue to the UT lawn. Better use for his 'energy.'"
- "What the what the???? Are you kidding me? This is really an issue? In

the short time he has held office he has spent more time doing his government work than most statewide office holders do in an entire term. So George P. is clean as a whistle and the media wants to find something on him. Kind of like the hapless NY Times printing the ridiculous story on Rubio and his wife's speeding tickets. What a joke. Go find some real news and quit trying to create it."

- "The most idiotic thing to come out of his educated mouth was his reasoning for not really missing work because he was 'connected' to his office via Wi-Fi on a plane from Las Vegas. I don't think my boss would appreciate that excuse for not being in the office."

- "He's coming across as in a big hurry, too ambitious, and thin-skinned to boot."

- "As expected. The Bushes need to understand that Americans don't want a royal family."

- "No. No one cares what the Land Commissioner is doing day-in and day-out."

- "This is a resume filler stop on the way to Governor race, and I am OK with that."

- "A huge disappointment as a leader for Texas."

- "Only because he's going to lose."

- "Commissioner Bush has been a breath of fresh air among state leaders. Want to rank his work against AG Paxton or AG Commissioner Sid Miller?"

- "P running off all the good employees"
- "Sure he is. Flipside: there's not much to do at GLO."

Will lawmakers find a long-term solution to the Racing Commission funding conundrum before a three-month temporary reprieve expires?

- "Remember that time you had a temper tantrum and your mom gave you the eye? Similar situation... Senators Nelson and Huffman just gave them the eye. Oh, and dad is holding the belt."
- "If there is one thing, ONE THING, that is as sure as death and taxes it is the awesome ability of the political class to shamelessly kick a can down the road."
- "Nothing I've seen from either side indicates a willingness to back down, even if just a little to make nice."
- "If Gov. Abbott would simply do his job and fill the open seats on the Racing Commission, I suspect the entire issue would go away."
- "Abbott cleans house. Or should."
- "Wait, is this agency still relevant? Now that the biggest proponent of legalized gambling in Texas has casinos in nearby states and is no longer funding the effort to get legalized gambling in Texas in the form of 'racinos,' horse racing alone will not be able to survive."
- "Of course not. This now gives folks an issue to campaign on and raise money. What a windfall for the pols and the fundraisers and our crowd."
- "Agency backs down; agency's days are numbered."
- "Gov. Abbott needs to replace members in order to rein in the rogue agency. Eliminating a government agency would be a welcome miracle."
- "You know the Commission is in bad shape when even gaming advocates belief they crossed the line."
- "I know of no instance when an agency prevailed over the Legislature, ever."
- "The voters approved racing. If opponents don't like it, have another election."
- "Next session the Lottery Commission or TDLR will have horse racing duties."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Chuck Rice, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.