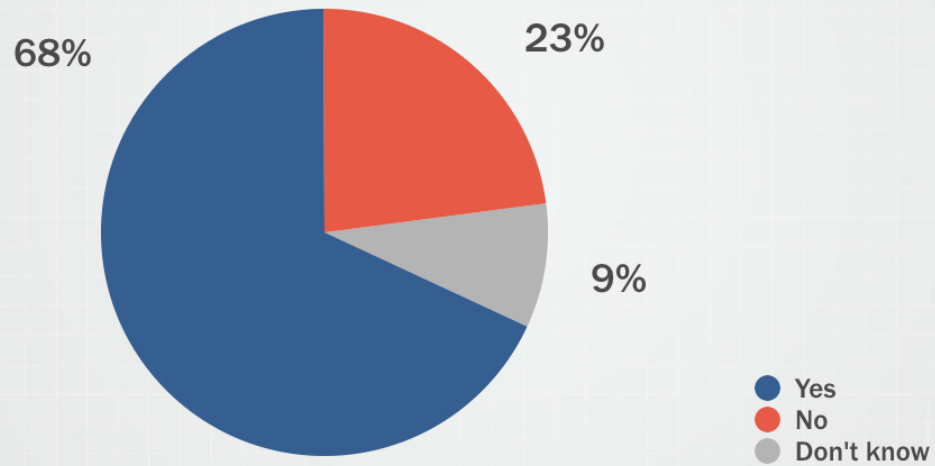


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 13 November 2015*

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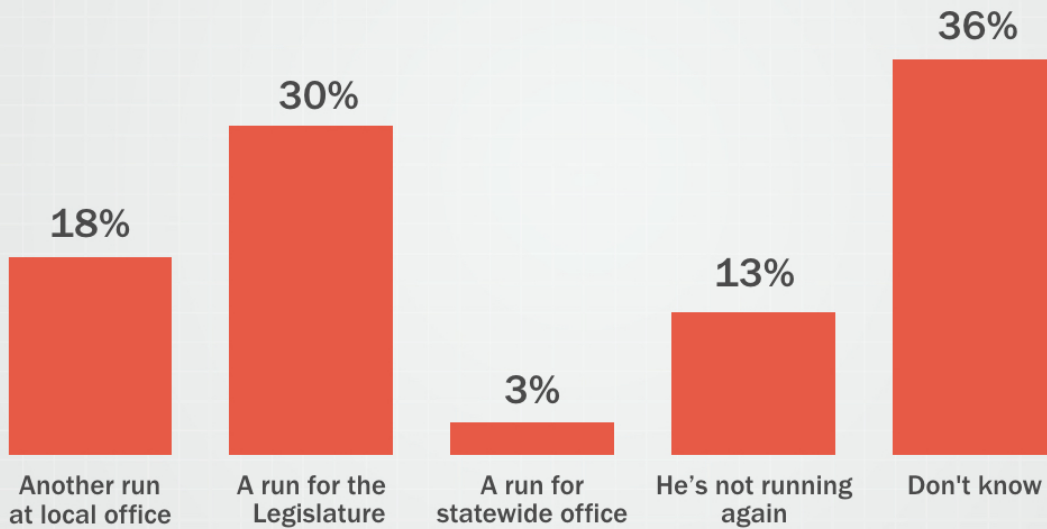
DOES HOUSTON REINTRODUCE HERO?



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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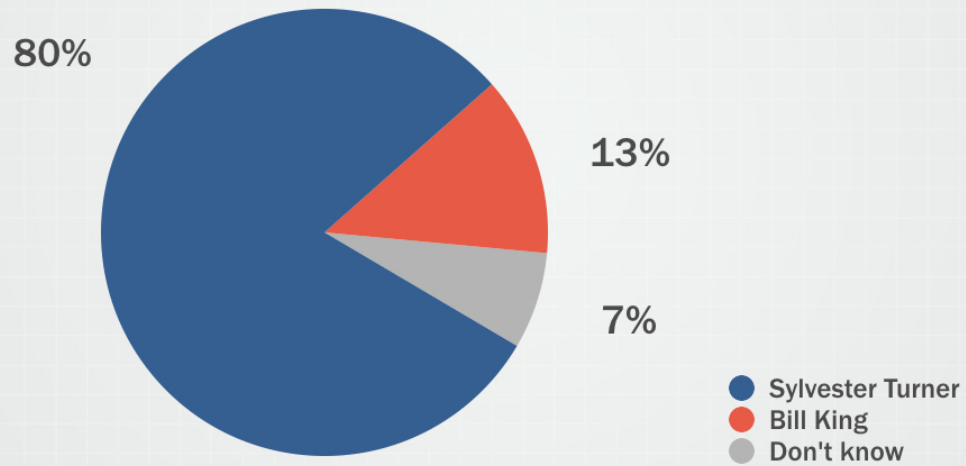
WHAT'S NEXT FOR ADRIAN GARCIA?



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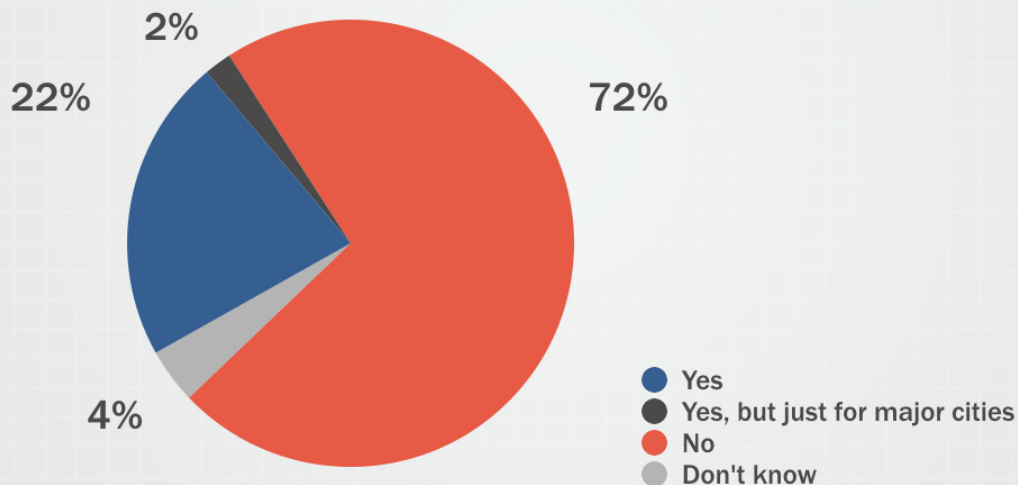
WHO HAS THE ADVANTAGE IN MAYORAL RUNOFF?



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SHOULD TEXAS MAYORAL ELECTIONS BE PARTISAN?



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The Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) lost by a 3-to-2 margin. Will Houston city government reintroduce it in some form?

- "This is Mayor Parker's legacy item. She knows she and her consultants screwed this thing up from the start. Parker will use the remainder of her political capital to once again move the ordinance forward. Her problem is that no politician will touch the issue now."
- "The elite political class certainly will not tolerate the will of the electorate."
- "At some point, but perhaps they allow some time to pass. The example will be that both Dallas and SA have an ordinance — once Houston starts losing MORE events to those two cities, they will get it passed."
- "How can they not? These activists are never ones to take no for an answer, sorta like the light rail activists in Austin."
- "Not until after we know who will be mayor and how much motivation there will be to not be perceived as less progressive than Dallas."
- "If they wanted Trans people to be able to use restrooms opposite of their existing genitalia, then that's how the

ordinance should have read. Instead, they tried to get too cute by half and make it sound like only mouth-breathing ogres would vote against it."

- "Politicians always think they know better than the people who elected them."
- "Even though the people have spoken, government leaders will ignore their voice at the ballot box!"
- "Parker is determined to get it done. Even though the people have spoken!"
- "The commitment won't go away. The electeds always try to overcome the elections."
- "Too soon to know, must wait for runoff results."
- "Hopefully, what the losers learned from their debacle is that Houstonians read the fine print — you can't pretend to be pushing an equal rights amendment for 15 classes of people, when 13 of those classes already have protection. Had they presented a straight up vote on equal rights for gay people, it would have passed but the 'T' in LBGT will continue to be a problem."
- "Not if they are smart. The voters have spoken in a landslide defeat for HERO."

Former Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia failed to make the mayoral runoff. What's his political future?

• "A run for the Legislature, but not the one you are thinking. You failed to include a run for Congress. Garcia lives in what was supposed to be Harris County's first Latino congressional

• "Let cooler heads prevail. The Mayor should let it rest for a bit."

• "The compulsion to enact a HERO disappears with the incumbent mayor."

• "Of course. Once it went to the potty it was over. Aren't all these things already covered?"

• "Whomever put HERO on an off-off-year election ballot should be fired."

• "After a cooling down time."

• "As Charlie Brown says, Good Grief. Yes, it will come up again. The mayor, who said she would not have a personal agenda seems to have forgotten her promise. Let it go and focus on real issues the city faces like a budget deficit. If she had spent as much time on the budget issue as she has on her personal agenda we might have some possible solutions on the table to discuss. But alas, we do not."

• "Of course they will. They can fix the bathroom issue with better language."

• "Yes, but not until after the 2016 general election."

• "It all boiled down to the bathroom issue. They will clarify."

district. With Hillary on the ticket, I think Gene Green may be sweating a little. The Hispanic vote will have a higher primary turnout than usual, and

Gene Green will have to run a full throttle campaign to survive."

- "None of the above. A race for Green's congressional seat makes the most sense, but until he gets a team that understands Hispanic GOTV, he won't win anything."
- "An appointment from the Clinton Administration. Also, he could/may get a security consulting job."
- "Cannot think of the last time a county sheriff ran for the Lege. Notwithstanding, this is a local office with local appeal."
- "State Senator Adrian Garcia has a nice ring to it. Just don't let Battleground Texas convince him he's ready for a statewide run... isn't nobody got time for that nonsense."

Who has the advantage going into the Dec. 12 runoff for mayor of Houston?

- "King will make it an exciting runoff. The Republicans will try to make it a race, but at the end of the day, Houston is now a majority minority-voting city and Sylvester will reap the rewards. It will be Mayor Sylvester Turner, but we can still call him Mr. Speaker."
- "Turner now has to rely on the Hispanic vote to combine with the black vote. Hard to do. Also, voter turnout will favor the conservative in the current political environment."
- "I hope anyway; Rep. Turner is that rare public official who has respect from most everyone he has ever worked with. A successful mayoral

• "Not sure if he has the fire to run again."

- "Who?"
- "Who cares? He gave Houston both a bloated Sheriff's office budget and increased crime rates. Would be good if he stepped out of public life... but we will not likely be that lucky."
- "Seems murky for him. Another local slot perhaps."
- "Hard to bounce back after failing to make a runoff."
- "Maybe a Congressional seat."

tenure could lead to a bigger office. I typically don't agree with his position, but he possesses integrity, character and commitment rarely seen."

- "But he has to get the voters out on a Saturday from Christmas shopping. Not gonna be easy."
- "His previous elections help his name identification."
- "This is the year of the outsider — haven't you heard? Sylvester is an insider, go along to get along politician."
- "In truth it's a pick 'em race."

- "Third time will be the charm for Mr. Turner."
- "It's a Democratic city with a large black population."
- "Runoffs favor Republicans, especially Tea Partiers."
- "It's now a D vs. R election. Houston is a D city. Turner wins."
- "Without HERO on the ballot, King's support will melt away on election day."

King made headlines for receiving support from Republican Sen. Ted Cruz against Turner, a Democratic state legislator. Should mayoral elections in Texas be partisan?

- "A candidate doesn't have to list a political party affiliation in order for the voter to understand on what that candidate stands."
- "Everything is partisan, look no further than Austin."
- "Allowing them to be bipartisan is a great notion, but it does not really work in this era of Tea Party wackadoos! Sadly for Houston, the Harris Co. Republican Party ran an ENTIRE slate for city and school board offices — and they WORKED it. Many of their candidates have ended up in a runoff election! SAD for a Democratic city to potentially be represented by SO many crazies!"
- "In practicality they already are, though not typically spoken of in that manner."
- "Ted Cruz is a resident of Houston so any candidate should be happy to have his vote. It doesn't mean that the candidate is going to govern the same way Cruz governs (or doesn't govern). Does Sylvester Turner support every idea of everyone who has voted for him?"
- "They already are, can you not hear the soothing melodies of those dog whistles accompanying the candidates lyrical talking points? Its nonpartisan in name only."
- "Just because it would make them more interesting."
- "I think you meant to ask, 'Should mayoral elections in Texas remain partisan?'"
- "You mean they are not? Everyone knows the political party of the candidates."
- "God no"
- "Are you kidding? Cruz does not care about the city of Houston. All elections should be nonpartisan. We might actually get people who are willing to work together."
- "It's good for voters to know candidates beyond party affiliation."

- "Let the candidates run on a party label. It makes it easier to keep score."
- "They're effectively partisan anyway in most cities. People know which candidate is more inclined to tax and spend."
- "Ugh, they already are. Look at Austin mailers-endorsements from every Democratic Club."
- "Cruz has no party. Cruz just has Cruz."
- "Local races are already partisan - whether the labels are on the ballot or not."
- "Really? You asked that question? They already are. Don't kid yourself."
- "Does it matter?"
- "Of course. Anyone who can't tell a mayoral candidate's party is not paying attention. End the charade."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Gay Erwin, Jon Fisher, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzhauser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.