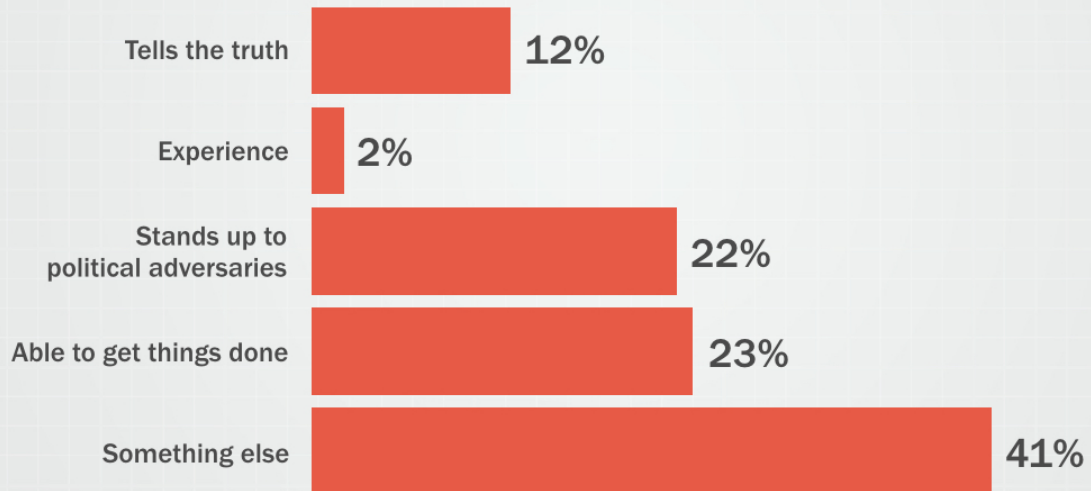


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 4 December 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

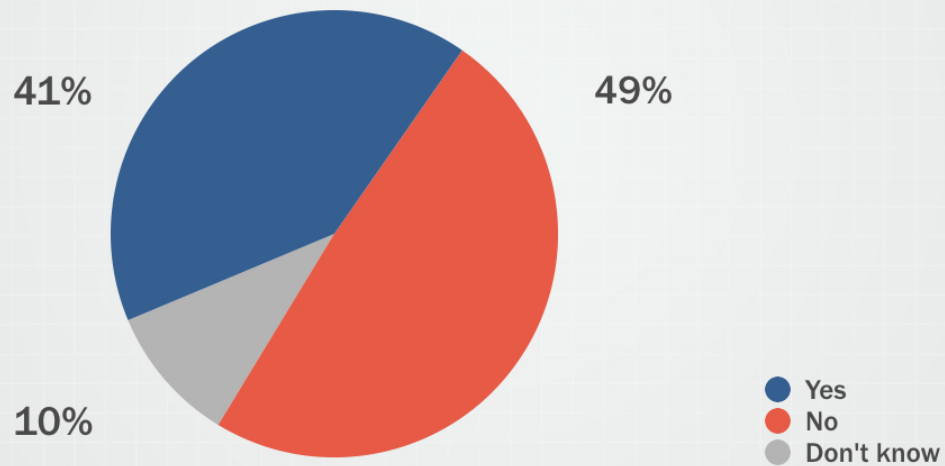
WHICH ATTRIBUTE DO VOTERS PRIZE
IN A CANDIDATE?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

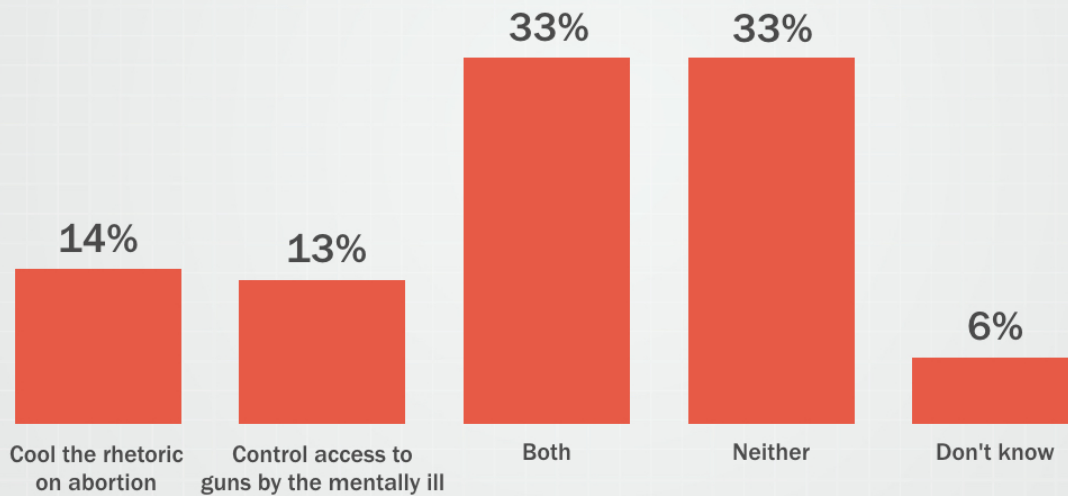
DO FACT CHECKERS INFLUENCE WHAT VOTERS
THINK ABOUT CANDIDATES?



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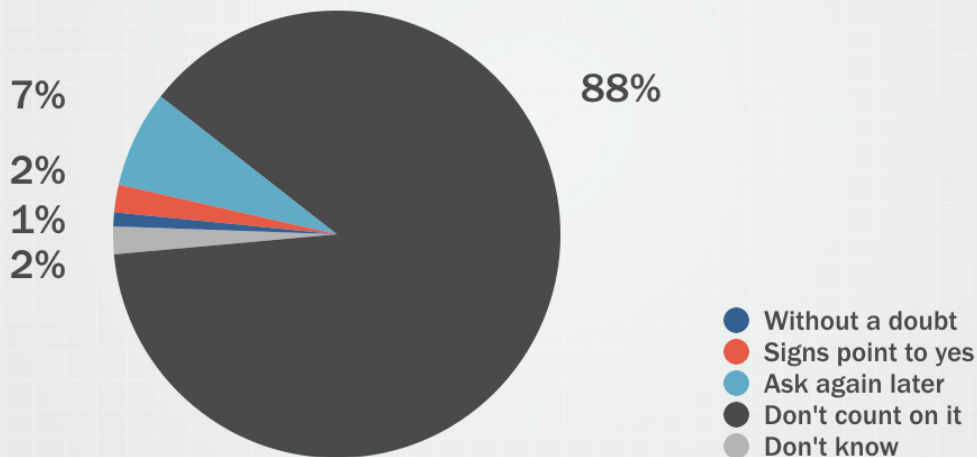
WHAT'S THE OVERRIDING MESSAGE OF ATTACK ON
THE COLORADO PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC?



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DOES COLORADO ATTACK CHANGE TEXAS
LAWMAKERS' TALK ON 1ST, 2ND AMENDMENTS?



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Which attribute do you think voters prize the most in a candidate for elected office?

- "Purity of Essence."
- "Looks and sounds good on TV."
- "The candidate's ability to express repeatedly the voters' own distorted assumptions of what the problems are and how to solve them."
- "Really depends on who you're talking about, i/r/t voters, doesn't it. Clearly, Democratic primary voters have different values than Republican primary voters, and non-primary voters have their own values. Etc. Etc."
- "Party affiliation and pandering to the specific needs of target voters"
- "Likability/personality — whether they think that matters or not, that's who they'll vote for. Just go chat with elected officials you know. They almost all have good personalities and are pretty good folks whether you agree with their politics or not."
- "Agrees with them."
- "Agrees with me... is obnoxious to others who don't."

- "Adherence to ideology."
- "It depends on which voters you're asking. If you're asking the Tim Dunn crowd, they care about standing up to political (namely Republican) adversaries. If you're asking mainstream Dems, they care about getting things done with a dash of experience thrown in. If you're asking mainstream GOPers, they care about experience and getting things done."
- "Really? This national silly season is so insane I have no idea how to answer."
- "Say what the voter wants to hear, and do it in a manner/style in which they find attractive."
- "Fighting spirit seems to trump everything else — experience, truth telling, competence."
- "Says things I want to hear."
- "Are you kidding me? It's political affiliation. Every stat tells us we are blind partisan voters."
- "Sensationalism seems to be capturing the day unfortunately!"
- "Truth combined with action is a winning team."
- "Outlandish rhetoric, evidently."
- "In a GOP primary? Whatever MQS says. That's all that seems to matter these days."
- "Trust"
- "You left 'authentic' off your list, the attribute that is clearly the top priority for voters in both parties. Beyond that, voters want someone who shares values and worldview and can articulate a course of action to achieve whatever political and policy perspectives that are needed to move forward on what they (the voters) view as the 'right' path."
- "Takes care of his constituents."
- "Tells them what they think they want to hear."
- "None of above. Trumper"
- "The candidate's political party."
- "Stands for, and leads, on specific principles."
- "Saying what the voter wants to hear."
- "☺ Good luck on that one!!"
- "In the current political environment, extremes and anger."
- "More than ever, 'agrees with me and my group and against the other' in a very polarized setting."
- "Who knows anymore?"
- "Are they so conservative that they would cut their own mother off Medicare because they are a leach on society."
- "Ability to pander and look good while doing so."
- "Authenticity — even if it's faked."

- "Has the most lobbyist money to pay for terrible television commercials."

- "Democrats want someone who can get them something of value. Republicans want someone who won't compromise on values. They're very

different attributes that voters desire in their politicians."

- "Right now, they just seem to want someone who will rage against the system."

Do fact checkers from third parties and organizations influence what voters think about candidates?

- "Trying to avoid being too cynical this morning, but thinking voters use the fact checkers (if they bother to read them) to confirm what they already believe; and they probably don't change any minds."

- "Only when the difference between statement and fact is EXTRAORDINARY."

- "No. Literally no one has ever cared what Gardner Selby ever thought about anything."

- "Pretty evident voters prefer to listen and believe the rhetoric."

- "Yea, the thin sliver of 'independent voters.'"

- "Sadly, yes. But it's mainly those who cannot or will not see past the agendas of the third party groups."

- "Voters on the far right and left believe what the campaigns tell them directly."

- "I am naive, a Pollyanna, a lapdog to the liberal media but please give me something I can hang on to... like somebody out there is paying attention."

- "Aren't fact checkers spin doctors?"

- "Yes ... IF voters actually pay attention."

- "Only wonks read fact checks. Unless the four Pinocchios becomes a TV ad."

- "Yes. If they don't have any influence, why do it?"

- "The story of this cycle has been the inability of media to change the electorate's perceptions through the unearthing and airing of negative information. See Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton."

- "If their findings are able to gain any traction with the media."

- "The people who are actually voting don't seem to be thinking."

- "It depends on whether the 'fact finding' is done without political spin."

- "Most voters are immune to facts! They know what they 'know'!"

- "Yes, with respect to people that haven't already become set."

- "Somewhat for the small amount of folks that read papers."
- "PolitiFact Texas is so utterly biased they cease to have any credibility at all."
- "The only people who think Fact Checkers are objective are the media. Fact Checkers are not even as objective as daily journalists. Instead, they are more like opinion columnists who use their 'fact checker' status to attack politicians they don't agree with. A quote from a fact checker may show up in a political ad, if it is useful, but like everything else in those ads, voters are skeptical."
- "The fact checkers might be more influential if they were actually accurate."
- "No. To GOP politicians, PolitiFact is a total joke. Any Republican who cooperates with PolitiFact, and lends respectability to its left-wing agenda, is guilty of political malpractice."
- "I certainly hope so."
- "Fact checkers are jokes."
- "Minimally, and only with the very small number of voters in the middle."
- "They do with the idiots that are voting in R primaries but not with those that should be voting."
- "Fact-free fact checking always wins. See Trump, Donald."
- "I don't know. I would hope so. But many in the electorate seem to be immune to facts, or untrusting of fact checkers. The Tea Party right often brands fact checkers as liberals."
- "Fact checkers are not trusted sources."

What's the overriding message of the Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic attack for politicians?

- "It's just another loser loner going on a shooting spree, pour more gas on the fire."
- "Law enforcement should investigate all threats and criminal acts regardless of the target and not politicize its approach or response to reports by complainants."
- "Both, but only for politicians who are beholden to the 40 percent of Republican primary voters who have lost their damn minds."
- "Republicans referencing the shooter as 'transgender'? Really lame. Really. Also, continuing their ongoing attack on those that are different and marginalized by society."
- "I don't think they draw any particular new conclusion from the attack. It just reaffirms their position (whatever it is)."
- "Based on media reports, the shooter is clearly off his rocker. Had Planned Parenthood not been at that location or

even in business, then he would have found another target."

- "You could almost predict this was going to happen and that silence would ensue. Sadly on all accounts."
- "The gun-toting anti-women group will never get it, and the other side seems to have other priorities, though what and why I just cannot understand."
- "Spewing hate and misinformation as a political strategy intended for primary races has an impact beyond the voting booth. The true believers would have been more favorable to the use of the biblical jawbone of an ass than an AK-47, but in actuality, there is little remorse and even less responsibility taking."
- "Obviously depends upon the party/position on abortion/gun control ... and what sells the best to constituents. "
- "The message is — blame the media. It's been working great in all situations so far."
- "How about '(c) Wait until investigators actually know why the loon did what he did before jumping to conclusions?' Oh who am I kidding, that'll never fly in today's social media culture."
- "The message should be about mental health, but abortion is a much sexier topic. Nobody is talking about the perpetrator — typical liberal response. Don't blame the criminal, blame others for causing the perpetrator to behave in such a manner."

- "The overriding message to GOP is that we need more guns to PROTECT ourselves from the attacker. It's certainly not to cool rhetoric on abortion."

- "Passing a plethora of bills cannot stop crazed killers. But passing bills can stop the merciless killing inside the abortion facilities."

- "I am pro-life and pro-gun but using one to enforce your belief is no better than ISIS."

- "Crazy people do crazy things. There is really very little that can be done to curb these random acts by clinically insane people. Taking guns away from law-abiding citizens (AKA Hillary Clinton Gun Repatriation Act) will have zero impact."

- "Pro-lifers had the upper hand in the argument. Now they don't since the truth won't be told that the guy was a leftist."

- "NRA will stop."

- "It's both. It depends on the political party to which the politician belongs."

- "Try to avoid using mental health tragedies to score cheap political points."

- "Nuts are nuts. Trying to link the Colorado incident with rhetoric shows the left wing bias of the news outlets."

- "A deranged dude killing people in a highly charged setting. This won't matter much as to policymaking. It will simply be an incident both sides of the

abortion debate will discuss as it suits them."

- "The message should be everyone needs to chill out. But that one won't be well received."

- "It should be Both, but in Texas it will be Neither. The Right will continue to refuse to engage in logic and reason."

Does the Colorado attack change how Texas lawmakers talk about First Amendment and Second Amendment rights?

- "No. Not at ALL. They just say, 'if someone in the clinic had a gun they could have saved all those killed.'"

- "Hard to imagine Texas lawmakers changing their current dialogue on 1A and 2A issues."

- "If the abortionist had guns, this would not have happened. A modest proposal..."

- "How about 'not a chance.'"

- "Rhetoric isn't to blame, which is your underlying assumption. The real issue is DEFENSE. Defense of innocent life. Defense of our Bill of Rights."

- "Let's see both are protected. Speech is speech and protected even if you don't like it. Just as they don't like speech that is not in agreement with them. Particularly speech that might hurt someone's FEELINGS. Guns ARE protected by the Constitution even if revisionist liberals and progressives don't like them. And when will they

- "The Planned Parenthood affair is chaos with no clear message. It's just a big, tragic, mess."

- "Mental health issues are our #1 security threat to our country."

learn that only the thugs and criminals and NON law abiding idiots will have guns if we outlaw them. Please. Until the Constitution is changed then it is what it is. Sheesh. I am sick of the liberal progressive BS in our culture. Just because you don't like it does not mean you crush it and engage in personal attacks. Oh, that is all liberals have. They can't win on facts. It is all emotional name calling malarkey."

- "How about NO. Why wasn't that an answer option?"

- "Maybe we should change how the Texas Tribune talks about rights. Maybe they should have their speech regulated. To muzzle citizens or lawmakers, the press must first take a dose and see how they like it."

- "Will efforts to put guns everywhere also apply to the inside of abortion clinics?"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, 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, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, John Esparza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.