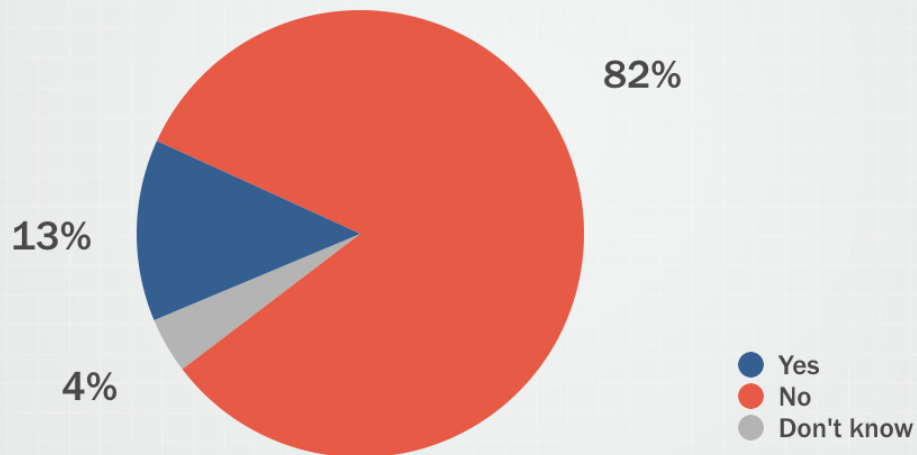


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 11 December 2015*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

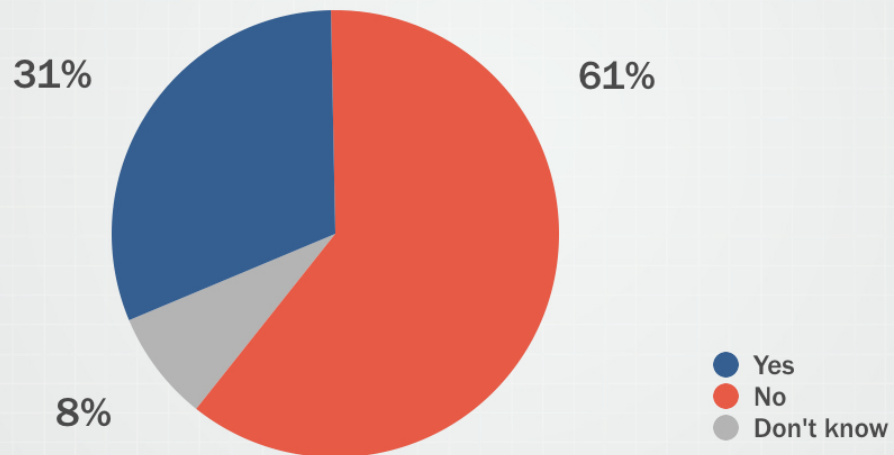
CAN RICK PERRY'S PRESIDENTIAL  
CAMPAIGN BE RESTARTED?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

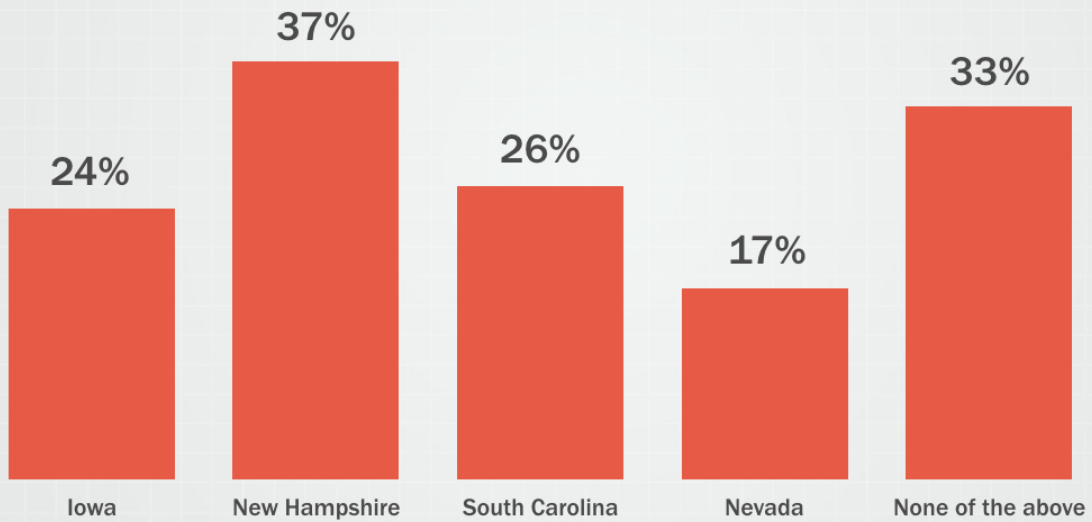
CAN JEB BUSH'S PRESIDENTIAL  
CAMPAIGN BE REVIVED?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

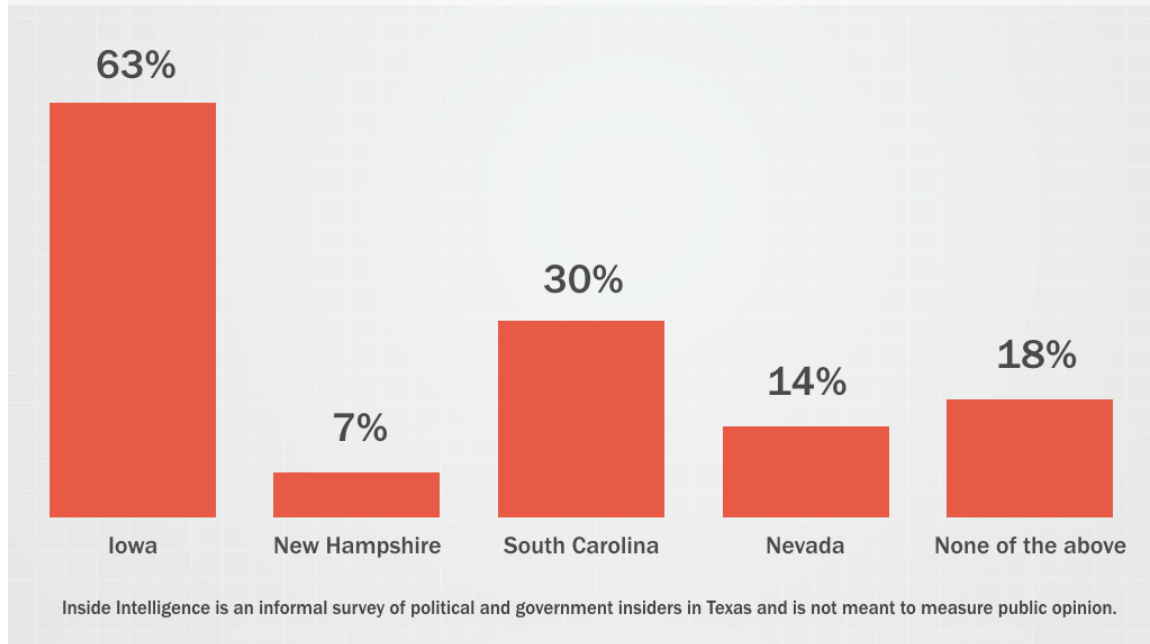
WHICH EARLY STATES DOES DONALD TRUMP WIN?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

## WHICH EARLY STATES DOES TED CRUZ WIN?



### ***With talk of a super PAC trying to lure Rick Perry back into the presidential race, can this zombie candidate be reanimated?***

- "Missed too many ballot deadlines."
- "That ship has sailed."
- "A little too late!"
- "He's deader than dead. And the indictments had nothing to do with it. It's all on the exceptionally mediocre Rick Perry."
- "He has to be on the VP list, as well as U.S. Ag Secretary list, doesn't he?"
- "You can't fix..."
- "Zombies are still dead even though they walk around."
- "Can it? Yes. Should it? No."
- "Lol."
- "Ah, yes. Have you looked at who's leading the polls?"
- "Zombies are undead. Meaning that they cannot be brought back to life."
- "Why not? With enough money and, frankly, compared to the rest of the group, he's a much better option."

- "Look at the alternatives."
- "Really???? I mean, really???"
- "Already too many 'zombies' in this race."
- "Too late to file in enough states. As if anyone cared."
- "No way."
- "No. Ask Ross Perot."

- "Complete BS."
- "Heavens no. It is literally too late to get on the ballot in several states."
- "His political career is over... can someone clue him in?"
- "All the no."

***Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush continues to languish in the polls despite the financial largesse of affiliated super PACs. Can his candidacy be revived?***

- "No path back to relevance"
- "Trump will lose Iowa and he will not handle it the right way. Trump's departure will open up the pathway for Jeb. All Jeb has to do is avoid the bully during lunch and recess."
- "Will catch the backlash, after Republicans get tired of hearing the constant negative remarks of Trump!"
- "He would be in Jindal territory (under one percent) if his name were not Bush."
- "There seems to be a dullness associated with his performance, it certainly isn't inspirational and he's oblivious to the populist zeitgeist... in fact, he doesn't even realize he and those like him are the reason for the populist wave."
- "Not without a little energy, and he just doesn't have it. Think the other

Floridian in the race has him aced out at this point."

- "R insiders will scramble to make sure he is in the mix to save the party from Trump, Carson, Cruz."
- "Although Jeb Bush is arguably the best qualified candidate in the Republican field, he cannot win due to the anti-establishment revolution attitude of the primary voters, his own lackluster, dull, lack of confidence demeanor, and his brother's national hangover."
- "It's a waiting game. All he has to do is wait for the field to winnow down until he's one of the last couple of guys (or guys and gal) standing."
- "Would seem a bit premature to dismiss him. He does, after all, represent an important component of the GOP, and a clear alternative to much of the bombast that currently

characterizes the race, even if he's not exactly soaring in the polls as of now."

- "Presidential campaign have become long games. As the fads flame out, the standards will emerge."
- "I'm blessed to be ignorant of the inner workings of the Republican presidential nominating process for this cycle."
- "No amount of money is going to convince the public that we need another Bush in the White House."
- "Yes, because he's paid for organization, which will get him to March 1. But Florida is March 15."
- "Remember, Iowa is a caucus and not really voting. He just needs to survive until the actually voting starts to occur e.g. NH and beyond. The field will start to cull after that."
- "The vote is next month. Today, largesse = viable"

### ***Which early nominating states does Donald Trump win?***

- "Almost as good a chance it's none other than NH."
- "Nada! Trump's no winner."
- "Trump is fading fast, even though the polls don't indicate it. The GOP cannot win with him on top."
- "His allure will fade as voters get serious about who can beat Hillary and who would make the best president."

- "Just not going to happen for him."
- "How did he ever get to be governor?"
- "It's appearing less likely all the time, but it could be that when primary voters are reaching for that button, they will pause and think, I can't honestly vote for (nutball number X), and instead vote for the safe candidate."
- "The next Bush to watch is George P. Not this one."
- "A common sense 'moderate' has no chance."
- "Anyone still in the race can turn it around. But he'll need to get momentum in the next three months, four weeks if he wants a fighting chance."
- "Wrong last name."
- "Most of the no."

- "I really have no idea, and anyone who says they do is selling a bill of goods. These are not 'normal' times, it makes the use of the axiom 'crazy season' seem quaint."
- "...it will be H-U-G-E!!!! The Republican party is definitely facing a conundrum."
- "He'll be the proverbial '3-day-old fish' by then and destined for the trash heap."

- "He won't win a single one and he'll cry that the RNC is 'unfair.' Then he'll launch a 3rd party campaign."
- "Stuff happens."
- "Nevada. HUGE."
- "If he wins, we should secede."
- "One of the first two..."

### ***Which early nominating states does Ted Cruz win?***

- "He will be overall delegate leader on Mar. 2"
- "The Cruz train is on a roll. Trump will be out of the race by the end of the year. Dr. Carson is about to get scrutinized in the media and will follow. And the Cruz Missile (known as Heidi Cruz) will rise and make everyone like her husband."
- "Receives the support of Carson and some Trump followers."
- "Cruz has run a steady, low-error campaign that features exceptional organization. Cruz himself has proved an adept campaigner, both as orator and in arm-squeezing small events."
- "Ibid, I really have no idea, and anyone who says they do is selling a bill of goods. These are not 'normal' times, it makes the use of the axiom 'crazy season' seem quaint."
- "He'll win Iowa. For some perspective, Santorum also won Iowa."
- "If he wins the nomination, may have to move to Canada or Cuba..."
- "I think that his rhetoric and bombast, though perhaps popular right now with a part of the GOP base, it (like that of Trump) will ultimately fade. Stated differently, the value of November electability will ultimately supersede other factors. Plus, the lad appears to be on the verge of tears at all times."
- "Ted Cruz looks good, and a lot like what's his name... Newt Gingrich."
- "He had a chance in Iowa until he told the 'Don't Tread on Me' crowd he wants to end their feeding at the trough of government corn subsidies."
- "Ted is trending up. He's built the campaign on a solid foundation — grassroots, issues, and money. It's a winning combination."
- "One of the first two... even Republican right wingers will figure out that Cruz and Trump are going to take the party down."



***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, John Esparza, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.