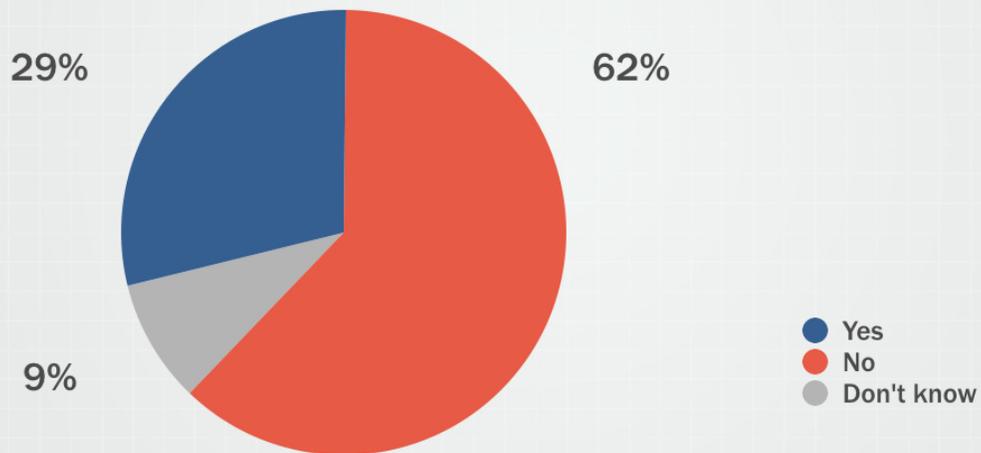


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 25 March 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

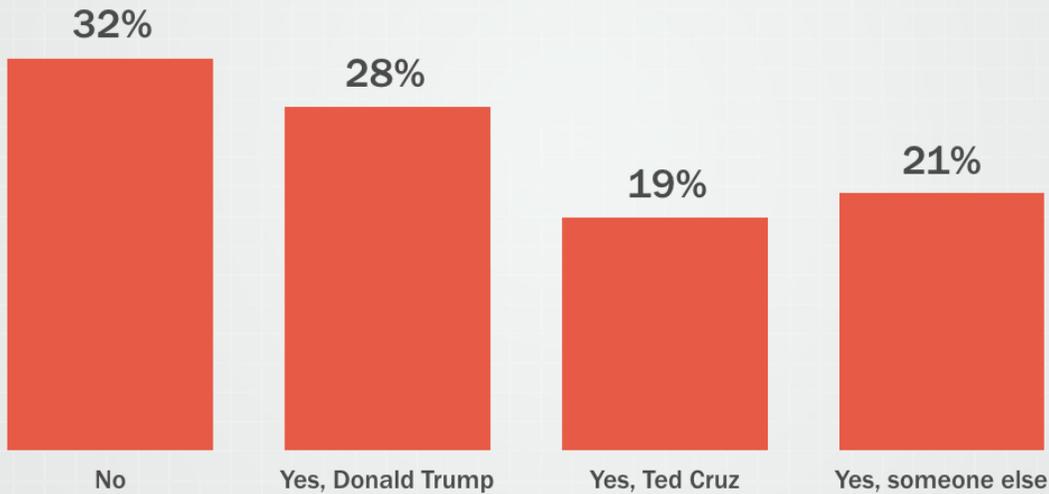
DOES JOHN KASICH DROP OUT BEFORE
THE NATIONAL GOP CONVENTION?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

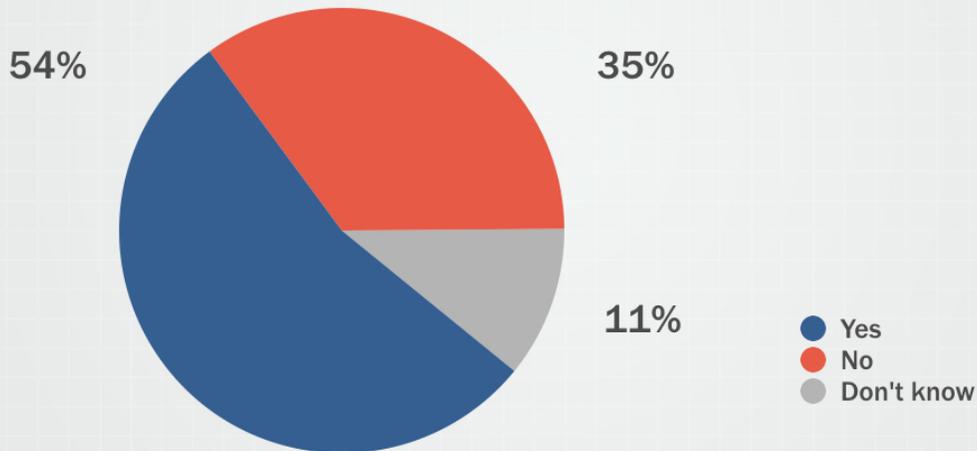
WILL THERE BE A CONTESTED CONVENTION,
AND WHO WOULD WIN?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

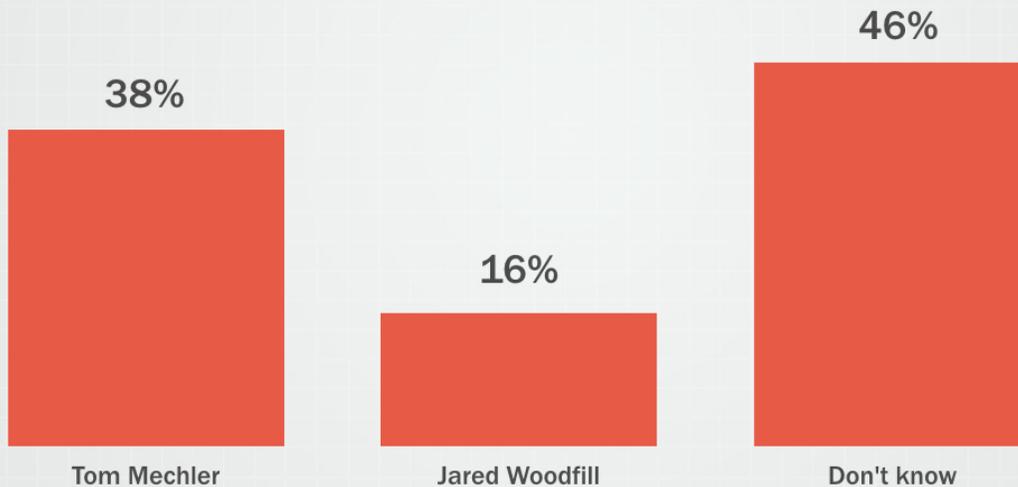
DOES A CONTESTED CONVENTION HURT THE
GOP NOMINEE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TEXAS GOP CHAIRMAN?



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

Does John Kasich drop out before the national GOP convention?

- "Whether or not he drops out, Kasich is part of the group that plans to 'overthrow Trump,' otherwise known as those Republicans in denial about today's voters."
- "He's too pissed at voters to drop out."
- "Hope not, who else is left that is reasonable."
- "Let's hope not. He's the only rational one left."
- "Trump will have 1237 by then."
- "Does it matter?"
- "He doesn't drop out even though he becomes increasingly less relevant, but his presence in the field allows Trump to build a bit more of a margin over Cruz heading into convention."
- "He better."
- "He should, but he won't."
- "I'm beginning to suspect he's on Trump's payroll, just like Christie is, and just like Carson is."

- "With fewer than a couple dozen states left, why get out? He'll ride into Cleveland and try to play king maker."
- "Kasich thinks he has a chance in a brokered convention because he knows the establishment doesn't want Trump or Cruz."
- "They can't afford for Trump to beat Cruz. They need a third candidate in to force it into the brokered convention."
- "Kasich drops out before the convention. A tree falls in the forest with no one around to hear it. Pity. Such a good man, and so qualified."
- "I wish he would win some states."
- "No, he is the only remaining 'establishment Republican.' ABC, Anybody But Cruz!"
- "He's almost out of money."
- "Why should he?"
- "He won't drop out but he will be marginalized."
- "He's not angling to win with delegates; and wouldn't it be nice to have someone who can carry Ohio on either of the top two spots on the ticket? He's in better shape than anyone; why quit now?"

Will there be a contested convention, and who would win?

- "No way the conventioners will select Trump on the 2nd ballot."
- "I think Donald is poised to clinch the nomination soon."
- "No one will have enough delegates to win the nomination before convention. Anti-Trump factions unite and end up making Ted Cruz (who is just disliked rather than despised) the unlikely nominee."
- "This may be wishful thinking, but I am hoping Republicans aren't dumb enough to put Mr. Trump in the possible situation of becoming President. And I think if it comes to a contested convention, Sen. Cruz will prevail."
- "The bombings in Belgium occurring while the President is posing with his comrades in front of a Che mural will serve to make a politically incorrect, unabashed capitalist calling for a stop to immigration seem like the perfect solution to all of this country's woes. Now where can we find one...?"
- "Kasich. If the GOP goes to a contested convention because no one has a majority, the goal will be to pick a presidential candidate that can protect the Republican majorities in the U.S. House and Senate."
- "I don't know who will win, but I can tell you who will lose: the GOP."
- "And Cruz/the Party damn well better pick Fiorina or a Hispanic as the Veep candidate."
- "No one works harder and is better organized at the grassroots level."

- "Trumpmania continues unabated. He gets to his number. The more they try to stop him, the more support he gets. Roughly my 14th choice out of the original 17. Get over it and move on. There's always 2020."

- "I have no f*cking idea what is going to happen."

Does a contested convention hurt the GOP nominee in the general election?

- "A contested convention where Trump wins would make Trump stronger, not weaker."

- "If it gets messy. And more so given media bias for Democrats."

- "Depends, the GOP could lose either way. Trump is not electable for President and neither is Cruz for that matter. But, the Trump folks will sit on their rear end if he isn't nominated."

- "If the convention respects the will of the voters, I think we will emerge even stronger. If they go a different route, it will have long-term negative implications."

- "It would bolster the GOP if the nominee had acceptably low unfavorables."

- "It will not hurt them in the least to have a contested convention because the GOP has predictably doubled down on crazy this election cycle and thus stands no chance of appealing to anyone outside of their core base."

- "A contested convention pushes viewership to historic levels. How the

- "Trump will take the nomination before they get to Cleveland."

party (and eventual nominee) choose to use that large public stage will make all the difference in the world."

- "If the contested convention shows Mr. Trump the door, it will help the GOP brand by showing they are still serious about the country. If not, well, adios."

- "It shouldn't. Contested conventions is just a process to determine a nominee when the preferred process (caucuses and primaries) fails to do so. They're structured, heavily governed by rules and procedures and likely to arrive at a correct result. Of course, the mainstream media will attempt to use such as a cudgel against the GOP nominee whoever that person may be."

- "Doesn't matter since it will be Trump. He will lose general either way."

- "Yes. The GOP will be fractured and there's not a person out there — present candidate or otherwise — who can unite the party. The damage is done and is insurmountable. Funny thing is, it's ALWAYS the other fellow's fault — HE didn't get out soon enough. These clowns are incapable of self-reflection."

- "The general public doesn't understand the electoral college or delegates as is. This will only confirm their suspicions that their votes don't count, that the system is rigged."
- "Not sure how much more 'hurt' the GOP can deal with in an already long-shot general. Contested convention would add to the circus. Circular firing squad on meth."
- "It's a continuation of this televised GOP suicide."
- "Every possibility it hurts the GOP up and down the ballot."
- "But not as much as a Donald Trump or a Ted Cruz candidacy will hurt the Republicans."
- "Not if it keeps Trump from being the nominee."
- "Hillary is a fatally flawed candidate."
- "Depends on who gets the ax. If Trump is very close and doesn't get it, then the eventual nominee will be hurt in November. Otherwise, no."

Who will be the next Texas GOP chairman?

- "The Wackos love him."
- "Could care less, they just are needed to keep the machinery going and raise money, otherwise they are not relevant."
- "Jared Woodfill and the chair of the Travis County GOP will be quite a pair. Headlines candy for the press."
- "And don't care"
- "As long as it's not that guy from Travis County, I don't really care..."
- "Lord help us if Woodfill gets control of the party. I mean, his vice chair running mate basically ran the party into the ground when she was chairwoman. Why on earth would anyone give serious consideration to a slate that includes her?"
- "If it is Jared Woodfill, I am moving to my second home in Florida. Ha!"
- "Mechler is blah, Woodfill is a principled anti-establishment conservative who takes on the special interests and wins."
- "Mechler must be one of those 'librels'?"
- "Who cares?"
- "Jesus... I hope Mechler wins. Woodfill would accelerate the demise of the GOP."
- "Melcher is already running on his record, which he doesn't have."
- "Tom is a solid guy and hence won't win."
- "No one really cares."

- "After his HERO victory, Woodfill is a force to be reckoned with."

- "Why would Republicans elect a guy who helped turn Harris County Democrat to head of the whole show? Hotze is over-reaching here."

- "Everyone knows God is a Republican and is intimately involved in day to day operations of the RPT. God will save us from Jared Woodfill."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jack Erskine, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Chuck Rice, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.