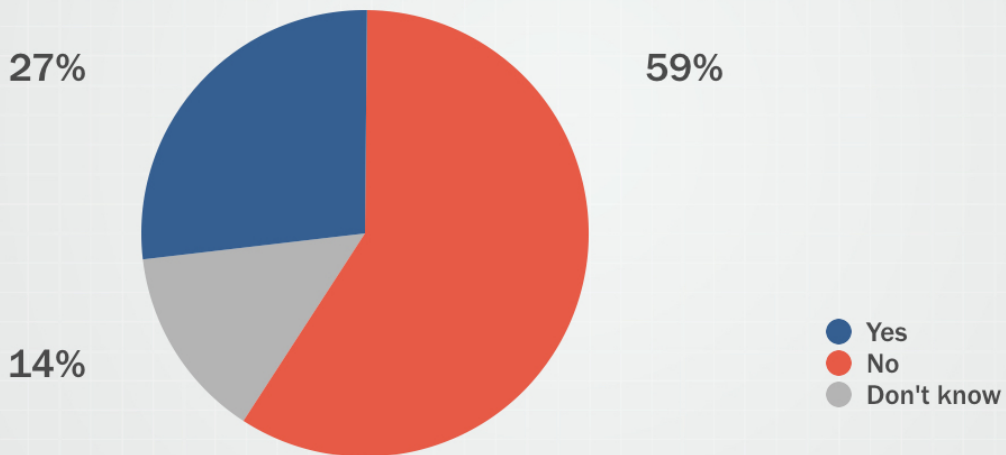


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 8 April 2016*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

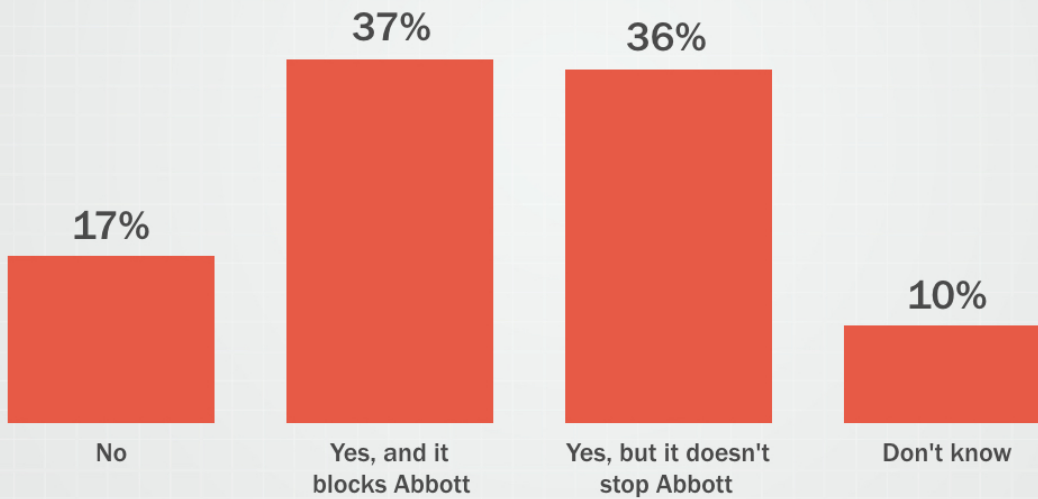
NOW THAT GREG ABBOTT HAS PUBLISHED HIS BOOK, IS A PRESIDENTIAL RUN IN 2020 A FOREGONE CONCLUSION?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

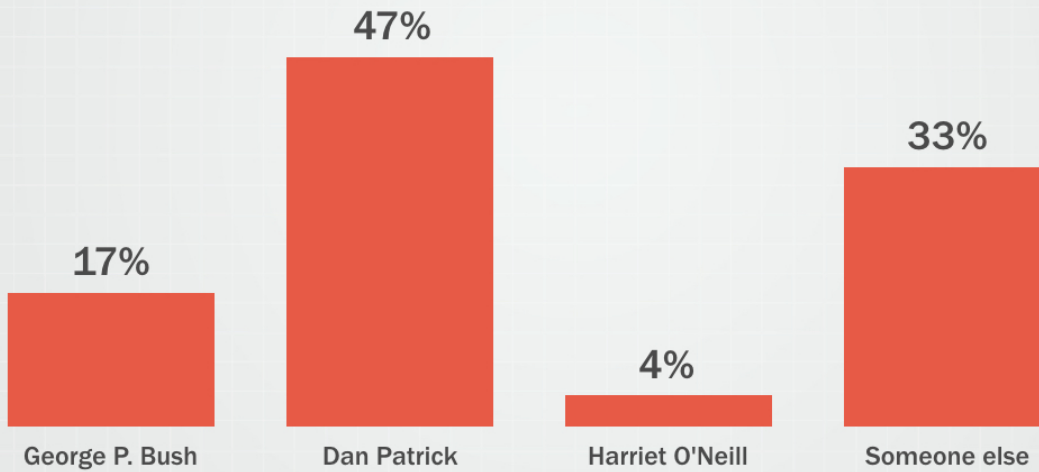
DOES TED CRUZ RUN AGAIN IF HE FALLS SHORT OF THE WHITE HOUSE THIS YEAR AND, IF SO, DOES THAT BLOCK ABBOTT'S PATH?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

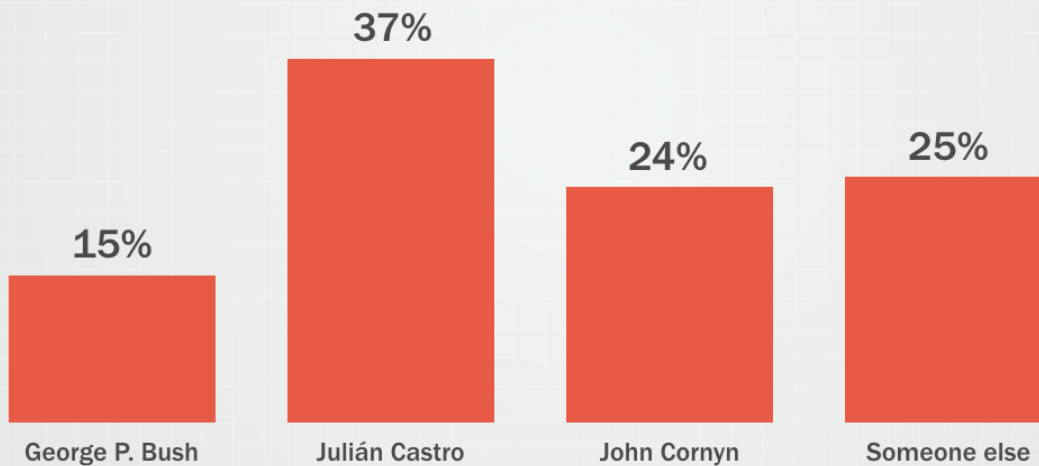
WHO IS ABBOTT LIKELY TO APPOINT TO THE U.S SENATE  
IF CRUZ MOVES UP OR OUT?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

WHICH TEXAS POLITICO ISN'T PART OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CONVERSATION NOW BUT COULD BE IN 2020?



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## ***Now that Greg Abbott has published his “here’s how to fix America” book, is a presidential run in 2020 a foregone conclusion?***

- "That depends entirely on 2016... and if Cruz wins the nomination and loses narrowly in November, he will probably try again in 2020. If he loses by a healthy margin, he may try again but won't gain traction."
- "If Hillary wins, yes."
- "We have seen this cycle that the public demands candidates who can talk fast and think on their feet. Abbott is plenty smart, but his team keeps him isolated from the press (and real people) most of the time, which has dulled his communication skills."
- "Monkey see, monkey do."
- "It depends on who wins this year."
- "Could depend on the 2016 outcome."
- "Possible. He's posturing for such, for sure."
- "But a VP or cabinet position is not out of possibility in 2016."

- "The travel demands of a presidential campaign are brutal for everyone involved, especially so if you're in a wheelchair. I see this as a way to increase and firmly establish his national profile in the hope of an appointment in President Cruz's Cabinet."

- "Well, John, you're rather presumptuous this week. Who are you predicting to win, Trump or Hillary?"

- "Greg Abbott has no intention to be President of the United States."

- "Maybe he is positioning himself for Veep."

- "Haven't we been through this movie before?"

- "By definition, any Governor of Texas is always a potential candidate."

- "It depends on who wins the presidency this year."

- "No Presidential timber here. This is a guy who won his election during 'rampant voter fraud' and now wants to

***Does Ted Cruz run again in 2020 if he falls short of the White House this year and, if so, does that block Abbott's path?***

- "Poor question construction that assumes an answer to question 1. If you're sensible and don't expect Abbott to run for president, there's no response for you in this question."

- "Cruz is an egomaniac."

- "Abbott can be on the Texas ballot twice if he's running for president and governor."

change the U.S. Constitution after proudly 'suing the federal government every day' to uphold the U.S. Constitution."

- "What better way to keep a foothold on your job should a former candidate for POTUS fail at that capacity, possibly narrowly, and decide the Governor's office looks attractive? Have yourself in the discussion for that caliber of position as well can't hurt."

- "Abbott so much wants to emulate Rick Perry; at times going way beyond what RP would have done. How about we fix 'Texas' first... let's fix our roads, high property taxes, school funding, water, and transportation woes."

- "It will be more of a presidential roll than a presidential run."

- "Unless he wants to run against Ted Cruz, a 2020 race is ill advised."

- "Let's see what he can do in Texas first before we think about presidential dreams."

- "If Ted is the nominee and he loses the Election, he is done. If Ted doesn't get the nomination, he'll sit in the Senate and blast Hillary Clinton's proposals every day — but with four years to think about it, Republicans will come up with a 2020 candidate who has a broader reach than Ted."

- "Believe it depends on who wins the presidential election this year."

- "Two from Texas won't make it again. Abbott remains Governor and waits until the second term Dem is out of office."
- "This presumes Abbott is running in 2020, and I'm not convinced he is. We all know Ted has the ego (and FIGHT!) to run again."
- "Ted Cruz will run for president as long as he can breathe air."
- "Greg Abbott has no intention to be President of the United States."
- "Are you kidding? Greg runs. Don't get in his way, and that would be a great political theatre. Two of the most overly ambitious pols in the universe!"
- "I doubt Abbott has the physical strength to run a presidential campaign. Outside of Texas, you can't just hide after the primary."
- "Abbott isn't running, but if he were, Cruz's running wouldn't stop him."
- "Maybe more importantly, Cruz gets disgusted with D.C. and looks at gubernatorial prospects. Succession anyone?"
- "Ted Cruz has one bite at the apple... and he is taking it now. Abbott won't run for President."
- "The premise that Greg Abbott has a path to the White House is your first mistake."
- "Lyin' Ted is in it for Ted and Ted only."

***Since we're talking about musical political chairs, who is Abbott likely to appoint to the U.S. Senate if Cruz moves up or out?***

- "Cruz isn't going anywhere."
- "Dan is the man, Konni Burton for Lite Guv."
- "Eva Guzman"
- "George P. sounds good, Patrick wants to be Governor. Probably someone from the Legislature."
- "Appoint Dan Patrick, and take care of the 2018 primary threat to the Governor's re-election."
- "Donny Ray Willett"
- "If I were Abbott, I would appoint Wallace Jefferson."
- "Keyser Soze, or other Republican hatchet person"
- "A Christian right conservative"
- "Michael McCaul"
- "An attorney."
- "The musician sitting a nice chair at Abbott's Austin political fundraiser later this month: Jimmie Vaughan."

- "Greg Abbott"
- "Patrick and Bush want to be Governor. Another Hispanic would be smarter."
- "Probably me. I am available"
- "Harriet O'Neill would be a breath of fresh air and the best for Texas!"
- "Senator Dewhurst"
- "Resigns. And lets Patrick appoint him."
- "Eva Guzman"
- "I'd say Patrick, but once lost the U.S. Senate, Patrick might never realize his dream of becoming God-Emperor of Texas. So Abbott might have to choose among Hegar, a Railroad Commissioner, or even Paxton. George P. Bush is too much Establishment to interest Abbott."
- "Daniel Hodge"
- "Daniel Hodge is likely to appoint himself."
- "Eva Guzman"
- "How hard would the Bush family come down on Abbott to appoint Prescott to the vacant post???"
- "Oh my sweet Jesus, who under God's heaven could possibly satisfy the groups who would need to be satisfied???"
- "Pete Olsen"
- "Glenn Hegar"
- "Up and out of the way"

***Which Texas politico isn't part of the presidential conversation now but could be in 2020?***

- "Another poorly constructed question. You need a response for 'none.'"
- "Well, if we have anything to learn from this year's primary season, it would likely be one of our more eccentric Texans, perhaps Jerry Jones."
- "I don't see 2020 as a year for a Texan."
- "No one"
- "Abbott"
- "Unfortunately, no one from Texas"
- "Dan Patrick"
- "None"
- "Dan Patrick"
- "Mark Cuban or Eddie Chiles if he were still alive."
- "Crazy yet to be determined"
- "Julián is dreaming. His leftism might seem fashionable right now with



Bernie's success among naive youngsters. Bush wants to be Governor. Cornyn has one of the best gigs around."

- "Are you kidding? There's no bench in either party!"
- "Too soon even to speculate"
- "Rick Perry"
- "All of the above, and more."

- "Michael McCaul"
- "There is not a Texas politico worthy of this mention."
- "Dan Patrick"
- "None of the above"
- "None of the above. Julián may be a VP candidate."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Elna Christopher, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jack Erskine, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Jim Henson, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, 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, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, 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, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.