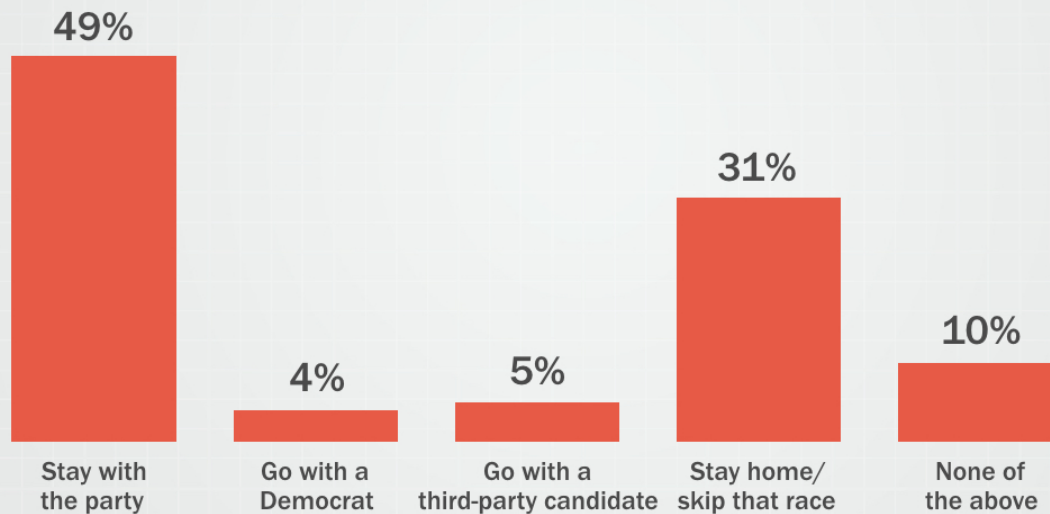


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 13 May 2016*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

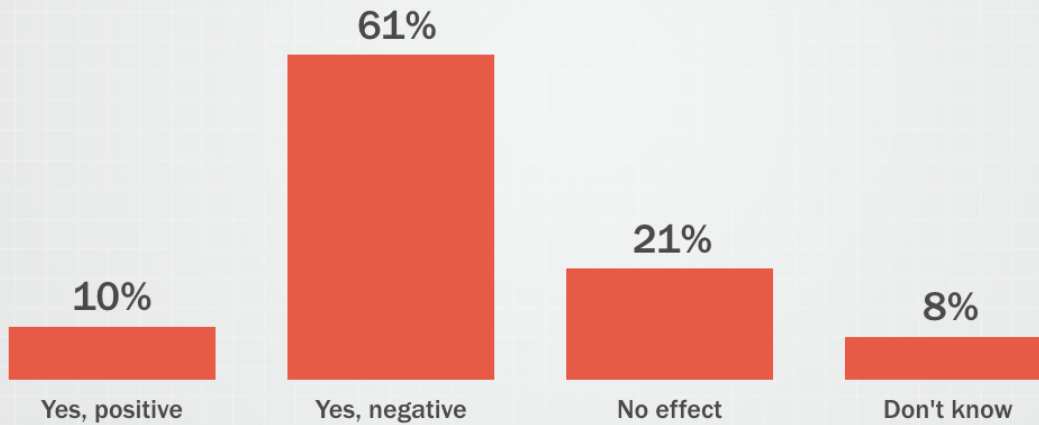
WHAT'S THE EFFECT OF GOP NOMINEE DONALD TRUMP ON  
REPUBLICAN GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS IN TEXAS?



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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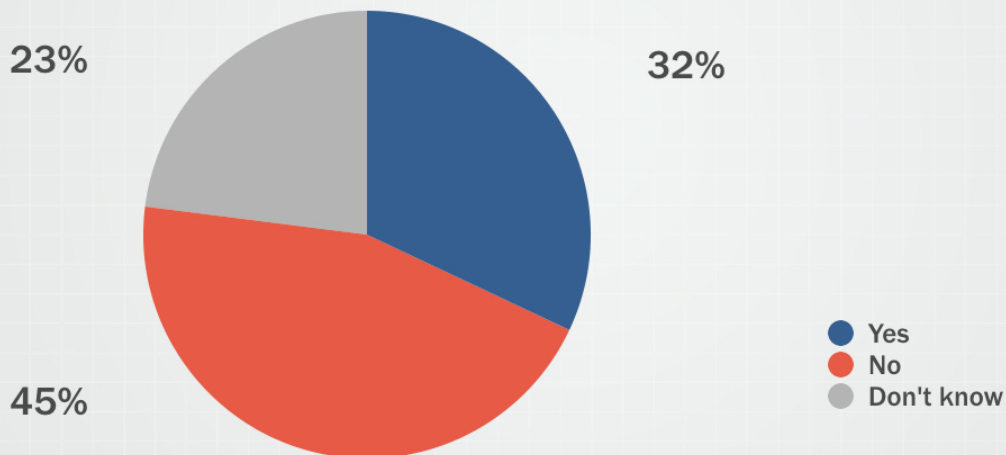
DOES NOMINEE TRUMP HAVE A COLLATERAL EFFECT ON  
DOWNBALLOT REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES IN SWING DISTRICTS,  
LIKE WILL HURD OR RICK GALINDO?



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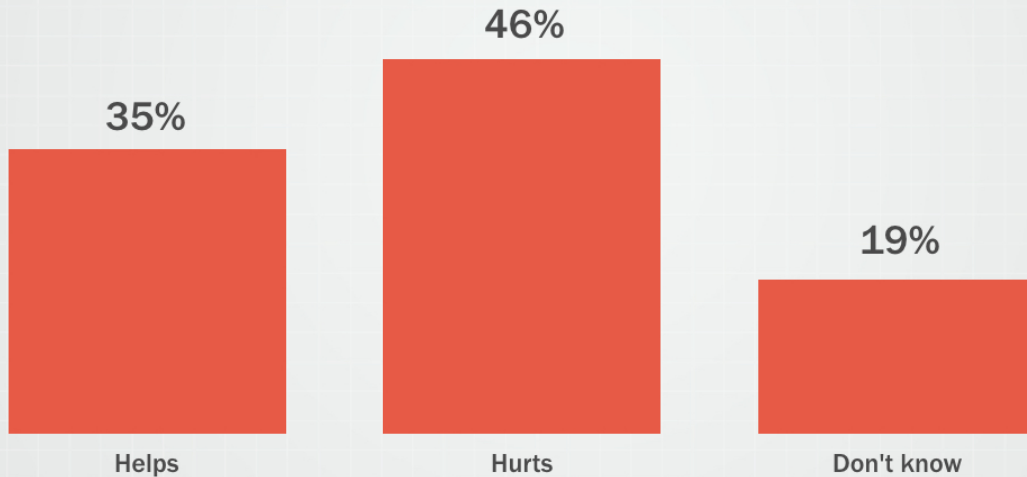
DOES TRUMP REACH OUT TO A FORMER RIVAL FOR THE  
NOMINATION AS HIS CHOICE FOR VEEP?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

IF RICK PERRY WERE THE VEEP NOMINEE,  
DOES HE HELP OR HURT TRUMP?



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## ***What's the effect of GOP nominee Donald Trump on Republican general election voters in Texas?***

- "Few real Republicans will be able to bring themselves to click that ballot for Trump. They'll skip over that race and go on to others."
- "The few remaining Chamber of Commerce Republicans will avoid straight-ticket voting this cycle. The result will be that Repubs in Harris Co., Dallas Co., Bexar Co. and a few others will get an early retirement."
- "I've never voted for a Democrat for President, but plan to do so this year."
- "I think Texas is one state where the Trump effect is negligible given the state's conservative (and somewhat irrational) leanings. I don't think most conservative voters in Texas are concerned with Trump as the presidential candidate."
- "I don't know."
- "Trump is already backtracking on many conservative issues. Peel back the orange and you find a New York liberal."

- "It's pretty obvious that statewide leaders, sans Bush, are sticking with the party so I can only assume the rest of the sheeple will follow the shepherds."
- "A good Republican will never be able to vote for Hillary, so my guess is they'll just stay home, since in most places there aren't any other contested races to draw them to the polls."
- "While having Trump at the top of the ticket will likely cause some who are usually reliable Republican voters to vote for Clinton; vote for a third candidate; skip the presidential race; or just not vote, the effect will be marginal overall. It will matter in some of the few competitive districts, particularly those where Trump's anti-Latino agenda will push away conservative Latinos."
- "The Donald will now begin to morph into that more moderate conservative Republican to appeal to the great middle of the party long put off by the hardliner social conservatives. He will lose some of the Cruz supporters but he may gain just as many who would never have voted for Cruz anyway."
- "I believe there should be an 'all of the above.'"
- "All politics is local. GOP Texans may not support Trump with passion, but you better believe they'll support their down ballot Republicans."
- "He will drive up Republican voter turnout."
- "All of the above"
- "Trump will still win TX easily."
- "Two terrible candidates for Presidency... where did we go so wrong!"
- "Actually, all of the above."
- "Depends on VP"
- "It will not make any difference."
- "Even Texans may be tired of the Republican nonsense and will show up to vote in November."
- "No clue"
- "The status quo is out the window in this cycle. Who would have predicted this? And who, with any level of certainty, knows what's next?"
- "Trump's margin will not match recent GOP victories, but will be substantial."
- "Will increase turnout with first-time voters that will vote for Trump."
- "Most will probably hold their nose and still vote straight ticket."
- "While Trump's candidacy would normally keep many Republicans home, Clinton's candidacy will inspire many who would otherwise skip the race to come out. I think the sport terminology is offsetting fouls."

***Does nominee Trump have a collateral effect on down ballot Republican candidates in swing districts, like Will Hurd or Rick Galindo?***

- "Congressional District 23 is a pendulum district based on election cycle; Presidential cycle goes to Dems, and interim cycle goes to Repubs. Because of Trump, Hurd may be the last Republican to represent CD-23."
- "Hurd is toast. Galindo is toast. Pena is toast. Lujan is toast. Shall I continue?"
- "There doesn't seem to be an attempt to frame either race as a 'race against Trump.' As such, it's unlikely that Trump plays a deciding factor in these races, especially Hurd's race. Gallego seems to be sticking to a standard list of 'concerns' about Hurd as his message platform."
- "He ain't helping, so he hurts."
- "Congressman Gallego and Rep. Cortez will be back in office, thanks to Trump on the ticket."
- "Yup. Voters will stay home rather than vote for either Trump or Clinton."
- "Since Trump is playing a role, it will depend on how much he can move from the primary candidate to the nominee and broaden his appeal, and on how effective the down ballot candidates can be at convincing voters that the down ballot is important."
- "I have no idea."
- "These are districts with Hispanic voters and I believe the Democrats will use Trump's words against him to motivate Hispanics to vote in these two districts."
- "It affects turnout. Turnout is key in swing districts. I can't help but think the GOPers aren't motivated to turn out, whereas the Dems are jazzed. This is likely bad news for Hurd."
- "Certainly negative"
- "It is too soon to know how much Hillary's negatives will suppress the Democrat vote."
- "Hell, to the YES!!! And on more than just them, women... GONE TOO!"
- "If you are Republican in a swing district, you need to be seriously contemplating your next career move."
- "No clue, but based upon the emails from Dem campaigns, they're running against Trump."
- "Harder for Hurd."

## ***Does Trump reach out to a former rival for the nomination as his choice for veep?***

- "Trump won't make the first move, but if one of the vanquished kisses his feet enough, he may deign to pull them up."
- "Yes! And all of them will say, HELL NO!"
- "I think he'll take anyone who will take him."
- "The only one I could see him reaching out to is Kasich, as he'll need Ohio to win and someone with both state and federal experience that has inroads with congressional leaders."
- "His former rivals all hate him and hope for a future if the traditional Republican Party survives."
- "If he is smart, he should pick Chris Christie."
- "I have decided to stop trying to predict what Donald will do."
- "I suspect his choice will be Jeff Sessions or Newt Gingrich."
- "It doesn't appear to be personal with him — it is personal for most of his former opponents, however."
- "Who would want to be VP under Trump? Oh, yeah, Christie."
- "Maybe Chris Christie? Does he count as a former rival, since he's now on team Trump?"
- "Kasich"
- "I predict Scott Brown. He makes good arm candy to try for the female voters and has Washington political experience."
- "Possibly Kasich"
- "Or a female Governor or Senator"
- "Needs Minority"
- "Trump will pick an Admiral Stockdale type."
- "I think he picks Gingrich."

## ***If Rick Perry were the veep nominee, does he help or hurt Trump?***

- "We love Perry, but the rest of the country thinks he's a doofus."
- "Trump will claim the Texas Miracle as his own."
- "Perry being the nominee MIGHT make me reconsider voting for Clinton. MIGHT."
- "After warning us how bad Trump is, Perry couldn't wait to embrace the dark side of the force."
- "It'll hurt as it's a foregone conclusion that any Republican will win Texas, plus Perry didn't even get any delegate votes so what use will he be — maybe a cabinet position with Fish and Wildlife or USDA."



- "No one cares about the VP, unless it's someone like Sarah Palin, who attracted only negative attention."
- "Rick Who?????"
- "At least one of them would have a decent head of hair."
- "Could potentially help if the team can stay on message about the success story in Texas and the impression of Perry being a victim of politically motivated indictments that scuttled his campaign."
- "Perry will help Trump with the base Republican vote that is turned off by Trump. It will allow Trump to go even more negative on Hillary Clinton, and Perry can smooth over those who believe Trump has crossed the line. The flip side is voters nationally have rejected Perry and Cruz so I'm a little leery about a Texan on the ticket."
- "Little impact."
- "Hahahahahahaha. You're hilarious!"
- "He brings successful governing experience, excellent conservative bona fides, and is a hell of a campaigner. I'd say that helps."
- "Rick Perry has street cred with 'conservative' Republican voters compared to Trump's Trumponomic policies!"
- "Texas is going to vote Republican anyway. He needs a VP that can swing a D state into the R column."
- "Perry is not nearly articulate enough to carry off what Trump needs in a VP. He is not fast enough on his feet."
- "I might just support that, just for him alone. At least us Texans would have someone to talk to."
- "Probably not much of either; Perry would be a poor choice, given that Texas isn't in play."
- "Too much water under that bridge, and would appear desperate for both of them."
- "It only helps Rick Perry."
- "This would never happen. Trump likes winners. And that is not Perry's national brand."
- "OOPS!!!"
- "As he's about the only one who has indicated he would take the job, we may perhaps see."
- "When you ain't got nothing, you got nothing to lose."
- "As perhaps the original #NeverTrump advocate, Perry would have to swallow his pride and rescind his principled opposition to a man singularly unqualified to be Commander-in-Chief ... so naturally, we expect him to do just that if the job is offered, because what else is he going to do, hang out in Round Top and antique shop with Anita? Not likely. As long as someone else is footing the bill, RP is your man!"
- "There's no upside to Perry. Trump will carry Texas anyway. Has no

Washington experience. Doesn't help him anywhere else."

- "Perry is a good fellow, but I don't think he provides enough value to the ticket to get picked as VP."

- "Oops."
- "RP hypocrisy has no bounds."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Jennifer Ahrens, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Elna Christopher, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Steve Holzhauser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Matt Matthews, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Seabee, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Angelo Zottarelli.