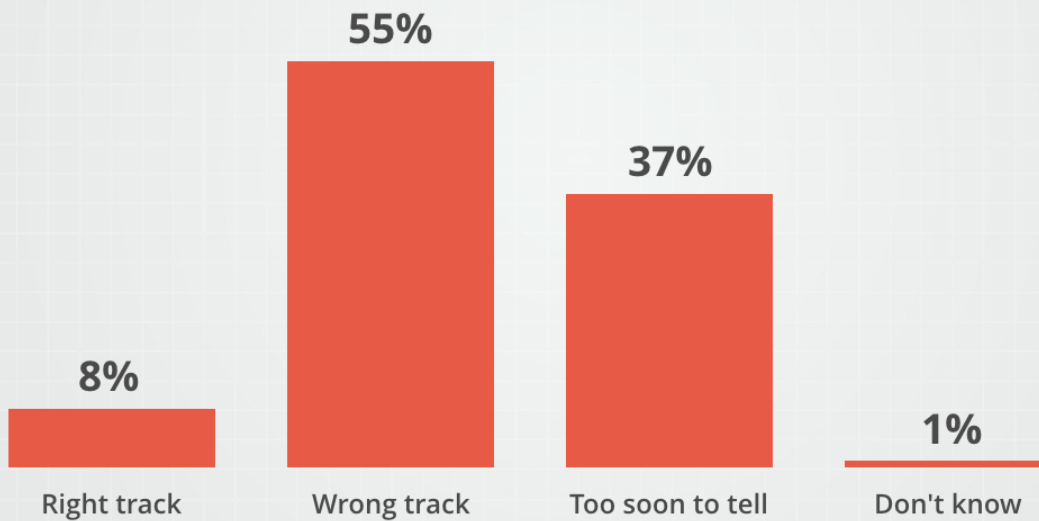


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 3 June 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

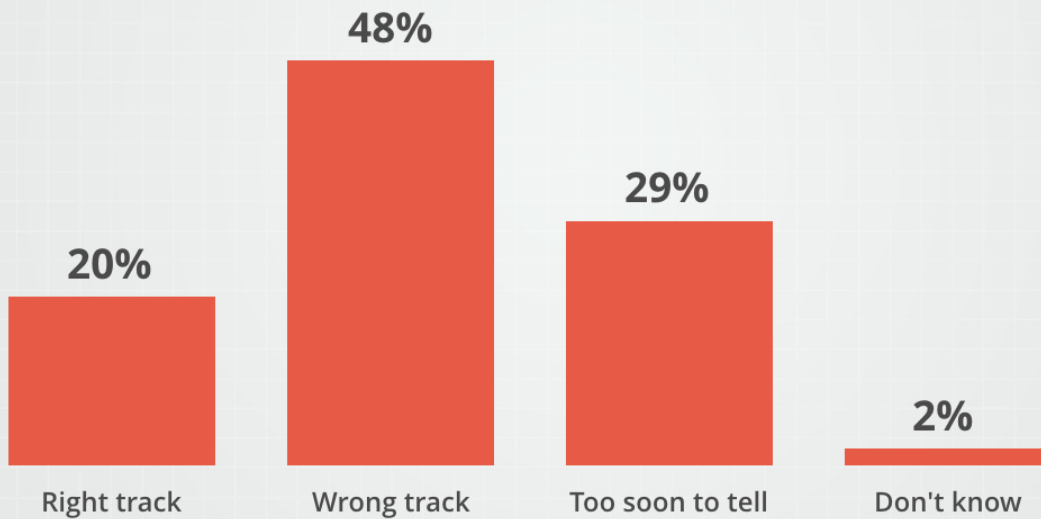
With Donald Trump as its presumptive presidential nominee, what's the Republican Party's trajectory over the next couple of years?



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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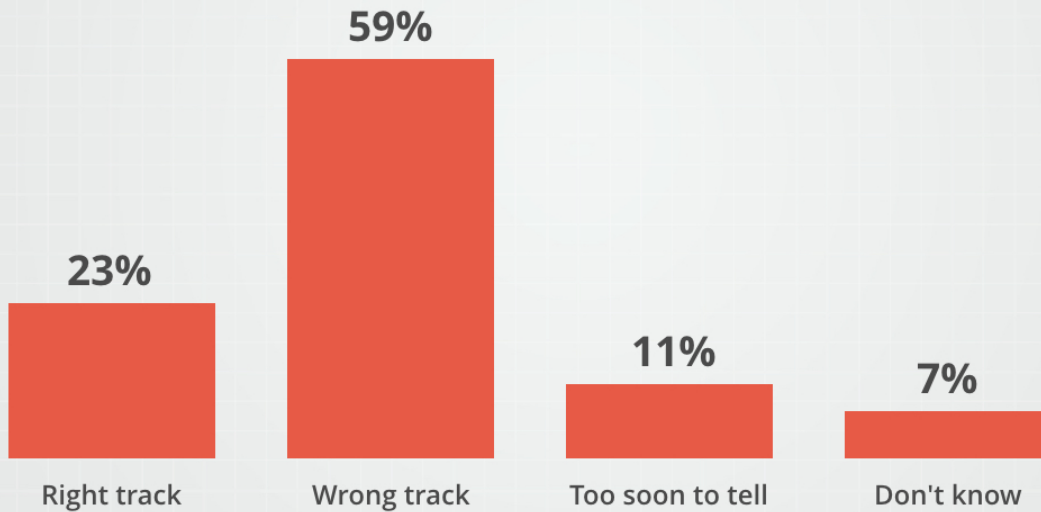
With the party leaning toward Hillary Clinton as its nominee, what's the Democratic Party's trajectory over the next couple of years?



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What's the Texas Senate's trajectory heading into the next legislative session?



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What's the Texas House's trajectory heading into the next legislative session?



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With Donald Trump as its presumptive presidential nominee, what's the Republican Party's trajectory over the next couple of years?

- "I clicked 'right track,' but it's important to clarify that I mean it's the right track for Democrats, not Republicans."
- "Train wreck"
- "Nationally or here in Texas? Here in Texas, it's steady as she goes; Trump has no real effect and the RPT marches onward. Nationally, it's too soon to tell, but I'm guessing Trump doesn't have long coattails in states like Wisconsin (You're welcome, Feingold), North Carolina, and Ohio."
- "Maybe someone smart could answer this: Will this become Texas' Pete Wilson moment?"
- "The only relevant question is compared to what — Trump is the alternative to Hillary — he is a weak candidate with lots of baggage, to be sure. But the Dems are nominating the weakest candidate since Michael Dukakis — in terms of character — which voters care about — it's a draw."
- "For all we know, Trump may be the end or the beginning of a new GOP."

- "Trump is the nominee because the party establishment is out of touch."
- "National parties are in disarray. We may emerge from this with a multi-party system."
- "Trump is a man of strong opinions, which almost inevitably change. He is not a principled conservative. Trump, win or lose, has hijacked the Republican Party."
- "Racist track"
- "Adios to Hispanics and Asian voters."
- "It's too soon to tell, but if Trump loses in November, the conventional Rs will eventually resume control of the party. If Trump wins in November, the future direction of the party will depend on how well he does."
- "Hopefully, they'll purify the party. Ridding themselves of the RINOs that are really Libertarians that have taken over the runoff elections."
- "Trump has been on every side of every issue."

With the party leaning toward Hillary Clinton as its nominee, what's the Democratic Party's trajectory over the next couple of years?

- "Clinton, like her husband, is a liar; in addition she has dementia, is in poor health and might be convicted. Plus, the left is further left than the right is right. They are fascists now."
- "The bench is really thin."
- "I've yet to run across a Democrat who's enthused by Hillary. It's more of a resignation to the inevitable."
- "Hillary never really liked us (the American people) and we know it — she is running on a whiny, 'eat your peas' liberal platform that only a few people can stomach. No matter what Trump does, I cannot envision voting for her."
- "The Democratic Party leadership is just as out of touch with the electorate in one direction as the Republicans are in the opposite direction."
- "Having someone who should be in jail as the flag bearer tells all!"
- "With a generic conservative GOP candidate, Hillary should have been a near-certain loser this year. If she wins, it's a huge bonus for her party, even if voter fatigue with Democrats will make her extremely vulnerable in 2020."
- "Been-there-done-that track"
- "We are hosed either way!!"
- "Hillary is as conventional a D as you can get. Her formula (though perhaps, not her, personally) is the way to win elections. Promise to do more, and talk little about paying for it."
- "Same ole, same ole"
- "As with the Bushes, the time for the Clintons is over. They are the past, the future is elsewhere."

- "Hillbilly has too much baggage."
- "Wrong track for both parties. Should yield more independent voting, but probably won't."

- "At least the GOP found a new candidate."

With the fall legislative election slates now set, what's the Texas Senate's trajectory heading into the next legislative session?

- "I can see the ad now: Texas Senate — NEW and IMPROVED! Even more Tea Party!!"
- "At least they know where they want to go with public policy in Texas."
- "Right or wrong, it will be more conservative and ideological."
- "The Senate will be united under Patrick's leadership."
- "The Texas Senate is the Tea Party's wet dream, so how much more can one expect?"
- "As long as they remain focused on convincing their constituents that they are overtaxed and ignore the basic economics of return on investment, we will remain behind in dealing with growth and economic opportunity."
- "Despite shaky leadership, the Senate appears capable of addressing state concerns."
- "CRAZY-ER!"
- "Bathroom Track"
- "Pass the right wing agenda to have it die in the House..."

- "It is what it is. Districts are drawn to produce certain types of winners, and those elected officials by and large vote their districts."
- "Right wing propaganda likely to headline discussions."
- "With the exception of Nelson and a few others, the Texas Senate is going to be primarily run by bozos. With Bozo-in-Chief calling the shots."
- "Bob Hall is the litmus test of what's wrong with the Texas Senate. As long as he's there, it's in shambles."
- "Every session has its own personality. There are always surprises."
- "Two new, more conservative, votes gives Dan Patrick what he needs to outshine the House."
- "Stronger than ever for 'we the people.'"
- "Someone told me this weekend that they now feel overqualified to serve in public office. The Senate is a perfect example."

What's the Texas House's trajectory heading into the next legislative session?

- "As long as Speaker Straus is at the helm, Texas is OK."
- "At the end of the day, it's the same. Net neutral."
- "Uncharted waters, we'll know much more around Labor Day."
- "It will be the same — the right wing will be divisive — the Straus wing will be condescending — it will lumber along, but all the ideas will come out of the Senate side."
- "The House is fine as long as Straus runs it..."
- "As long as Speaker Joe Straus is there, the House will not go TOO far astray and might actually do some positive things! Thanks, Speaker Straus for being the 'adult' in the room among Republican officeholders."
- "Finally Gonna Pass a Bad Voucher Bill Track"
- "Right track, but turmoil continues. And the transition to the next speaker (whenever that occurs) won't stop the turmoil."
- "Education... health care... transportation... infrastructure. Issues the Legislature should be discussing."
- "Straus is the best mind that Texas politics has right now. Long may he serve. The fact that the House, perhaps necessarily more prone to zaniness and extremism than the Senate, has become the more mature body, is testament to Straus' steady hand."
- "I might be a little biased."
- "The House is a real snapshot of what Texas really is today. For the most part, it's a mixed bag but seems to work."
- "Little will change this session. Payback to Hall, Huffines and Burton will be Hell."
- "Another session of failed leadership under Joe Straus will reap serious consequences."
- "Straus makes it imperative that conservatives continue to replace his lieutenants. Only then can Texans' conservatism be expressed."
- "The voice of reason in Texas government"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Chad Crow, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Mike McKinney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Bill Pewitt, 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, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Ben Sebree, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Angelo Zottarelli.