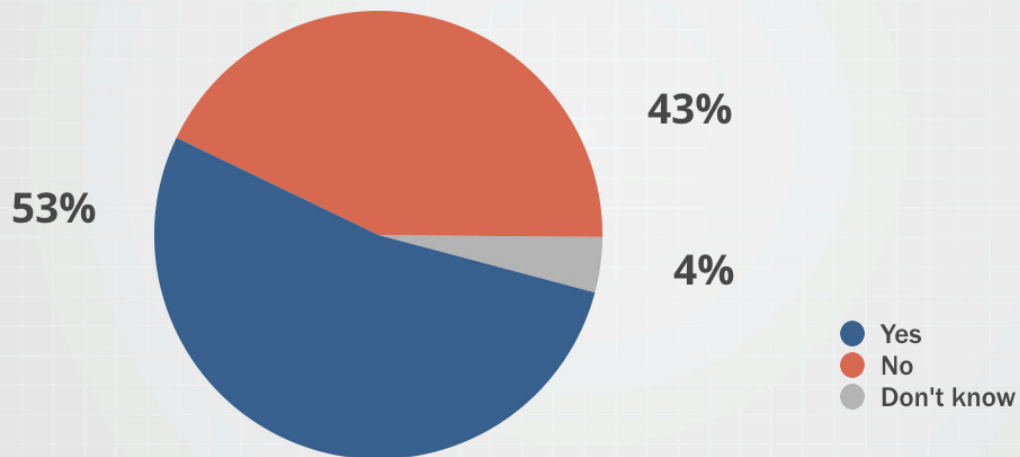


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 10 June 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

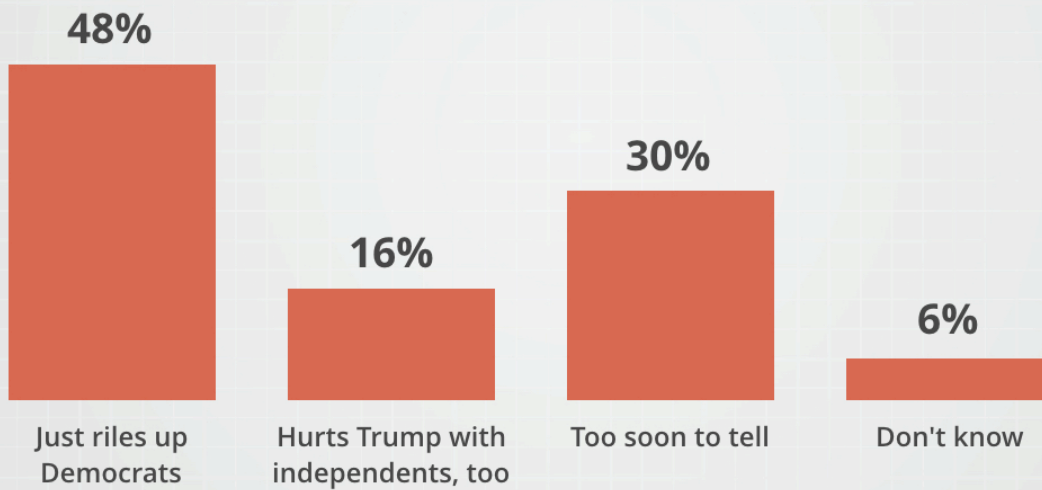
Are recent attacks on Trump like those from Hillary Clinton or Filemon Vela sticking more than those from a year ago?



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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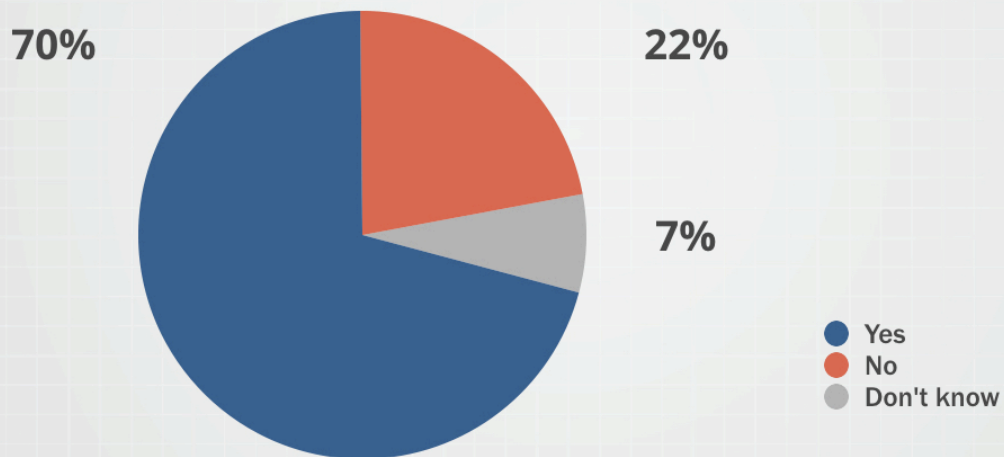
Does Vela's open letter to Trump serve just to make Democrats happy or is there a larger effect here?



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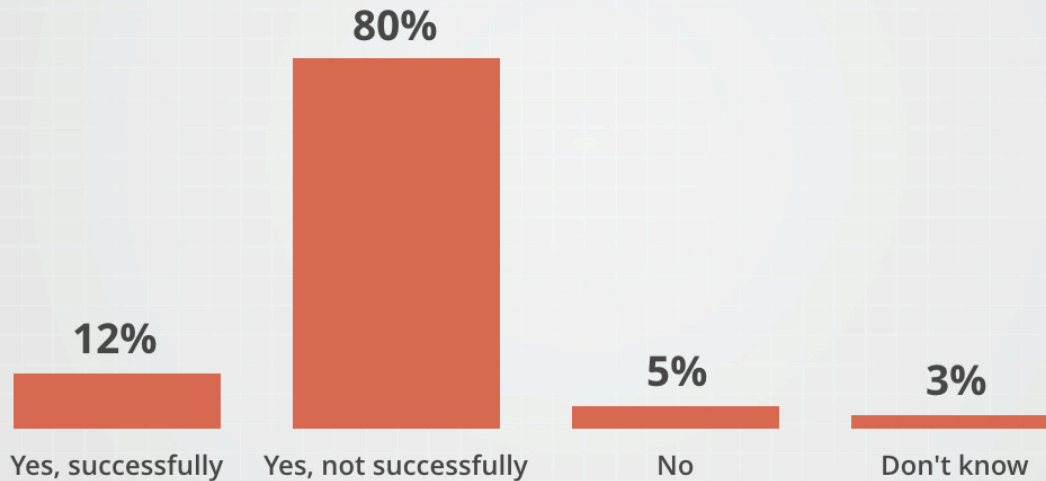
Do the attacks on the judge in the Trump U case make it more difficult for GOP holdouts like Ted Cruz to endorse Trump?



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Will Republican leaders end up intervening with Trump in an attempt to persuade him to tone down his rhetoric?



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Are attacks on Donald Trump like those recently from Hillary Clinton or Filemon Vela sticking more than attacks from Trump's rivals a year ago?

- "More people are paying attention."
- "Hillary, yes. Vela, no."
- "Bernie Sanders to Hillary: 'As senator, you voted numerous times to build a wall with Mexico: What's the difference...?'"
- "Yes, fewer attackers means there's a greater chance today's attacking voice will actually be heard. Before, the airwaves were cluttered so to speak, whereas today that's not the case."
- "They are now attacks coming from someone not at a disadvantage, which is different than when any R candidate attacked him."
- "As it gets closer to the actual election and voters think about Trump as president, they are more seriously considering the attacks."

- "But Trump is doing himself in by his inane comments."
- "It's a one-day news cycle."
- "Yes, to Hillary. No, to Filemon."
- "The crazies only love him more! His racist rants just endear him to his followers who feel as he does about those of another race."
- "Hopefully it will agitate more Democrats to vote."
- "Getting such a strong reaction from a 'Mexican' is exactly what Trump voters want."
- "The full weight of the Democratic party and Latino leaders will be different from the GOP fights. And Republicans will be caught in the crossfire trying to support the party nominee vs. leading the party to 2017 and beyond."
- "The Trump supporters don't care or actually like it, and the Trump opponents already oppose him."
- "GOP-leaning voters weren't swayed by attacks from other GOP candidates. Attacks from Democrats are business as usual and won't have any effect."
- "Hillary's attacks won't make much difference because that's just standard-bore politics. But Vela's attack is more visceral and personal. Vela-style attacks could be very effective, especially if they draw Trump into making more regrettable counterattacks."
- "No. Trump is self-destructing. The attacks are barely relevant, especially crude comments such as those of Vela."
- "Donald is a prime time racist. Makes Perry look like a fool."
- "The larger general election audience might not be as charmed by racist xenophobic authoritarian rants as the 40 percent of Republican primary voters who supported Mr. Trump were."
- "It's all been said..."
- "It's gotten serious now. Before, Trump was a pleasant diversion, now he may actually be president. People are naturally going to pay more attention."
- "Ask Rubio."

Does Vela's open letter to Trump serve just to make Democrats happy or is there a larger effect here?

- "Where was Fil when Hilary was playing race politics with Obama in 2007?"
- "Not only does it rile up Democrats, but it amps up the Trumpkins, too. They love it when someone attacks their beloved."
- "Who?"

- "It adds zero to the debate other than lowering our side to Trump's level."
- "His over the top language doesn't help with independents."
- "Like Elizabeth Warren's tweets, it encourages the Ds that someone is speaking out. But no one is listening."
- "One thing we should have all learned over the past few months is that with Trump, everything is different. There is simply no way to predict at this point just how he will ultimately deal with this matter. Certainly, at first blush, his recent shenanigans would give the appearance of adding another arrow to the quiver of those who want to paint him as, at best, unpresidential, and at worst, a raving lunatic. Time will tell."
- "It does neither. It perhaps raises Vela's profile when he goes dialing for campaign donations. Right now, practically nobody in this country knows who Vela is and of those who do

Do the attacks on the judge in the Trump U case and subsequent criticism of Trump make it more difficult for GOP holdouts like Ted Cruz to endorse Trump?

- "Ted who?"
- "Here's the deal: it's not the only thing. It's one of many, many things that make it more difficult for holdouts like Cruz to endorse Trump."
- "Cruz shouldn't endorse him. I think the Rs who do endorse him will look incredibly foolish in a year or two."
- "Trump's already said nasty things about people, so why would this recent

know him, a large majority don't care what he has to say, since they're busy trying to manage their own lives."

- "And, probably, Republicans but I don't think it hurts Trump with Trump supporters — and who the heck knows who those people are."
- "Painting Trump as a racist is potentially a winner, I think, for hurting his chances with almost everyone."
- "Even Democrats should realize that Vela's language is not helpful."
- "Vela's bombast won't impress anyone except the true believers."
- "I did not even know who Vela was until he said this. Now I know him as the TMF of the Texas congressional delegation. Just another blowhard trying to impress his donut shop buddies."

comment against Judge Curiel be any different from those in the past?"

- "Who knows if Trump really intended to destroy the two-party system. Ironically, those who withhold endorsement of Trump are proving that for some, principle and decency is more important than 'party unity.'"
- "They will ALL end up endorsing him."
- "Especially for Cruz and Rubio due to their ethnicity — what is more

interesting is Paul Ryan and his obvious reservations."

- "It's been perfectly clear for a long time just who Donald Trump is. Cruz et. al. are making a long-term strategic decision, unrelated to recent news."
- "At least some GOP holdouts (not necessarily Cruz) do not want to be perceived as being a racist or supporting a racist."
- "I don't know about GOP holdouts 'like Ted Cruz.' However, it makes it more difficult for some GOP holdouts to endorse Trump — just not sure about Ted Cruz."
- "Trump is the epitome of a sophomore — a wise fool. You just don't know on any particular day if you get the wise Trump or the foolish Trump. It's foolish to attack a federal judge and this error is compounded by using racial heritage as an indicator of the absence of impartial justice."
- "The only thing affecting Ted Cruz's decision to endorse Trump is Ted Cruz's personal ambition. Oh, and that Trump accused Sen. Cruz's dad of murdering JFK."

Will Republicans leaders end up intervening with Trump in an attempt to persuade him to tone down his rhetoric?

- "His boisterous comments and braggadocio make Muhammad Ali look like a church mouse. You can't shut The Donald up!"
- "They will try, but they will fail. A leopard can't change his spots."

- "He's an American!"
- "The elected Rs will (almost) all endorse Trump, however reluctantly, and they will trudge to the polls and vote for him, reluctantly."
- "Cruz, like virtually every politician, will do what is best for Cruz."
- "Cruz is not racist like Trump "
- "This is a worse problem for Republicans than the Democrats faced when their party nominated liberal Republican and consummate faddist Horace Greeley in 1872."
- "Those attacks are the most consistent part of Trump's campaign."
- "No, but it might make it more difficult for someone with principles, though."
- "I believe that they'll all fall in line eventually."
- "Anyone who answers YES should be disqualified from giving an opinion. NO ONE knows how or why Trump has ended up where he is politically."

- "Near-70-year-olds like Trump and Hillary rarely change."
- "That horse has left the barn."
- "Of course they'll try. But he's a fool and thinks he can get away with

anything. And thus far the voters have let him, so why would he change?"

- "Someone has got to get through to this man that the way he vilifies others is not at all presidential. Like it or not, as a politician, there are some things you can think, but you simply cannot say. It shouldn't be all about him anymore. It's about the future of this country."
- "He wants to win. That's all that matters to him."
- "Attempts have been made and we've seen the escalation of rationalizations by R leaders to support him: we disagree with Trump, but know there is common ground on core issues; we disagree with Trump but we have checks and balances in place to offset his presidency — like Congress and the Supreme Court; we disagree with Trump and maybe he will stop... how will they continue to justify their support?"
- "He doesn't listen to anyone long-term."
- "Trump does what Trump wants; it's the sound bite the media wants and Trump knows how to bite down hard and not let go. People are enjoying the sideshow of presidential politics, Trump's demeanor against those that don't tow the Trump line, and his attitude about anyone and everyone in politics is what drives viewers to news cycles and media clips."
- "Um, they have ALREADY tried that — he is giving the Republican faithful what

they want — racism is good red meat for Republicans."

- "How can anyone be able to persuade a carnival barker to tone down his rhetoric?"
- "Why should he stop now? Folks like that Trump says what they think."
- "PLEASE, tone him down... but in politics the damage may already be done. The ads will be harsh come September."
- "Yes, with some — but not total — success."
- "Trump is like hot plasma — not really controllable."
- "GOP leaders are already intervening, publicly and privately. But it's a long campaign, and it seems unlikely that Trump can control himself into November."
- "The internal polls are what drives Trump to say what he does. He's reaching those who've never had a dog in the fight before."
- "I suspect they already have been doing so for several weeks."
- "Definitely 'yes.' I think partially successfully, which was not a choice so I chose 'successfully.' He won't need much intervention if his rhetoric begins to hurt him with the general population. He's a psychopath, not stupid."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jon Fisher, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, 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, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Ted Melina Raab, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.