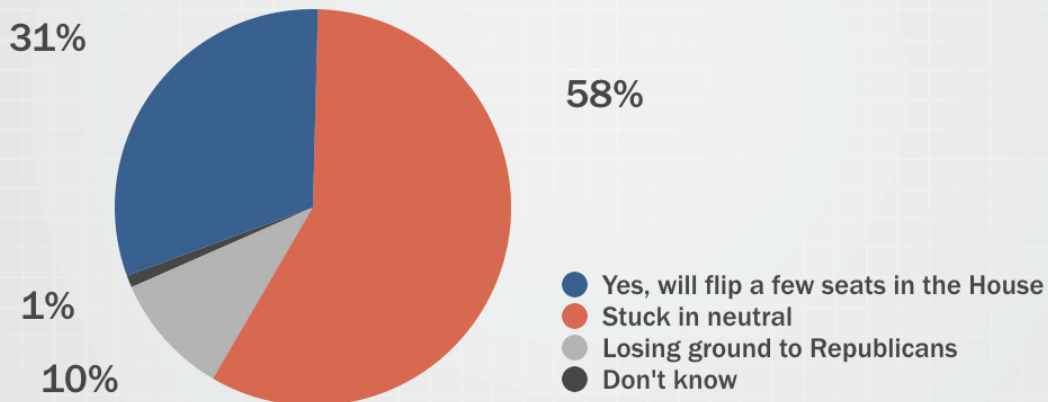


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 17 June 2016*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

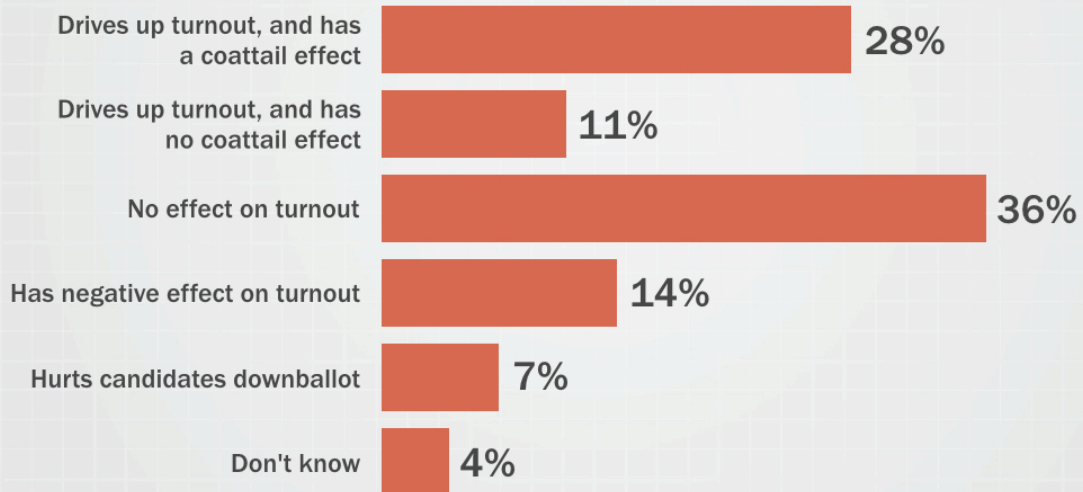
The Texas Democratic Party is holding its state convention this week. Based on the primaries and the runoffs, are Democrats making electoral progress?



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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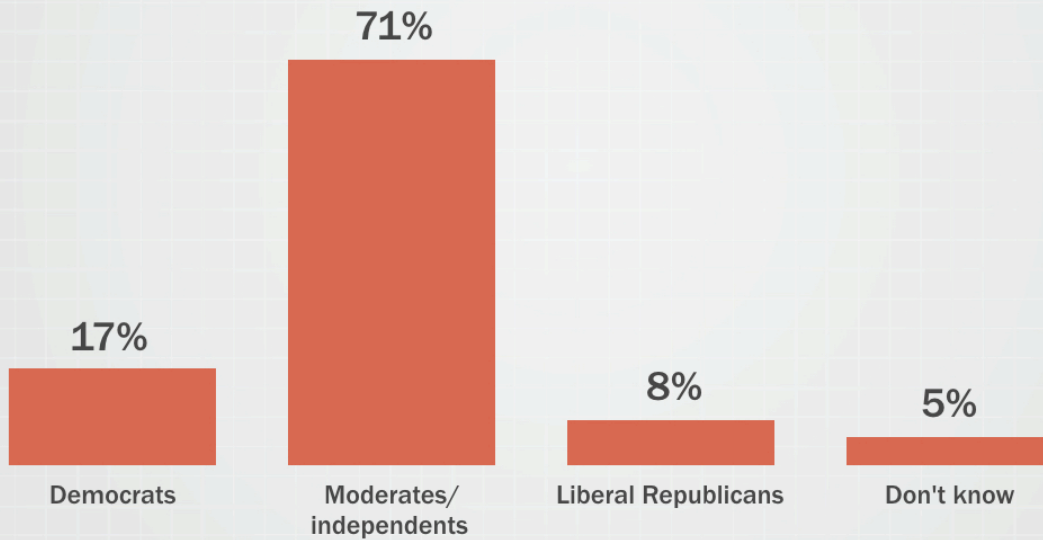
Hillary Clinton is now the Democrats' presumptive nominee.  
What is her effect on Texas Democratic general election voters?



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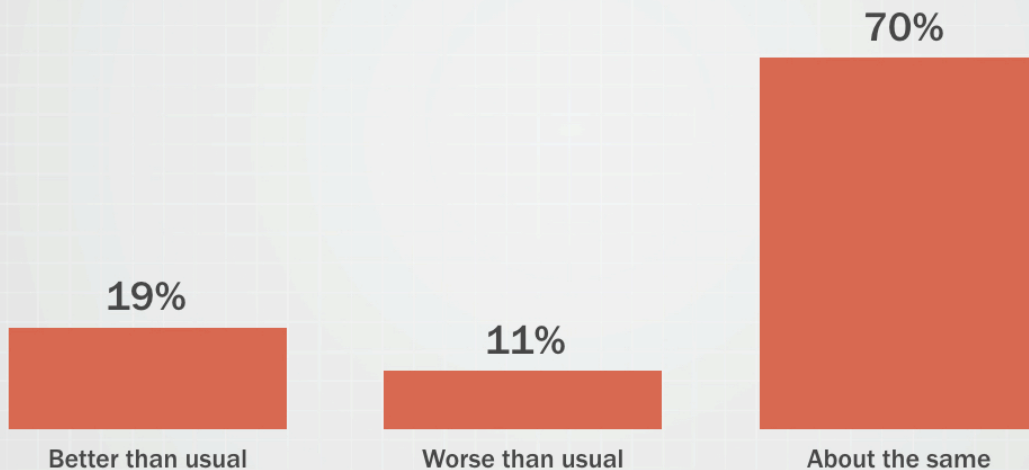
What voters should Texas Democrats be trying to attract right now?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How will the Democrats' statewide candidates do this year?



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***The Texas Democratic Party is holding its state convention this week. Based on the primaries and the runoffs, are Democrats making electoral progress?***

- "Even with Patrick, Trump and Cruz, Republicans now hold more state and local offices than at any time in history."
- "Not sure it's 'progress,' but rather the presidential turnout that will flip a few seats this cycle. Appears many Rs are still doing everything possible to provide an assist in turning Texas blue."
- "They will flip a few seats because of Trump. But I'm not sure I'd call that progress, because it's not their doing — it's his."
- "Be patient, the 2030 census will get here soon enough. Until, anticipate more of the same."
- "Hillary is not the ideal candidate to move the needle in Texas!"
- "Ds will likely pick up a few seats this fall ... unfortunately, it will not be because of any brilliant they've done"

but rather the buffoonery of the Republicans."

- "Are they meeting in the old GOP phone booth from the 1980s?"
- "They're spinning their tires in mud right now, but Trump's candidacy might allow them to gain some traction."
- "They've been stuck in neutral the last 3 cycles. And, really, actually losing ground since they are losing seats at the local level. 80-plus Texas counties with no Democrats on the ballot — that's not good. Although with Trump on the ballot, they could get lucky and knock off some Republicans who are in tighter ORVS districts."
- "It has nothing to do with the Democratic Party, and more to do with changing demographics in 'limited' Districts. If the Party was actually '... making electoral progress...', the question wouldn't be limited to flipping 'a few seats.'"
- "But the Trump Clinton factor is an unknown. Will Clinton really compete

***Hillary Clinton is now the Democrats' presumptive nominee. What is her effect on Texas Democratic general election voters?***

- "Bernie yard signs still cover my neighborhood."
- "She is assuming she gets the Bill Clinton supporters of the past. Many of them hate her. They still love him but cannot stand her. Bubba connects with voters; she uses them and that is how they see her."
- "A Hispanic surname from Texas would drive turnout up some — and

in Texas? If so, they will make some gains if not stuck in neutral."

- "The Democrats' future depends on the national election."
- "The fastest growing Hispanic population doesn't like pro-abortion candidates."
- "The Dems seem stuck on the wrong side of too many issues to appeal to right-of-center Texas electorate. They keep hoping that when Hispanics come of age and start voting that they will support Democrats. It's a pipe dream."
- "They are considering anti-oil and gas language in platform driven by liberal elites while Hispanics are laid off, what? I remember a Democratic Party that fought for jobs."
- "Trump is all the Ds have going."
- "Mr. Trump could actually turn it around for the Democratic Party; on their own, they can't."

could help in the Gallego race. But not much else and certainly no statewide effect."

- "This cycle is beyond bizarre ... who the heck knows?"
- "I expect turnout this presidential to be similar to 2012. That said, I think you will have some crossover Rs voting D — but that has nothing to do with

Clinton. It's all about the idiot the Rs nominated."

- "Donald Trump will motivate far more Democrats (and Independents) than Hillary Clinton."
- "A crook and liar at the top of the ticket — back to the future when another Clinton said anything to get elected."
- "I still see more Bernie bumper stickers than Hillary stickers around town... are those people fired up to vote for her come November?"
- "I would hope she would have a coattail effect, but that will probably only happen in the metropolitan areas."
- "She's polled well in Texas for many years. She will be good for them here."
- "Obama's 2008 voters failed to show up again in 2012. The result will be the

***What voters should Texas Democrats be trying to attract right now?***

- "Bernie yard signs still cover my neighborhood."
- "Trump appeals to many working class; Democrats and Clinton does not. She appears, and is, aloof, elite and corrupted in their eyes. They vote Trump. The Dems need to shore up their own base. Are you kidding, try to attract Republicans and moderates/independents? Ha!"
- "As the true believers in the Republican party move the needle to the right, those in the middle are migrating elsewhere."

same in 2016, except that they are now Hillary's problem."

- "If this is the most negative campaign in recent history turnout drops."
- "She's not trusted. And not likable."
- "Hillary is a drag on the ticket in Texas. The Democrats' only hope is that Trump can ignite the passion of the left in a way that Hillary never will."
- "Honestly, it is Trump bringing up voter registration on the D side and not Hillary."
- "Pete Gallego can start drafting his 'thank you' note to President-elect Clinton."
- "Mainly in South Texas"

- "As the Rs shift to a 'tea party' mentality, they are leaving the business community behind. This is the perfect time for the Ds to embrace the chamber of commerce types, and if they do, it could be a generational shift."
- "For the last 20-plus years, a lot of people have been saying, 'I didn't leave the Democrat Party, the Democrat Party left me.' NOW people will be saying that about the Republican Party!"
- "Independents are sick of the GOP social hoopla. But Hillary is getting pulled hard to the left by the Elizabeth Warren wing of the party. If Texas Ds

were smart, they would steal the 'small government' mantra from the Rs and own that message."

- "Pro-business, socially moderate"
- "I refuse to call them 'liberal Republicans' — they are not liberal at all — they are THINKING Republicans who refuse to be led by the crazy wackos in their party, but they are by no means liberal. In fact, most of them are TRUE republicans — no fake Christian hate mongers we have now."
- "They need to build a conservative Democrat bench."
- "Everyone they can."
- "Raising the turnout will change the outcome."
- "Denying God in their platform makes Democrats mostly unpopular in Texas."

### ***How will the Democrats' statewide candidates do this year?***

- "Democrats will bleed Hispanic voters at the Supreme Court level."
- "The Dems have no leader. They are in disarray and the top of the ticket is out of touch."
- "What statewide candidates? Railroad Commissioner? Please."
- "They will lose them all. Just like the have for the past decade-plus."
- "Statewide... who??? That's the problem."

• "The Dems must come off the hard left and migrate to the middle if they ever hope to regain relevance in Texas."

- "Any voters. They continue to lose voters because they continue to oppose Texans. They appeal to the fringe. Just ask Wendy."
- "Even a common sense Republican won't vote for Hillary; but, if they do, they are keeping it quiet."
- "They have to admit their problem first."
- "If they don't stop losing straight ticket voting, which is over half the vote, they will never elect anyone statewide again."

• "Trump will be a drag for the Rs... statewide Ds only lose by low double digits!"

- "Keep an eye on the Railroad Commission race. If they are to make strides, it's there."
- "I still don't think we take a statewide office — sad for us Dems."
- "Unless Democrats can convince about 1.4 million more voters to suddenly show up, the result will be the same for them. Texas Democrats haven't been able to elect statewide since 1994, and hold the longest losing

streak in nation (20 years). 2016 will add 2 more years to the total!"

- "Trump will be the Ds' greatest gift in a long time."

- "Honestly, how could they do worse? They've already lost ALL statewide races. You can't do worse than that."

- "It's hard to go down when you are at the bottom, but if they could they would."

- "All fools."

- "Not many races statewide."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Holly DeShields, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, 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 Sebree, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Sara Tays, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.