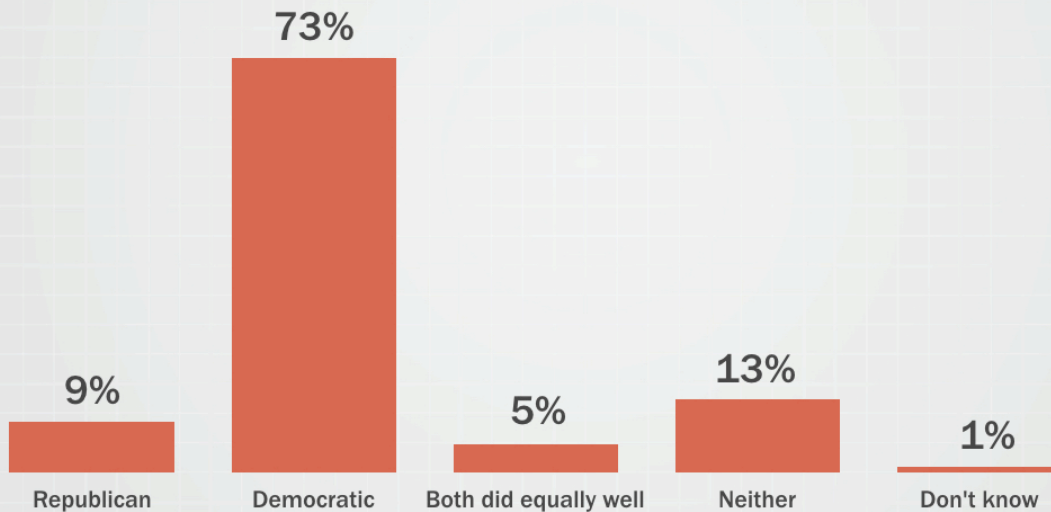


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 5 August 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

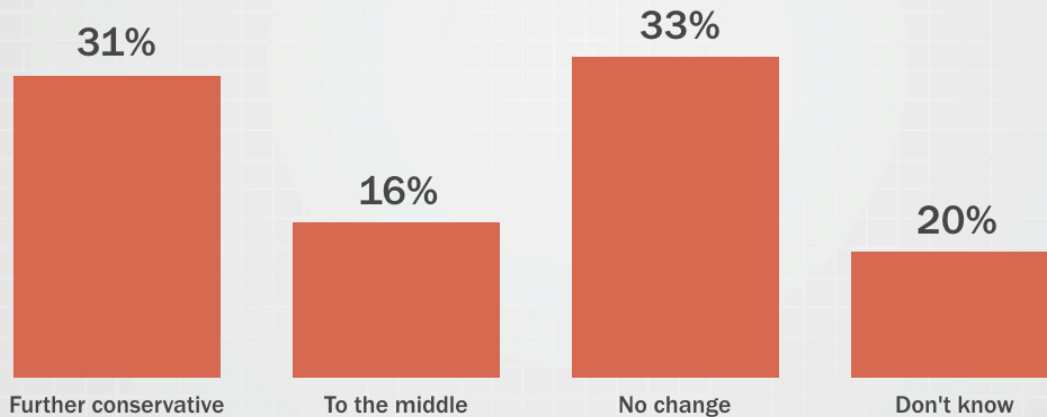
Which party did better in selling its brand with its convention?



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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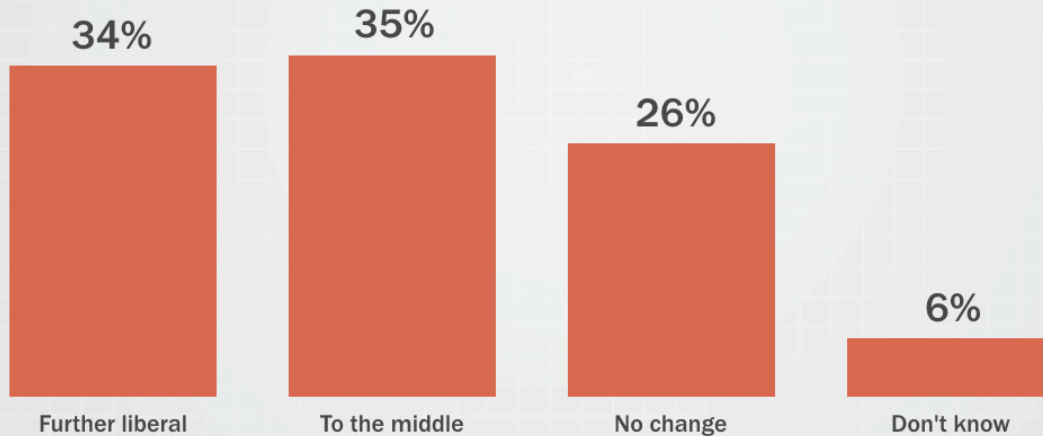
How have perceptions of the Republican Party changed since its convention?



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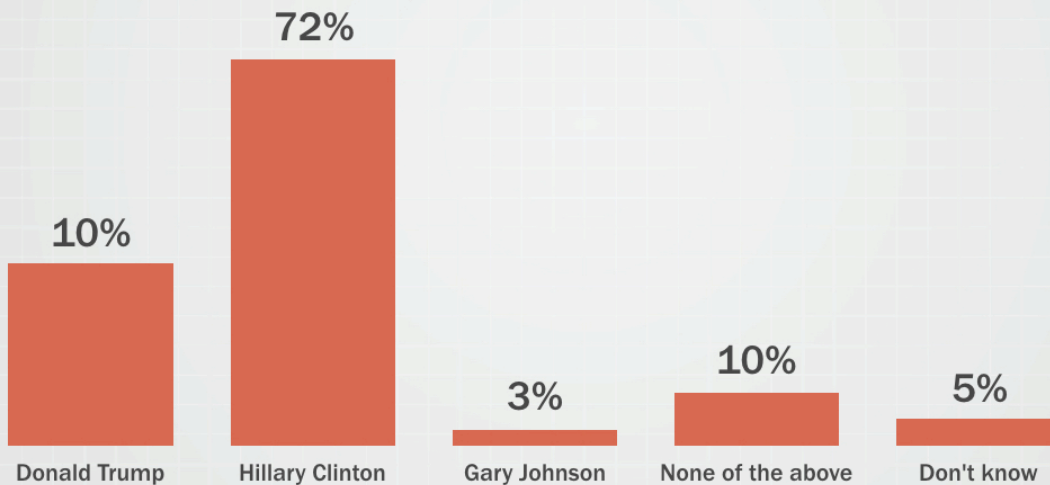
How have perceptions of the Democratic Party changed since its convention?



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Now that both conventions have passed, who's got the upper hand in this cycle?



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Which party did better in selling its brand with its convention?

- "The R's are in complete disarray."
- "They sold hope and hope always sells."
- "The Democrats did a great job of selling the Republican brand — with their entire message being pro-America. Ironical for a party that has spent the last eight years apologizing for America. I have no idea what message the Republicans were trying to convey."
- "Unfortunately, the brand they sold well doesn't seem to be selling well."
- "Despite past actions and speeches over the years, Dems successfully portrayed themselves as pro-American."
- "In Upside Down World, both did really well creating controversy."
- "Selling your brand to the base is like selling ice to Eskimos."
- "The Democratic Convention looked as if it were scripted to be a Republican Convention with a 'white flag truce' by the liberal branch of the party. Sometimes it felt surreal as if you were

being told not to look at the man or woman behind the curtain. The Republican Convention was a family reunion complete with family feuds such as the sad entertainment by 'Tex Jr.' (Senator) who still doesn't want to admit he lost the nomination for family member of the year and the pouting absences of other 'family members' who RSVP'd in writing to attend in support of the new family leader but didn't show."

- "The VPs were good for both parties (the presidential nominees themselves continue to stink) but the Ds got a bigger boost from theirs. Trump will need a miracle to pull himself out of this hole."

- "Donald Trump knows how to put on a show!"

- "To the TV audience at home or to themselves? If to all us folks in TV land, then the D's were more effective

How have perceptions of the Republican Party changed since its convention?

- "I believe the public's perception of the Republican Party is the same ... which means the Republicans have a huge problem. They aren't making their case of inclusion."

- "I wouldn't say it's gone further conservative since that word is currently being misinterpreted. However, the conservatives of Reagan and Bush are silently abandoning the party."

- "Crazier than they were previously!"

exhorting the better angels of our nature. If to conventioners, then it didn't move the needle one iota. To the 300K undecided in swing states, they are probably still wondering what to do with their vote."

- "Democrats channel Reagan 'morning in America.'"

- "Better cast of characters"

- "Perhaps more inclusive, and some are more comfortable with Trump — unless he ruins it by saying stupid things. His family was phenomenal."

- "Both had their moments of silliness enough to mostly already committed voters."

- "With help from the press, the Democrats always do better."

- "I think that most people know our party has been hijacked. Hopefully, only temporarily and that the message and goals from our down-ballot candidates are much more coherent and representative of what the American people expect from Republicans."

- "Yes, it has changed since the convention. The No. 1 issue of concern, security, has increased in perception to the R favor. The perception of the leader has changed. Even worse. The question is, will No. 1 outweigh the other?"

- "What is the Republican Party in the national sense? Is there such a thing? Who is its leader? What are its principles? Accommodation for Russia?"
- "Don't think it had any effect on conservative or middle level. Do think the viewers got bombarded with doom and gloom."
- "If Donald Trump would keep his mouth shut, then the party would probably fare better."
- "It's now the Party of Trump, which current Rs will have hanging over their heads for years."
- "The party known for discipline is now seen as disorganized and in disarray."
- "And further crazy."
- "Trump doesn't carry a conservative banner, so I don't know how anyone can make that suggestion with a straight face."
- "Trump is moving left and right, but clearly away from Republican."
- "Further racist and crazy"
- "Attacks on the Khan family have severely damaged Trump and the Republican party brand."
- "Probably the best thing about the Republican Convention was the reality TV experience of folks saying what they really think. It was a better reflection of where the Republican Party is today. Some are super conservative, some are moderate, some are LGBTQ, some

scared of all immigration, etc. How refreshing to watch a convention that was not fully scripted and allowed everyone to say what they think. While it was seemingly disconcerting for those that want full unity and everyone marching only to their tune, it was probably more like some of the heated discussions of forefathers or at least a true representation of society today."

- "They looked like idiots. I mean, like Trump."
- "Trump is just not conservative on most issues."
- "It's hard to say what the Republican Party is anymore. I don't think we'll know until after the shock of a landslide defeat settles out in a year or so."
- "Trump was bold and inclusive."
- "Crazy and crazier."
- "Crazier and angrier."
- "Trump is neither conservative nor moderate, so I'd say the view is that the party is more radical, but no one can really say in what direction. Anyone's best guess as to how he would actually govern..."
- "RP kiss Trump's butt more."
- "It's definitely not more 'conservative' ... the things Trump and his Rs (I don't include Rs who aren't Trumpians) were talking about were so outlandishly radical, they would have made Lenin blush."
- "DT first thought should be 'Don't Talk!'"

- "None of the above. As time has elapsed since the convention, the Trump effort has looked worse and less organized, certainly by way of comparison to the Clinton machine. The fact that the Republican Party nominated Trump, Trump's repeated miscues and that some of the Party's stalwarts are struggling or have refused to be on his team, makes the Republican Party look inept and unsure. Their campaign theme is effectively 'We're better than Hillary.' There has been a change in perception of the Republican Party, but it's not about conservative or middle."

- "Angry agitators"
- "Cold hard facts."
- "More disorganized"
- "Not sure what it stands for."
- "'Conservative/middle/liberal' labels are no longer applicable to a Trump candidacy. He's all over the map."

How have perceptions of the Democratic Party changed since its convention?

- "The Democrats are trying to reel in the Bernie supporters, but this moves the party further to the left."
- "A lot of Republicans were wondering why the media didn't call out the fact that DNC plagiarized the 1980 RNC convention. Did you hear someone said, 'A city on a Hill?'"
- "Common sense, practical — reasonable. A true party of the people — open and accessible to everyone. Not just angry white men."
- "I think it was all pretty transparent, but to the independent voter who is pretty conservative and not for Trump, who knows."
- "Further liberal, but only from the starting point of the current centrist Administration. Bernie Sanders was no more than a New Deal liberal — certainly not a 'socialist.' But in four years, conservative/liberal labels may

be outmoded, replaced by nationalist vs. globalist or something similar."

- "And repeat after me: Perception is reality."
- "Clinton won over the 2 percent of Bernie supporters who don't think Katy Perry is a sell out."
- "Where are they really? One thing is coming out of their mouths, but it doesn't match past words and actions. It is so surreal! I am not criticizing their platform, much of which I really like. I am just concerned with the inconsistency. Will we really get what we heard from them? What are we really voting for in November? If I thought we might get a moderate President who was business friendly and worked with Congress like the latter part of the B. Clinton administration, it would increase my willingness to vote Democrat for President in November. If we are

getting Obama cont'd or B.S. Socialism, no, thank you."

- "They are so far left that they are truly the looney left."

- "Well, actually not liberal, leftist, leftie, progressive."

- "The Democratic message has been trending left for some time, and probably will for the foreseeable future. America is becoming increasingly dependent on government (more old folks and minorities) and those demographics will vote their self-interests, as we all tend to do. Demography supports a long-term trend toward both parties becoming more leftist than they have been in the past. If the parties truly want to win elections, that is."

- "She's fingernails on a chalkboard!"

- "Military focus"

- "Goofier and more risk-averse."

- "Trump wants to get USA out of NATO."

- "Freedom, education, jobs, strong defense, religious tolerance, America as world leader ... all themes for proud Americans."

Now that both conventions have passed, who's got the upper hand in this election cycle?

- "HRC and Kaine"

- "The Electoral College. This might be the one year when voters forgive Electoral College members for breaking

- "Crooked Hillary appears well positioned."

- "Only Trump and the ineptitude of the Republican Party have allowed the Democrats to argue with some success that things aren't as bad as some might say, and to argue that Trump is ill-prepared to be President. The Democrats have been able to deflect attention from some of Clinton's biggest problems simply by changing the conversation to Trump. And Trump is so occasionally outrageous that the Democrats have been able to get away with this."

- "Higher corporate and personal taxes, massive entitlement programs, high tariffs, more unionized workers — almost as guaranteed a recession/depression as the Republicans have on offer."

- "Big lies. *Uuugh* lies."

- "It was sad to see the Clinton machine silence the dissenters."

- "This could be a problem for them. The Sanders folks will not let this go."

from the nominee and casting their ballots for someone who is actually qualified to serve."

- "As much as I hate to admit it, but HC has the upper hand considering Trump can't keep his mouth shut without offending someone. His attack on the Khan family would have been a one-day story if he would have let it go, but no, he has to have the last word and that is going to be the demise of his campaign."
- "The stain of the Scarlet T shall be permanent. Y'all have gotten what you so richly deserve."
- "Its a race to the bottom!"
- "Gary Johnson and the Libertarians are more influential than ever before but still don't have a snowball's chance, in my opinion, of winning the Presidential race. The other two were entertaining in an odd and somewhat disconcerting manner."
- "The question, one thinks, is not who's going to WIN the election. Rather, it is who's going to LOSE it. And they will both strive mightily to accomplish that. As of this moment, I think that if Trump is able to hew to the national security theme, be it ever so clumsily done, he will be the last clown standing at the end."
- "Because Trump engages in issues that are rabbit trails and if he can't stop, he loses."
- "The more she talks, the more she lies. You know you can tell she is engaged in a lie because her lips are moving. Even her own party and supporters are telling her to quit the lies. That means less trustworthy and unfavourables go up."
- "As unlikable as she is, Hillary will crush the even less likable Trump. All she has to do is stay out of trouble."
- "Despite the horrendous media bias, Trump manages to own the air — day in, day out."
- "Really due to Trump's idiotic behavior."
- "The blind, deaf and dumb Tommy."
- "I long for the day when there is a candidate that I can truly support. This is pathetic!"
- "Columnist David Brooks called Trump a 'moral pygmy.' Good description, except for the insult to pygmies."
- "Noteworthy that Gary Johnson could make a difference in the outcome of the election if he gets more than 5 percent in Florida, Ohio or Pennsylvania. Presumably, his success would make it even harder for Trump to find a way to win these states."
- "So many warts! Math favors Ds, but if Trump brings out those who don't usually vote, who knows?"
- "If Johnson weren't so odd himself, I think he could take it all. Both major parties are in an all-out race to the bottom."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, 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, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Gay Erwin, Tom Forbes, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Larry McGinnis, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.