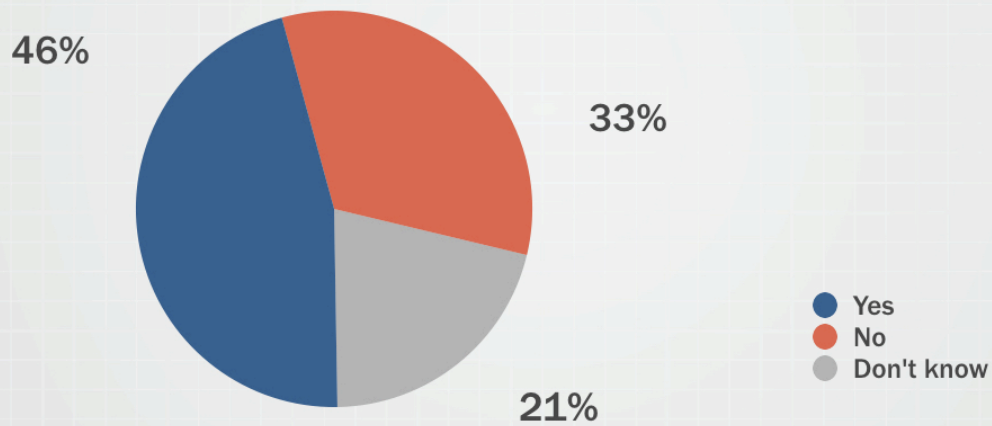


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 12 August 2016*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

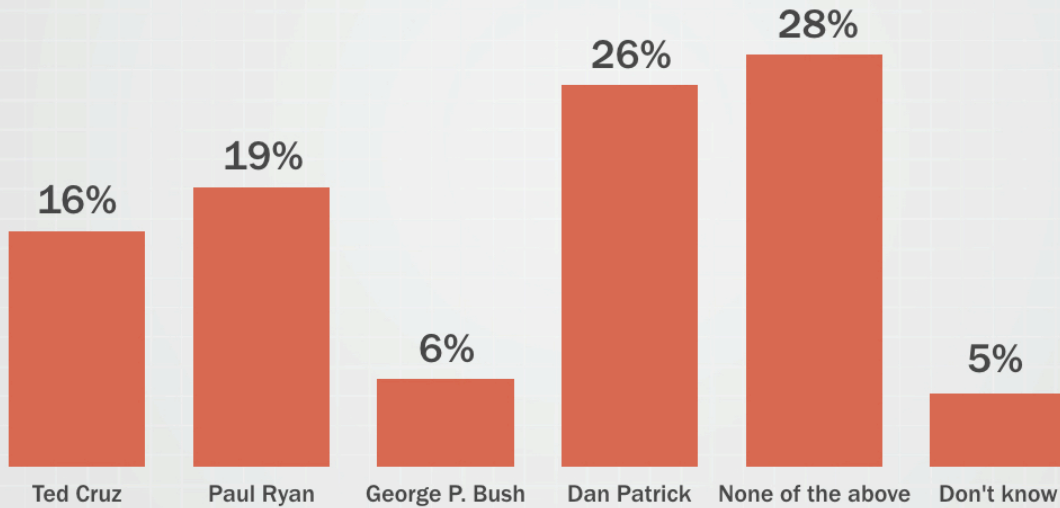
Is Donald Trump having a measurable effect on  
down-ballot races in Texas?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

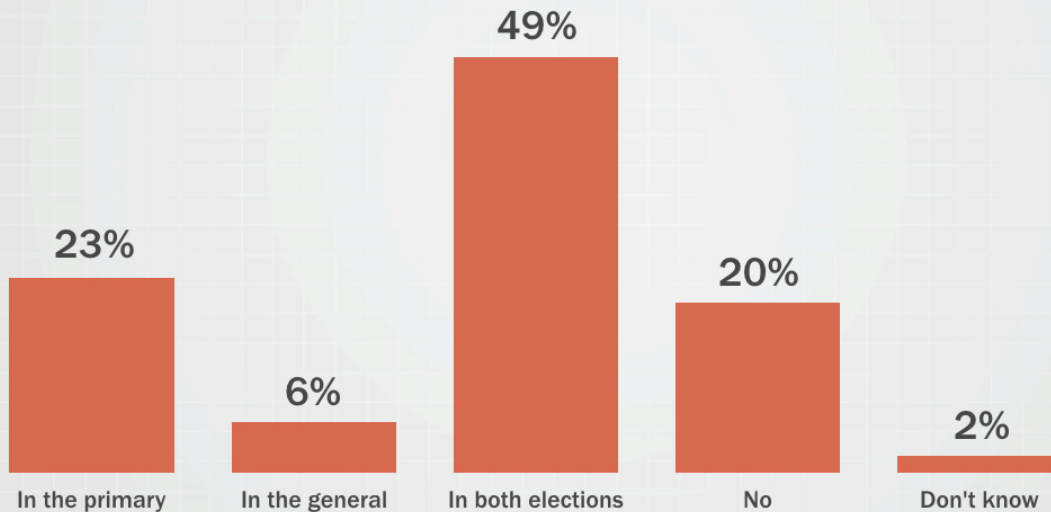
Who among these Republicans is managing the Trump effect best?



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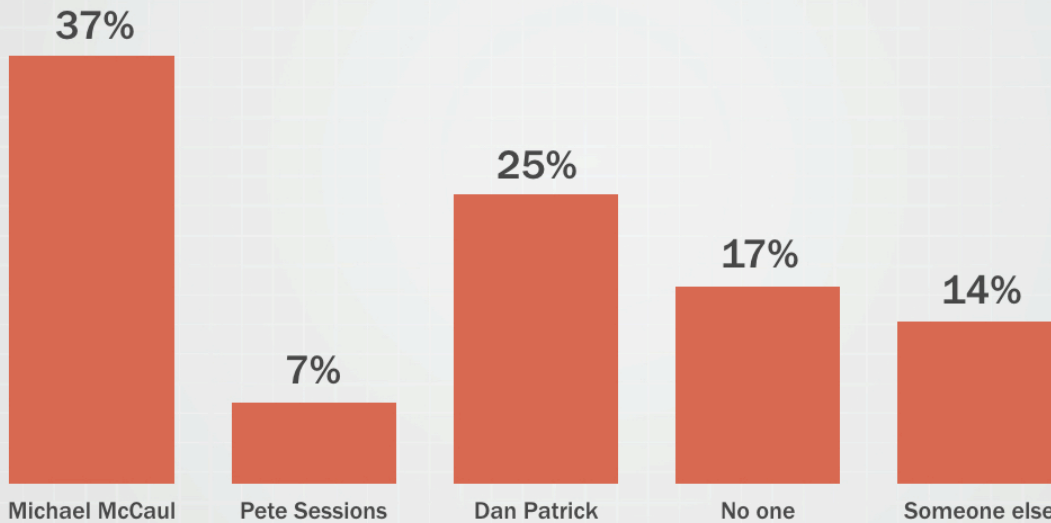
Does Cruz draw a serious challenger next cycle  
because of his convention speech?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

At this point, which Republican is most likely to challenge Cruz?



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## ***Is Donald Trump having a measurable effect on down-ballot races in Texas?***

- "Answered 'yes,' but who the heck really knows? Haven't found any precedent for this bizarre election cycle."
- "Negative"
- "Hard to tell right now. But if Trump impacts voter turnout, then, yes, it will have an effect."
- "Let's hope so. If the Ds can't make progress with Trump on the top of the opposite ticket, it'll be decades before they can control the state."
- "Hard to say at this point in the summer. Without polling data, you can't say one way or another whether Trump is having an effect. Aside from Hurd-Gallego, I don't think anyone is polling right now. And in that race, I don't think Trump is having the negative effect Pete and the DCCC had hoped for."
- "Yes. He's helping to separate the men from the boys. The men are ready to saddle up and get on board. The boys are wringing their hands trying to

figure out why their candidate didn't win the primary."

- "What competitive races do you speak of beside CD-23?"
- "Hurd seems to be doing well in the only competitive Congressional race."
- "Yes. And they're all awful."
- "Has to be depressing turnout for Rs."
- "Too soon to tell but a continuing decline will affect down-ballot Republicans."
- "Trump is alienating women and engaging the Independents Obama drove away from the Democratic Party."

- "Hurts bad."

- "Trump is helping Democrats in close races."
- "Only a handful in Texas will be decided in November. Republicans in Dallas and in CD-23 need to remember our reasonable and effective Republicans running for the Texas House and Congress."
- "Too early to tell. I recommend asking the question again in late September."
- "Could be one or more in trouble on the R side."
- "Straight-ticket Republican vote drop-off."

### ***Who among these Republicans is managing the Trump effect best?***

- "Paul Ryan was elected Speaker to provide some adult supervision in a most unruly playground. He's doing just that, and doing it very well."
- "Patrick has stuck with the issues — pushing Texas priorities like border and choice. Others are distracted by the personality problems."
- "John Cornyn"
- "Cruz is going to look like a Profile in Courage."
- "All but Cruz are doing fine."
- "Dan Patrick is working the situation with his usual finesse. George P. gets an honorable mention for stepping up and

making the difficult call, breaking from the family and endorsing."

- "The grassroots that finally saw The Real Cruz. He overplayed his hand."
- "Cruz has been consistent. Ryan and Bush are being whipped back and forth. Patrick's support for Trump is textbook party loyalty, but will not look good over time."
- "Patrick is, as usual, the one to watch."
- "Paul Ryan is earning support among women and growing support among the Independents Obama drove from his Party."

- "I think Ted Cruz looks smart for not endorsing someone that Republicans are running away from."

- "He's the only one not trying to endorse, but not endorse."

### ***Does Cruz draw a serious challenger next cycle because of his convention speech?***

- "Much depends upon what happens over the next 18 months or so regarding the primary. There will likely also be a 'serious' candidate in the general, who still will have no prayer."

- "Cruz is gone — everything he's done wrong — poor constituency services, arrogance, no friends, third finger to the big donors at the Convention, is going to come crashing down on him. He has not accomplished anything in the Senate and he has dramatically over-rated speaking skills; couldn't even beat Donald Trump. Seriously, why does anybody think he's not vulnerable and then some."

- "Serious in the primary. A Castro in the general is not serious."

- "Adios, Mo Fo! :-)"

- "Doesn't mean he will lose, though."

- "Define serious? The better question is, can someone emerge who is conservative (we're still in Texas) but will be effective in a meaningful, positive way? I think the answer is yes. Money can't be the metric of seriousness — after all, anyone remember the dollar advantage Dewhurst had over TC?"

- "Depends is the only right answer now. If Trump gets swamped, Cruz won't be much hurt. If Trump runs

close and wins or loses, Cruz will have problems."

- "Both — not that a general election opponent in Texas can really be categorized as serious."

- "When diehard grassroots question Cruz in public and don't care about repercussions, he left his flank open."

- "No plausible GOP entrant will have enough name ID and policy differences to mount a serious challenge. Democrats, including the attractive but unaccomplished Castro brothers, are still several elections away from a statewide win, especially in an off-year."

- "A serious challenger, as in one who has a decent chance of beating him? No. He may get a good challenger, who will lose."

- "He will have funded opponents but it won't matter. He will win."

- "Not necessarily because of his antics, but because Trump will find and fund a challenger."

- "Ironically, his convention speech will be the example of the only time that Ted Cruz behaved like the adult in the room."

### ***At this point, which Republican is most likely to challenge Cruz?***

- "Don't know that McCaul jumps in, but he has all the tools to move up the food chain. He is a superb member of the House, and would make a terrific Senator — or President, for that matter. I'm a fan."
- "Done deal... take this to the bank!"
- "George P."
- "George P. Bush"
- "I'm so"
- "George P. Bush"
- "A businessman or woman outsider with no political experience."
- "Lowry Mays"
- "Shakes out after November — Patrick, Abbott, the list could grow. Anyone who runs better get their big boy pants on and get ready to rumble. Team Cruz will do anything, use anything and say anything to keep that seat."
- "None of those. Maybe a state senator not up for re-election."
- "Rick Perry"

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, 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, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jack Erskine, Gay Erwin, Tom Forbes, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, Chuck Rice, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.