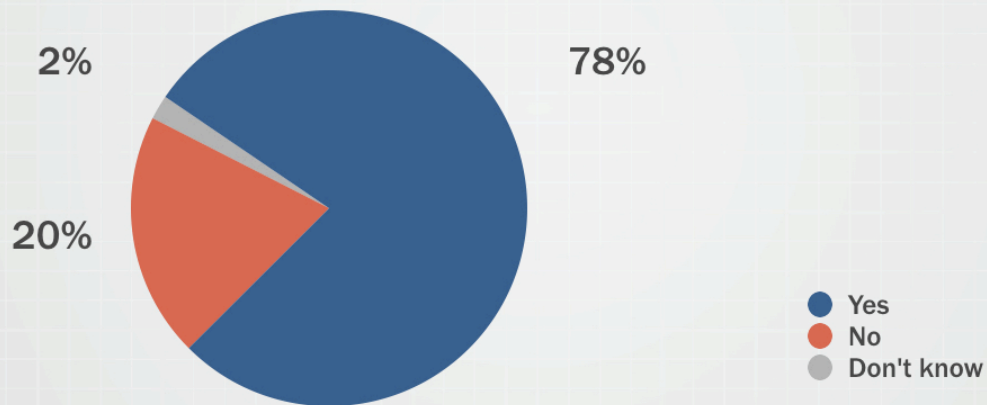


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 23 September 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

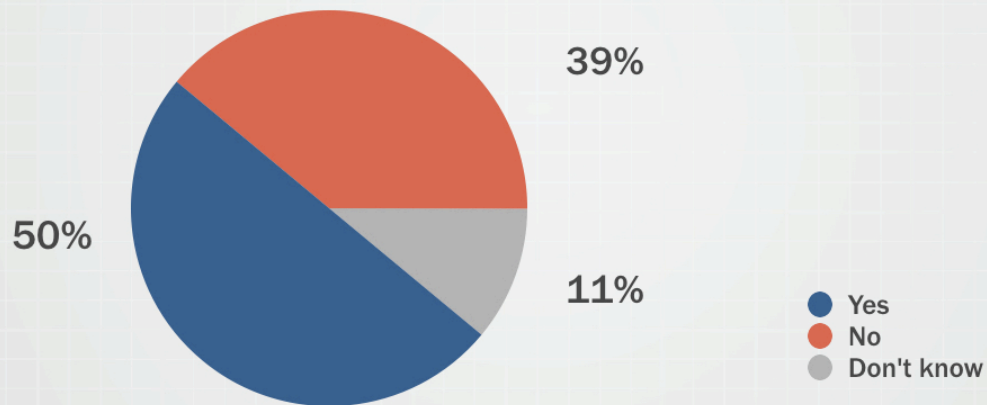
Do you believe recent polling in Texas that has Donald Trump performing below a generic Republican candidate at this point?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

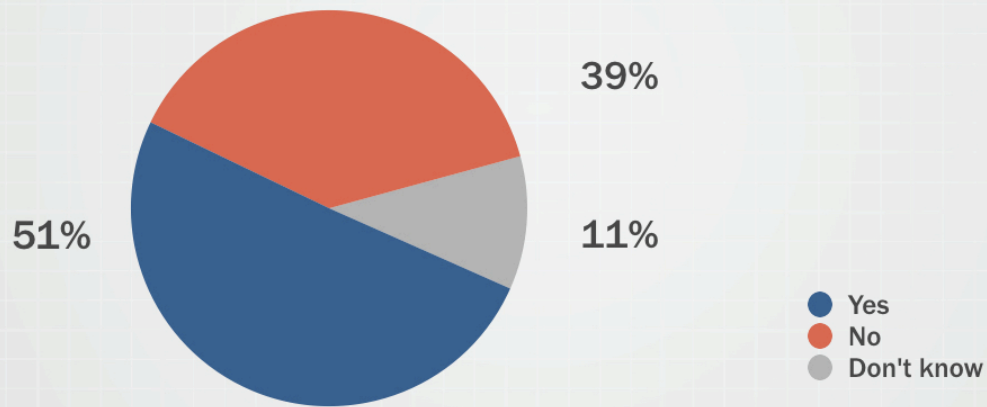
Do you agree that Ted Cruz could be left “in the rearview mirror of the Republican Party” if he doesn’t endorse Trump?



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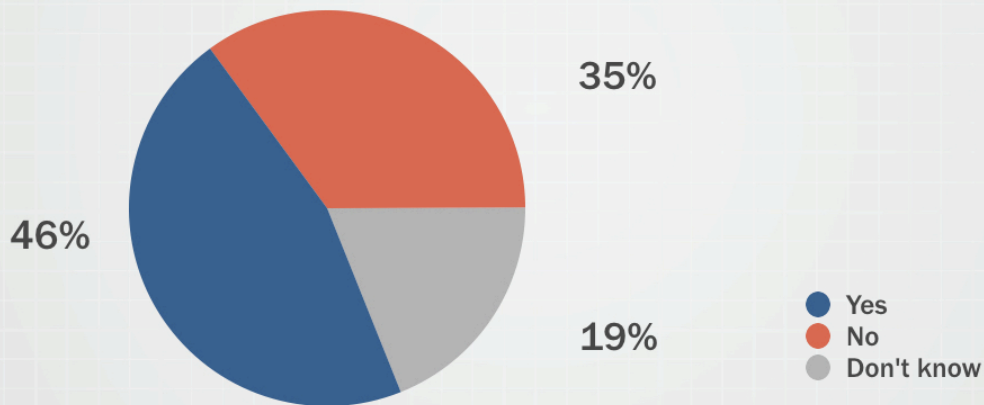
Would a Trump presidency endanger Texas Republicans' majority status in the next five to 10 years?



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Would a win this year by Hillary Clinton be better for Texas Republicans in the long run?



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Do you believe recent polling on the presidential race in Texas that has Donald Trump performing below a generic Republican candidate at this point?

- "I believe the polling but polls do not gauge enthusiasm, which will be a real factor in November."
- "There are statistics, polls and damn lies. Get my point. The 2014 midterm polls were VERY wrong. You think polls are not manipulated? If so, you're naive and clueless. No, you are part of the establishment."
- "Yes, but he's gaining ground recently as Hillary falters and as many Republicans return home, as expected."
- "I believe there are plenty of Country Club Republicans who will never admit they are voting for Trump."
- "This man is a complete and total imbecile, the center of an opera buffa. He is the exception that proves the rule; Michael Bloomberg and Warren Buffet correctly ridicule him for not being a

very good businessman. There are too many well respected Republicans of every stripe that believe he's actually, and has always been, a Democrat: Mitt Romney, Sen. Lindsey Graham, Sen. Susan Collins and former President George H.W. Bush, to name a few. Too many intelligence specialists, namely Gen. Michael Hayden and Secretary Robert Gates, believe him to be dangerous to America's long-term interest. Lastly, his criticism of Sen. McCain is unforgivable. McCain is a war hero because he refused early release knowing the North Vietnamese would gain political points and demoralize his fellow American POWs for releasing the son (and grandson) of a Navy Admiral(s)."

- "If ever there was a RINO, Trump is it."
- "He will still win by at least six to eight percent."
- "I have friends who're still committed to NOT voting."
- "Those generic candidates never quite work out, do they?"

Do you agree with Dan Patrick's assessment that Ted Cruz could be left "in the rearview mirror of the Republican Party" if he doesn't endorse Trump?

- "When Trump wins, TC will be an egocentric flash in the pan."
- "I believe it not because one has to 'kiss the king's ring' but as long as Cruz holds out, he is reneging on his promise to support the nominee made in the debates. Additionally, his stated reason for holding out was that his family was

- "Performing below prior legitimate Republicans, but not below Hillary Clinton."
- "No, I don't believe the polls. This is a movement election. From unprecedented turnout at rallies to record breaking small-dollar fundraising — no pollster or political pundit has gotten anything right about this election so far."
- "Absolutely... Trump will be trumped in Texas. Meaning... he will be held to single digits from Hillary. Embarrassing..."
- "Contrary to what conservatives would have you believe, moderate Republicans are Republican voters, too!"
- "Maybe a touch, but not enough to matter."
- "Trump in love with Putin"

insulted, not because of core principles. Together they give the image of a liar and a hothead, which flies in the face of his previously well cultivated image."

- "As dad always said about bad choices, make your bed you have to sleep in it! Ted stepped in some deep

cow pie at the convention and it will be hard to dig out of it."

- "It happens when politicians are motivated more by their own political careers than they are by a desire to serve."
- "Yes, but the rearview mirror is attached to a horse and buggy rig."
- "Dan Patrick is the best political windsock in Texas."
- "There's a danger for Cruz in not endorsing. If Trump wins the race, the danger will be minimized, even eliminated. If Trump loses a close one, he's in uncharted territory."
- "Ted Cruz is the crowned conservative of Texas and he still has his money people behind him. If Dan is going to take aim at the king, he better not miss."
- "I think the GOP is redefining itself and who's to say who comes out flying the GOP's (as we know it) banner."
- "The coming wreckage will require serious triage, but it will be for those who supported the nominee. I am most disappointed that the other 16 candidates could not defeat him in the primary."
- "Depends on whether Trump wins or loses and if he loses, how badly. If Trump wins or loses but keeps it close (respectable?), then yeah, Cruz will be left behind. But if Trump loses badly and drags down the ticket (U.S. Senate flips?), then Cruz gets to say, 'I told you so,' and everyone will be scrambling to get back on his train."

• "Ted Cruz's non-endorsement of Trump is the only respectable action he's taken in four years."

• "He might be looking like he is 'in the rearview mirror of the GOP,' but if the polling is correct in Texas, there are more people here not supporting Trump as expected and that could keep Cruz alive in politics."

• "It all depends on the November result."

• "Ted Cruz is already in the rearview mirror of history — he was such an off-putting candidate that he couldn't even beat Donald Trump. Even if Trump loses, Cruz will never get out of single digits in a presidential campaign again and it will be a real shame if nobody in Texas has the guts to run against him."

• "Grandstanding isn't Senator Cruz's style."

• "Cruz is probably already a past-tense player. Someone more charismatic and reasonable, appealing to a broader audience, will appear eventually and we'll stop looking at these crazy clowns."

• "Cruz is going to look good if Trump loses. And, if Trump wins, Cruz will be on the sh*t list anyway, so he's got nothing to lose."

• "Cruz is past his expiration date."

• "Ted Cruz is done. This is not based on his non-endorsement of Trump but rather on Teddy's belief that it's all about him!"

- "Both Cruz and Patrick are on the razor's edge; either could end up more powerful after the election."

- "Ted Cruz has already been left in the rearview mirror. And he already knows it. Lots of folks are hoping to see Dan Patrick in their rearview mirror, too. But Dan will be the last to know."

- "Live by the conservative brand, die by the conservative brand. The train has left the station."

- "He's myopic at best."

- "Depends if Trump wins or barely loses. In either case, Patrick would be right. Cruz will be hurt."

- "For a while, people were scared to cross Ted Cruz; that is no longer the case. He asks and asks for help and the heart and soul of the GOP asked him for help and he made it about himself, again..."

- "Pass the dope."

- "No loss"

Would a Trump presidency endanger Texas Republicans' majority status in the next five to 10 years?

- "Will strengthen it, and bring new voters to the party. Yes, I said new and more Republican voters."

- "Yes, but I hold hope that he will grasp the value of and begin to use measured messaging and statesmanlike behavior."

- "But also, it will be the changing demographics of the state and urban versus rural domination that will truly leave the Republicans in the dust."

- "Trump will speed the inevitable demise of the urban Republican. Demographics will take care of the rest."

- "Hard to say. It is certainly a liability — fear of the unknown with certain turbulence ahead. That's what is known. Turbulence."

- "Not likely, in their primary re-election both Speaker Ryan and Sen.

McCain differentiated themselves from the nominee. Similarly, Texas Republicans voters will do the same."

- "If he hasn't completely destroyed the GOP brand by now, how on earth could he possibly do so during a presidency?"

- "Have you seen the Texas Democratic Party?"

- "Trump is a Yankee and we won't pay much attention to him. Oh — you said a Trump presidency. That ain't gonna happen."

- "If a Trump presidency means that the country is splitting on racial/ethnic lines, the party reliant on old white people will lose in the long run."

- "Trump is bringing new voters to the Party. He's part of the solution, not the problem."

- "I think Texas Republicans are doing a great job of endangering themselves... higher transportation debt, record toll road debt, CPS debacles, lack of public education funding, endangering the Texas business climate, and lack of focus on the bigger pictures issues which allows Texas to be a dominant force in the U.S."

- "Texans would wake up and vote. 'Say goodnight Dan.'"

- "It depends how he performs as president."

- "He'll be more successful than most people think, politically and substantively."

- "Next two years"

- "Only if the establishment elites keep whining..."

Would a win this year by Hillary Clinton be better for Texas Republicans in the long run?

- "If Texas Republicans can't get it together after eight years of Obamanism, then four years of Clinton ain't gonna help them."

- "Meh"

- "She'll coddle and encourage more who will become dependent upon the government teat. Too many of those voting will cause the Republicans to get too far behind to catch up."

- "They can keep bashing and suing the feds. However, they still face the demographic sea change that is coming."

- "It would be better for Texas as it would promote more competitiveness and hopefully moderation."

- "Republicans are really good at saying NO, not so much with yes."

- "Four more years of campaigning against the Washington elite who are destroying our freedoms and taking our guns."

- "Wake up call. We have not gotten our shit together and while we have no one to blame but ourselves — having the lowest of common denominators from the Dems as the leader of the free world should shock the Sam Houston out of any red-blooded, Lone Star flag waving Texan. As a general statement of course, if you are a Democrat in Texas and you are genuinely excited about your party's candidate — there is a strong chance you did not spend your first birthday on Texas soil."

- "She may be a lot of things, but there are too many respectable Republicans who view her in a favorable light. She was a workhorse in the Senate and accrued kudos from her fellow Senators as being effective and conciliatory."

- "Allows them to play opposition, but unless they can sell ideas of their own that appeal to voters, then their goose is cooked."

- "Asinine question."

- "A win by Hillary Clinton won't be better for anybody — not only will our national leader be an amoral and unprincipled liar who has made millions out of public service — her policies will lead our country down the path of more corruption and whiney mediocrity."
- "It'll be tough for Trump to win by comparing him only to Hillary. He needs to reach out to Texans. I'm waiting..."
- "Hillary will do so much damage to the U.S. Supreme Court, it is worth almost anything to deny her the White House. Even a Trump would be better than Hillary."
- "Yes, if the party stops focusing so much on the primary electorate and starts addressing the needs of the population as a whole."
- "Define 'long run.' If she wins, it will take two generations to undo the damage, if it can be undone at all."
- "A Hillary victory in Texas is a mathematic impossibility."
- "A win by HRC will empower Republicans in Texas for another 10 years. They have run against President Obama and won at the state and local levels."
- "Assuming the Secretary wins, it will be hard to stay longer than a term. The Texas Republicans have a natural foil for their own policies plus the national push on conservative issues."
- "Republicans like to have a villain, real or fabricated. Makes it easier to prey on fear. Remember Jade Helm?"
- "Politically, yes, but the state economy could suffer under the continuation of Obama-type national policies."
- "She is bad news and has been consistently wrong on major foreign policy issues forever."
- "Of course. What will the AG do if there's no bogey(wo-)man in the White House to sue? Why, they'd have to mothball that whole office."
- "Just like it was good for Rush Limbaugh."

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, Marc Campos, Elna Christopher, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Harriet O'Neill, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Mark Smith, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.