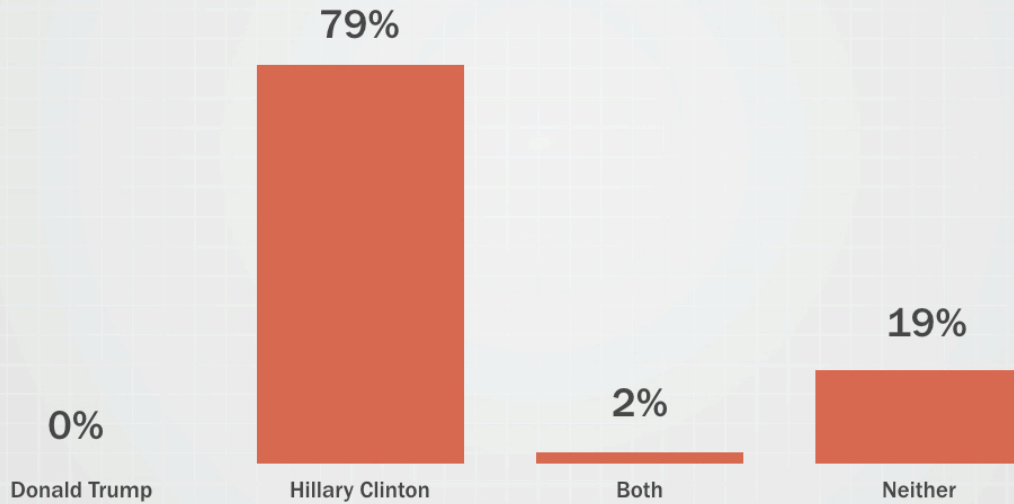


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 7 October 2016*

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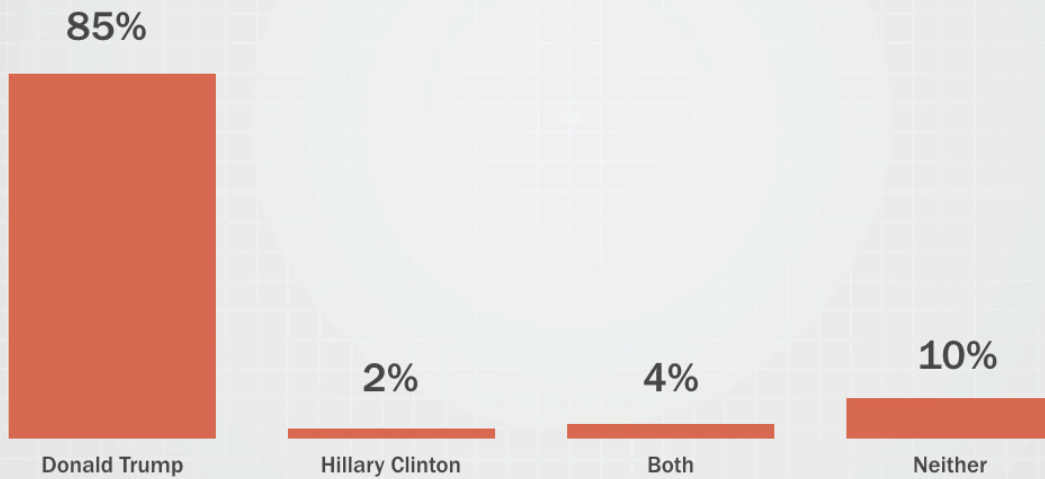
Who was helped the most by the first debate?



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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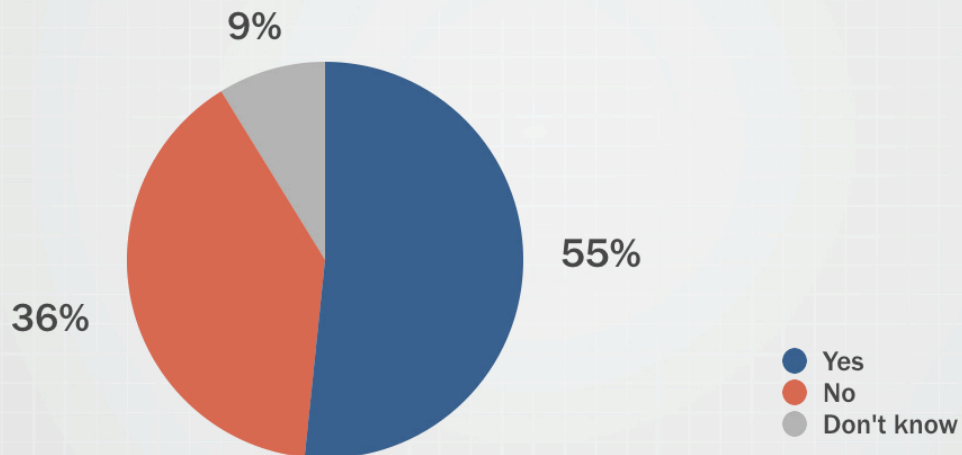
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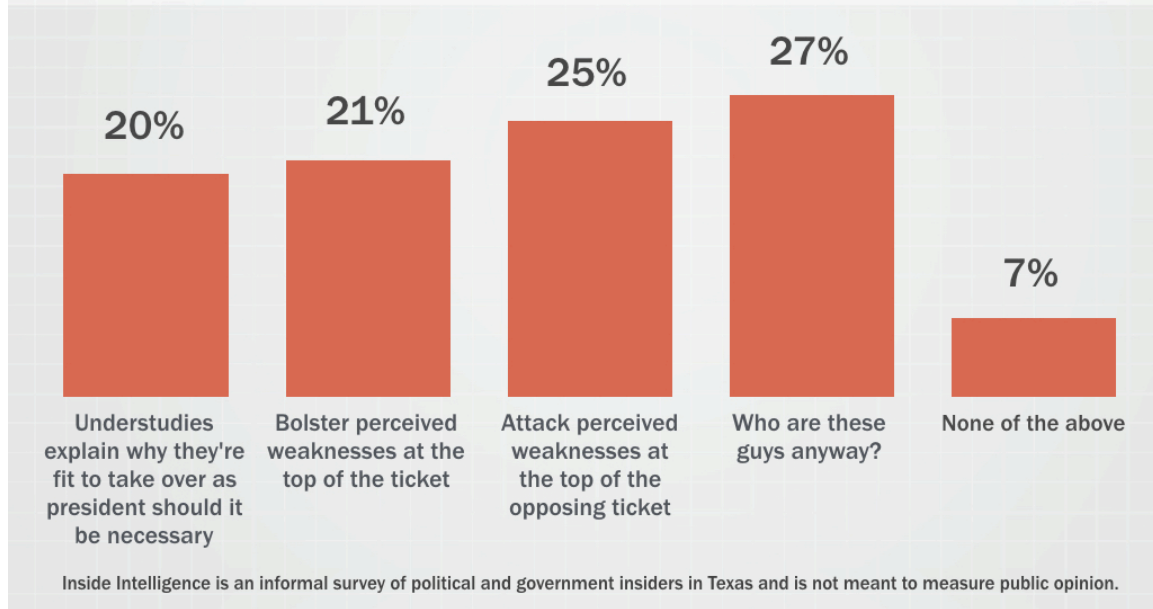
Based on what you know now, do the debates this year move the needle with the electorate?



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What's the main purpose of this week's vice presidential debate?



Who was helped the most by the first debate?

- "She got her points out in a competent, if unappealing, manner."
- "Trump supporters seem to be proud of the fact that he knows nothing, so I doubt he lost or gained votes. Hillary supporters were probably happy with her performance, but I doubt she converted anyone."
- "Independent conservatives were looking for an opportunity to give Trump a chance and he screwed up in a YUGE way."
- "It showed that he really is just an idiot bully."
- "Didn't watch. So over this election."
- "I think Hillary's uptick this past week was due more to Trump and Ms. Machado's back and forth than Trump's horrific debate performance."
- "Hillary wins simply by not being Donald Trump."
- "Trump good for a half-hour and then followed every rabbit trail Lester Holt"

and Hillary threw at him. Critical issues facing the nation, who cares!"

- "...And that's a stretch for a GOPer to say it, but..."

Who was hurt the most by the first debate?

- "Trump failed to prepare, lost numerous opportunities to exploit Clinton weaknesses."
- "Trump has his base and they will never falter. However, the purpose was to increase his popularity and he failed."
- "America"
- "We, the people, were most hurt. We're damned if we do, and damned if we don't."
- "See above"

Based on what you know now, do the debates this year move the needle with the electorate?

- "It may not have been the debate itself but the follow-up behavior of the contenders. Clinton walked away confident, and moved on. Trump went around telling everyone he 'won' the debate, etc. He also has tried to shift the conversation to Bill Clinton's infidelities and is failing on this messaging. He claims he should get a gold star for not talking about her marriage. Not going over well with most people."
- "I just don't know anymore. I'm struggling to understand this whole election without using something useless like rationalization. Ping me when it's over, I'll be the one helping House friends in Dallas County."

- "Trump was terrible but apparently only lost a point in RCP."

- "Can he make just one sound policy statement?"
- "Someone who's not an establishment Republican may see it differently. Call me old school — guilty."
- "The closer the election gets, Trump's antics isolate him more."
- "He was hurt only modestly in the debate but responded with more goofiness. He needs to play error free ball to win from here."

- "Crazies will vote for crazies and liberals will vote for liberals. Turnout is key."
- "It moved the needle TEMPORARILY against Trump. However, like his entire campaign, people come back to him as their default candidate."
- "Everyone I know is resolute in their hatred for one, the other, or both. I suppose if Trump really steps in it, it could move him backwards, but I've been saying that for over a year. Hillary probably won't mess up."
- "This election cycle has been different in every way imaginable and

unimaginable. With a few weeks left, everything moves the needle, including the debates."

- "I think it just solidifies what people already knew."
- "It's too early to tell. Regular (i.e., sane) folks are only now starting to pay attention."
- "Morons gonna moron. Racists gonna racist."
- "Most folks picked up sides long ago."
- "Could if Trump continues to take the bait."
- "Because of the weird attraction this year and the number of people watching, Trump had to present as presidential and he is not quite there."
- "I wanted so badly for Trump to sound and look presidential, but he just can't help himself sounding so petty."
- "So many undecideds — if polls suggest 9 percent undecided, this could

What's the main purpose of this week's vice presidential debate?

- "Both veep candidates got in good shots on the opposition. Kaine actually put more fire on the target, but he did it in an obnoxious manner."
- "Expand on their ticket's policy initiatives... except Trump/Pence ticket has no policy initiatives, so in Pence's case, making the case for why he accepted Trump's invitation to be on the ticket so he can salvage some sort of exit plan for himself..."

equal unmotivated to vote. Debates represent last real good opportunities to move the needle."

- "Neither of them did anything bad enough to lose their supporters. Trump hurt himself with undecided voters by taking her bait, and wound up in the unflattering position of defending himself. But that can be overcome in future debates."
- "Voters are idiots."
- "Trump's base (over 50, white, undereducated men) support him more passionately, while everyone else is either moving to Clinton, Johnson/Weld, not voting, or moving to Canada."
- "All the pundits say so. When were pundits last right?"
- "Blah blah blah blah blah"

- "I know a few people who have said their decision will hinge on this, but I don't believe it."
- "First time in Presidential Election history that a VP debate will carry this much weight. The VP will be running the country after all."
- "Truly to introduce these gentlemen to the larger audience."

- "The purpose is to avoid the discomfort of dealing with the question of why they DIDN'T have a debate. Just have the debate and get on with the real race."
- "All of the above."
- "Hey, we got two almost 70-year-olds with questionable health. No. 2 could easily become President."
- "None of the above. It has no real purpose. Who started these stupid VP debates anyway?"
- "There's a vice presidential debate?"
- "Assure the voters that the VP candidates are not as volatile or corrupt as the presidential candidates themselves."
- "It's on the schedule, so they'll go ahead and have it."
- "We've had VP debates, so we think we need to blah blah blah blah. Why again are we doing this? If you have not decided by now, you are a freaking moron!"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Alderete, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Blaine Bull, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Marc Campos, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, June Dadrick, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Nelson Nease, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Vicki Truitt, Chris Wallace, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Angelo Zottarelli.