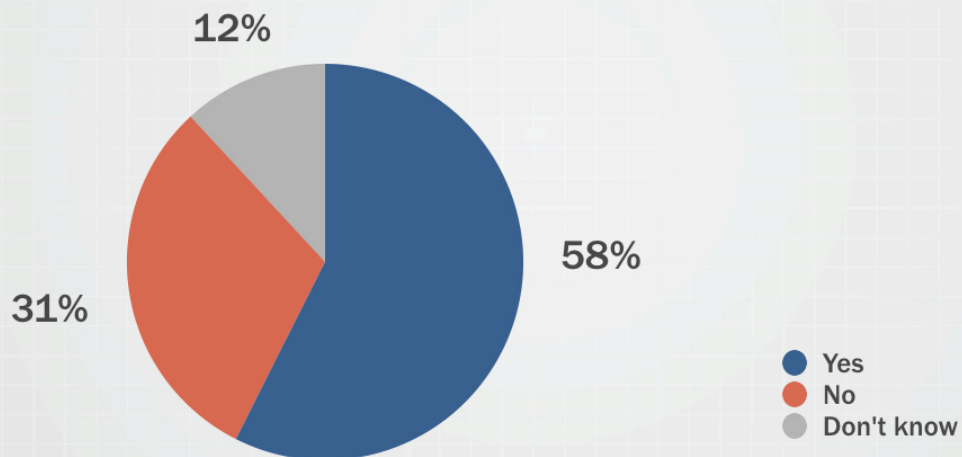


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 14 October 2016*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

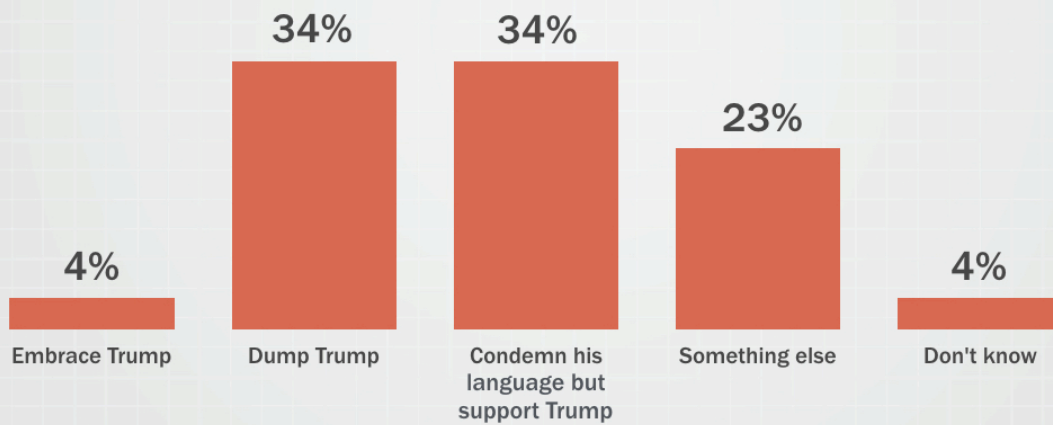
With the release of the “Access Hollywood” hot mic video last Friday, is presidential candidate Donald Trump done for?



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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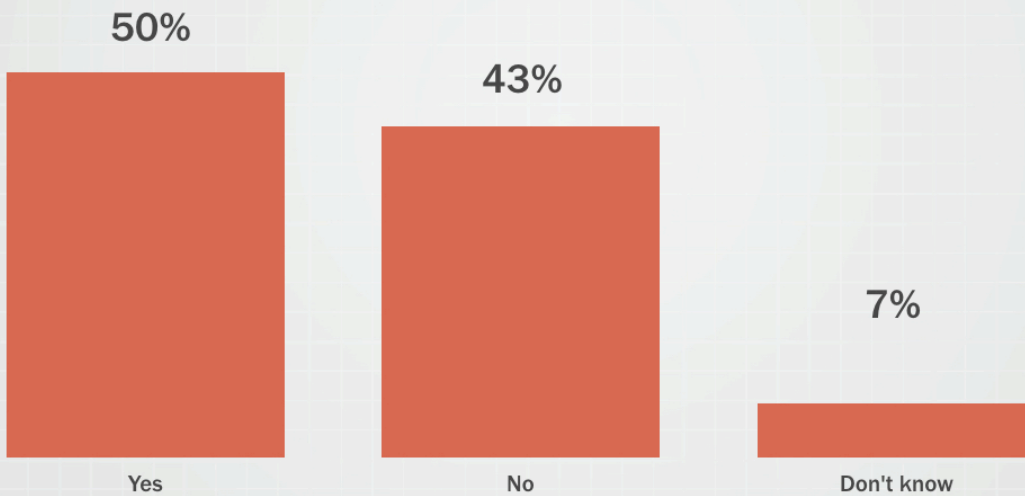
You're a GOP state representative in a competitive district this fall. What do you do?



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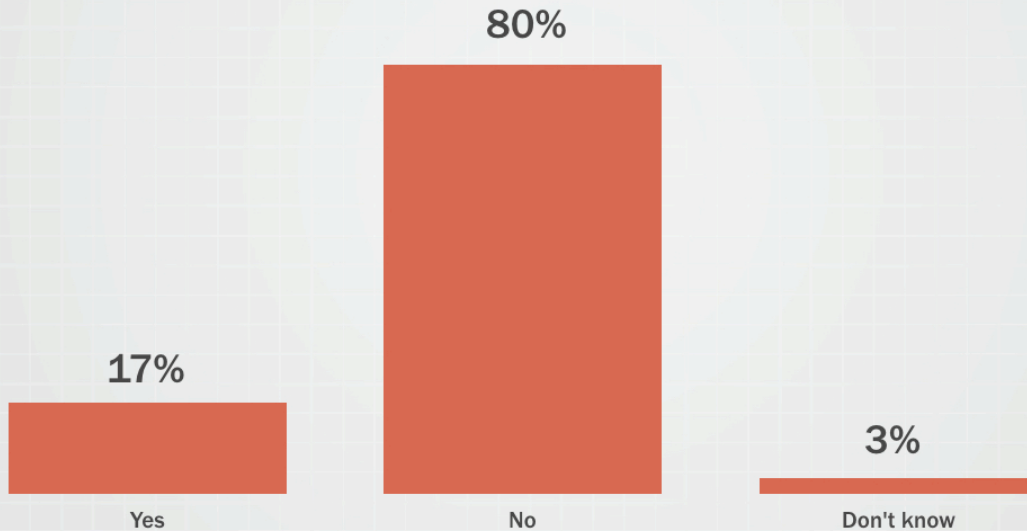
Does Trump take out GOP candidates below him on the state ballot?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Is Texas now in play for Hillary Clinton?



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***With the release of the “Access Hollywood” hot mic video last Friday, is presidential candidate Donald Trump done for?***

- "Not in Texas — we are still the deepest shade of RED. Not nationwide — he is continuing to draw record crowds at rallies all across the county and in battleground states. Hillary had a less than stellar (bad) debate. All the momentum continues to ride with Trump."
- "No, not done with his followers."
- "I say yes, but man, who knows? People have lost their damn minds this year."
- "At least 35 percent of this country is composed of crazy ticked-off white people, men especially, who still can't get over the fact that the black guy won twice."
- "It doesn't matter that the tape is 10 years old. It just confirms what everyone (except his over-50, white, male base) already knew."
- "Trump was headed for a loss before the video was released."
- "Has been for several weeks."

- "Probably done for, but hard to say because Hillary could take on a damaging hit anytime."
- "Better for the GOP to wander in leaderless wilderness than lose their collective moral compass."
- "Texans do NOT want to be told by the mainstream media who to vote for. This is their doing and voters aren't liking it one bit."
- "The entire Democratic, Republican and media apparatus is against him. And therein lies his charm, or at least what goes for charm nowadays."
- "Probably."
- "Like the spawn of a phoenix and cockroach, Trump will again rise from the ashes."
- "Trump was dead before the release of the tape. Now, he's embalmed."
- "If making fun of war heroes, Down syndrome reporters, Megyn Kelly's cycle didn't hurt him, why would this? Some voters are obviously less concerned about his personality disorder and more interested in his ability to deliver much needed change in D.C."
- "This is the Jerry Springer election. I am of the belief there is another baby daddy right around the corner."

***You're a GOP state representative in a competitive district this fall. What do you do?***

- "The language is indefensible. But the enthusiasm of his supporters is undeniable. Those who distance

- "Hillary could shoot someone on Fifth Avenue and still win this election."
- "He was already in trouble and likely to lose, now he's in a little more trouble and a little more likely to lose. It went from really bad to really, really bad."
- "After everything else, do we really think this will make any difference?"
- "Yes, but he was losing already."
- "Threat is that more hot mic clips are on the way. If so, it will be hard for him to ever get beyond this story."
- "But it sure was immature."
- "Why did it take so long?"
- "His numbers weren't all that great to begin with, and he was still in a deficit with the electoral college prior to the release of his comments."
- "Pig. Asshole."
- "Are you kidding? Please spare me."
- "Certainly this phoenix will burn itself on a funeral pyre and rise from the ashes with renewed youth to live through another news cycle."

themselves from Trump will be a distant memory (road kill) when sunrise comes on Nov. 9."

- "Focus on your district."
- "If a state rep in a competitive district, you would condemn and endorse — there is protocol after all."
- "I would say 'Donald who?'"
- "Say 'I'm running to represent the \_\_ District in the Texas House and all my attention is on that.'"
- "Ignore it for as long as I can."
- "Ignore Trump. He has nothing to do with state legislative elections."
- "Most everyone has things from their past for which they are ashamed. Hopefully, through a repentant heart and a change in behavior, one is forgiven. What a reach for the need to go back more than a decade to reveal his lewd language."
- "It doesn't help you if you pull your endorsement. When it comes to party politics, you are in for a penny, in for a pound."
- "The moral fabric of our nation is at stake — are Americans watching their elected leaders to put politics aside, not endorse his candidacy, and condemn Donald Trump in the clearest terms."
- "Try to avoid talking about Trump and hope your local press doesn't press you on the point."
- "Democrats aren't going to vote for you no matter what — you have to energize your base and, sadly, many of them are die-hard Trump supporters."
- "Seeing how most voters (and certain state representatives and senators ;-)) can't distinguish between D.C. and Austin, I'd rail against the evil D.C. Stoke that anger at the establishment and elites in D.C."
- "The only GOP hope, slim though it is, is to replace Trump with his running mate. His name...? I forget. But him, yeah."
- "Focus on my own race."
- "You have to be more specific. If I am running in a Houston competitive district, I would drop Trump like he's hot. If I am in a Dallas competitive district, I would just ignore the situation and keep on trucking."
- "We're talking about a very limited number of people here. You have to condemn Trump, which is easy enough to do (everyone else has), but support him so that you can win the primary in 2018."
- "Ignore."
- "No-win situation."
- "Look out for yourself."
- "Worry about my race and not his."
- "Depends on district. The more white and undereducated, the less room to move away."
- "If you're in a competitive House district, then you got bigger problems to worry about than Donald Trump."
- "Ignore it. Non-issue."

- "The Republican Party is so fractured, legislators will try to straddle the fence which may be a good short-term strategy, but will hurt them in the long run."

- "If you're in a 50-50 district. You say bye bye now."

- "I hope."

### ***Does Trump take out GOP candidates below him on the state ballot?***

- "GOP straight ticket edge will save over GOP candidates"

- "There is always a seat to flip somewhere. Don't try to lay that at Trump's doorstep. He has generated more enthusiasm than any Republican presidential candidate in history."

- "I do think the DT effect will be such."

- "Polls I've seen show him as a relatively post-partisan candidate, such that neither he nor Clinton have coattails."

- "Now there are too many pissed off women (and others)."

- "Trump and Clinton are so unpopular that they may depress voter turnout, assisting GOP candidates in some races."

- "In some states, he will. Texas, likely not."

- "No more than usual. When Democrats sweep big cities and counties, they often beat all the Republican officeholders and judges. Trump will be blamed, but probably any Democrat who did well in the cities would get the same result."

- "Trump's coattails are short... like his phalanges."

- "Any close race now picks up a liberal advantage. But that's not many. Few races are close."

- "The polling numbers don't indicate that down-ballot Republicans will be impacted."

- "Gilbert Peña will benefit from Trump being on the ballot. At a minimum, two GOP state Reps will go down in flames because of Trump."

- "Possibly as many as three House members. Not a big deal. The die was cast when the lines were drawn."

- "Yes, but not sure which ones or how many."

- "It's possible."

- "I'll be surprised if one down-ballot candidate loses because of Trump. This is Texas; it ain't gonna happen!"

- "God willing."

- "Tons will still vote for him, but won't admit it. She is truly evil. He wins."

- "Like a scythe."



## ***Is Texas now in play for Hillary Clinton?***

- "This is the fourth time you have asked the same question. NO. Read my lips."
- "Just doubtful, but I remain hopeful that the anger generated by DT gets folks out!"
- "In her dreams."
- "If Clinton gets 45 percent, it will be a victory for her."
- "Dumb question."
- "Her actions and words are abhorrent, and she belongs in prison. She makes Watergate look like child's play. Our state and nation need to be taken back under Christian standards and restored to One Nation Under God."
- "But we are a much bluer state because of the war in the Republican Party."
- "LOL. The lesson of Wendy Davis still holds. Texans will not support a pro-abortion, anti-gun, big-spending liberal who, we just learned, 'dreams' of open borders."
- "But that doesn't mean Texas will go blue statewide... it will make the difference in competitive races and it will help recoup lost ground after Battleground Texas backslide."
- "Not even Box 13, part 2 could carry Texas for Hillary."
- "So are you guys now PR'ing for Battleground Texas or the Lone Star Project? Of course NOT."
- "It might be closer than in recent elections, but the Texas Democratic Party is just not capable of running a successful statewide election, even against a candidate going down in flames."
- "Best case scenario, she loses by single digits."
- "Dreams of silly reporters."
- "Getting closer..."
- "But may shift the dynamic in 2017-18 if she gets into high 40s."
- "Texas never was, and never will be in play for HC. People do not like her, including Democrats."
- "Yet another trick question? Seriously, who comes up with this stuff? Jeez."
- "Making up 1 million statewide is too tall of an order."
- "Will be much closer."
- "Get real."
- "Texas Republicans will prefer a boorish Yankee know nothing with no qualifications to anyone named Clinton."
- "Texas was already in play. Even more now."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Elna Christopher, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Myra Leo, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Vinny Minchillo, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Robert Thetford, Corbin Van Arsdale, Chris Wallace, David White, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.