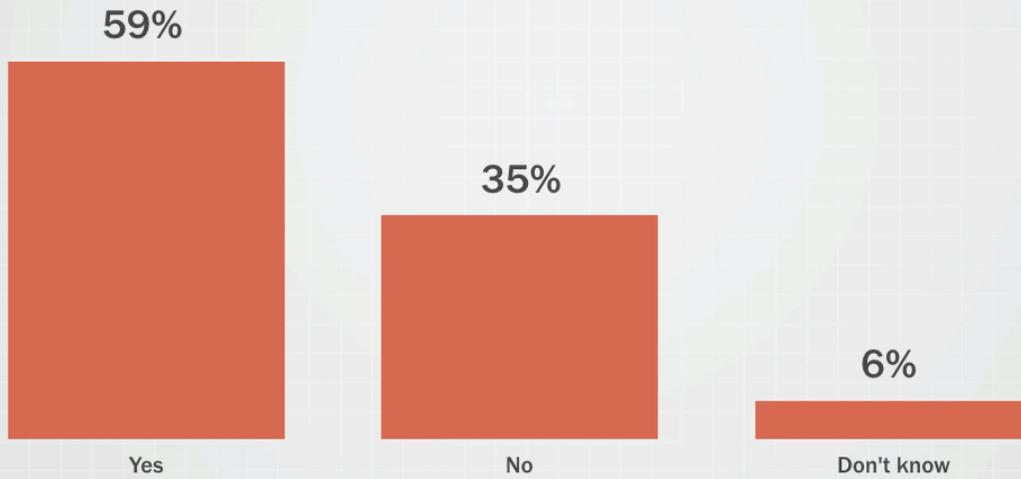


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 21 October 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

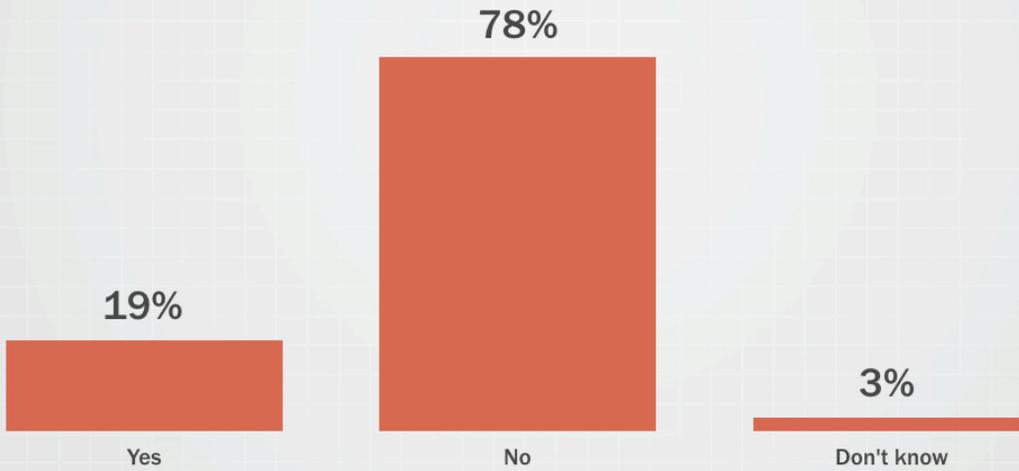
Does talk of a rigged election make the electorate less confident in the legitimacy of this year's presidential election?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Are you less confident in the legitimacy of this year's presidential election?



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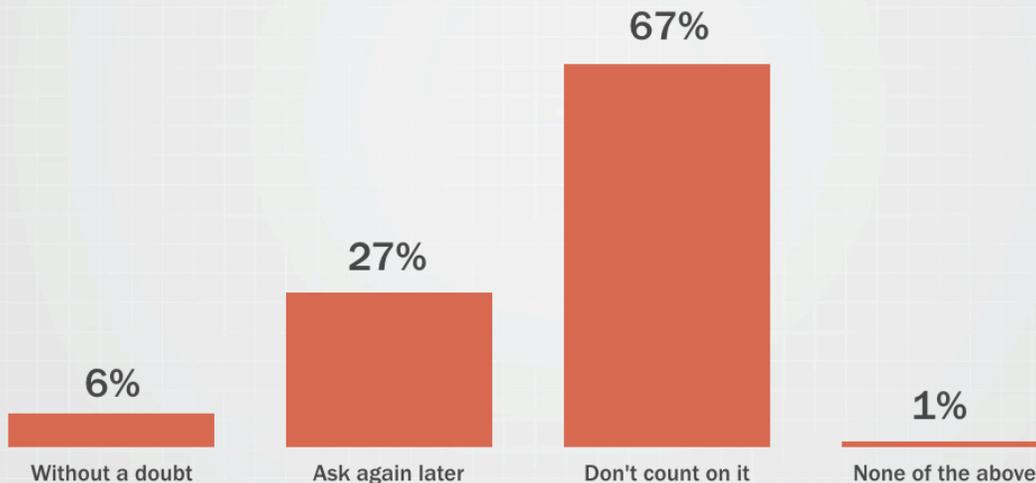
How serious a problem do you think each of the following will be in the 2016 elections?

	Extremely serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not serious at all	Don't know
Votes being counted inaccurately	2%	12%	24%	59%	2%
People voting multiple times	4%	15%	14%	65%	1%
People voting who are not eligible	8%	21%	12%	58%	1%
Voting machines being hacked	4%	19%	32%	38%	7%

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The state is investigating allegations of voter fraud in Tarrant County. How likely is it the state uncovers evidence of widespread voter fraud?



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Does repeated talk of a rigged election make the electorate less confident in the security and legitimacy of this year's presidential election?

- "Perhaps a little. But most people have become desensitized to Trump's blowhard statements."
- "Depends on your audience — always. The Trump folks love it, it adds layers of mistrust of government and works for their political agenda."
- "After 2000, few people have confidence in elections anyway."
- "Any time an insinuation is repeated as fact multiple times, it will have an effect. This time, it's the de facto leader of a major political party regarding our most treasured right, voting."
- "On the margins, yes. More importantly, the talk is likely to discourage some Trump supporters from voting at all, which calls into question the wisdom of making the claim before the election has actually happened."

- "Only among those people who believe anything that this man says. Of course, this group probably already are already of this opinion."
- "Elections are managed and controlled by local officials across the U.S. There is no way for a national election to be rigged — Trump is desperate and 'whining' as President Obama said yesterday."
- "Uh, it's the candidates that make the electorate less confident."
- "These are very dangerous comments."
- "Add that talk to the speculation of voter fraud in Texas, and I'm sure there's a tinfoil hat-wearing Republican believing it is all a rigged system."
- "The only one saying it's rigged is the one who's losing. The one who's losing is the only one in the country that doesn't know it."
- "It is an attempt by Mr. Trump to question the outcome of the election. If he loses, then it MUST be because the election was stolen from him — after all, MILLIONS of people love him and wanted to have a president that is a racist, sexist crazy man."
- "Which is what it is intended to do."
- "Texas has a long history of voter fraud and election rigging. Ask Coke Stevenson."
- "But Trump is right, the major media is rigged for Clinton."
- "Trump needs to pick two or three things he'll change and stick to it."
- "Only with Trump supporters."
- "Although it's not like they needed a reason. The press is so blatantly biased; if the elections were rigged in favor of the left, you'd never read about it in the U.S. press. Yes, that includes the Texas Tribune."
- "It makes them less confident for good reason. Elections have been rigged in the past, and elections will continue to be rigged so long as dead people vote and some people continue to push the abhorrent storyline that minorities are congenitally incapable of obtaining identification."
- "Only the boneheads who need a justification for their misogyny and/or racism."
- "The majority of Trump supporters already believe (possibly with some justification concerning certain policies) that things are rigged against them. So why not elections, too?"
- "Absurd talk from an absurd person"
- "Trump is a fool. Insult to many Republican governors."
- "Among those prone to black helicopter beliefs, and combined with a campaign that has just lost the election, yes, this nattering will make things worse. There is an amazing number of people who are willing to believe that some secret, evil force, be it the Vatican, the Masons, or Chinese Communists, are capable of making the moon crash into the American homeland."

- "It does, but, since the states run the elections, at least the corruption will be more efficient."

Are you less confident in the security and legitimacy of this year's presidential election?

- "America is great!"
- "As a former election judge, I am very satisfied with the management of the elections. Although I strongly believe there should be a paper backup for each. This would not be hard to accomplish."
- "Discussion of this is such an insult to our election administrators."
- "The ballot security doesn't concern me. The active participation in this campaign of people and institutions who've historically held to laudable cannons seriously concerns."
- "I am not because I know elections are not rigged."
- "It's payback for the 2000 presidential election in which Bush, 'cough,' stole the election from Gore."
- "There is NOT rampant voter fraud. It has been a 'red herring' used by groups to hinder others in the process of voting. (These used to be literacy tests, poll taxes, etc.)."
- "Anything electronic, like our voting machines, is susceptible to hacking and monkey business."
- "More or less, but since we don't generally purge our rolls for people moving, cheating is possible."
- "The Clintonista regime will do anything to win. Both should be in jail. He, for sexual misconduct; her, for breach of national security and treason. They have no moral compass, don't know truth and are about power and control. AKA fascists."
- "Obama has manipulated the NSA. Hillary has manipulated the FBI. The press has done everything in its power to manipulate the electorate. Why am I supposed to have confidence?"
- "Those Russian hackers are extremely competent."
- "I trust those in Texas tasked with administering the elections process."
- "Can the Texas Tribune focus on Texas?"
- "The Russian interference is a cause for concern, but at this point that seems unlikely to make any difference in the result. Trump's vague theories are baseless, but his accusations themselves are harmful to legitimacy."

How serious a problem do you think each of the following will be in the 2016 elections?

- "WikiLeaks is very scary, and I really don't know how much access these type of groups may have but I do believe that our internal process for voting is secure."
- "Voter fraud is a very rare activity. More often, people find a reason not to vote at all. Elections are not run over the internet, eliminating the possibility of hacking. Any questions still remaining about the integrity can be solved by a paper ballot backups."
- "There will be isolated incidences of voter fraud but nothing that is going to alter the trajectory of a statewide race, or in the case of the presidential election, 50 different statewide races."
- "The most serious problem with voting in the 2016 election will be a shortage of tin-foil hats."
- "If you are a criminal or here illegally WHY would you draw attention to yourself by registering to VOTE? People who are not eligible to vote DO NOT VOTE! "
- "This talk is all excuses from a failing campaign to shift blame from their candidate for his defeat or to try to depress turnout of opposition voters."
- "I think this is a very real possibility. 'Shanghai-ing' the election by another means doesn't seem as probable. And when the government says our data is safe, don't believe it, just ask Susan Combs."
- "How about hacked by a political party or the government?"
- "We have made voting more difficult. If we have the ability to transfer thousands of dollars and perform other confidential, banking transactions with our phones, we ought to be able to vote with them, too."
- "Obama has directed his Justice Department to throw out all reasonable voter ID rules. You can't buy Sudafed, but you can vote. Crazy! Yes, I know that E-Slates in Texas are not connected to the internet. But the mainframes at the County Clerk's offices that tabulate the results are. They are reported via the internet to the Secretary of State. Hackers can apparently get anyone's emails, credit cards, etc. Major corporations spend huge sums and still get hacked. But don't worry — our County Clerk's offices are safe. Right..."
- "Apparently the best technique is to hack the voter files, so that eligible voters get turned away on Election Day. Also effective: standing outside polling stations with baseball bats."
- "Putin and the KGB want Trump."
- "I've been concerned about this for a long time. Doesn't seem that it would be complicated for a malicious, motivated hacker to crack the system."

The state is investigating allegations of voter fraud in Tarrant County. How likely is it the state uncovers evidence of widespread voter fraud?

- "I believe it happens, and I believe it's hard to prove."
- "Highly unlikely there is mass voter fraud in Texas. Much more likely is voter intimidation. Long history there."
- "Vote harvesting does happen — we know that. It will be interesting to finally learn the extent of the problem."
- "Fraud happens. Arkansas. Chicago. Philadelphia. Dade County. South Texas. #GTS"
- "Widespread being defined as... Tarrant County has issues but these problems seem to be contained within the county."
- "Widespread means just about every precinct in Tarrant County. I doubt the fraud went that far around. It is usually a few rogue precincts tied to a specific corroborator seeking a leg up on the election victory."
- "Voter fraud is a problem invented by Republican to justify suppressing Democratic minority and elderly voters."
- "Define 'widespread.' For some, a morsel of evidence is enough proof, but for others even one case of fraud is easily dismissed (see e.g., the recent FBI investigation in the RGV)."
- "Remember Tarrant County is the home of Transportation Committee testimony fraud leader and forgiven toker, Jonathan Stickland, the original GOP woman basher."
- "The keystone cops..."
- "Widespread voter fraud is not necessary when pockets of voter fraud will suffice."
- "Lon Burnam will stumble his way into being a tool of the Rs to expose non-existent voter fraud."
- "But even if they do, no law or proposal has been recommended to deal with mail ballots."
- "There is no voter fraud in Tarrant County."
- "Define 'widespread.' Fraud is not that hard to find if you look hard enough. Whether it is widespread or not is another matter."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Gay Erwin, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Machree Gibson, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Mark Smith, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Chris Wallace, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.