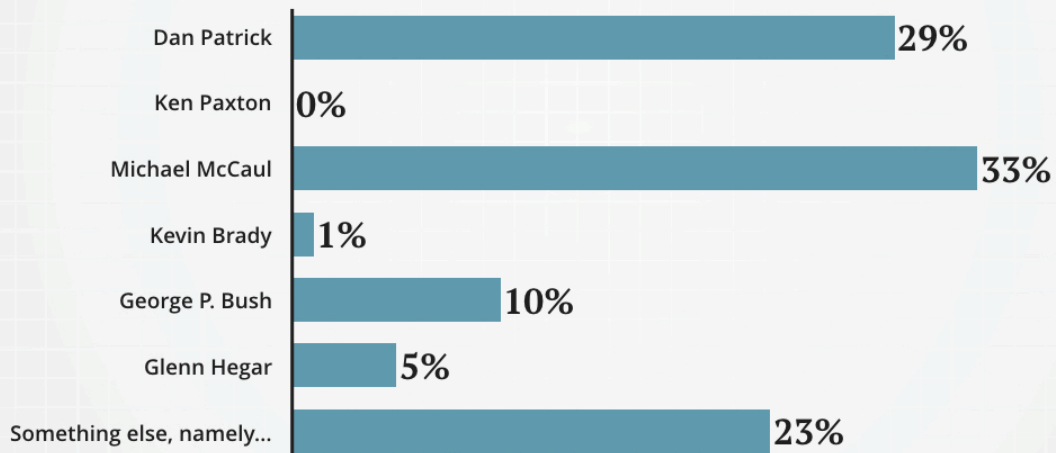


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 19 May 2017*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

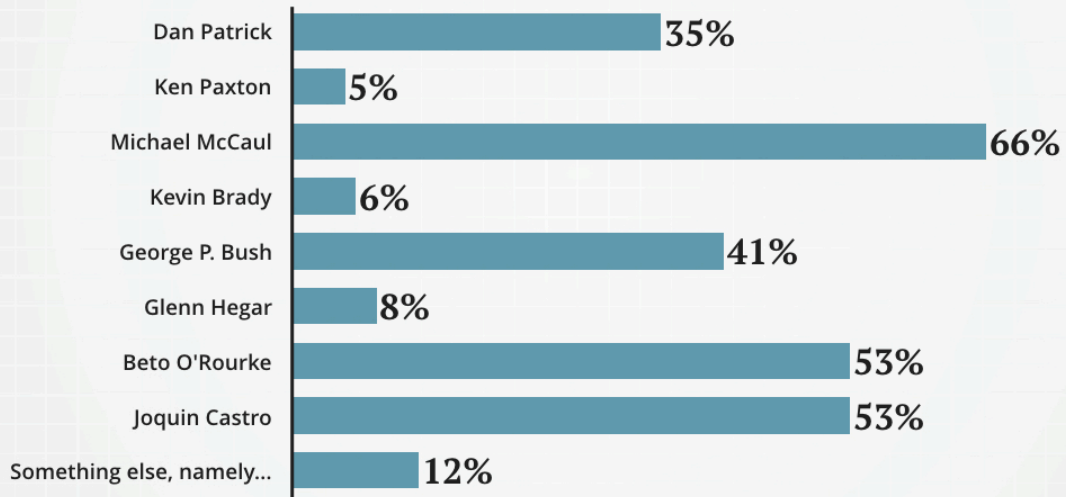
**If John Cornyn were to leave the Senate for any reason (new FBI director, for instance), whom would Gov. Greg Abbott appoint for the seat?**



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

## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

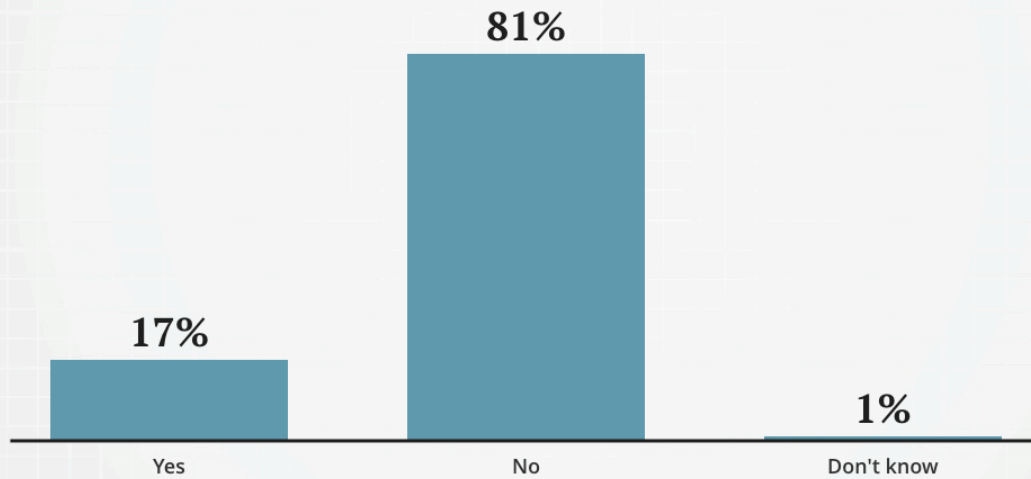
### Who would run in the subsequent special election?



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INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

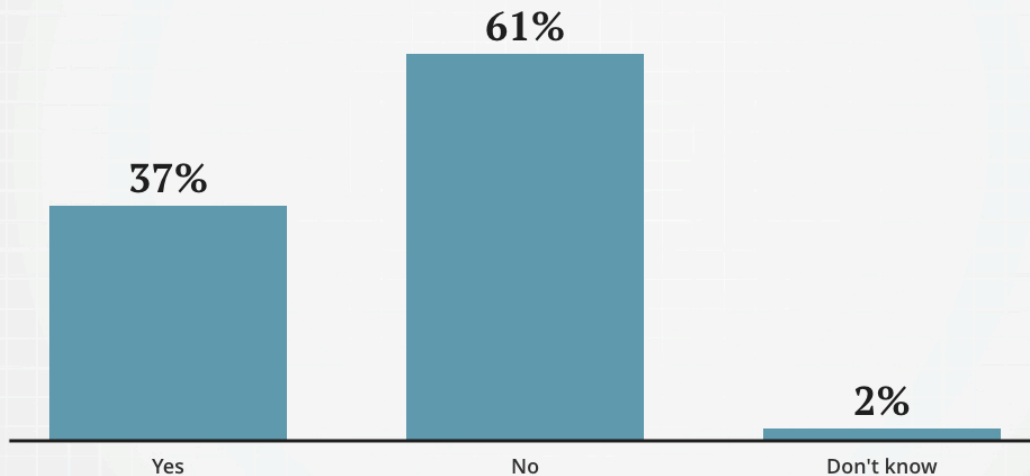
**Is there any chance that Abbott would run in the special election?**



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INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

**Are the chances better for Democrats in a special election like this for a U.S. Senate seat than a general election?**



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***If John Cornyn were to leave the Senate for any reason (new FBI director, for instance), whom would Gov. Greg Abbott appoint for the seat?***

- "Your timing was not good here but still fun to speculate. :)"
- "Can he anoint himself?"
- "Daniel Hodge would most likely appoint himself."
- "Eva Guzman"
- "McCaul is good pick, would love to see Bush, but too big of a plum for Abbott to hand out."
- "Please pick Patrick, please pick Patrick, please pick Patrick..."
- "Will Hurd"
- "Eva Guzman. Unlike Willett, I don't think she has higher judicial aspirations. But she is a proven wise AND conservative Latina who can help fortify the party in Texas."
- "Or he could appoint himself."

- "Judge Eva Guzman"
- "Himself of course."
- "Directly or by his successor, the new Senator will be Greg Abbott."
- "Enough with these guys with Anglo-sounding names, Justice Eva Guzman."
- "Just a wild guess at this point. Certainly not Patrick. Maybe McCaul. Maybe himself."
- "Will Hurd"
- "Duh."
- "Brady wouldn't leave his current gig."
- "McCaul has maneuvered into first spot in line for Republicans. If Patrick wanted it, Abbott would be sorely tempted."
- "I've no idea but I'm ready to do whatever I must to make it Dan Patrick — my campaign for his appointment as ambassador to Erewhon having failed."
- "Someone who will step down when Gov. Abbott wants to be Senator."
- "Eva Guzman, if she wants it. This appointment should go to a Hispanic — and Guzman is the state's highest ranking Hispanic."
- "Gov. Abbott would do the unimaginable and appoint Rep. Joaquin Castro to serve the remainder of Cornyn's term!!"
- "I think that Abbott values continuity. Appointing a current statewide opens up a potential domino effect of new people at every level. Congressman McCaul has statewide name ID, is sufficiently conservative and will represent our state well. Plus, he already has a D.C. operation and can staff up both his federal office and campaign operation with minimal turnaround."
- "Dennis Bonnen"
- "McCaul, then Brady, then P — in that order."
- "Eva Guzman"
- "If Patrick would take it and move to the 202 area code, it would likely be his. McCaul would be a great choice. Another smart choice — Eva Guzman. But why would Cornyn leave??"
- "Daniel Hodge. Till election."
- "Eva Guzman"
- "To set aside his genuine competition."
- "Can't run against him if he is running for Senate."
- "Not George P. he wants Governor, and in 10 years he might be the only Republican that could win it."
- "We can only hope..."
- "Can he appoint himself?"

### ***Who would run in the subsequent special election?***

- "Will Hurd"
- "Among Republicans, great deference would be paid to the governor's appointee. The Democrats would feel the need to keep their losing streak alive — so they would come up with another human sacrifice."
- "Chris Bell"
- "Julian Castro"
- "Greg Abbott"
- "Any wingnut who can afford, get loaned or donated the filing fee."
- "Alice Walton"
- "Eva Guzman? Mathew Dowd? These specials, if there's no dominating appointed incumbent, tend to attract many candidates."
- "Guzman, if appointed."
- "Why is nobody talking about Sid Miller?"
- "Jonathan Stickland ... Lois Kolkhorst"
- "The Freedom Caucus??"
- "Neither man has done a good job in their current positions, so why not a promotion?"

### ***Is there any chance that Abbott would run in the special election?***

- "Governor of Texas is a way more desirable job. Ask Kay Bailey."
- "Have YOU ever tried flying halfway across a continent in a wheelchair — weekly, for six years?"
- "We can tell if he will by whom he appoints. A fill in or someone who will run."
- "If he appointed himself."
- "He's always said he's not interested in federal office. Travel requirements of job would be especially difficult for him."
- "Abbott already passed on that opportunity once, when Phil Gramm vacated the seat. Abbott passed then, and I believe he will this time as well."
- "Always a chance ... but would appear slim."
- "I think he's at the top of his ladder."

***Are the chances better for Democrats in a special election like this for a U.S. Senate seat than a general election?***

- "It would depend on the national climate."
- "The chances might be better, but not because it's a special. If they're better, it's because the GOP has an enormously damaged President in the White House, tainting their brand from top to bottom."
- "Head-to-head is the Dems' best chances; less other activities, candidates to worry about."
- "The ceiling is still mid-40s at this time for a Dem statewide."
- "Anything above zero is 'better.'"
- "This year, for sure!"
- "Witness Republican John Tower in 1961 when he won the Senate seat with less than one-third of the vote."
- "Special = Weird!"
- "No, they would be worse. Limited turnout in special favors Republicans. Also, focus on Congressional Democratic party means a Democrat would be promising assistance for Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi. That's disqualifying in Texas."
- "Usually not, but in these times enough people are pissed off — or scared — enough to come out and vote."
- "Only in our dreams."
- "Unfortunately, the nut cases turn out more than normal people, especially in special elections."
- "Democrats have no chance in any election in Texas as long as they put up anti-gun, pro-abortion candidates. Other issues, including Trump, might move people but a Democrat can't get across the basic values threshold with their party's pro-abortion and anti-gun orthodoxy."
- "Democrats thought that was the case back when 'Bad News' Bob Krueger ran in a special election only to be beaten by KBH. I don't see it happening in this part of the century."
- "No; this question is laughable. But then again, I thought that Cruz beating Dewhurst was also laughable."
- "No difference. Zero times zero is still zero."
- "I'm not ready to bet on the Dems just yet."
- "Only because Trump policies hurt Texas."
- "Losers."



***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Jennifer Harris, Susan Hays, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Robert Peeler, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Colin Strother, Jim Suydam, Sherry Sylvester, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Chris Wallace, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.