

“INSIDE”

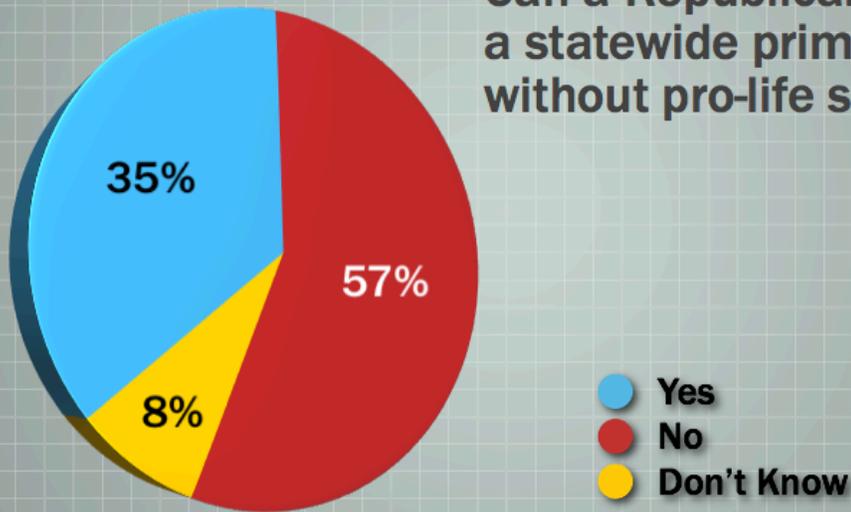
INTELLIGENCE

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE
TEXAS  WEEKLY

The insider's poll for the week of February 7.

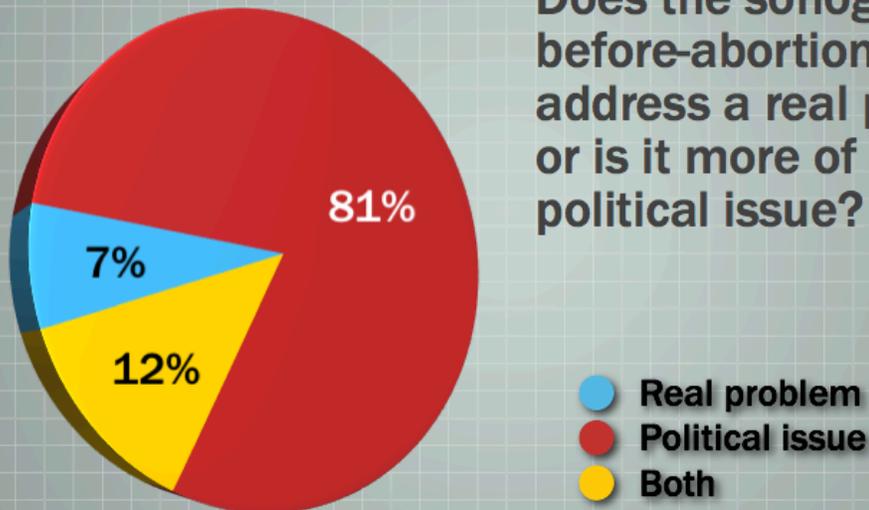
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Can a Republican win a statewide primary without pro-life support?



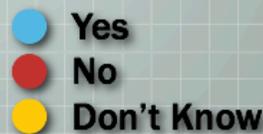
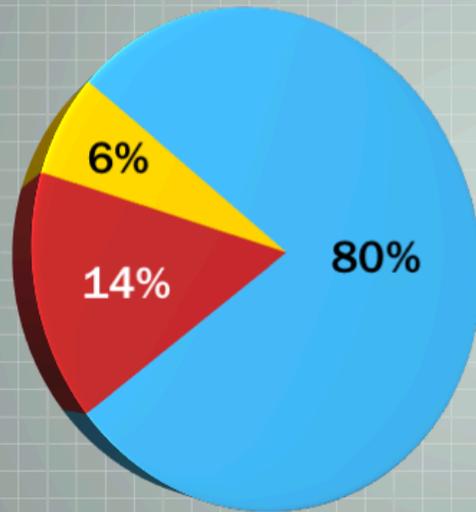
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Does the sonogram-before-abortions bill address a real problem or is it more of a political issue?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Do you think the Legislature will pass the sonogram bill?



This week's open-ended prompt was: "Given the makeup of the Texas Legislature, what social legislation will pass this session that was blocked before, and how will that play into the next elections?" And here's how the insiders answered:

- "Hopefully these knuckleheads will take care of issues of critical importance first (budget, redistricting, business friendly policy) before tackling any social monsters from the Cathie Adams School of Nonsense."
- "Voter ID"
- "Don't know"
- "Most any social legislation which was previously proposed but did not pass is likely to pass this Session. How that will play in 2012 is hard to say."
- "'Choose Life' license plates, and the aforementioned ultrasound bill."
- "The sonogram bill might not be the only anti-choice bill passing. I'd keep an eye on stricture notification bills, as well as on whether Round Earth Republican women wake up and realize they're Democrats."
- "It's a social legislation free for all as dictated by the conservatives."
- "Voter ID. Very little."
- "Any and every issue that the right-wing nut jobs present will probably pass."
- "Voter ID. Will serve as a justification in the next elections for why we need to maintain and grow the republican supermajority."
- "If social legislation means laws that seek to promote the common good, generally by protecting and assisting the weaker members of society, none will pass."
- "Voter ID, and its passage will have little or no effect. Should probably have let it pass before now, since a majority of minority and senior voters Dems were trying to help supported the bill."
- "What social legislation won't pass is more like it. Republicans could make being a Democrat a first-degree felony, and it would probably sail through both chambers and get rubber stamped by the Governor without any political ramifications in the next election."

- "Voter ID"
- "Some will pass but how much depends upon whether the right wing overreaches."
- "They will probably pass whatever social legislation the gov. and Lt. gov. think they need to have. Together with the presidential race and the tough budget votes, the votes on the social issues will probably contribute to the loss of some swing Republican House seats in Austin."
- "The backlash is brewing. 2012 will be a great year to run for the Lege as a D."
- "The sonogram bill will pass and, perhaps some other intrusions into personal lives. Small government is barely even a catchphrase anymore. It's more a cliché."
- "Restricting abortions, cutting education ... unfortunately more. The far right is bankrupting Texas over ideological issues. Shame!"
- "The sonogram bill is the primary piece of social legislation that hasn't passed. It will pass and be a net positive for legislators in the next election cycle."
- "anything way right and absurd"
- "Voter ID and the HPV vaccine has some twists yet to be untangled"
- "Sonogram bill will pass - should remove air from sails of those who plan on extended their battle to topple the Speaker into 2012 GOP Primaries."
- "Abortion bills will pass, but they won't have much effect in the next elections."
- "Sonograms, some other symbolic pro life legislation,"
- "Sonogram"
- "Voter ID and more Republicans being elected. 75% of the state supports it."
- "Not sure, but we can only hope that it's more show than substantive, and Texans will suffer as little as possible, given the crazy environment."
- "No clue."
- "We will likely see some gun stuff pass (guns on campus etc.) and some immigration stuff pass. That will be highly touted in the Republican primary."
- "Don't know, but whatever does or does not pass will not be a major issue in the next elections. Taxes and government services will be the dominant theme."
- "Whatever the Senate doesn't block."
- "Still unclear, but likely stronger restrictions on abortion, more bible study in schools, a ban on gay foster parents -- basically everything the Democrats were successful in stopping or watering down over the last eight years."
- "Uncertain on specific legislation but presume any votes on such legislation will be used for or against legislators with zeal by the right"
- "It makes my head hurt to think about it. Most of these issues just create other problems."
- "I assume some more Rick Perry /big government /big brother bills will pass in order to protect the masses from their own ignorance. And also comply with the will of those more righteous than we..."
- "All of it will pass in some form. Most likely it will not have an impact in the next election. Other issues will arise."
- "Don't know"
- "Sonogram and Choose Life license plate. We will see a 2-3 further increase in women voting and they will split 50% Republican, 40% Democratic, and 10 Libertarian /Green."
- "Voter ID, repeal in-state tuition exemption, sonogram bill, de-funding Planned Parenthood"

- "Voter ID will pass, some form of immigration reform (sanctuary cities) and abortion will pass. These issues will not impact the 2012 elections very much."
- "None other"
- "Any social issue the Republicans want"
- "Not sure what social legislation is anymore."
- "Abortion restriction, Voter ID, and some sort of anti-immigrant measure. In more competitive districts, this will make it harder for Republicans to come out of their primaries and win in general elections."
- "Sonogram bill will pass. The electorate will reward those members which voted for the bill."
- "Given the makeup of this legislature, I'm not sure I understand why they're not outlawing abortions altogether. A direct challenge to SCOTUS would be right up their alley. On the other hand, I do understand why, given that the Republicans couldn't pay the freight on the additional CHIP and Medicaid costs on those extra babies. Their motto, as shown through their budgeting: life beings at conception, but ends at birth."
- "Some anti- abortion bill will pass and it will help push women back to the Democrats in the next election."
- "Other than this abortion issue, not sure."
- "Choose Life license plates are a lock. A pilot project for private school vouchers is a pretty safe bet. Heck, casino gambling might pass if the revenue was dedicated to crisis pregnancy centers!"
- "Only voter ID. The rest will be blocked in the Senate. Dewhurst may be able to get a couple of democrats to fall on their sword by helping them in the budget, but it will be very difficult."
- "Sonogram bill - it's not our responsibility to care for the kids ... we just got them born."
- "Voter ID, sanctuary cities, sonograms, and anything else Gov. Perry adds to his agenda"
- "Vote ID. Passing it will actually help protect the moderates in the primaries"
- "R's will have to pass some red meat issues to reinforce their conservative credentials for primary."
- "What is the definition of a social issue? i guess the sonogram bill, to be consistent."
- "voter ID- May Not be called social, but it is nothing but social legislation"
- "The passage of the sonogram bill will wake up Republican women to their party's takeover by crazies and they will revolt."
- "Pro-life measures"
- "'Social legislation' is a pretty arbitrary expression. Many Texans might argue that legislation eroding our education system constitutes 'social legislation.'"
- "Until we see a few votes it is hard to tell how the huge freshman class shakes out, but with a 101 R's in the House they can probably pass everything that 12 D's in the Senate don't block."
- "Some kind of anti abortion legislation"
- "Sonograms, voter ID. Will encourage more less-than-compelling 'emergency' legislation in the future."
- "Sonogram bill, pro-life license plates"
- "What won't?"
- "Additional gambling-let the people decide-referendum will pass and there fore the issue will then be -the people decided yes-so no 'expansion of the footprint' and after dramatic cuts we had to do it for the revenue"
- "is voter ID social?"
- "There will be a freight train of social legislation that will pass which has failed before, primarily to distract conservative

voters from the financial votes that the leg must make."

- "This bill for one. If passed, the significance of the vote for the bill will be much less than it would be if it is not passed."

- "Unfortunately, the parameters for your term, 'social legislation' are not clear to me. Aside from voter ID and this bill, not clear. I would consider a sanctuary city ban another possibility, but suspect the opposition of the Valley and sane law enforcement and TAB could prevent passage."

- "Abortion, allowing Texans to carry guns anywhere - including abortion clinics, mandatory recitation of the 10 commandments b/f high school football games, public floggings will be back in vogue"

- "'Voter ID ... immigration reform'"

- "Pro-life, sonogram legislation will pass and the Speaker will be able to burnish his 'pro-life' record."

- "Some sort of anti abortion bill will likely pass, maybe only the sonogram bill, but maybe something else. Unless the bill is really radical, the only downstream implications will be in the Republican primary, where a vote on these issues will potentially be used as a litmus test of conservative values and party loyalty."

- "Don't know"

- "What real social legislation is there left to pass?"

- "Too many electeds believe that voters demanded their government move to the far right, when I believe the voters demanded their government move away from governance by any extreme. Potential result: the far right will be shown the backside of the door from which they entered."

- "Texas is a 'pro-fetus' state, even when Democrats were in control of the House they still passed 'parental notification' for underage abortions. So, passing a sonogram bill won't be a problem with this legislature. I don't doubt that more restrictive measures

against abortions could be filed, including a measure to require the woman to listen to the heartbeat of the fetus, parental consent, and viewing 3-D pictures of the fetus."

- "Obviously abortion and voter ID; drug testing for government benefits and other areas (licenses, etc) ; tougher penalties for sex 'crimes'; voter ID and related immigration. Most are playing to the social conservatives. Be interesting to see if all those anti-government new R voters are really followers of Edmond Burke as opposed to John Stuart Mills. Some of the strong governmental interference into private lives could backfire. Maybe they will repeal the red light bill on those grounds..."

- "Anti-immigrant legislation is likely to pass and will increase the wedge between business and grassroots Republicans. Cuts in family planning, pharmacist right to refuse, and other anti-women's health votes will put newly elected Republican suburban reps in jeopardy as these will no longer be sleeper issues"

- "Sonogram/ possibly stronger parental notification/ possibility of deportation of undocumented after receiving care under EMTLA"

- "Ultrasound bill, Arizona-style immigration bill, sanctuary cities will likely pass. This may appease (somewhat) grassroots groups on the right, though those Republicans who do not tow the line will likely get primary opponents in 2012. These pieces of legislation will likely anger Democrats. The most important factor is whether or not independents are angered by such focus, given the budget problems. We will see."

- "Anti-abortion, gays can't adopt, check a brown person for citizenship, repeal the 14th amendment and every other nutty idea that hasn't been found unconstitutional yet."

- "There is not much new for pro lifers to rally around so tinkering at the edges will take the stage social legesation may move to more economic issues"

- "Voter ID and Immigration will both pass and create a generation of motivated Latinos who will vote Democratic."

- "Perhaps multiple bills on abortion and immigration issues."
- "It scares me to even think of an answer to this."
- "Hopefully, dealing with the budget and redistricting will keep them too busy to interfere with our personal lives."
- "Help the Ds as Rs appear more and more extremist."
- "... You name it..."
- "Some immigration crap"
- "Doesn't matter. All the old taboos are gone. This group could bring back stocks in the town square or use of the rack if they want. Who is going to be there to slow them down. Much less stop them?"
- "Asdf"
- "Should help motivate the democratic base"
- "Voter ID bill, large cuts in education - not sure how it will affect next elections but this legislation will have long-term, negative impacts on Texas economy."
- "Voter ID, repeal of instate tuition for resident aliens, eminent domain, loser pays tort reform,"
- "Anti-immigrant and anti-choice legislation have the best chance of passing. I don't see a moderate Republican and Democratic coalition being able to stop those. The Republicans will have plenty to run on for a primary but a lot to explain to independent voters who were with them in 2010."
- "Anti abortion and immigration bashing"
- "Beats me. But whatever it is, it is certain to be mildly racist, based on junk science and completely unnecessary. It also won't help a single teacher keep from getting fired or fund a single nursing home."
- "Voter ID"
- "Nothing will pass. A lot will be debated in committees."
- "Sonogram Bill, Massive Tort Reform"
- "Any number of bizarre ideas will be enacted and will have little impact on the elections because democrats have no idea how to use social issues as a political weapon"
- "Other abortion measures"
- "More pro-life and anti- family planning & women's health. More anti -immigrant educational opportunities (like for resident aliens). This may lead to greater political participation if, and that is a big IF, the Democratic Party and Democratic Caucuses can articulate a message that makes sense to the average democratic voter."
- "Ultrasound bill will pass but won't significantly decrease number of abortions performed in Texas."
- "I suspect that the sky is the limit on social legislation. It will help keep the base happy and allows for easy bite size messages for the primary."
- ""With super majority, the Republican controlled House will pass legislation that will have a negative impact on the poor, children, Latinos, African Americans and women. ... The question is will the Senate, also controlled by Republicans, hold the line? ... The civil rights community and individuals who want to see Texas prosper are hopeful that the Senate will not pass the anticipated anti-immigrant legislation with bills that will harm the poor, children and women.""
- "Yes"
- "Some additional restrictions on abortion."
- "Sonogram bill - failure to support it will result in a primary opponent for any Republican."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Brandon Aghamalian, James Aldrete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Jim Arnold, Kip Averitt, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Mike Barnett, Walt Baum, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Luke Bellsnyder, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, James Clark, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Hector Deleon, Scott Dunaway, Anne Dunkelberg, Jeff Eller, Alan Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, Marta Greytok, Michael Grimes, Jack Gullahorn, Wayne Hamilton, Albert Hawkins, Mike Hull, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Tim Lambert, Nick Lampson, Dick Lavine, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Scott McCown, Mike McKinney, Kurt Meacham, Debra Medina, Lynn Moak, Michael Moore, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Royce Poinsett, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Jeff Rotkoff, Jeff Saitis, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Patricia Shipton, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Trey Trainor, Victoria Waddy, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, and Peck Young.