

# TEXAS WEEKLY

1 November 2010

## **Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune Inside Intelligence for the week of November 1. Complete verbatim answers to a prompt for the biggest factors affecting the outcome of this year's race for governor:**

- "Economy and jobs"
- "Turnout among urban African Americans and Hispanics in South Texas and the Valley"
- "Ignorance and apathy."
- "Turnout, message, style of candidate"
- "Disgust with the Democratic Party generally and nationally, more specifically."
- "The Big Give A Shitter"
- "The Texas economy in comparison to the rest of the nation. Tea party fervor and negatives of national Democratic party positions on key issues to Texans."
  - "For some inexplicable reason, White tried to make this race a referendum on himself rather than a referendum on Perry."
  - "The argument of competence seldom turns elections, and I see White making no other compelling argument."
  - "Conservative/Tea Party voters. Taxes, immigration and the budget."
  - "Turnout in Harris County and the Libertarian vote"
  - "Anger at the Democrats in Washington. Perry has effectively become a "cheerleader" on that issue."
  - "Tea Party voter dissatisfaction with Rick Perry's Trans-Texas Corridor, Eminent Domain, and HPV mandate causing a spike in Glass support."
  - "Experience but primarily the miserable leadership in power in DC fueling the state's already voracious appetite for individualism and braggadocio on how to lead the way."
  - "Texas is doing better than the rest of the nation. Perry is a monster campaigner. White could have been competitive but ran a poor campaign."
  - "Disaffected Democrats in an overwhelmingly Republican year. It is a real Double-Whammy."
    - "The sheer size and force of unapologetic Republicans in Texas"
    - "Republican nature of Texas; mood of the national electorate"
    - "Texans view of President Obama, Texas economy doing better than national economy"
    - "The outcome is clear: Perry wins."
    - "Economy"
    - "Apathy by the masses and dedication by a relatively small minority."
    - "TX is a Republican and anger at Democrats in Washington"
    - "Democrats don't have enough sense of urgency."

- "Obama and the dismal Democrats (who ever thought I'd be missing Lyndon?), Money, Lack of 'effective' coverage of the issues and positions, Bill White can take any issue and work it out"
- "Houston turnout for White"
- "anti-Obama, anti-Washington, anti-spending"
- "being a Democrat"
- "Democratic voter turnout."
- "Obama backlash"
- "Perry fatigue being outpaced by anti-Washington fervor"
- "national Republican headwind"
- "Political environment favors right-of-center candidates, especially in a "red" state, and the White campaign has no discernible message."
- "Perry's done a good job and Texas works well compared to every other state in the nation. White may be a good person individually but I would be worried about his appointees and staff as having too many 'community organizers'."
- "Perry staying on message. White not being able to find a consistent message. White running from The President."
- "Obama, Tea party, Economy"
- "Texas is still an R state."
- "Tea Party voters"
- "the economy"
- "It is a terrible year for any Democrat to run. Plus whether or not you like Rick Perry, he is a very smart politician, who is a great campaigner. Finally, while the state debt is huge, Texas is in better financial shape than many others. Terrible time to run as a Democrat."
- "National trend for Republicans."
- "Party affiliation."
- "Perry staying on message and having a professional campaign staff that knows exactly how to win statewide in Texas."
- "Despite a projected \$21 - \$25 billion budget shortfall, Texas is still perceived as having a healthy economy, and Perry will get credit for that."
- "Primarily the economy and anti-Washington/ anti-Obama backlash. Secondarily, illegal immigration."
- "National environment"
- "Economy and jobs."
- "Demographics is the only real factor; it's a Republican state (until it isn't)."
- "Miraculous timing."
- "low turnout in urban areas"
- "Texas still a Republican state; like him or not, incumbent governor has a strong and 'marketable' record of accomplishment; strong economy; Democratic nominee is not exciting, not passionate."
- "national economy, favorable economy in Texas"
- "The White campaign didn't drive a coherent message that effectively exploited Perry's vulnerabilities."
- "Energized Republican base. Heightened early voter turnout in Republican areas. Do not see same energy from Democrat base."
- "Texas is a politically conservative state. The Democratic candidate has not generated any excitement among his base. More importantly, he has not done anything to move independents. He ran the same campaign as the Hutchinson campaign."
- "GOP hostility and motivation. Republican officeholders, at their peril wrongly assume that hostility and motivation won't turn on them. At best they have two years to prove they can govern or we have another four years of Obama. I would bet on Obama. Now I'm depressed."

• "Other than the interesting block of female voters who prefer 'good hair' over 'big ears', there's really nothing outside the box here ... just the standard political analysis ... the continuing strong base of Republican voters plus the conservative instincts of Texas independent voters plus the above average backlash against the party in the White House means that a Republican who is a decent candidate and well funded has to really screw up to lose ... and Rick Perry hasn't really screwed up"

- "Texas Economy, Obama"
- "Perry has one of the best campaign operations in the country. White has one of the worst."
- "who shows up to vote!"
- "White's record as Mayor; feds taking too big of steps and that spilling over into possible White initiatives"
- "1) 'It's the economy, stupid.' 2) Obamaphobia"
- "President Obama. The combination of a Red State and a troubled presidential administration is too much for the statewide D's to overcome."
- "Voter Turnout/Dissatisfaction with Federal Government"
- "fiscal disarray in Washington vs. fiscal prudence in Austin"
- "The predominance of mindlessly partisan Republican voters in the Houston and Dallas suburbs and exurbs."
- "Republican wave. Anti-Obama and anti-Washington sentiment."
- "the economy and the lack of a compelling case to make a change"
- "Unrest among conservatives"
- "Fear of increased taxes makes voters reluctant to commit to White. Perry has access to all the money he needs to close the deal."
- "Voter turnout, national backlash against Democrats, concern re Bill White's ties to trial lawyers and organized labor"
- "Three decades of confusion (make it five)"
- "Anti-Democrat mood."
- "Growth of government spending; economy and unemployment."
- "Republican electorate and poor Democratic candidate and campaign. If you can't defeat a slate of candidates with a 22 billion dollar deficit..."
- "turnout and anti-government sentiment"
- "The voting public continues to buy the demagoguery of the irresponsible right wing without providing rational solutions."
- "Turnout—especially Latino, Harris County results"
- "Texas is a Republican state and it is a Republican year. Perry will receive fewer votes than other statewide Republican candidates but will still get enough to win...possibly less than 50%."
- "Independent voter choices"
- "Texas economy and fact that Bill White's philosophy is outside the mainstream for Texas"
- "economy and a Democratic president"
- "Gov. Perry is a very savvy politician, Republican base is fully engaged, Democrats are suffering from a disastrous effort in Washington DC, Tort reform has been an extremely positive economic factor in our state and Gov. Perry was instrumental in its passage and protection, giving Texas an economic advantage even during difficult times"
- "Incumbency"
- "at this point, none."
- "Anger and the mobilization of that anger."
- "Apparent strength of Texas economy. Lack of aggressive critique of this claim — large number of low-wage jobs, inadequate investment in future (public education, higher education, transportation). Also: Solid base Republican vote; extraordinarily low turnout among Hispanic voters, particularly compared to Hispanic turnout in California."

- "Texas is a conservative state. The relative strength of the Texas economy."
- "Economy"
- "Confidence."
- "It's over — both the Republican nature of the state and the state's economic position relative to the rest of the country"
- "The state has more conservative voters than moderate voters, and the electoral environment is decidedly anti-Democratic."
- "Hispanic turn out."
- "Voter enthusiasm"
- "Pissed at Obama"
- "Perry has the ability to very effectively speak to the insecurities of the voting populace, which are overwhelming and aimed primarily at the federal government. With only general proclamations like "Washington is bad" and "we will cut expenses", he is able to tell the voters what they want to hear and effectively block out any negative content put his way by his opponents."
- "Local control."
- "The national political climate is determinative."
- "Voter apathy combined with 'mad' voters."
- "The economy here in Texas and Perry's formidable campaign team and the fact he might be the best campaigner in Texas in our lifetimes."
- "It's Texas. Obama, Pelosi and Reid are a millstone around Bill White's neck."
- "Bill White's complete lack of a personality."
- "Money"
- "1) National tidal wave and Obama back-lash, 2) Bill White's micro-management of his own campaign, and specifically that he do all the talking in his ads. He is terrible on camera. His low energy makes David Porter interesting."
- "Republicans motivated by the federal health care bill and the still slumping economy."
- "Texas Economy"
- "You have to look at the economy of Texas as being the biggest factor ... Texas has indeed been able to ride the recession wave dominating other states more favorably ... and Texans (voters) know they don't want to be like a California or Nevada or Michigan."
- "Conservative wave"
- "Perry's ability to use Obama's negatives; the national economy; subpar White campaign organization."
- "ideology, unpopular federal policies, fiscal concerns"
- "Fear"
- "Texas is a very conservative state and Perry is an able campaigner."
- "Like him or not, here is not disputing the fact that Perry has governed as a conservative, with few exceptions. And Texas is still a right of center state. Message discipline, hard work, and the willingness to relentlessly define his opponent on Perry's terms will once again win him reelection even though White has mounted a respectable challenge."

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