

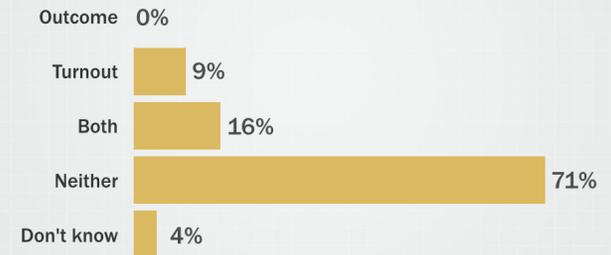
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 14 November 2014*

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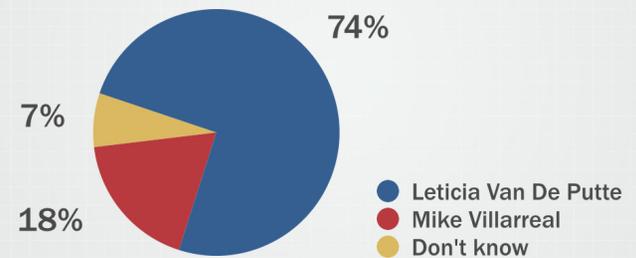
DID THE VOTER ID LAW AFFECT THE ELECTION?



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 WIN THIS HYPOTHETICAL
RACE FOR SAN ANTONIO MAYOR?



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Be a pundit: What (if anything) about the general election surprised you the most?

- “The democrats still have not found the floor in Texas”
- “The blindness of the average voter to vote for a candidate solely based on the name or party affiliation.”
- “Wendy Davis not breaking 40%.”
- “The margin of victory”
- “Abbott’s percentage of Hispanic and women voters surprised both Republican and Democratic campaigns.”
- “Senator Van de Putte’s margin of defeat was a big surprise and should send a shiver down the spine of every Texas Democrat.”
- “The surprise is the state voted for a criminal to be our next Attorney General. Oh, the irony...”
- “Strength and discipline of GOP candidates nationwide”
- “Nothing. Democrats are finding out that they don’t control the minds of Hispanic voters and that their views that Hispanic voter all think alike is racist.”
- “Turnout. Shockingly bad. The canary in the coal mine. A backlash is coming.”
- “The consistency of the margin of victory for the R’s statewide (58-61%)”
- “The spread”
- “The margin”
- “Pena!”
- “Nueces County’s WINS!”
- “Congressman-elect Hurd”
- “How badly Battleground Texas did. A big nothing burger.”
- “The Democrats did worse than before. Didn’t know that was possible.”
- “Just how badly the D’s got treated like a tied up yard dog!”
- “I got to kiss my kids goodnight and got in bed with a book after the 10pm news, as usual. In other words it was just another night.”
- “Despite their pedigree, their press clips, their confidence and their 8-figure budget, Battleground Texas has no clothes.”
- “LVP really lost Latino men to Dan Patrick?! The Left should be ashamed about this. They lavished Wendy Davis with money but left Van de Putte to fend for scraps.”
- “The amount of spiking the ball by Republicans after the election.”
- “I am surprised at what a dismal failure Battleground was, no matter which metric you use or that they decide to use this week.”
- “The Loss of Democrats in San Antonio and Houston”
- “How continually inept the Texas Democratic Party is.”
- “That the Democrats took two steps back after all the money and publicity about their efforts.”
- “How the media has made excuses for the Democrats getting trounced. How Battleground Texas, the Texas Organizing Project, and Planned Parenthood explained why the results don’t really reflect the true sentiment of the Texas electorate.”
- “Most school bonds passed with higher percentages than the 59-41 margin the R’s generally enjoyed. Message: voters still support schools.”
- “The margin of victory statewide was astounding.”
- “How little interest. Must not be as bad as the Rep.. Say it is”
- “That the Democrats did so poorly.”
- “The margin of victories for the statewides; especially, the margin for George P, even though he has some name id, the margin for a first run at any elected office, especially, a statewide office, is impressive.”
- “Decline in voter participation. Harris County’s margin between republicans and democrats closing.”
- “How poorly the Democrats performed in Texas overall. I expected at least 45% in some of the higher profile races.”
- “Nothing much. This is a Republican state, Hispanics rarely turn out, Turn Texas Blue was a bust and Davis ran a lackluster campaign.”
- “The margin of the GOP sweep”
- “Total collapse of Battleground Texas, complete with embarrassing early-vote analysis that a native Texan would never have written”
- “That Davis couldn’t break 40%.”
- “That despite all the out-of-state money and mercenary ground troops, and sincerity of motive and effort, the Ds lost so big. They must feel like Kaiser William II.”
- “I was most surprised by the percentage of victory in the statewide races.”
- “Size of Davis loss.”
- “Republican gains among the Hispanic vote.”
- “The percentage of straight-ticket votes cast in both parties”
- “Nothing at all. Surprisingly, the minority voters stayed away.”
- “Can’t say I am terribly surprised by anything. A little surprised Paxton didn’t lag the republican field a little more than he did.”
- “Didn’t expect turnout to fall to a 72-year low nationwide.”
- “Abbott won women by historic margin.”
- “The fact that Democrats turned out almost 300,000 fewer voters. Tell me again, what did those consultants get paid all that money to do?”
- “Biggest surprise was the utter ineffectiveness of Battleground Texas. All that money and they lost voters, carried counties the Ds would have carried anyway, and managed to bungle things enough that Abbott won Bexar County.”
- “Honestly, I thought we were done purging Ds in this state after 2010. We continue lurching to the right. Amazing, when you consider many thought we’d run out of room over there.”

- “I was a little surprised that Gallego lost, but not really, given the history of that district and the overall ass kicking the Dems took.”
- “The lack of a message by Texas Democrats. What have they been doing for the last 15 years? Sitting on their arses?!”
- “How wrong the pollsters were.”
- “Abbott’s margin”
- “That Wendy Davis underperformed Tony Sanchez, That Greg Abbott won 44% of Hispanics, That the GOP will have 98 members of the House, That Will Hurd won TX-23”
- “Davis made Tony Sanchez Look like a great candidate. She ran away from the one thing that made her famous.”
- “That the butt kicking the Democrats got was so thorough and far-reaching.”
- “The biggest surprise was the lack of Democrat consulting talent available in the state. The only real consulting talent available for Democrats is found in the Valley, and luckily, they get left out of the decision making process.”
- “The number of Hispanic votes received by the Rs.”
- “The top-to-bottom annihilation of the Ds”
- “The utter failure of the Democratic Battleground effort”
- “Top of the ticket Dem performance was 5-7 points lower than expected. The loss of Mary Ann Perez in the House was also a surprise.”
- “Straight ticket voting by republicans! HEAVENS - I thought a few of them

- could think, reason and read, but no - they all drank the Kool-Aid.”
- “I was surprised and saddened by the fact that voter turnout in Texas dropped even lower than 2010.”
- “Outcome of state rep issues in doubt”
- “How little Texans actually care about the elections and of those who do, how little they look beyond the R and D label.”
- “Nothing. The Republicans have a structural advantage and will maintain control of Texas government for the foreseeable future. Texas Democrats don’t have an infrastructure (money, candidates and talented consultants as well a large base).”
- “The biggest surprise was that *anyone* was surprised. The rose-colored glasses were finally knocked off some people’s faces and stomped into pieces by reality.”
- “The complete lack of a credible strategy by the Democrats to mount a campaign that could lay a foundation for their future prospects.”
- “The margin”
- “20 points in Gov race”
- “The percentage of the Hispanic vote obtained by Senator Cornyn and General Abbott. If the Republican candidates get 45% of the Hispanic vote like Abbott did and keep 70% of the Caucasian vote the Democrat candidates for statewide office may not win the lifetime of anyone now living.”
- “Democrats low numbers in Harris County”
- “How disinterested and perhaps turned off the vast majority of Texans are in their government”

- “Huge margin of victory - across the board - for the Rs. A bit surprised that Leticia didn’t do better than Wendy.”
- “The margin of victory – the disenchantment of Democrats and the unwillingness of Democratic voters to vote.”
- “Statewide R’s margin of victory.”
- “Very little in retrospect, except perhaps the additional seven point spread between the parties. And the inability to detect the benefit of the Obama field hands.”
- “Nothing-true to form”
- “Nothing. It is just sad all the millions of dollars which were contributed to the democratic campaigns were insignificant noted by the Ag race.”
- “Margin”
- “Will Hurd defeating Congressman Pete Gallego. Don’t know why it surprised me considering the one-and-done results of recent history.”
- “Greg Abbott and the Hispanic vote. Mike Collier’s commercials.”
- “Nothing”

- “The fact that Texans in SD2 are stupid enough to elect a wife beating Floridian. God bless this state!”
- “The margin by which Davis lost the Governor’s race. The loss was expected, but ending up below Bill White’s number was unexpected.”
- “That my prediction from the beginning that the Ds would get trounced by 20 plus points and would be set back another 8 years actually came to pass. I thought I might have been extreme in the prediction and turned out not to be.”
- “That someone like Mostyn would be fine losing literally millions in multiple doomed campaigns. What’s the saying about a fool & his money?”
- “The State House Republican win in Bexar County and the Republican win in Congressional District 23.”
- “How bad Wendy did”
- “Ok this one is to the tune of Jingle Bells: Wendy D, Wendy D, Wendy D went down. Van de Putte, Texas Blue and lots o’ loot couldn’t save the day!”
- “Nothing”
- “How badly the Dems did.”

Be a pundit #2: Looking over who got elected and what they said on their way to victory, what do you think will be the top one or two issues of the session (other than the budget)?

- “Water & Transportation on the core policy side - and the social issues will be same sex marriage and abortion”
- “Border security and education”
- “Border Security and Tax reform (both property and business tax reform).”
- “School vouchers and open carry”
- “Transportation and Education funding will be high priorities this session.”
- “- Immigration and Border Security, - Public School Finance”

- “Border security and securing the border.”
- “Border security and water”
- “Public safety”
- “Immigration. And immigration.”
- “Transportation and border security”
- “The budget and don’t forget the budget”
- “Education, Texas Dream Act”
- “Border security and transportation funding”
- “Speaker race #1”
- “Taxes, education, border”
- “Border security, Tax or appraisal reform”
- “Highway funding, Medicaid expansion”
- “GUNS, GUNS, GUNS!”
- “On campaign rhetoric alone, I guess they’ll be spending time getting answers on that damn ISIS prayer rug some unknown person found in an unknown spot. Apparently the polls reflect that’s a bigger concern than sitting in traffic, providing great education or even having a nice ice-cold clean cup of water in the summer.”
- “Property taxes, education reform, increased transportation funding (through ‘ending diversions’).”
- “Other than budget?! Straus will be running the House; Patrick will be remaking the Senate; Abbott will be learning the Governor job. Actually producing a budget will be minor miracle. Count on at least one special.”
- “Border /illegal immigration,”
- “1. Border Security!! 2. See #1”
- “Border Security”
- “Immigrant bashing. Sorry: ‘border security’”
- “Public Ed reform and in=state tuition repeal”
- “Border security, Property tax reduction”
- “Daylight savings time and texting while driving.”
- “Education, Lowering taxes”
- “How much damage each party can do to the other”
- “School vouchers. Border security.”
- “Border security, border security, border security...though funding for Child Protective Services may get a serious look.”
- “Property tax relief, education reform”
- “Border control.”
- “Education, though I doubt this legislature will satisfy Judge Dietz and immigration, though this is really a federal issue.”
- “Immigration and Education”
- “Likely nothing really new. Public education should be at the forefront but because of the pending litigation probably won’t be.”
- “It may not be a major issue, but fate of the Perry slush funds (Enterprise, Emerging Technology) will help determine whether real change has occurred.”
- “Public education, transportation infrastructure”
- “Taxes are a different issue from ‘budget.’ The session may grind to a halt on either taxes or budget.”
- “Property taxes”
- “The Speaker’s race in the House will turn into an anticlimactic non-battle, and that will set the tone for session. Good legislative management in the House and a more moderated Dan Patrick in the Senate will lead to a fairly matter-of-fact session that doesn’t (overly) showcase the tea v. everyone else fissure.”
- “Border security and continued pushback on Medicaid Expansion while preparing for the end of the Texas HHSC waiver period.”
- “Social issues to firm up the crazies’ agenda.”
- “Roads and immigration.”
- “Business taxes and Abortion, sadly Education did not rank.”
- “Medicare expansion and gay rights.”
- “Border security”
- “The Border and The Border. Folks gonna be tripping over each other to be uglier and tougher.”
- “Property tax reform and open carry. School finance will probably be a special after the 2016 primaries.”
- “Border Security is #1 and determining who is a ‘conservative’ will be #2.”
- “Most of the top issues can’t help but be about the budget - education, transportation, Medicaid deferral.”
- “Immigration and taxes”
- “Property Tax Relief”
- “Transportation, Border security, Education funding”
- “Border and Obamacare”
- “Infrastructure and tax cuts. Shhhhh!! By the way, can’t have both.”
- “Repealing the Texas Dream Act will cause a lot of heartburn for many Republicans.”
- “Whether to spend the surplus.”
- “School choice and spending limits”
- “The border, gutting public education, roads / water”
- “Education and Immigration”
- “Cannot wait to see all that money being used for law enforcement and border security - these people are going to solve the immigration crisis in 140 days. Oh, and they are going to reform schools so that dear old Kincaid, Hockaday and St. Mark’s Dallas can finally accept those \$3500 vouchers to cover tuition (what do you mean it will not cover tuition at the BEST private schools in Texas???)”
- “For Abbott - border security and transportation, for Patrick - abortion and running for governor against Abbott in 2018”
- “Road funding”
- “1. Fracking (we need a big government solution) 2. Sanctuary cities (we need a big government solution II)”
- “Education, Guns--open carry”
- “1. Border security (which is the dog whistle for immigration, since the state cannot alter federal immigration laws) 2. Tax cuts”

- “Securing the border and school choice”
- “Tuition, immigration”
- “Property taxes, Immigration”
- “Border security, border security and border security.”
- “Border security, Gun Laws”
- “The Border, Pro family pro life”
- “Immigration. Education funding/ vouchers.”
- “Unfortunately, so-called 'immigration reform and border protection close 'especially in the Senate. Also, transportation funding, especially in the House. Finally, another failed attempt to lower property taxes through shifting of business taxes.”
- “Transportation and water funding”
- “This was a nationalized referendum election. We didn't vote for things, we voted against them. So border security, property tax relief might be the only items from a rhetorical standpoint that I remember hearing about.”
- “Paxton -ethical issues”
- “Transportation, water and healthcare.”
- “School finance”

- “Transportation funding - not because of what was said, but because of the need. The leadership of Straus, Dewhurst and Perry accomplished most of the conservative agenda already.”
- “The conservatives are terrified at the amount of revenue available and the thought they may have to spend some of those billions on children or health care will be interesting to watch. Immigration posturing will still be a favorite past time for the newly elected.”
- “Immigration, education, guns”
- “Red meat social issues.”
- “Education & Tax cuts”
- “They don't know, so how could any of us! With the folks who've taken over, you can be sure it will have more to do with populist appeal rather than the long term interests of the state.”
- “School Finance (duh) and taxes.”
- “Reform of the Texas Ethics Commission and Border Security.”
- “Immigration and budget”
- “The bathroom, transgender, gay issue in Houston could be a sleeper as Houston takes it to Austin”
- “Securing border, budget, budget, school finance”
- “Taxes”

Do you think the voter ID law had any effect on either the outcome or turnout in the general elections?”

• “I'd say both to an extent. My mother has been an election inspector for the SOS office for the last twenty years. She is bilingual and travels from San Austin to South Texas every year during elections.

Election fraud is a fact of life - still is. It will be time before this improves and is by and large it is organized by local races. People are still getting picked up and drug to the polls by 'volunteers.' If they

are not registered to vote - the provisional ballot then generates their name in the clerk's database and the next time they come out to get them - they are registered to vote even if they have no intent to. This is a common practice in South Texas and other places of the state I'm sure but certainly in the blue South Texas counties. The absolute irrefutable facts are that it happens, it's been happening, it will continue to happen - providing IDs helps curtail what is illegal already.”

- “I think that for new voters, the confusion between voter ID and not using an ID to going back to requiring a voter ID may have kept some people home, but not enough to change an election.”
- “Democrat Red Herring issue”
- “But too many other co-linear independent variables that suppressed turnout of the normals and independents”
- “The impact was minor, though not zero, but the election was decided on a lackluster campaign and low turnout.”
- “Dallas is as corrupt as ever. Lacking poll watchers.”
- “Voter ID is now settled. After the elections of 2013 and 2014, the claims of opponents of voter ID have been debunked.”
- “For both sides this issue is about posturing, fundraising, and lawsuits. It is not about moving the needle on the vote count in either direction.”
- “Perhaps the voter ID controversy is why Patrick won the Latino male vote. Everyone wants clean elections. Even minorities.”
- “Big Disconnect with general public and the Legislature. Folks are fat and happy; have jobs and money in their pockets!”

- “Any effect was indirect and therefore hard to measure. But it certainly wasn't in the direction of encouraging civic engagement.”
- “No impact at all.”
- “The question underscores the liberal bias of the person who wrote it.”
- “Maybe at the outer margins, but nothing significant. Let's see what happens in 2016 when the presidency is up for grabs.”
- “Although statistical analysis says they must exist, nobody can really find anybody who doesn't have an ID”
- “The issue with participation in this election was that few, other than hardcore voters, were motivated to do so.”
- “Ask someone who didn't vote.”
- “Both, but not enough to have made a big difference.”
- “The stupidity of the discussion and the silliness of the issues is what depresses turnout.”
- “In 2010, before Voter ID, Hispanic turnout at all time low. Don't think we can blame the curse of Obama on straw men issues like Voter ID.”
- “No effect. None. Nada. Zilch. Anyone using this as an excuse for Election Day results is a Democrat compiling a list of everything to blame other than bad candidate, bad message.”
- “Liberals are grasping at straws. Their people don't vote. That's the problem.”
- “Voter ID is a non-issue. Democrats should begin to re-evaluate themselves instead of fighting against voter ID which over 70% of Texans agree with.”

- “Numbers didn't change much from 2010 -- no net impact”
- “If 800k Texans don't have an idea then we have a problem beyond voting.”
- “Stop beating a dead horse. If anything, voter ID kept our elections clean.”
- “Marginal impact but it didn't substantially alter results.”
- “Turnout = outcome”
- “You have to have an ID to do pretty much anything in life.”
- “Voter ID is an unfortunate example of both a solution in search of a real problem and a wedge issue that allows all sides to demagogue as if the solution to world peace is either to implement Voter ID or to not implement Voter ID. Yes, we should protect the sanctity of the ballot

box, but the scale of the problem of illegal voting is insignificant compared to the infrastructure and education challenges we face.”

- “I still don't get the uproar over Voter ID. Can one really function in 2014 without a government issued ID?”
- “At the margin, for the elderly - some may have stayed away.”
- “Only slightly, if any.”
- “If the law remains in place, the problems will be much more evident in a presidential election year.”
- “Given the margin of victory, it was totally inconsequential.”
- “Another excuse for a pathetic campaign. I guess if you piss away that kind of loot you have to find excuses.”

Be a pundit #3: Do you think Republican candidates would have done as well as they did had more voters turned out? Put another way, would Democrats have done better than they did?

No”

- “Yes,”
- “Different types of Republicans (i.e. more traditional types) would have been elected in primaries and Dems would have had moderately better results but still would have lost all statewide elections.”
- “Low turnout helped the republicans”
- “Down ballot Democrats may have fared better in Harris and other large counties but the results statewide would have been largely unaffected by a larger turnout.”

- “Greg Abbott was elected by 13 percent of the Texas population. The few the people who vote, the higher the Republican chance for success. Voter ID is their last and only hope - other than tone-deaf Democrats driving Latinos over to the Republicans.”
- “For the past 15 years it's been a 60-40 split benefiting the Republicans. Democrats have been out of touch with the general public. They don't seem to understand what it is the voters want out of politicians. Leaning so far to the left is only going to isolate the Ds and make them a niche party - that doesn't win elections. I'm not saying the Ds need to move up on the dial, become more mainstream, but at least find out what it is the voters really want out of their government.”

- “Texas is conservative state. D's with a national message will always have a problem here.”

- “Yes”
- “Turnout was the greatest gift to R.”
- “Slightly worse”
- “Margin would have been closer if the voters who read and those who are demographically at less risk of Alzheimer's had voted”
- “Democrats would have done better in a higher turnout election, though Abbott ran a better -- steadier -- campaign.”

- “Republicans won Harris County...”

- “No way. Voters who didn't turn out were ASHAMED of liberal Wendy Davis.”

- “No.”

- “Come on. Do you think Texas would have beaten Oklahoma if Texas had scored more points. The outcome of every election is determined by turnout. Part of what you do to win elections is to get your voters to turn out and convince the other side's voters not to bother. More voters could have meant more votes for Democrats or it could have meant the Republicans victory margin would have increased to 30 points. There is simply no way to spin this to support the Democrats. They lost it fair and square.”

- “No difference at these levels Outcomes same. Perhaps the Ds don't get beat as bad”

- “They definitely would have done better!”

- “Seeing that they hit rock bottom despite their 'organized effort' and their

folks didn't bother showing up they have really nowhere to go but up.”

- “According to the tribune analysis, if every single one of the almost 300,000 'missing voters' from prior elections had shown up, and had all voted 100% Democratic, it would have made up less than 1/2 the margin of victory. So, no, not better. Result would have been the same.”

- “If you don't vote, you don't matter.' - Willie Stark (All the King's Men).”

- “Democrats would have done better.”

- “No, they would not. And you presume these additional voters would all vote for Democrats--the fact that the GOP--overall but especially Cornyn and Abbott--did well with women and Hispanics leads me to believe this presumption is false.”

- “It's Reput; it's Reput Country in Texas; let's secede!”

- “The Democrats could hardly have done worse”

- “Done just as well. Increased voters would have not all voted for D's...”

- “Turnout -- is a self-selecting statistical sample of the electorate. No reason to assume that those who don't vote should act differently than those who do.”

- “14 million registered. 4.6 million voted. It's more than a representative sampling of how people felt.”

- “Democrats would have benefitted, but not enough to make a difference.”

- “Not much difference”

- “Yes...Gallego would have won at least.”

- “No difference whatsoever, as least as I can see.”

- “No because the GOP vote was not as high as it could’ve been”
- “Maybe the results would have been a few points closer but no change in results.”
- “Democrats would have done better.”
- “Would have made no difference.”
- “Yes, Democrats would benefit if more uninterested, low-information voters turned out”
- “If Democrats had done a better job of turning out their base, a few legislative races may have turned out differently, and Harris County would have been competitive.”
- “Rs tend to benefit from lower turnouts. (Ahem), ‘Duh.’”
- “A greater turnout would have helped close the gap in vote totals to some degree.”
- “Democrats would have done better with greater turnout.”
- “Yes, high turnout in Texas helps Democrats, but not enough to matter.”
- “The general election is still a formality with the exception of a few House races. You either voted in the primary and runoffs, or you were merely an observer.”
- “Republicans would still prevail but not by the same margins”
- “No.”
- “No, larger turnout typically benefits the Democrats. This year was no different. Voter apathy kills Democratic candidates.”

- “Absolutely Democrats would have done better because Democrats are the voters who didn’t turnout. (Huh?)”
- “Republicans ran their own turn out effort. Certainly more Democratic voters would narrow the margins, but Republicans didn’t sit back and coast to victory. They worked to turn out their people and made inroads with Latino men.”
- “Ds would have done better. But a million more folks would have had to come out to get Wendy to 43% and Valhalla”
- “Strangely worded question. No. Put another way, yes. Increased turnout generally favors Democrats.”
- “Republicans are not winning because they know how to turnout voters. Republicans win because Pres. Obama occupies the White House. Plain and simple.”
- “Would not have mattered. It is pointless to speculate as to how those who don’t care to vote would have voted.”
- “Republicans benefitted from low turnout”
- “They would have one, but not by as much. And Pete Gallego would be returning to Congress.”
- “Higher turnout would have benefited Democrats.”
- “They would have lost by 18 instead of 20”
- “No”
- “Democrats lost sight if their goal: to beat Bill White’s numbers. They failed to turn out their base. A bigger turnout would’ve meant a bigger blowout.”

- “Could be both sets of voters stayed home because they already knew the outcome.”
- “It would not have mattered”
- “Better turnout of Democrats would have helped”
- “Low turnout definitely played to Republicans advantage.”
- “NOBODY voted except the TRUE believer republicans! Thinking people stayed home and Democrats for CERTAIN stayed home (silly Democrats!)”
- “No. Only the most committed voters turned out. Clearly the Republican voters were more committed in 2014.”
- “No”
- “Ds would have done slightly better, but voters didn’t turn out. Hopefully, crazy would have done less well.”
- “Republicans would have done even better. The Democratic base in Texas has dramatically shrunk since 1994. Historically, conservative Democrats ran Texas with the exception of the 80s-early 90s. Those conservative Democrats have moved to the Republican Party. Texas is and always has been a conservative state so I don’t see it turning purple or blue. The fights that took place among liberal and conservative Democrats has moved to the Republican Party and the fight is among Establishment Republicans and Tea Party. Democrats are pretty marginalized in this state like Republicans were for decades. Same politics fights but different political label.”
- “Who cares? All this talk about a potential (but silent) Democratic majority is just that--talk. Potential votes don’t affect elections. What was it Coach Royal used to say about his new recruits?”

- “Potential’ just means you ain’t done nothin’ yet.’ Until Ds turn out the vote, it’s doesn’t exist.”
- “Depends on which voters!”
- “Turnout hurt the democrats”
- “Yes”
- “Since there aren’t really any democrats in Texas outside of about 10 counties, then I have to reason that turnout really only helps the GOP.”
- “Nope. I know more Republicans who failed to vote than Democrats.”
- “Yes.”
- “It wouldn’t have mattered”
- “Lower turnout impacts Ds negatively in most cases.”
- “The margins would’ve been much more close if all voters who are eligible to vote had voted.”
- “Yes D’s would have done better”
- “Since Davis underperformed Bill White, you’d have to answer yes. But White actually had a statewide rationale for running. Senator Davis did not. White had the ability to pull support from a broader array of voters, Davis did not.”
- “Yes, more voters would have trimmed the margin of victory for R’s”
- “Yes to both; however, the spread probably would have been identical.”
- “Margin would have been less”
- “Republicans would have done just about as well.”
- “The Dems had some quality statewide candidates and gained no traction in any

area. The Obama factor was insurmountable."

- "No, Yes"

- "People need to have the R's screw this state up more in order to govt."

- "Democrats would probably still have lost, but the margin would have been reduced and Dems might have held on in to Congressman Gallego and Representative Perez."

- "This question sadly is prompted by foolish speculation inspired by the odd musings of our president the day after he was destroyed politically. All people who want to vote, vote. It's silly to speculate on what would happen if the non-voters would have voted because they didn't care enough about either side to come out and vote."

- "Phrased a third way, 'could Democrats have done any worse?' I think the answer to that is no."

- "Republican victories would have been larger had more voters turned out because the Texas electorate is entirely fed up with Democrat control of the White House and the U.S. Senate."

- "No"

- "Does not matter. Moot point. However, lets see, Abbott made major in roads with Hispanics. Hmmm, Dems big lie about them being for Hispanic is, well, just that."

- "If voter turnout had been higher, there would have been more votes for Dems"

- "Dems would have done better."

Bonus pundit question: Who would win a race for mayor of San Antonio between Leticia Van de Putte and Mike Villarreal?"

- "Statewide race helped her."

- "Everybody's money is on Van De Putte but Villarreal has a better record and is a good campaigner. Its a mistake to cut him out. "

- "I've observed that both can raise \$, both have their constituency, and both can articulate their positions. But, we're Austin insiders not SA insiders, so no se hombre. "

- "Wasn't Van de Putte running for mayor all along? P.S. How come no question about Wendy Davis' performance this week?"

- "Higher name ID and longer history serving the needs of the city. She can point to her wealth of experience and examples of solving problems. She'd make a great mayor."

- "Easily done; she has a lot of support in that City; she will win!!!"

- "Mike actually has a good grassroots network, at least in his own district, that presumably he has been trying to replicate citywide since he announced his intentions months ago."

- "He's got most money people lined-up and has been working it hard. "

- "I hope she doesn't run. There might be one or two things where we differ, but, she has been an asset to the pink building since her freshman year in the House."

- "Better question why would a state senator want to become the presiding member of a city council since SA has a city manager and a very weak Mayor"

- "A lot depends on who can raise the most money and who the Chamber types support."

- "Not even close, really. She is really the archetype for a SA mayor. Mike's advantage would be in his organizational skills, which are formidable."

- "One them, everyone loves. The other one, well... Think mosquito."

- "LvP in a heartbeat."

- "We can't afford to lose her in the Senate, but she'd win in a walk."

- "She'll win if she runs, but she can do more good in the Senate."

- "You heard it hear first.....LVP runs for mayor and Mike withdraws his letter refusing to take his position next session. Watch for Mike to seated in the Texas House next session."

- "Not even close."

- "Blowout"

- "I thought LVP said no way to Mayor, yet another whatever. "

- "Easy race for Leticia. A class lady!!!"

- "La Leti has spent a few million dollars the last few months on the campaign trail. She spent more time in Bear county than any other county in the state. You can bet she was setting up a future victory. I'm a conservative and still think she will be a great mayor. La Alcadeza will be her new title next year."

- "Van de Putte has been a tremendous positive force for the San Antonio community in the legislature for more than two decades. Villarreal is thoughtful but has been much less impactful during his legislative career. Van de Putte is everyone's friend and she connects with people in a way that underscores compassion mixed with pragmatic problem solving. Villareal is more philosophical, a deeper thinker, but Van de Putte can hold her own with anyone on any issue as she has repeatedly demonstrated over the years."

- "His head start may matter and if the current interim mayor runs it could cause her problems. But on the other hand she has nothing to lose."

- "Leticia would be missed in the Senate by those of us who have worked with her over the years. "

- "No contest. He'd better hope she wants to stay in the Senate. "
- "It would be best for San Antonio if neither of these inadequate candidates is the ultimate winner. "
- "Not only is Sen. Van de Putte a genuinely good person, she is a fine public servant and makes well-educated, thoughtful policy decisions. And that's coming from a Republican. If the people of San Antonio get the chance to have her as mayor, they would be foolish not to jump at the opportunity.

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, John Colyandro, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Mike McKinney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.