

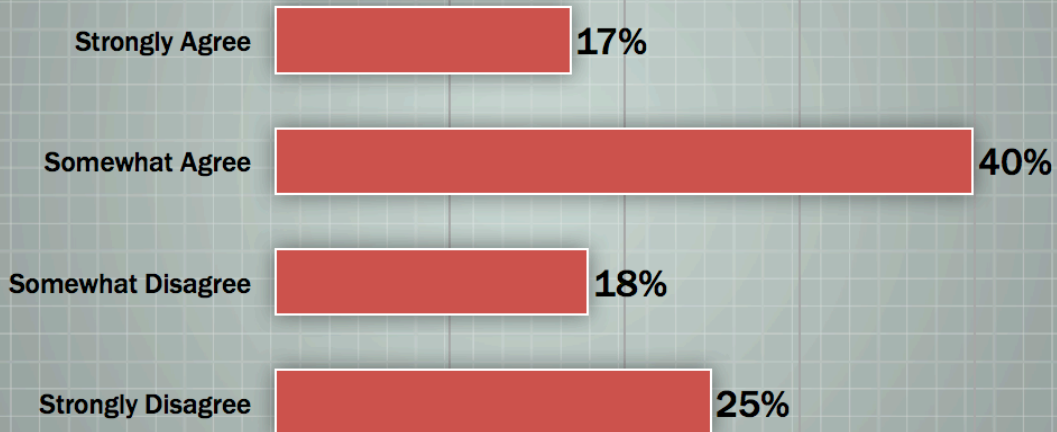
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

Sponsored by: **Hahn, Texas**

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of November 5*

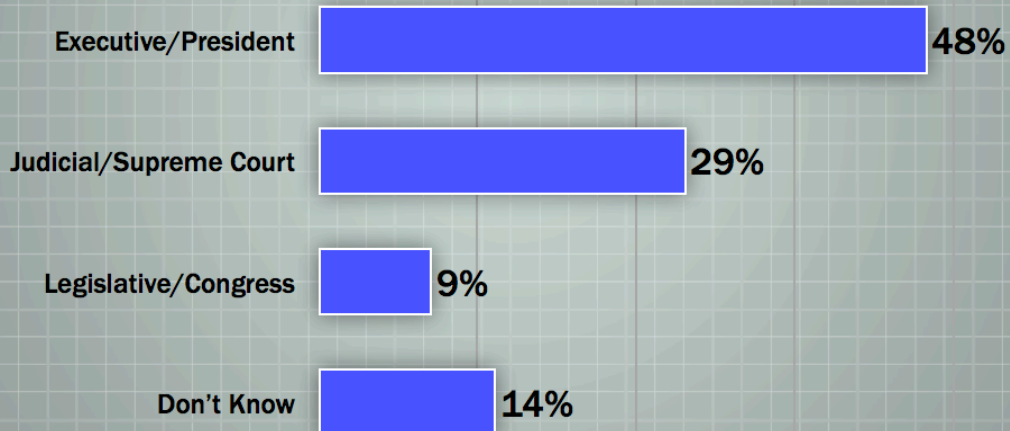
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Is Texas a good model for other states?



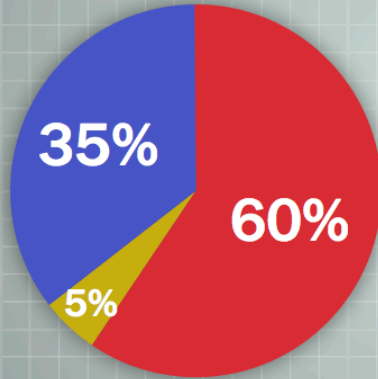
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Which branch of the federal government do you trust most?

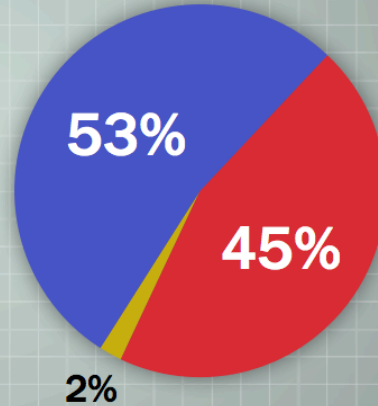


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Which best describes the federal government?



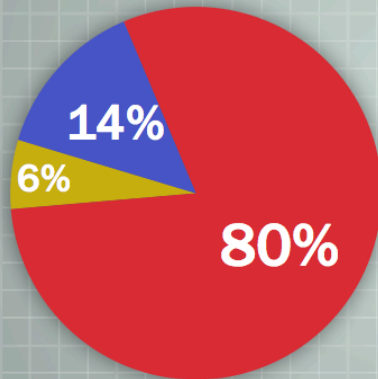
Which best describes the state government?



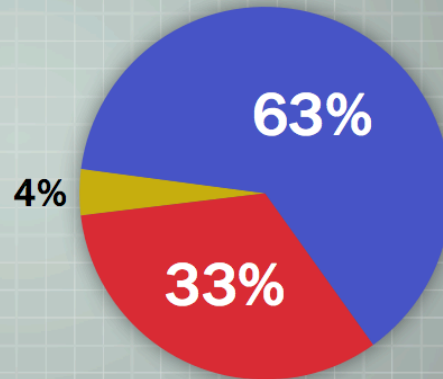
● Addresses Texas' Needs ● Ignores Texas' Needs ● Don't Know

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Which best describes the federal government?



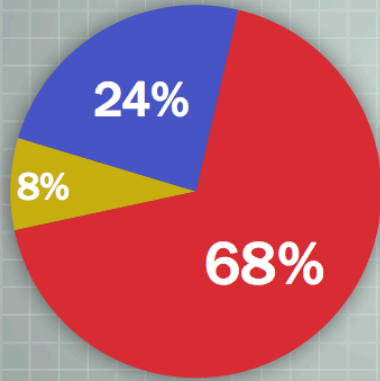
Which best describes the state government?



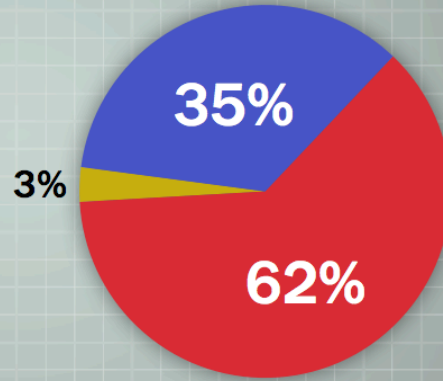
● Careful with Tax Dollars ● Careless with Tax Dollars ● Don't Know

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Which best describes the federal government?



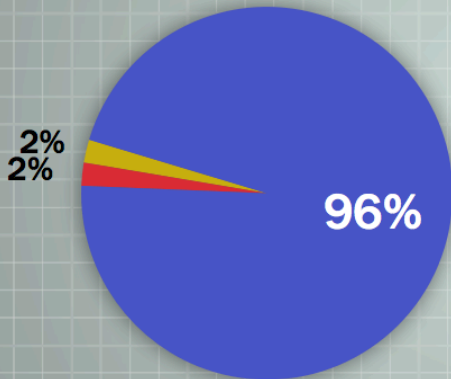
Which best describes the state government?



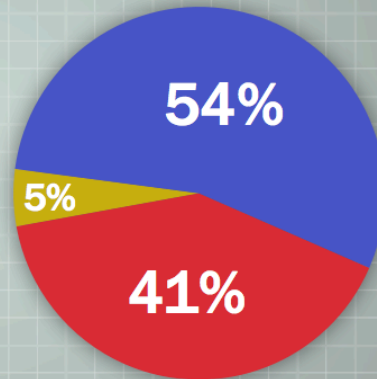
● Mostly Corrupt ● Mostly Honest ● Don't Know

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Which best describes the federal government?



Which best describes the state government?



● Too Partisan ● Can Usually Work Together ● Don't Know

How do you feel about the following statement: Generally speaking, the way state government runs in Texas serves as a good model for other states to follow.

- "Depends on what functions of government we are talking about!"
- "Odd year legislative sessions are a model for all states, but playing a shell game with the budget is a model for failure."
- "The Texas model of decentralized and highly dispersed power with most influence in the legislative branch is better than strong executive power systems."
- "We need to move from biannual sessions and have a short budget only session in the off years. Better cash management would save taxpayers 100s of millions."
- "To much me and not enough we."
- "Fiscally, sure. It's good to spend only what you bring in. Now, about those spending priorities..."
- "I don't see other states copying our school finance system, or our health care system, or our transportation funding system."
- "Having lived in the Northeast, one of the things that is most striking about Texas is that there is relatively little corruption here at the state and local level compared to say Illinois, New York, New Jersey or California. Our small, relatively non-intrusive legislature works very well for this very large state."
- "Presiding officers appointing members of the opposite party to committee chairs is key."
- "By and large yes - it takes entirely too long to work out the obvious problems but by and large, it's good and it works."
- "Keep the biennial legislature, but pay them more."
- "Minus lack of transparency and budget tricks - but TX is hardly the worst offender!"
- "If you need an example of TOTAL DYSFUNCTION and the state being involving itself in matters BEST left to the privacy of one's home, doctor's office or self, then yes we are the MODEL of perfect State Government!"
- "Slash, Slash, Slash is only a good model for a Heavy Metal band."
- "Texas state government is a prairie dog town. God help the little prairie dog with the courage and inspiration to peek his head out of his burrow."
- "The more decentralized the powers, the less damage they tend to do over the long term. Biennial sessions, rather than annual, have a similar benefit. Triennial sessions wouldn't be a bad idea."
- "We have one-party, or more specifically, one-man ideological rule that has inevitably led to conflicts of interest, and short-sighted, politically-driven policies rather than long term planning."
- "It would be if we went back to the Bullock / Laney / Sharp bipartisanship. The current majority has hive mind

and has empowered the least powerful position to run things."

- "Except for shortchanging education and healthcare, thereby failing to ensure that our strong economy can continue past this generation, and the crony system around Gov Perry -- otherwise, it's great."
- "Selecting agency heads and commissioners based on loyalty to the chief and ability to support his future political aspirations has not lead to great outcomes so far."
- "Access to healthcare and access to a quality education at all levels is deplorable!"

• "With the exception of the Governor's Appointment Process."

- "Keeping taxes low is keeping business going, but we need to invest in roads despite what MQS aka Grover Jr. says."
- "The way it should run could serve as a good model..."
- "Anachronistic is the kindest term I can think of."
- "There is more to quality of life than cutting programs and avoiding taxes to support pay-as-you-go government,"

Of the three branches of federal government, which one do you trust the most?

- "Lots of things would be different if courageous members of the court had to stand before voters."
- "James Madison said that government is the greatest reflection of human nature, which is where we must begin to assess how well it is working. With the president's latest ad of a girl losing her virginity to Obama in the voting booth, it signals an earthquake of damage to our moral compass. That cannot be ignored if trust is to be restored."
- "At least with the Judicial branch, the majority has to explain its reasoning in writing and the dissent gets to criticize and explain in writing what the majority has just done."
- "Where is 'none of the above?'"

- "None of the above"
- "Not trustworthy of all three branches equally."
- "None of the above. They are all driven by partisan politics."
- "Seriously? The President doesn't lead. The Supreme Court is too political. And Congress--c'mon."
- "The President, the Congress and the Courts have made monumentally bad decisions, regardless of party, over a 30 year stretch. As a consequence, faith in the federal government has eroded, with good cause."
- "One of these three is not subjected to the whims of voters..."

- "Pretty weak alternatives."
- "Hard to trust any branch since Obamacare, but Congress is where voters have the fastest and most direct check -- that's why we have off-year elections. As we have seen, a President can do a lot of damage in one term and one Supreme Court justice having an odd day can change history."
- "If Romney wins, my trust for the Supreme Court will likely plummet with his first appointment."
- "Didn't see 'None of the above' . . ."
- "For the time being it is SCOTUS, but it's a thin line"
- "Congress the 'most' but not much and only because we can at least try to take 'em out every two years (House)."
- "Despite the body and most of its members being wildly dysfunctional, I put more trust in the branch that is closest to the electorate."
- "The water boils in the House. The tea steeps in the Senate. Or so it used to be."
- "Not this President but the Executive branch."
- "Not sure I trust any of the three branches of the federal government anymore."
- "Which do you trust the most? The hungry bear, the hungry lion or the hungry tiger. Tough choice."
- "The judicial branch is most trustworthy only because once appointed, they theoretically are no longer beholden to anyone"
- "Is there a bubble for Neither of the above?"
- "The current U.S. Senate is a joke-- it can't even propose and consider an annual budget--- raise the debt ceiling is all it knows how to do!"
- "Can I have some better choices?"
- "Silly question, dudes: trust in individuals or not, sure. But not in branches of government, which are neither inherently good nor bad. They're tools to be wielded by the jackholes we elect."
- "It always depends on who is running the branch."
- "At least we're talking access to healthcare"
- "Better asked: which branch do you distrust least."
- "Not Obama and not Harry Reid, they are a joke"
- "Where's the 'None of the Above' option?"
- "The bar, no pun intended, is pretty low."
- "These days it is hard to make a choice."
- "The Presidency, mainly because I was a huge fan of the West Wing and like to believe that's how the White House really works. I also believe in the Great Pumpkin."
- "None of the above."

Which phrase better describes the federal and state governments?

- "Governments need to focus on LIBERTY. They should NOT make the dreadful mistake of thinking that our inalienable rights come from government. The fact is that inalienable rights come from our Creator. That's the basis of Western Civilization and our nation's founding."
- "How about a choice that reflects an in-between position?!"
- "Unfortunately, the current federal administration is openly hostile to the needs of Texas."
- "Democrats hate Texas except for campaign fundraising"
- "Does not ignore their personal needs but ignore needs of Texas. That is the elected group--the professional state and fed employees do the best they can under the conditions they have to work under."
- "Of course, the programs meet the 'needs' but the failure of many federal and state programs calls their efficacy into question, and rising national, state and local debt demands a reconsideration of continuation of many programs."
- "By residents, I assume you mean 'non-contributors.'"
- "Federal government would do a lot more to address the needs of Texas residents if Perry et al would let it, e.g. Medicaid expansion."
- "The state ignores many key needs of Texans. Many poor people get medical care, for example, but too few."
- "I'd like to know where you're going with all this"
- "Sad that the Federal government has made strides to HELP more Texans than the State government which continues to pass legislation and instituted mandates to HURT more Texans - especially Women, Children and the uninsured!"
- "Many Texas citizens need to share the blame for the State. If you say 'No more taxes or spending', then please do not complain about schools/ tuition, infrastructure or government services."
- "Government tends primarily to its own needs. 'Residents' are sort of like the students on a college campus - a pain in the @ss necessity."
- "Response on federal here directly relates to the current Administration."
- "The federal governments only concern is amassing power. If people get their needs addressed by DC, it's purely accidental."
- "Anytime your state cuts education and Medicaid for indigent seniors, they are ignoring our needs."
- "Mostly addresses the desires of political contributors"
- "We need more federal involvement along the Texas-Mexico border."

Which phrase better describes the federal and state governments?

- "Neither is expressing concern about tax & spend as they grow government and pander to special interests--at taxpayer expense."
- "At least the state tends to balance the budget."
- "Tough week at the office? This poll topic is lousy."
- "Balanced budget requirement is the difference"
- "This is confirmed by the increase in state and fed budgets without increase of services..."
- "Federal tax dollars = free money!!"
- "It's easy for Texas - there aren't that many tax dollars."
- "'Mostly concerned with re-election'"
- "Although all that money sitting in the 'rainy day fund' makes me wonder why our education system continues to be WOEFULLY underfunded."
- "To say that massive cuts to critical functions and programs is the height of carelessness."
- "Feds by overspending; state by spending on the wrong things/ failing to spend on key priorities like education and healthcare."
- "Equally careless, but for different reasons. The feds spend money on wasteful defense projects and district pork, for sure. In Texas, give rich guys tax cuts while our schools, roads and medical infrastructure crumble, literally."
- "Allows the Governor to use hundreds of millions of dollars as his personal slush funds to reward his supporters, while he slashes important programs like education."
- "Having worked in both, I know the federal government couldn't care less about what each expenditure means to each taxpayer."
- "It is a choice with no difference."
- "The choice should be tries to do as little as possible with insufficient tax revenue by kicking the can down the road and to the locals"

Which phrase better describes the federal and state governments?

- "Depends on what your definition of 'is' is!"
- "Zero based budgeting should be a given EVERY legislative session."
- "There is corruption and self dealing at both levels. However, most officials and staffs are honest hardworking people. Campaign finance at both levels is corrupt and bankrupt from an ethical standpoint."
- "Honest but self serving"

- "I suppose this is where certain folks will decry the influence of special interests like Big Oil and Big Business, but they forget about other special interests like Big Labor (public *and* private unions)."
- "The corruption in our state government is more of the cronyism variety."
- "Most honest, except for the Emerging Tech Fund and the Cancer Fund. Just the normal stuff that happens when one man and one party is in power too long."
- "Not sure what you mean by 'honest' here -- both state and federal governments say things that aren't exactly true about what they are up to, but most of us know the code and they know we know the code. Overall, neither the state nor the federal government is mired in corruption --"
- "Loaded question. We all see their corruption because they live in fish bowl. These folks are no more corrupt than one's accountant, priest, preacher, teacher, lawyer, mechanic, any CEO or corporate leader etc. and so on. This question is old and tired. If we are going to complain about corruption in government we need to get aggressive about it in all walks of life and business. Government, like art, imitates real life or shall we say reflects."
- "The corrupt/honest scale is not the right measure. It should be capable/effective versus misinformed/misdirected/inept. On that scale, neither is perfect, but state scores better than federal."
- "Our federal and state governments--as institutions and as large sets of working people--are quite honest, indeed far beyond mostly so. A relatively small but significant number of visible and significant elected and appointed actors seem irredeemably corrupt--the poster boy being our own governor. However, we know that appearances can be deceiving so prudence dictates that we keep in mind Napoleon Bonaparte's wise words: 'Never ascribe to malice that which is adequately explained by incompetence.'"
- "Show me voting for incompetent."
- "You forgot to put 'Mostly Inept' as a choice."
- "At this point, Texas state government is Rick Perry. Rick Perry is the Lance Armstrong of Texas politics. He might better get before his decades of deals catch up with him."
- "Government tends to be honest. It's just wrong-headed."
- "I suspect those serving at the federal level have good intentions."
- "Federal is 'TOTALLY INEPT'"
- "See comment #4."
- "Difference between competence (or lack thereof) and corruption."
- "Most are honest, just very confused because of their loyalty to party platforms instead of the needs of the country/state."
- "Lawyers self-dealing...don't have to disclose clients."

Which phrase better describes the federal and state governments?

- "The question presupposes that government needs to do more, which will always cost more too. I'd rather that the parties stand for the people, NOT for more government NON-answers."
- "But moving in the wrong direction..."
- "The federal government malfunctions not because of partisanship but because of ideology. It is not possible to reconcile progressivism with conservatism/classical liberalism."
- "In DC, you have a president whose budget was unanimously rejected by both parties in both chambers. Working together is good. But you also have a divided atmosphere, like Obama, then Speaker Pelosi, and Majority Leader Reid cramming Obamacare through Congress. Divisiveness is bad."
- "It's easy for Texas - mainly just one party."
- "Austin has become Washington, and Washington has gotten much worse due to the current hateful Republicans in Congress."
- "We're sadly headed toward DC-style partisanship in Texas. Not about what's good for the country, but what makes my party look good, and the others look awful."
- "To say it is 'too partisan' in DC implies there are no legitimate reasons for the divisions. The friction mostly comes from real policy disagreements on important issues, e.g., the debt, entitlements, the size of government, tax policy, domestic oil drilling, pipelines, etc."
- "This threatens to deteriorate."
- "To include extreme ends of the party's"
- "The answers for this whole line of questioning are too simplistic."
- "Seriously??? - Either 'too divided' or can 'usually work together'..."
- "I'm not sure I agree with the question. It could imply that working together is a good thing. If you view government as too big or wrong-headed, maybe you don't want the parties to get along. Inaction is better than more bad action."
- "A shame that Texas is following DC in this regard."
- "Partisan gridlock on the federal level has prevented needed reform. On the state level, the governor's 'my way or the highway' approach has stifled efficient and effective progress."
- "Less so each election cycle though"
- "Spend more time allocating blame than solving problems."
- "Is becoming more divided"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, David Anthony, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Rick Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, Eva De Luna-Castro, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Billy Howe, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Walt Jordan, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Richard Levy, Elizabeth Lippincott, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Scott McCown, Mike McKinney, Debra Medina, Robert Miller, Mike Moses, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Gardner Pate, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Jeff Rotkoff, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.