

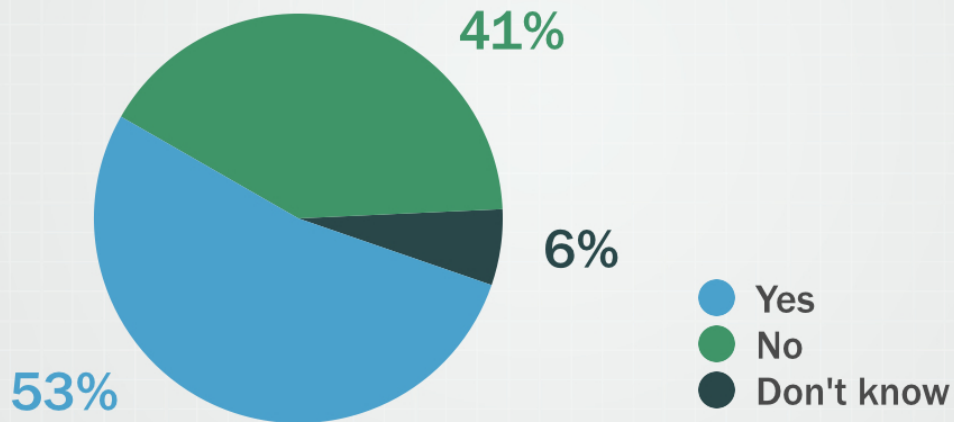
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll

for the week of 25 July 2014

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

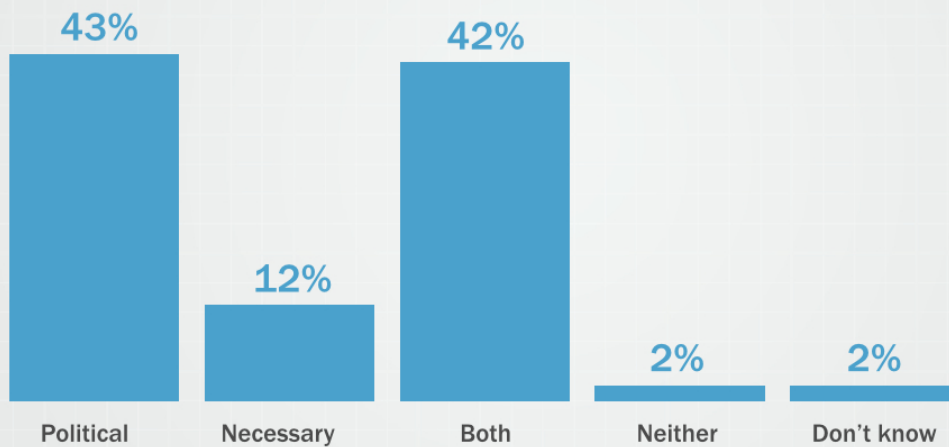
SHOULD TEXAS SEND NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO THE BORDER?



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

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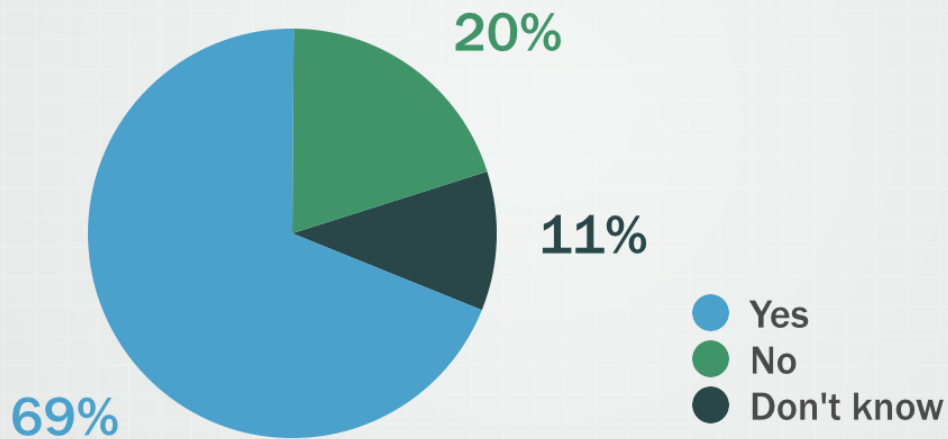
SENDING THE NATIONAL GUARD IS...



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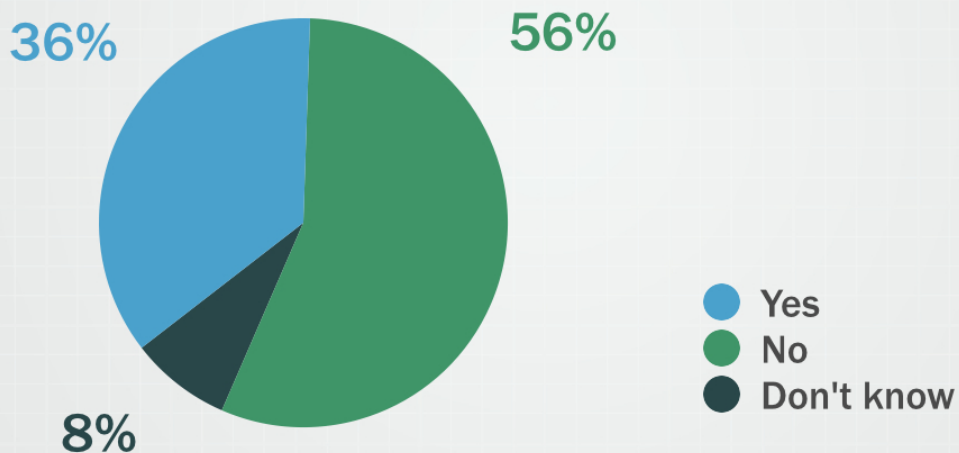
DOES THIS GIVE THE GOVERNOR OR OTHERS
A POLITICAL BOOST?



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WILL IT SPUR FEDERAL ACTION?



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Should Texas send National Guard troops to the border?

- "There are two problems to be solved: 1) securing the border, and 2) providing humanitarian aid to the children. The Obama administration has thus failed on both fronts."
- "Federal officials are overwhelmed and indecisive."
- "If nothing else it will highlight for the nation the porous nature of our international border."
- "Texas has the longest contiguous border with Mexico and the current crisis is happening in Texas. The Feds should step up to lead this effort; but since they've abdicated their duty and responsibility, it's up to Texas to take charge and help secure the border. It shouldn't be this way, but it's where we are."
- "Good move to show up the federal administration's hapless lack of response"
- "WHAT AN IDIOTIC RESPONSE! Why would you do that unless you wanted the 'wild west' reputation that our poor state already suffers to be further propagated? Mark my words - sending the National Guard to the border will result in someone shooting someone."
- "My answer would be an absolute yes, if they had the power to turn immigrants away from crossing our border. Why expend the money when we do not have the authority to send them home. We should have secured the border decades ago when we had Republican Presidents."
- "A thousand troops will make little difference."
- "Like he did in Hurricanes Katrina, Alex and Rita and when wildfires created huge humanitarian needs across the state in 2006."
- "There may be some support they can provide to overwhelmed and probably exhausted border security personnel and local shelter operators but Perry's purpose is to give the impression to a national audience that he is taking control."
- "It is unfair to Texas taxpayers to have an open border. I think Obama wants to bankrupt Texas."
- "Only because it is obvious that the federal government is derelict in its duties."
- "Immigration is great, but it must be done in orderly fashion. The flood of immigrants we currently have, especially unaccompanied minors, is no way to welcome new people into our country."
- "Military action not needed, humanitarian action is called for."
- "This mission does not square with the expertise of the National Guard."
- "The gov could have done this two years ago. Why now? Oh, I remember: presidential politics."
- "Sure. That way the kids fleeing drug-gang violence at home and seeking refuge in the U.S. won't have

to hunt around so long for someone to turn themselves in to."

- "These kids and families are surrendering to the Border Patrol now. I have not seen a persuasive case that more soldiers will make a difference in the lives of those families, unless the Guard will be providing medical and humanitarian support."

- "I've yet to hear DPS screaming for help."

- "These are children, not criminals; political optics may well be to send a 'stay home' message -not that hasn't been made clear here and from the WH; far more likely playing to home grown anti immigration blocs here and the early primary states in fairness--has border patrol asked for more manpower, and is our Guard professionally equipped and trained to provide meaningful and sustainable support?"

- "It is clear there is a multi-faceted crisis along the border; guard troops should be used for security purposes, and administrative-type employees should be used for processing, recording, and data-management."

- "Soldiers didn't really sign up to be baby sitters. While the Guard does have some units trained in rescue, humanitarian assistance, etc. I doubt that's what Gov. Perry has in mind since he's already posed wearing a flak jacket apparently hunting six year olds along the river."

- "Should have been sent a long time ago before it appeared to be political as it now does..."

- "While something needs to be done, I am not sure soldiers are the answer to an influx of children along the border. Since they are turning themselves in as they reach the border, it seems a waste to send the Guard to simply keep them out."

- "I hope they are armed with pedalyte."

- "Control of our international borders is not a state function."

- "Complete and total waste of money. These folks are seeking out CBP when they get across, not evading."

- "For humanitarian purposes and to assist with border security."

- "If we're willing to stomach the visuals of bayonets pointed at children, then I guess let's send in the Guard. What else would they do? Catch people in cargo nets like on Planet of the Apes?"

- "Yes. The Feds are not doing a basic function of government"

- "It's not about the kids, but about the bad guys using the kid crisis to get drugs across the border in areas that are not being patrolled."

- "Gov Perry is desperate, far behind in the polls, so we must send the troops and guns to the border"

Is sending the National Guard a political move or a necessary one?

- "This a rare instance where the 'right' thing to do, coincides with the politically expedient thing do to. Why can't the Obama administration see that?"
- "Let's not forget: this wasn't the first option; it's done as the last resort. Nothing else is working and the Feds refuse to lead on the issue. Someone needs to do something to stop the influx and get a handle on the situation."
- "Deployment is more important symbolically than in practical effect. It's sign that important segments of the population want the law enforced."
- "'I am Rick Perry and I am a SUPER tough Governor; even though all the redub members of Congress from my state will not support the authorization of federal money the President has requested for border issues, I am going to mobilize the National Guard and then send the bill to the Feds; when they won't pay it I and my repub cronies will complain that they Feds won't do their job! And by the way, I am running for President and this will show you just how tough I am; I mean SUPER tough even though it is really a lot of scared little kids, I am tough on them!'"
- "One billion percent political. Unless these babies and kids are coming across with pistols and bales of pot, we need an army of child care providers, not an army of, well, army."
- "The communities along the border are desperate and don't have the manpower."
- "It is totally politically driven to boost Governor Perry's national profile among Republican primary voters during the next Presidential election."
- "Either pay the price today or let the open border bankrupt our state."
- "This is a crisis of epic proportions and needs to be stopped ASAP! Our state healthcare system is overloaded now and cannot take the massive influx of problems."
- "Given that kids are voluntarily surrendering, it's ridiculous to think it'd make any substantive difference."
- "Obviously something must be done and immediately. Despite the critical practical need, there are political points to make in terms of leveraging the state's investment in the face of federal inaction."
- "Is there any agreement on the nature of the problem? We should be thanking the cocaine users in this country for their continuing financial support of the gangs impressing into servitude and murdering children and families in Honduras."
- "Of course it is a political move. This is Perry's and the RPT's way of being passive aggressive with Obama."
- "What about this outgoing Governor is not political positioning for yet another futile presidential gesture at

worst or at best an exit (read: employment) strategy"

- "The situation on the border is a serious one, no doubt; at times though, the level to which it arises is drowned out by political shouting in a mid-term Congressional and statewide election year."
- " . . . of the most pathetic kind."
- "Now yes, always been necessary"

• "We have a critical manpower shortage. The Guard is the best and fastest way to address this shortage."

- "When Rick Perry brags about it in Iowa, it's ain't apolitical."
- "Everyone is complaining -- R's and D's -- about the lack of inaction and attention from Washington on this issue so they should be thankful that the state leadership is taking action to help."
- "Wonder if the troops have shoot to kill orders?"

Does it give Gov. Rick Perry or anyone else in Texas a political boost?

- "When doing the right thing also happens to be the popular thing, that is always politically favorable."
- "Your mileage may vary..."
- "Perry has to win a primary to become a presidential nominee. The R base is in full support of securing our southern border."
- "If being a genuine leader results in a political boost, then so be it. More power to him for looking out for the best interests of the state and country."
- "The new Perry team handled this opportunity adroitly. There was no pretense at his press conference this week that this was a state staff matter. Presidential campaign advisers Eric Bearse, Rob Johnson, Jeff Miller etc. were in charge."
- "It gives them a potential boost with their base but not anyone else."

• "It would in a GOP primary for President I guess."

- "With GOP primary voters it will help, but doubt it's enough to overcome his catastrophic first impression on the national stage."
- "Again, we look like a bunch of gun toting, shoot 'em up cowboys! WE all end up looking like a gaggle of crazy racists!"
- "With some of the far right."
- "Perry gets a boost because he can show in vivid detail how Obama failed to lead."
- "National security is the major concern, not politics."
- "No, because Perry is still too stupid to be elected president."

- "Perry"
- "Lets him and others say they're doing something. Whether that actually amounts to any result is another question--one I'm not qualified to answer as I sit in my office in Austin."
- "Ted Cruz and Rick Perry are leading on this issue."
- "Yes. Gov. Perry can not only take advantage (and credit) for doing what Obama could have and should have done, he can continue to explain how his formula for a healthy economy in Texas has afforded us the financial means to do it - at least for now."
- "It looks good; accomplishes nothing."
- "As a believer in Christian ideals I am going to make a personal donation to Catholic Charities. Many U.S. Citizens believe immigrants are a threat and that is nothing new in our history, so it will boost their support for the careers of Perry and others."
- "Unfortunately for those narrow minded, immigrant hating, 'I got mine but you can't have yours' trifling Tea party folks, it does give him and any other right wing politician a boost."
- "It gives Perry a boost if Democrats continue to allow Tea Party activists to dominate this debate."
- "Otherwise no reason to spend the money. This is presidential optics far more than any humanitarian motive"
- "Short-term yes, long-term no"
- "Yes, but only among the winger who have taken over the Republican Party. And like Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act, it will contribute to the Republicans losing Texas, the Southwest and anywhere else there is a large Latino population for a generation (or two)."
- "With the heartless tea party."
- "May be a useful message point in presidential primaries in other states."
- "Might give Rick a slight boost"
- "Like it or not Perry is acting like a leader."
- "It helps everyone who has said this is a crisis and that Washington needs to do more to help border states."
- "This was a gift to Rick Perry"
- "I think it could backfire politically."

Does it increase the likelihood that the federal government will pay more attention to border security and immigration issues?

- "History is forcing DC to confront an issue they have long ignored." and hurt the democrat candidates with the independent voter this fall."
- "No but it guarantees that the nation will and that will help the republican" • "Why should the Fed govt step up NOW? Heck, they don't have to man

the border AND they won't have to pay the tab (you don't really think the Fed govt will pick up the tab for this, do you?)."

- "Maybe not a major development, but it will force some response from Obama."
- "This is already a priority with the government. Where is compassionate conservatism when you need it?"
- "Are you kidding? Our own members of Congress do NOT want to work on an immigration bill; they would rather complain that President Obama has created this issue by opening the border for all to come (which is NOT true), rather than face the real crisis. Why don't we spend some money helping Mexico and other countries build their infrastructure (say perhaps a small percentage of what we have spent in Iraq and other middle East countries??); what say we have a guest worker program - to legally allow these folks to come here work and go home? Do you not think they would not welcome the opportunity to go home and visit their families? (Just look at the amounts of money they wire back to their home countries??)."
- "There is clear evidence Texas border security tried to get Washington to act on the coming wave of immigrants."
- "Obama has a tin ear to Texans."
- "The federal government has both created and prolonged the situation for decades-- it is obvious that the North Bank of the Potomac wrote off this Southern border state issue many

years ago and under the current Administration is totally incapable in fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities."

- "Nope, but I'm sure if it was a swing state that needed help the resources would be as free flowing as the immigration."
- "No, not as long as 'the federal government' (read: White House) is intent on choosing politics over governing."
- "Pres. Obama is fiddling while Rome burns"
- "The federal government is paying lots of attention. Inaction is a political issue because of partisan extremists, not a matter of will."
- "Obama and the D's ignore this at their peril."
- "There is plenty of attention on immigration, whether or not the National Guard gets involved."
- "I am very disappointed that President Obama did not go to the border during his Texas fundraising and photo op trip. Too many Congressional leaders are paying plenty of attention and capitalizing on the problem by fear mongering and grabbing headlines. Let's see how long it takes Congress to take any meaningful action beyond posturing."
- "Only because the federal government will now have to deal with the National Guard."
- "Wasn't aware of a lack of attention; dispute is over immigration policy between Rs and Ds in DC and a

demonstrably obstructionist position of core Rs...And of course the usual Fed baiting by our red neck provincials"

- "Because some poorly trained, trigger happy soldier or cop will shoot a kid the more they are put in misplaced assignments."

- "Somehow, someday, we need to get their attention. President Obama would rather pay pool and drink beer than actually visit the border. It's a crisis."

- "But I think they pay attention to it now. National Guard was sent in 2010 by Obama and in 2006 by Bush."

- "It's this 'kid' factor that will come into play. If it were just adults piling up at the border, no one would pay (increased) attention."

- "They'll be forced to by vulnerable Democrats who will cry for the President to do something to make it appear like he really cares about this issue."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, Eva De Luna-Castro, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Mike McKinney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Chuck Rice, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Bryan Sperry, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bob Stein, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.