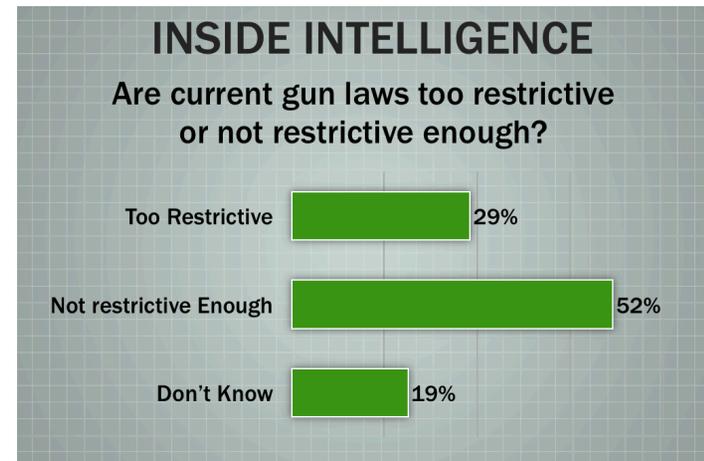
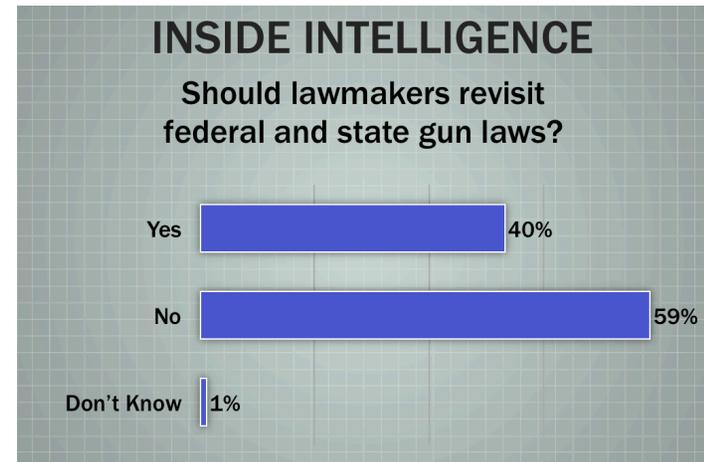


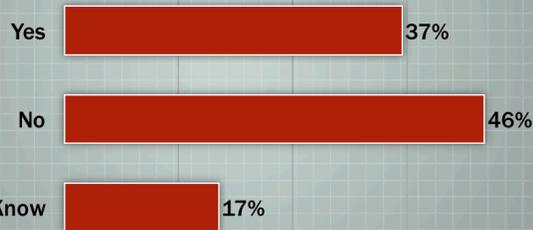
# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of July 30*



## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Is there something lawmakers should do to other laws to help prevent such assaults?



### Should lawmakers revisit federal and state gun laws?

- "Not given the current make up of the legislature. I'm afraid "revisiting gun laws" at the state level would mean CHLs for 9 year olds and mental patients."
  - restore the assault weapon ban and track buys like the guy made."
- "The theater was a gun-free zone. How did that protect the victims? News flash: criminals don't follow the law like you and I. See also, the Norway massacre."
  - "Not just no but hell no Norway has major gun laws. Need I say more!"
  - "Only those lawmakers wishing to no longer be legislators in Texas should revisit anything dealing with restricting gun regulation."
- "What more is it going to take to get some realism into our gun laws? No one needs an automatic weapon to protect their home or shoot a deer."
  - "Little interest from either side of the aisle. The politics are baked in and only big city Mayors have running room on the issue."
- "It is sickening for the NRA to have so much power over lawmakers. Congress needs to gut up and at least
  - "An assault weapons ban is a no-brainer."
  - "Yes, but only to make them more permissive."

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- "Now is the absolute perfect time to have the conversation. If not now, then when?"
- "Obama doesn't let a crisis go to waste. His RELENTLESS LIBERALISM is killing America."
- "There has to be an honest discussion about why these types of incidents keep happening in the United States; gun laws have to be at the center of that discussion. It is far too easy to obtain a weapon and ammunition, so even if we cannot talk about prohibition of weapons sales at least limits have to be on the table."
- "Republicans will be too busy limited the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th amendments--as well as wringing their hands over the 10th Amendment--to deal with the 2nd Amendment."
- "Nuts can't kill as many people if they can't get military weapons designed to kill a lot of people."
- "Law abiding citizens should have LESS restrictions on gun ownership. The result would be an armed citizenry with the ability to protect themselves against those who wish to do harm."
- "Buying guns and ammo over the Internet has changed buying habits since the Brady legislation was enacted. Although the effects of the Federal assault weapons ban is

### Are current gun laws too restrictive or not restrictive enough?

- "Export needs tight controls."
- "On certain assault rifles and availability of armor piercing bullets."

debatable, reenacting the legislation would be a good first step."

- "We should ensure that current laws are being enforced and programs are being funded. We possess a constitutional right to bear arms, and those who violate it should be punished to the fullest extent of the law."
- "It's time to get serious about assault rifles and high capacity magazines. No serious hunter would ever consider a 100 round mag and I'm one of those guys who hunts."
- "Since it seems like this whole episode is a case study in how to circumvent state and federal gun laws, it seems like there might be other avenues also needing to be explored at this point?"
- "Operation like Fast and Furious should be made illegal."
- "We have laws already - yet people who intend to do bad things with firearms will ALAWYS find a way to do so."
- "The Colorado movie incident was a random act of violence."
- "It's indeed a slippery slope."
- "Won't happen."
- "They should but they won't."

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- "Assault weapons should only be allowed for law enforcement."
- "Guns kill people like spoons make people fat."
- "Don't believe every American is entitled to an automatic weapon"
- "Want an assault weapon? Join the Army!"
- "Broad issues related to this question. Access to guns and ammo? About right, I think. Ability to protect one's self? Too restrictive. The theater was a gun-free zone. CHL holders were prevented from protecting themselves by an overly restrictive law."
- "Laws are ok as are"
- "About the only weapon still off-limits is a tank."
- "Well I don't like AK47's but if criminals want them they will get them."
- "Just like Goldilocks."
- "They are just fine where they are. You didn't have that option."
- "Buying 6,000 rounds of ammo and multiple assault rifles in a 60 day span should trigger some type of reasonable intervention."
- "I'd take up everything but hunting rifles and shotguns and melt 'em down!"
- "Both - need less restrictions on concealed handguns and increased regulation of purchases and ownership of fire arms"
- "Just fine, I'd say"
- "To restrictive for what? Not restrictive enough for what? What's the policy goal: public safety, commerce, 2nd Amendment rights?"
- "I think current federal and state gun laws are probably about where they should be."
- "Closing the gun show and Internet loophole is not too much to ask, is it? I love to hunt, but I don't need an AK-47 to bring a deer down. There is no sport in that."
- "I have my CHL and don't appreciate the federal government having so much personal information."
- "We have enough gun laws"
- "High velocity weapons capable of shooting 60+ rounds per minute should not be available to the general public."
- "Texas went through this back in 1999 after Columbine, and I don't think much changed afterwards in regards to being able to purchase guns."
- "The gun show background check loophole should be closed to prevent immediate access to guns by those who mean to do harm. However, gun bans, in addition to being unconstitutional, are a folly. Look no farther than Mexico or Chicago for evidence of how restrictive gun laws only keep guns from the upright. At base, most crime is driven by economics, as well as a breakdown of the culture. For those with mental illness, we can help many of them"

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before their medical condition manifests violently; however, we do not have the political will to allocate these resources."

- "Again, laws only work when people follow them. Murderers don't typically testify that they thoughtfully weighed their legal position before they pulled the trigger."
- "We basically don't have any in Texas."

### *Is there something lawmakers could or should do — not involving gun laws — to help prevent assaults like this?*

- "Not sure what it would be other than strengthen society's handling, detection, and treatment of mentally ill people."
- "Increase funding of mental health services."
- "You can't legislate someone from being crazy."
- "Enhanced mental health care."
- "Unless of course they can round up ALL of the weapons in the world! If you want to kill someone or a group you will find a way... bombs will still be around, poison gas, etc."
- "How does a government prevent madness; I question the premise of the question, with all do respect."
- "Actually fund mental health programs"
- "Fund mental health programs. Might not have prevented this one, but there's no denying that most of these shooters are ill."
- "Where there is a will, there is a way. Since the dawn of Man, criminals have found a way to circumvent laws. Not much can be done to prevent assaults like this while keeping our liberties."
- "Provide MH screenings and services on a broader scale to help prevent and detect threats"
- "Better access to mental health services."
- "Better background checks and increase funding for law enforcement to be better prepared for responding to situations."
- "They don't need to go crazy and try to ban guns."
- "It's hard to gauge knowing that the laws already in the books aren't being enforced."
- "The laws are just right."
- "Too restrictive in some states . . . although one must question the need for assault weapons with high capacity magazines. But where to draw the line???"
- "It's not the guns' fault."
- "They are neither."

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- "Internet purchase of guns and ammo. Limits on amounts of ammo, just like automatic weapons are restricted"
- "There will always be sick people among us."
- "Fund a robust Mental Health safety net for all families. It would not really cost that much."
- "There were red flags in Colo and with his family. The problem was they didn't have recourse to require mental healthcare treatment."
- "Better fund mental health programs and treatments"
- "Better mental health services."
- "Crazies are crazies and will get the tools they need to implement destruction. Again, Norway."
- "There is nothing anyone can do to stop a mad man or stupidity. The day after the crazy in Colorado killed 12 people, a stupid person with 28 people in a truck hit a tree and killed 14 people. No one is calling for vehicle regulation or stupidity regulation. The Government cannot protect us from the exceptions to the rules."
- "Increase access to mental health care"
- "Better access to mental health services."
- "Add to the public school curriculum mandatory GUNS 101 -- introduction to firearms, safe gun handling and storage, and basic marksmanship. The publics ignorance of guns drives their fear."
- "Invest in mental health."
- "A CHL owner could have taken out the Colorado shooter before he killed and wounded so many."
- "The rhetoric that fuels political discord in this country has spillover impact. If we are casual about how we trivialize violence in the political or social arena it does desensitize people to the consequences of violent action."
- "Adequately funding mental health care (including an apparently glaring need for mental health screening at universities) would be a good way to forestall any need for gun control."
- "Purchasing guns through the Internet has become a hot topic recently. If anything changes, it may start with regulations over the ability to freely purchase weapons online without any background checks."
- "The state should fund mental health and social services. Texas has led the country in decimating funding for these programs under the belief, apparently, that mental illness will be cured by lack of treatment."
- "Limit assault rifles and high capacity magazines"
- "Build a culture of nonviolence, how about? For starters, legislators and partisan hacks could realize that their vicious, hateful interactions, on display in the media 24/7, create a poisonous environment perfect for incubating destructive impulses. See: "Children Learn What They Live." And then they grow up and kill people."

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- "Maybe we could adequately fund mental health services??"
- "Restore mental health spending."
- "Some people are just crazy."
- "Support programs that identify and assist those on who are psychotic and potentially violent."
- "Tougher penalties for crimes committed with a gun."
- "Is there really a need for the average Joe to own an high powered weaponry? I enjoy hunting and believe that people should have the right to own a handgun. These types of weapons are not used to hunt animals - they are used to KILL PEOPLE! That is why the military uses them"
- "Mental health funding. Austin State hospital has entire wings shut down due to lack of state funding"
- "Lawmakers should realize the best time to identify potential candidates that would execute assaults such as the one in Colorado is during middle school/high school."
- "Can't legislate for crazy."
- "You can't regulate crazy."
- "A more functional mental health system would be a good place to start"
- "There is little which can be done to stop a madman from committing mayhem."
- "Better mental health screenings"
- "Upgrade mental health systems."

### *What would be the best policy or legal response to incidents like this one?*

- "Not to get global about local, individualized incidents" about his intentions and place them under surveillance."
- "Strong prosecution and education of the public to be aware and report potential mentally unstable people."
- "Ban assault weapons"
- "The best policy would be to stop making policy based on anecdotes and isolated incidents."
- "Just as with purchasing a firearm, there should be a waiting period for any legislation following a crisis. Lawmakers always rush in to help with an instant "solution"...which many times does nothing but allows legislators to say that they did something."
- "See above."
- "Encourage legislators in states like CO to adopt very strict daily gun / ammunition reporting requirements and confront those buying killing equipment as the theater shooter did"
- "Lethal injection."
- "Immediate hanging..."

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- "Criminal prosecution with appropriate sentence."
- "Don't act impulsively"
- "Focus on support for victims. Less media attention on the shooter because that's probably what they want."
- "No need for knee-jerk, feel-good action. This was a tragedy. No need to politicize it. Not every event should result in additional laws."
- "Better MH access to care"
- "No policy or legal response is going to prevent truly evil or very mentally ill people from doing truly evil or tragic things like what has happened in Colorado this past week. The idea that arming everyone would prevent such tragedies is equally silly. Let's pray for the families involved instead."
- "Start easy: bring back the ban on assault weapons."
- "Policy = public safety is a priority for governments, Legal = full prosecution and maximum penalty under the law."
- "Nothing the gun lobby would support today--some of which they were for 25 years ago"
- "We need people to be vigilant for people who are planning something and people need to report their suspicions to the police to take care of it; this means the police need to take the reports seriously"
- "Public hanging"
- "Reasonable restrictions on what can be brought into public events. But, you can't completely screen every event."
- "At a minimum outlaw assault weapons and semi-automatic guns. You could still hunt, target shoot and protect yourself and others with all the other weapons that are legal. To say more guns make a society safer is foolish at best and devoid of all common sense."
- "Life without parole"
- "Policy? Restraint -- don't over react. Legal? Exactly what is happening."
- "Acknowledge that neither government nor law enforcement can protect citizens from deranged individuals intent on inflicting injury. Encourage citizens to own a weapon, learn to use it and keep it with them."
- "Review laws and facts to see how they interacted with each other."
- "Ban the sale of assault rifles."
- "Get rid of automatic weapons for starters. Track multiple gun purchases, and make sure law enforcement knows about them."
- "Weep with those that weep."
- "Improved tracking and flagging of massive gun-related purchases"
- "Caution, thoughtfulness, recognition that sometimes crazy things just happen"
- "I'd prefer the assault rifle ban reinstated. And I'd ban Internet sales"

of certain items, but I don't think that prevents gun violence."

- "A thoughtful one. Don't hold your breath though."
- "Prayer."
- "Full investigation into the motivations and pathology of the assailant and any signs that were missed by those around him. Someone with this level of intellect and motivation is going to find a way to be destructive if the signs of their mental illness are not caught early enough. Once they snap very little is going to stop them...including gun laws or less violent movies."
- "Express sorrow. Help the wounded and families of the killed. Let the legal process work to convict the punish the guilty."
- "No changes in law are needed. In terms of industry, Movie theaters should put alarms on exit doors so ushers know if they have been propped open. Legally, everything is already in place to handle this. The system will either convict this guy of mass murder and put him away or declare him criminally insane and put him away."
- "Making sure Louie Gohmert takes a shut the hell up pill before going on the radio should be a component of any proper response to a national tragedy."
- "Stop the sale of military weapons large clips and cop killing bullets. You don't an AK47 to shoot deer or a Street sweeper to hunt duck!"

"Allow our criminal justice system to run the course. Response is the key word. You cannot fix what occurred. You can only respond appropriately."

- "A thorough investigation on the process of obtaining guns through dealers and internet sites."
- "Public stonings by the families of the victims."
- "Funding of mental health and social services."
- "Give perpetrator a demeaning code name that is used in media and by law enforcement so there is no sense by mentally ill that this is a way to fame and respect."
- "A lot of leaving alone. Any reaction to this would perform result in overkill, will encroach on everyone's rights while having zero positive effect. A nut is a nut."
- "First, you can't fix crazy or stupid. But you can make it harder for stupid and crazy to get stupid and crazy stuff."
- "Legally? Lock that kid up and throw away the key. Policy? Disrupt global weapons supply chains maybe. Possibly re-assess how effectively law enforcement really can police the Internet."
- "Registration or a ban for high-capacity clips or drums."
- "We have laws to punish offenders. Horrible, tragic, sad, but you can't legislate away the crazies"

- "The best policy response would be to avoid knee jerk reactions and focus on root causes."
- "A mass-murderer should be executed for his crimes if proven guilty in a court of law."
- "I believe we should develop a set of characteristics associated with those who commit these type of crimes and allow educators to profile and report such candidates for counseling."
- "Ban guns used for warfare (assault rifles, automatic weapons). Protect guns used for hunting and personal protection."
- "Can't legislate for bat crap crazy."
- "Prayer? Learn from it, and beef up security in public places? Try to limit the upcoming payday for the trial attorneys that will cost all of us?"
- "Prompt investigation and prosecution with as little media drama as possible."
- "Auto ownership entails ownership and responsibility requirements. Assault rifles and bulk ammunition purchased should as well."
- "Assume you're not going to get any core gun control measures, but attempt to legislate around the edges: better information gathering and "tripwire" measures around peripheral purchases, and more regulation of peripheral, obviously non-hinting or reasonable self defense related items (large-capacity magazines, etc). Not that this will happen. But it's shouldn't rocket science, it you'll pardon the pun."
- "Prosecute the perpetrator to the fullest extent of the law and make available resources to assist survivors and their families to get through the ordeal."
- "Death Penalty"
- "Society cannot prevent sociopathic behavior. It can try to recognize it and protect itself by attempts at prevention and removal of those individuals from our society."
- "Gun registration laws"
- "Tough gun control."
- "Kill these scum bags and try and deter future scum bags from committing similar crimes."

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