

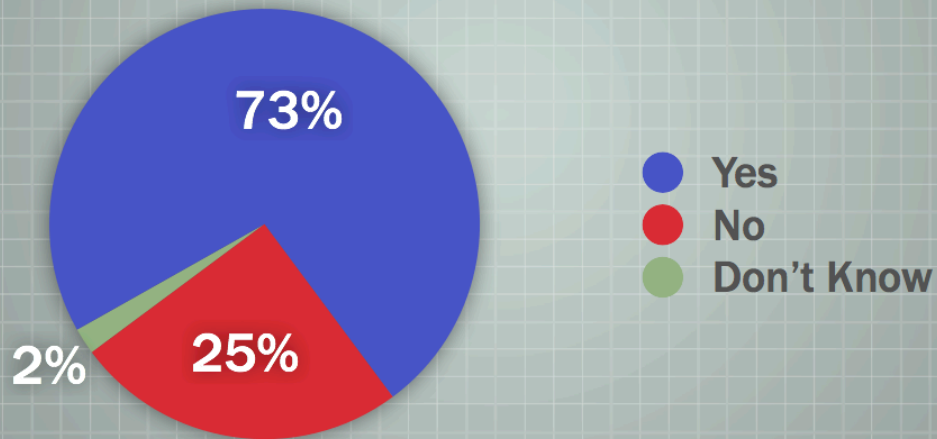
# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of June 17*

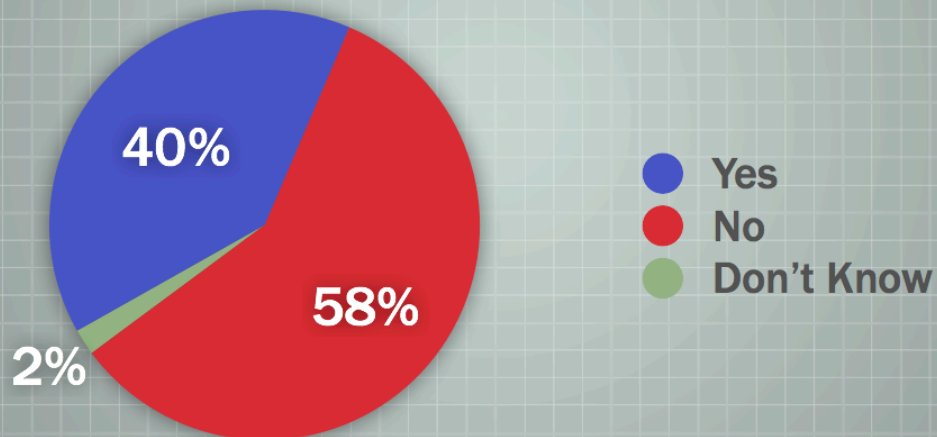
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should Rosemary Lehmberg have resigned after her DWI arrest?



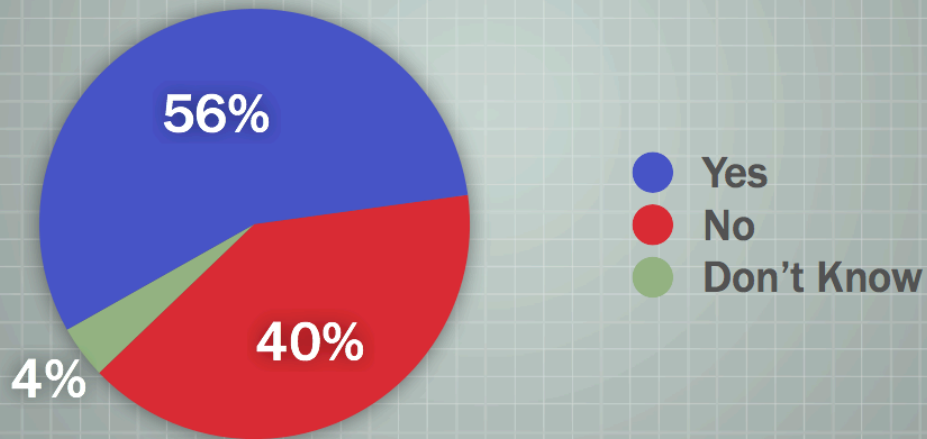
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should the governor have threatened funding if Lehmberg won't resign?



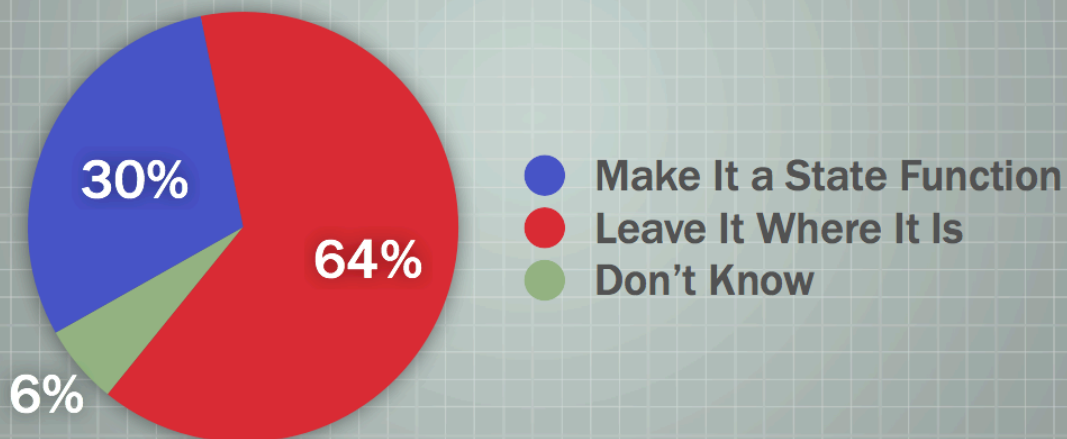
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should she resign with that threat in place?



## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should ethics investigations move to a state agency or remain as is?



*Should District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg, who served jail time earlier this year on a drunk driving charge, have resigned from that job?*

- "This simply should not be a partisan issue. How can the chief prosecutor in a county have any credibility when caught engaging in reckless, illegal conduct? I don't want Republicans to gain political advantage, but the integrity and credibility of the DA's office should take precedence."
- "It was her behavior during and after arrest that was the worst."
- "Under the circumstances, yes."
- "However we should have a system in place for a special election when an elected official resigns with this much time on their term."
- "Why is this even a question? Had it been any other district attorney in any other county responsible for prosecuting crimes to the fullest extent of the law such as...oh, driving while intoxicated...resignation would be the only option. She should sign because it's the right thing to do."
- "DA has to have a higher standard. She needs to go."
- "Lehmberg probably should resign since she committed an offense that her office prosecutes, but then one would have to hold legislators who create these laws to the same standard (i.e. Barrientos, Gonzalez) and we don't."
- "The voters will have the opportunity to review her performance soon enough."
- "Show some true statesmanship and do the right thing!"
- "Not because she was convicted of a misdemeanor and certainly not because two faced politicians from the other party claim outrage at her drunken conduct. It is probably a good thing for Phil King there are no dash videos of all of his arrests as a Weatherford cop."
- "The video evidence is so awful, she can't be taken seriously anymore."
- "The DA should step down and deal with her problems. I wish her much health and success, but I don't think any DA should be able to serve jail time while in office."
- "Because Prosecutors hold a very unique role in our society -- far different the role of the thousands of other 'non-prosecutorial elected officials' (i.e. - legislators and policy makers), they should be held to higher standard. If you commit a crime during your time in office as a prosecutor, your time should be up."
- "Yes, if for no other reason than her treatment of the officers who arrested her and her attitude at the jail. She has lost considerable support among the police community."
- "She violated the trust of the voters. And it's not just the DWI (although at .23 BAC, it's more than enough), it's the other issues associated with the incident: coercion, oppression, abuse of official capacity. We've all seen the video--threatening sheriff's deputies, spitting at officers, kicking and

necessitating being bound, etc. If you answer no to this question, riddle me this: Based on what we know and have seen, are you proud she's your DA and why would you want her to continue in that capacity?"

- "If this was a Republican DA in charge of the Public Integrity Unit the same Democrats who are defending her would be raising hell for resignation."

- "There is a legal process in place to remove her from office. She will receive due process. That process should be allowed to work to its conclusion, whatever that may be. Failure to do so violates the separation of powers, as our courts are a co-equal branch of government (despite years of propaganda to the contrary). It bears noting that the electorate hasn't been marching in the street and calling for her removal. The pitchforks have instead been wielded by those who could fall under the Public Integrity Unit's scrutiny."

- "Are you kidding me? This is the only \$@%#\*^! city in the state that seems to be ok putting up with this type of malfeasance. I don't know what's worse, her sticking to her guns, or the many who have come to her side to say, 'oh come on - it could have happened to anybody.' Are we really going to play the lowest common denominator card with a Texas County DA here?"

- "She needs to lead by example and step down."

- "It would have been the honorable thing to do."

- "Probably should, but alcoholism is a disease and there but for blind luck go many pols and Rick Perry had a driver so no fair"

- "First offense DWI does not rise to that level. Subsequent offense or an intoxication/injury offense would be different."

- "Aside from poor judgment (which can befall anyone), her abusive attitude toward the arresting officers show her unfit to serve as DA. Plus, she's a sloppy drunk."

- "The law is clear - removal from office for any county official being drunk. Don't like the law - change it, but don't enforce some laws and not others. Especially when the lawbreaker is a law enforcement officer. And we wonder why the public mistrusts government."

- "If she was a republican it would have been all good."

- "People in certain public positions have to be held to a higher standard"

- "As sad as it is for me to say, she should have resigned. But I am selfish and DO NOT want the Governor to have the opportunity to appoint yet another person to an office!!!"

***Gov. Rick Perry threatened to veto funding for Travis County's public integrity unit unless the district attorney resigns. Was he right to do that?***

- "This is the political flip side of the DA issue. The Governor is trying to exploit the issue for partisan advantage."
- "We can't have someone head the public integrity unit who does not have integrity."
- "It's certainly within his rights."
- "Perry is clearly attempting to derail the CPRIT investigation and protect his corrupt entourage of millionaire lobbyists and former aides who profited illegally from those cancer funds."
- "Lehmberg should resign because it's the right thing to do, but it's become a D-vs-R battle. The governor's threat only escalates that...meaning neither side is doing the right thing for the right reasons."
- "RP keeps finding new ways to bring an icky feeling to the office."
- "The veto is proper if he entered the debate earlier and put his chips on the table while the budget was being drafted, but making this threat (at least publicly) at this point without the chance for debate and response is just a punk move."
- "More grandstanding"
- "Political pandering and nothing more."
- "Why punish the department? This is a failure of the DA. And she should act accordingly."
- "A rare moment where I agree with governor good hair."
- "Yes. Perry knows that his appointment will have to be confirmed and Sen. Watson will look out for Travis County."
- "None of his damn business..."
- "No, he should let the legal system play itself out. The wheels of justice grind slowly and all that, but ain't nobody got time for Perry's grandstanding."
- "Even if he did, extortion isn't very statesman like...although he hasn't been accused of that in quite some time."
- "Governor Perry's veto power does not give him the unilateral authority to remove a duly elected district attorney, who may be overseeing investigations into his administration and supporters, from office. We don't live in a banana republic. (Bananas require water.) Hostage taking is not an enumerated power for the executive."
- "This is nothing more than extortion. Who knows what the Public Integrity Unit is investigating right now, it could be Rick Perry and one of his crony capitalist deals."
- "As a general rule you let the locals make their own bed. However, when municipalities are paralyzed with poor decision or indecision as ridiculous as this, voters can't act quickly enough - so somebody up the food chain has to demonstrate

leadership. We are all constituents of the governor of Texas."

- "It's within his right!"
- "It's politics as usual"
- "No, this is a ploy by Perry to use the Lehmborg controversy as a smokescreen to shutdown the ongoing CPRIT investigation in the PIU. The criminal investigation into the CPRIT scandal may very well uncover wrongdoing by those closest to Abbott and Perry and they are trying to covering their rear ends."
- "Absolutely yes because he's being a good steward of taxpayer funds."
- "Transparent motive"
- "If governor can condition funding based on who is holding the office, we are one step removed from conditioning funding based on the activities of the office. And that would be the end of any oversight function."
- "It's Rick Perry's job to make a shameless power grab. It's Rosemary Lehmborg's job not to be a drunk

driving laughingstock. At least one of them is living up to their responsibilities."

- "This is extortion. Plain and simple."
- "Right or wrong, it's the Governor's prerogative. The DA has put her own interests, and those of the Democrat Party, above interests of her office so she only has herself to blame."
- "Why fund a public integrity unit that lacks integrity?"
- "There are very few things that Perry does right. Other than shit to the right."
- "This is playing politics with an important function. However Lehmborg brought it on herself."
- "I guess he is serious about cutting off the investigation into his friends getting rich off of CPRIT funding if he is willing to use the DA's situation as a cover to do it."
- "He is showing his desire for a power grab -but it is typical of him."

*Should Lehmborg resign now that the governor has threatened her office's funding if she doesn't?*

- "She should have resigned in the first place."
- "She would resign because of her abuse of power while under arrest not because of political pressure."
- "She should have resigned before and still should resign, regardless of the governor's threat."
- "That's not why she should resign. The reason she needs to resign has not changed. All Perry has done is introduce a new angle that can be broadcast as political."
- "Lehmborg should resign now - but not because of the Governor's threat. Her judgment has been called into question. Resign and run in the special election. If she is that valuable

and Travis County voters want her back, she'll get the votes."

- "She should resign, but she can't give in to blackmail."
- "She should have resigned before, but 'now' is better than in the future."
- "What's the saying? Don't negotiate with terrorists. This comment likely to be flagged by NSA."
- "Maybe she should start an investigation of Perry's pay to play governorship, his own financial dealings with lobbyists, and a grand jury investigation as to internal communications as to why he is so willing to deprive the state of an independent watch dog office."
- "Her resignation should be based on her behavior, not the funding threat."
- "Not be because of what someone else has done. She should step down because of her actions."
- "If she wants to keep that function in Travis County and save the jobs for the good people in her office working in this position she should."
- "She should resign regardless of the defunding threat. It's the right thing to do."
- "If this is about her office and not her, she will resign."
- "Despite her personal transgressions, resigning in the face of this unseemly threat would represent a terrible and dangerous precedent."

• "Travis County should pick up the tab if he does."

- "...But she won't. You all saw the video and read the stories for yourselves. If she wasn't going to do right by the people of Travis County after putting herself in that situation then why would she do so now."
- "Do as I say, not as I do, right?"
- "It's not too late."
- "One can but hope that she will stand firm. Pretty sure Perry does not really want to be the guy who abdicated enforcement of ethics laws."
- "Playing chicken w a sociopath but can't back away from the school yard bully"
- "Either way, she stands to lose. You'd think she would want to maintain a shred of dignity."
- "She should resign because it is the right thing to do, not because of the governor's threats..."
- "Definitely shouldn't cave to this blackmail."
- "She has to stay now - we all know why he wants that appointment."
- "She should resign because of the arrest, not the threat"
- "If I were a staffer in that office I would certainly hope so."



*Should public integrity investigations and prosecutions of state officials be handled by the state itself or by local prosecutors in the county, as it's done now?*

- "There is no reason for voters of one liberal county to control ethics investigations for the entire state."
- "Should be an 'independent state-level function', which granted is an oxymoron, but no less so than an 'impartial Travis County District Attorney's Office.'"
- "AG's office is appropriate"
- "The informed public knows that any organization that investigates will not arrive at a credible outcome even if the investigation was thorough and accurate."
- "Prosecute wherever the offense occurs."
- "Constitutionally the local DA's have jurisdiction regardless of the money."
- "If you made it a state function, there would never be another prosecution."
- "Only concern here is how independent the unit will be to avoid political pressures. The current system does not work and has proven to be fraught with political pressures. Not sure a state function will be better."
- "So let's see: the state investigating the state? I'll spare you the obvious fox/hen house comparison. Just because the person who happens to hold the office stumbles doesn't mean a structural change is necessary - the Public Integrity Unit has operated professionally for forever. That legislators of both parties have been mad at them since the earth cooled is strong indication that they do their job just fine."
- "It's all politics. Local DAs are just as partisan as statewide officials (like the AG). But I think the AG has resources and expertise to better handle these situations."
- "Or rotate it through the major counties District Attorneys Office."
- "If this current system looks threatened by political motives, the FBI will be on campus within the week to 'help us out.'"
- "Having the Public Integrity Unit where it is has resulted in even-handed, judicious investigations of those who abuse their office, regardless of party. Decoupling it from state politics creates some distance, which promotes objectivity."
- "Abbott as AG cannot investigate himself - read CPRIT."
- "Really, have the state police itself? That's a laugh!"
- "Centralizing authority is not a good idea."
- "Foxes and chicken coops"
- "Not sure that local government oversight of state government is an ideal solution, but the highly politicized office of Attorney General or a toothless Ethics Commission is not preferable."

- "Letting state officials police themselves is almost as bad an idea as a partisan elected Supreme Court decide school finance."

- "It doesn't really matter whose roof it's under, the office will only be as respected as the person who runs it."

- "Local control."

- "It is absolutely ludicrous that this is handled in Travis County. As the Tribune has noted, ethics monitoring

and prosecution in this state are a joke -- even before Ms. Lehmberg's antics, Take this opportunity to reform the entire process."

- "The state has NO money, personnel or time to take on this investigations."

- "The Attorney General should be prohibited by constitution from seeking any other state office for 5 years after the end of any term to which he or she was elected. Then that office should assume these functions."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Jay Brown, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Roberto DeHoyos, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Bill Ratliff, Patrick Reinhart, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Gerard Torres, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.