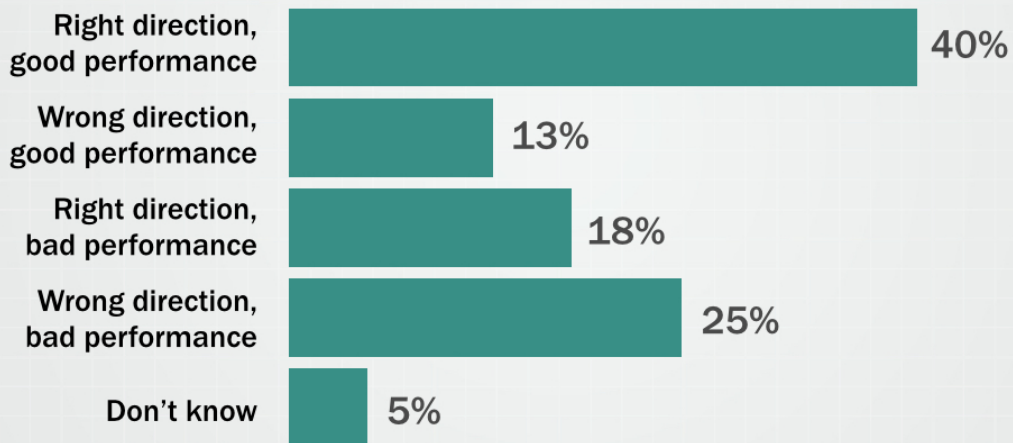


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 7 November 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

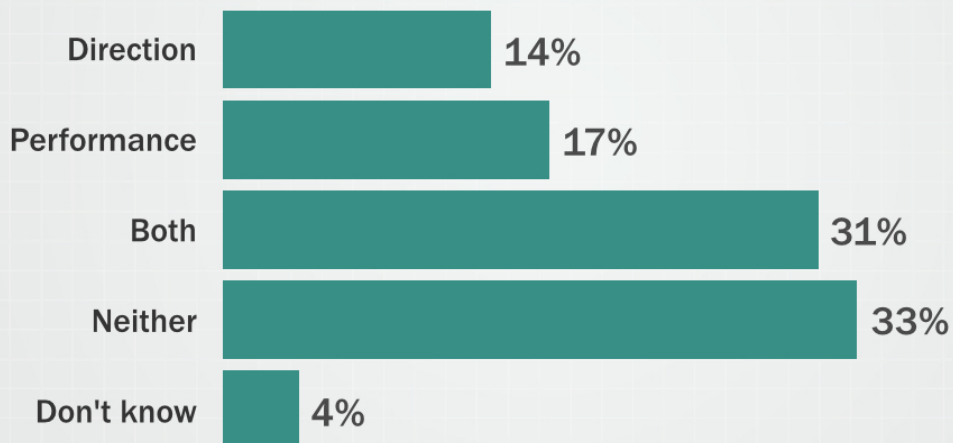
YOUR OPINION OF STATE GOVERNMENT?



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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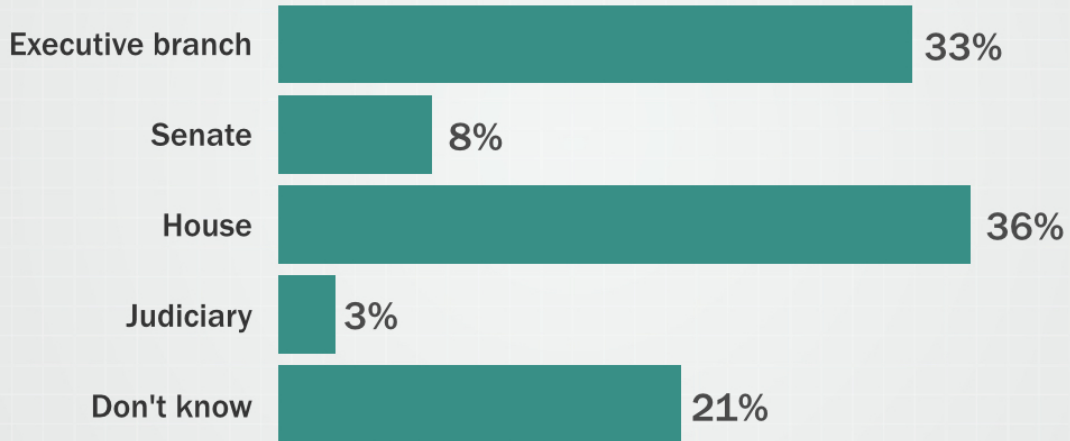
WHAT WILL NEW OFFICE HOLDERS CHANGE?



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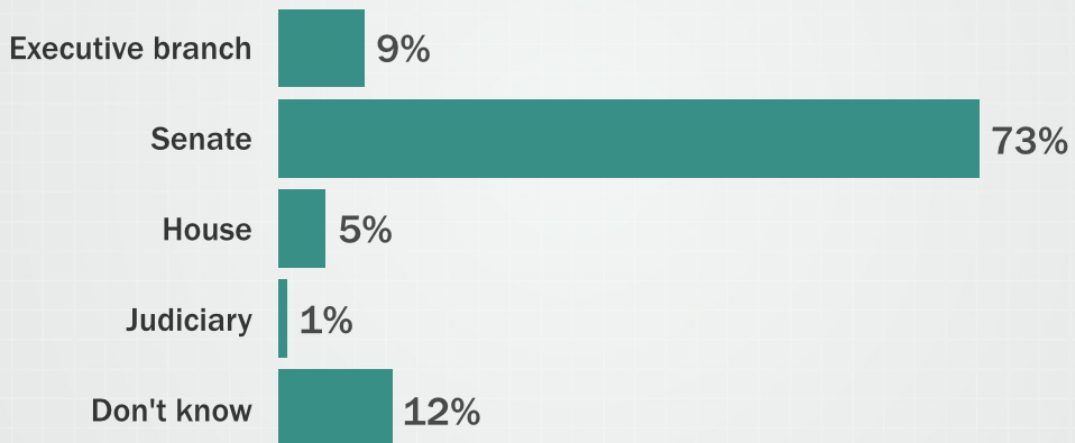
BRIGHT SPOTS AFTER THE CHANGEOVER?



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DARK SPOTS AFTER THE CHANGEOVER?



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What do you think about the direction and performance of the state government right now?

- "Reducing state agency staff and not investing in technology might make great campaign points, but it is negatively affecting how responsive state government can be. "
- "The state must be doing something right because all these folks keep moving to Texas. But when I think about issues folks care about, I'm left with the impression the state could/should do more. For example, road congestion across the state is horrible. We need new roads and we need to better maintain existing roads. Why aren't we building new roads to keep up with growth? Why don't we have funding for them today? Why didn't our leaders foresee this need? State Prop 1 is a drop in the bucket, but it at least acknowledges the issue. What about public education (performance and cost), energy, water, property tax relief, etc. "
- "We look really good when juxtaposed to the Feds. "
- "No direction, average performance. Exactly what was intended."
- "Government Performance: more or less is operating professionally and to the best of their abilities. As far as direction goes - they can only do what the Legislature tells them to do and that is a mixed bag."
- "But performance could be much better."
- "The answer is more complicated than right/wrong or good/bad. We are generally headed in the right direction, but we need to get past the rhetoric and deal with issues honestly. We need to be conservative but that can mean being focused on performance in state government and investment in what provides a viable economic return and does not have to mean adhering to a no-new taxes or no new spending sound bite that ignores the premise that you get what you pay for."
- "Growing government by 26% over the last biennium is the WRONG direction. Thank God for oil & gas that has saved our fat from the fire."
- "State government is at a crossroads on whether or not it can meet the needs of all Texans. Pick your poison, and there will definitely be a discussion on those issues. The next two sessions will determine whether our not our leaders will meet the challenges."
- "Texas government has become a banana republic of crony corruption and neglected public services. "
- "Basic concept of low-tax, low-investment is running out of steam."
- "Right direction, middling performance."
- "Verbal contracts allowing political cronies to get millions in taxpayer dollars, toll roads everywhere but regular roads in horrible and dangerous conditions, state parks are struggling and in disrepair, average

state employee salaries still at \$51k (since about 1990) but top level salaries have skyrocketed, college and university tuition is out of reach for most Texans, cost of living and percentage of taxes for average Texan is huge for a 'low tax state' -That was just a start."

- "More precisely, fair direction with fair performance. "
- "We have denied infrastructure far too long...water, highways, etc. Borrowing money is not conservative!"
- "Dropping the social issues would also be a step in the right direction. Enough already."
- "Right Direction, we can always clean up the act"
- "Roads, water, health care and education are just being kicked down

the road. State debt has almost tripled in last 12 years, but the local guys get accused of not having their fiscal house in order."

- "Conservative principles are what Texans trust. Unfortunately, too often conservatives squander their mandate on low priority issues like social issues. Lege is currently more guilty of that than the execs but we will see what the new guys do. "
- "One-party governance is showing signs of fraying. Competition of ideas would be useful."
- "Lack of healthcare access and quality education for all Texans"
- "Economy is good, but not enough investment of our amazing fortunes in education, infrastructure, and health (including mental health) care."

Do you expect direction or performance to change significantly (for better or worse) when new officeholders take over in January?

- "If Dan Patrick wins, we can only assume the beatings will continue until state agency efficiency 'improves.'"
- "Seems like with the influx of Tea Party members, they are likely to be disinclined to make the investments the state needs to maintain its economic prowess."
- "We're about to elect a slate similar the 1988 Geo. H. W. Bush administration "
- "New Lt Gov, a bunch of junior Senators, unrest in the House. Not a recipe for getting things done. "
- "The Capitol during session is like high school - there will doers and talkers; Abbott and Straus will do, Patrick will talk. "
- "If all the crazy republics get in - NOTHING WILL CHANGE! They will continue to run this state into the ground all the while blaming the President in Washington, DC! Repubs have RULED this state for the last 20+ years, yet they continue to point to

Washington for causing all of our problems. REALLY? "

- "There will be hiccups along the way. With all the new leadership, everyone will have a few issues pop up."
- "The people are watching."
- "This is Texas, 'pardna'. Bidness will continue to get bidness done at the capitol. Officeholders sometimes get in the way."
- "The Senate is going to be a clusterbomb, especially with Patrick at the helm pushing through a rightwing agenda unpopular with the public."
- "Far worse. "
- "Like the proverbial oil tanker, state government turns slowly. "

The bright spots after the changeover?

- "Hopefully more of the same - great jobs, balanced budget, affordable living. Sounds good to me."
- "Joe Straus in the House. The chandelier in the Senate."
- "Konni Burton will replace Wendy Davis in the Senate. All's well that ends well. "
- "For the Tea Party, the bright spot is the huge number of Tea Party senators. For the pro-business folks, it's the adults in control in the House. For Democrats, it's 2018 and beyond."
- "If action is needed there is leadership to make things happen. "

• "Abbott will be held accountable to his ambitious vision for education and infrastructure. "

• "Trick question - that will depend on how the elections roll out. Hopefully same good direction with improved opportunity for performance. "

• "New statewide GOP officeholders are not as capable or honest as the current group."

• "Worse "

• "Performance will suffer as ideologues replace competent realists."

• "More limited government policies except for women"

• "Abbott will bring energy to the Governor's office "

• "NO BRIGHT SPOTS IF THE INMATES ARE RUNNING THE ASLYUM!!!! Insanity - doing the same things over and over and expecting different results! Keep electing repubs and the state will go NOWHERE!"

• "We can only hope that someone decides to be a bright spot. God knows there are plenty of opportunities. Perhaps after actually winning office some new personalities will take stock of what will keep them there and in good standing. There are ample opportunities for new executive branch office holders to distinguish themselves from their

predecessors if they will just recognize those and act on them. The most obvious is to reform the budget and appropriation process to address the issues associated with the Rainy Day Fund, the public relations disaster of unspent dedicated fees, the biennial revenue estimate and across-the-board budget reductions for self-funded regulatory agencies whose resources are essential for approval of permits for those businesses we are trying to attract."

- "New Senators will bring good business standards that are desperately needed."
- "The House becomes the voice of reason. HAHHAHAH!!!!"
- "The House will be the bright spot, but not because they've gotten any brighter. Senate will be a dumpster fire, the Judiciary is unchanged, and the executive branch is a truly mixed bag. Brightest light in state government remains the Speaker."
- "God help Texas when Speaker Straus has had enough of the lunatic fringe. "
- "Hopefully a little less cronyism."

The dark spots after the changeover?

- "Even though I'm no fan of Rick Perry, the people Abbott will put in charge of state government will be more partisan and ideological and will view themselves as the 'anointed' ones instead of just 'appointed' ones. "
- "This Session will be Speaker Straus' to fashion. Hang on to your wallets!"

- "There will be big changes in philosophies and personalities. It will be interesting to see how each of the new officeholders direct the agencies and the state, but also exciting to see fresh faces and ideas emerge."
- "I hoping for complete meltdown like we saw when Craddick reign over the House; those were the good 'ol days. "
- "Joe Strauss is a steady hand."
- "No bright spots anywhere in state gov"
- "The question is plural but the survey only lets me choose one option. "
- "No bright spots"
- "Please clean house on appointments."
- "Will be able to answer this better I hope by Wednesday morning"
- "Thank God for Straus"
- "None of the above."

primetime (see also, Hegar, Glenn)? George P has never held elective office at any level and now he's leading a large state agency? "

- "It won't be long before the Senators are swinging like monkeys from the rafters like the House members. "

- "In DC style, the Senate is poised to go from fixin' to fightin'. What a waste of time and resources."

- "It's the horses, cows and chickens who really get hurt. "

- "See answer above. "

- "With so many new faces it will be interesting to see if they realize that what they thought about their new jobs may not quite match up with their mandates from their constituents. If they can't make the transition, we may not get much accomplished."

- "The senate will a mad house, A MAD HOUSE!! Think Charlton Heston."

- "Unless Straus retires, no genuine corrections to unchecked spending will occur."

- "All I we know is that there won't be a boring day next session."

- "They're not just freshman, they're freshman elected to clone Ted Cruz-style grandstanding. "

- "The new Senate will be a deep, deep dark hole of no-nothingism."

- "Dan Patrick will ruin the office of Lt. Governor and the Senate that

Texas Legends have built through the course of our history, and for what? To push an agenda catering to the most vile and extreme constituency of this state? Where's Sam Houston when we need him, or Bob Bullock to literally slap some sense into these wannabe leaders. "

- "This is a tossup. We all know, even the Republicans, a dark spot is if Dan Patrick becomes Lt Gov of Texas. But then if we get a crook as attorney general."

- "Though the House is headed dark, too. "

- "The AG's office will be in a leadership/legal turmoil. "

- "Neither. Every legislative session brings change but all seems to work out similarly to the prior sessions. Nothing drastic or remarkable will probably happen."

- "Dewhurst has been mediocre at best, but Patrick (unless he surprises everyone) will be a step or two backwards."

- "The Senate will suffer less from Patrick at the helm than it will from the new wingnuts under him."

- "There are no words"

- "Despite my partisan leanings to the D side, I wouldn't have said Exec Branch if it weren't for Patrick. I may not prefer the rest of them, but I don't fear them."

- "All of the above."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Ann Beeson, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, John Colyandro, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, 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, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Angelo Zottarelli.