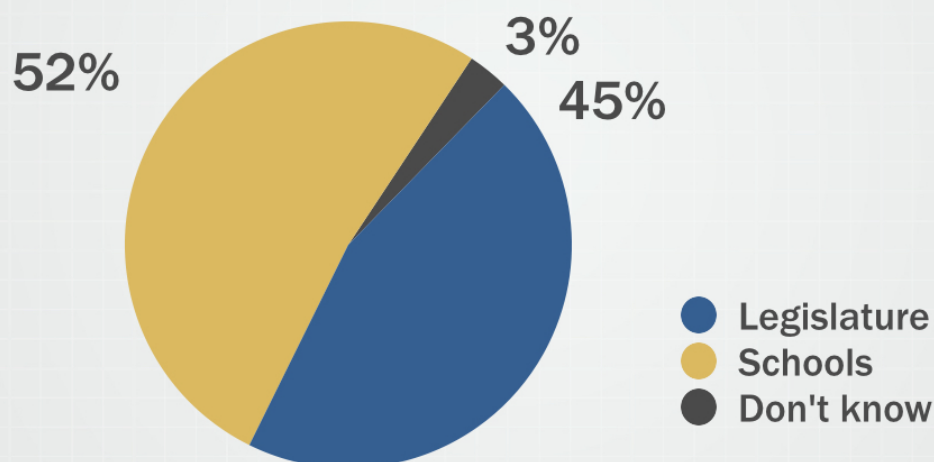


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 12 December 2014*

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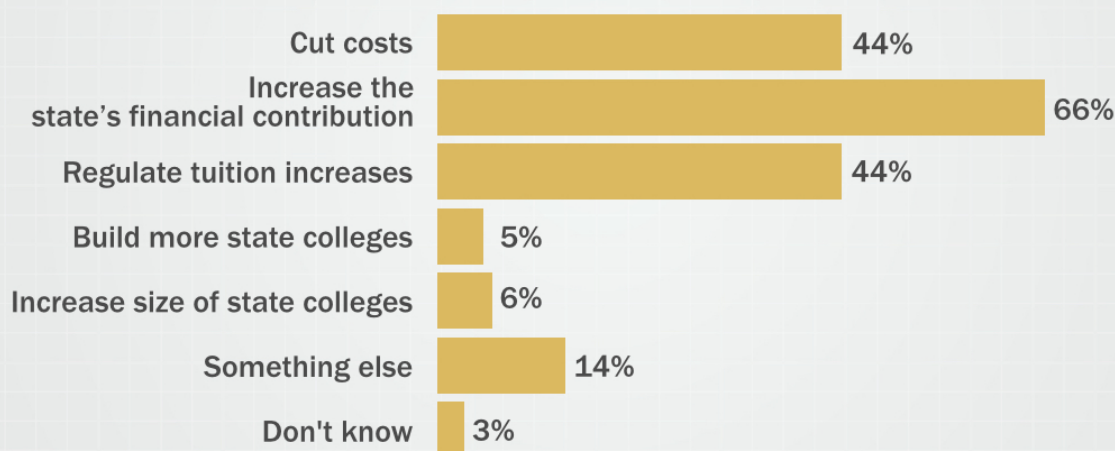
Who should set college tuition?



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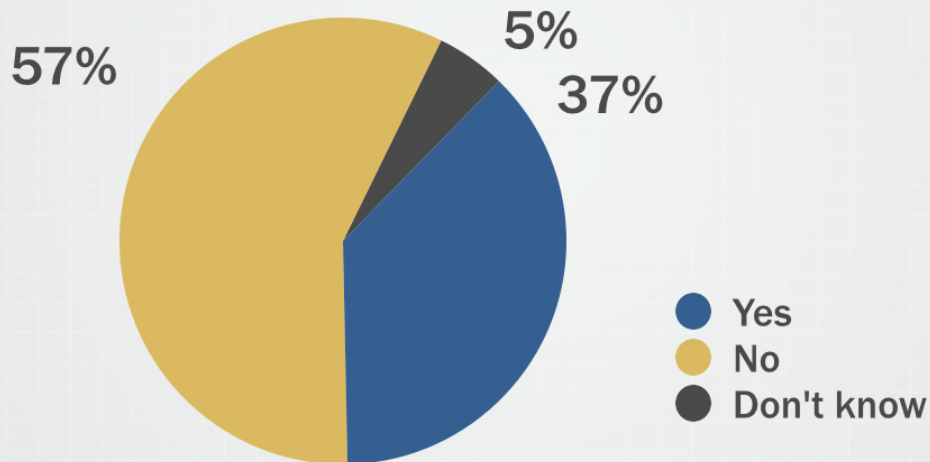
The best way to control tuition rates?



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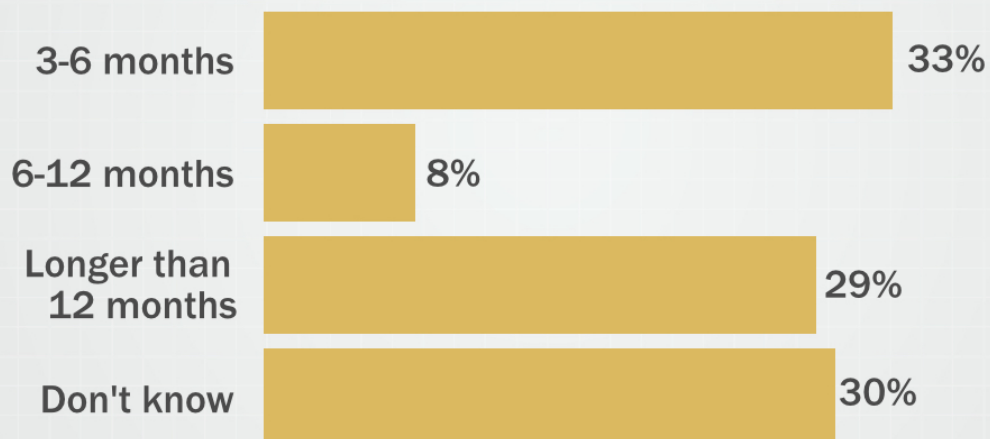
Should the border surge continue?



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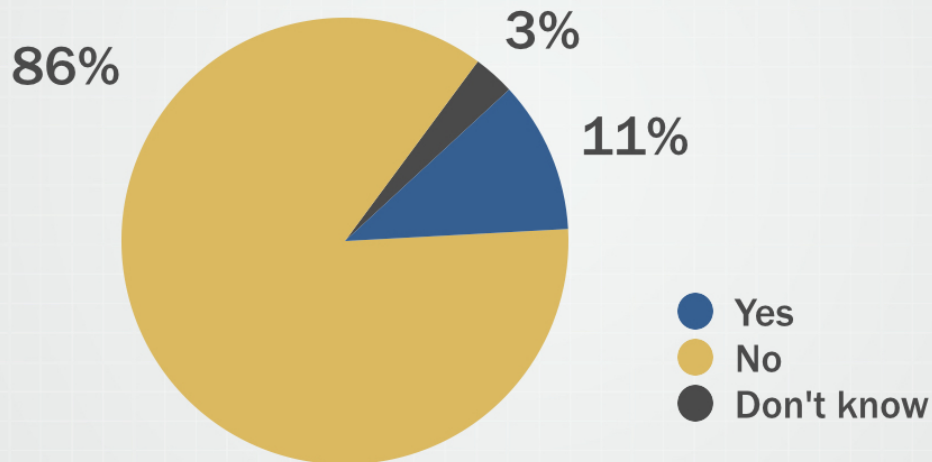
How long should the border surge last?



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Will the federal government pay for the surge?



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Should the Legislature set tuition rates at state colleges and universities or should the schools continue to control that?

- "State Colleges and Universities were given the opportunity to control tuition rates and they were not able to handle that responsibility. Their greed has put our state economy in jeopardy and therefore, as much as my free-economy self hates saying it, it's time for the lege to rein them in."
- "The problem isn't deregulation. The problem is university presidents who create unnecessary layers of administrative employees and non-teaching faculty. Flatten the bureaucracy and put professors back in the classroom."
- "Tuition deregulation possibly could have worked had the Legislature not ended up using it as a way to offset state support for higher education."
- "We should not let the Legislature set population controls nor tuition rates. "
- "Universities have gone along with national trend of irresponsible cost increases, far above inflation."
- "If the state appropriated adequate funding, the schools wouldn't need 'deregulated' tuition. "

- "Easy loans are one of the reasons tuition has gone up.... colleges will keep ratcheting up tuition as long as loans can be had...kids are graduating with more debt than ever...not good"
- "The increased tuition rates set by universities and colleges doesn't bother me near as much as the overall decline in state support to these public institutions of higher learning. While the total dollar amount appropriated by the Lege might be higher than in the past, as a percentage of the universities' overall budgets it continues to decrease. For example, in the mid-1980s, the state provided 47 percent of UT-Austin's total budget; today it's less than 15%. This is one (but not the only) reason why colleges and universities need to raise tuition--to compensate for the lack of state support."
- "Colleges and universities should set tuition according to their costs and the market, with preferential rates for Texas residents. The state should fund scholarships for Texas residents with financial need."
- "If the Legislature would give them more money the schools would be able to LOWER their tuition rates. "
- "A combination"
- "Will be hard to put the tuition genie back in the bottle. Lawmakers willingly handed the power over to the colleges. Schools will not want to give it back - nor should they. "
- "I wouldn't have the Legislature completely control rates, but perhaps provide some limits and controls."
- "The universities promised lower tuition if they were able to deregulate it; they lied!"
- "Maybe authorize the Coordinating Board to set tuition "
- "When the legislature cut back funding for higher ed, it lost the 'moral' leverage to put a lid on tuition. "
- "This is a budget writing function. "
- "What the legislature should do is provide more money to universities so they will not feel so much pressure to raise tuition."
- "There is no way I could have gone to a state university today. "
- "The schools should control, but the Legislature should take the tuition rates into account when they do state funding."
- "In the past, I would have said schools should set tuition and let the market bear out the price. But the schools screwed up and spent more effort on raising money from their alumnus on awesome coaches then scholarships or paying the overhead of doing business that undergrads are now picking up. "
- "The legislature represents the people (supposedly) and is more in tune with the pain of continuing rising tuition. The schools just want more money."
- "The Legislature should demand accountability for each dime. They need advice from Wallace Hall on exactly how and why that should be required."

- "Only fair to allow school to set market-based rates since State funding to individual state universities is such a small percentage of their overall budgets"
- "Schools have shown their effectiveness in setting affordable tuition for Texans...NOT!"
- "Let the schools do it. If a legislator wants to set tuition rates he should quit his office and seek appointment to a BOR."
- "The Legislature should do it, but only if they are willing to pony up the funds needed to replace any lost income."
- "We should go back to the way the state help fund universities. The deregulation of college tuition was one of the worst mistakes by the Republican legislature...all in the name of 'not raising taxes.'"

Which is the best way to control rising tuition at state colleges and universities? (Choose all that apply)

- "In addition to cutting costs by flattening bureaucracy and making professors teach, state schools need to harness technology to provide more distance learning options."
- "We've moved from state-supported to state-affiliated in terms of funding...must move the pendulum back or we're going to be in the same place we are with property taxes. We want more and more services and don't want to pay nuttin' for 'em!"
- "The Democrats are on their way to making Texas state colleges look like a Yaris with an 'I [heart symbol] Obamacare' bumper sticker. "
- "Texas legislature must commit to higher education and preparing tomorrow's workforce."
- "It's OK to let the tuition rise, as long as scholarships increase along with it. Kids with wealthy suburban parents should pay full freight, and kids from families struggling to get by should go free. It works for Harvard."
- "We have made a big deal about the cost of college when it is not. If you want it go get it. Find the money. If you don't want it that bad then you don't want it that bad. Stop crying about it. Part deux: if you want to put it on the schools give them incentives to eliminate ridiculous programs and courses that might offer very little to the student, the school and society. Do we need classes like 'The Linguistics of Tolkien's Middle Earth'?"
- "Get rid of the notion that college is 1) for everyone, and 2) a job training program. College isn't there to prepare you for a job or career. It's there to teach you how to think critically, write well, and broaden your horizon. Too many worthless degrees. Cut (not eliminate) those programs and you're off to a solid start. "

- "Increase state funding for scholarships, not to keep tuition artificially low. Have we become socialists now?"
- "More funding needed at the staff and faculty levels and for students, but administrative overhead and salaries could use a look."
- "The best way to control costs at state colleges and universities is to trust prospective students and their parents to individually factor cost in and compare that to the value provided to make the best choices possible. This is to say, let the markets work as there are no shortages of higher education consumers and producers."
- "Hold the institutions accountable for results, not allowing unbridled spending. "
- "There's no 'best way to control' costs in higher education, any more than there is a best way to control gasoline prices or the size of paper towels. Either you believe in markets or you believe in government control. The current system puts its faith in markets."
- "Demand accountability for every dime given."
- "Let UT and A&M be world class research facilities, and otherwise implement Governor Perry's plan of a \$10K education, using distance learning, language labs, part-time and night classes, etc."
- "Reduce administration costs. Focus funds on faculty and facilities."

Should Texas maintain the surge of state police and National Guard troops on the Mexican border?

- "The state should maintain it, however, the real question should be how we are going to pay for the surge. "
- "As Mexico steps up their efforts to prevent entry and to apprehend illegal immigrants who have entered Mexico, as well as US law enforcement's recent efforts to break up smuggling rings, the border surge may no longer be necessary."
- "Enough is enough.... we need these folks for the future of Texas and the USA.... Americans are having fewer children!!!"
- "Wish there had been an option for 'Should we have sent them in the first place?' "
- "We are better and smarter at border security than the Federal government. "
- "The surge is mildly helpful, and a pointed jab at lack of federal action."
- "How do you say, 'It's the Federal Govt Responsibility'!"
- "This is yesterday's news. The flood of immigrants ended months ago. "

- "The federal government certainly won't do it."
- "Texas *should* not do it; it's the job of the federal gubmint. But since the Obama Administration selectively enforces laws, someone has to step up to the plate and protect the homeland."
- "It'd be good to get some data."
- "Political considerations should not trump effective ness"
- "It's creating real problems both in the National guard and DPS. Serves no real purpose except political."
- "The president has made this necessary, both politically and to deal with a real problem."
- "No one can prove it does anything but sound good in the press"
- "Can't believe How Straus stopped that. "
- "This seems pointless until the federal administration decides to act. "
- "Is it doing any good?"
- "Sure, why not? It's only money, right?"
- "The election is over and those that went into apoplectic hysterics have seem to have caught their breath. So why spend more money on a manufactured electoral crisis aimed at the nativists?"
- "Now that the Central American Childrens Crusade no longer threatens the Republic, our troops can go home."
- "Our lives depend on it, until Americans elect a President who will fulfill his Constitutional responsibilities."
- "Enough already. Local communities elsewhere in the state need their troopers back, and the National Guard troops are nothing but window dressing--they can't do anything while there."
- "The question to be answered is what should border security look like in the future. There is a vast amount of technology coming out of the war theater that can make the effort to secure the border more cost effective and efficient."
- "Waste of money for the National Guard. Increase DPS patrols and funding."

How long should that border surge last?

- "It should last until it's clear that it's no longer needed."
- "As long as the far right wants it to-it's all political and of course let's not forget all of the 'diseases' them people bring in!"
- "It will last until there is no political gain to squeeze out of it. Perry held a press conference just last week saying we need the surge more than ever because President Obama's executive order will create 'mass migration.'"

- "Until January 20, 2017."
- "The federal government has enough border patrol. There is no need to Texas to spend money on the border. Use these resources for education."
- "It has lasted long enough. It is a waste of money to make a political statement."
- "As long as it takes to ensure our border is protected--that no illegal entries occur. Period."
- "0 months"
- "END IT NOW! It is having no real effect - just makes some people feel 'empowered' "
- "End it."
- "It should end now, but will last longer - at least through the 'we're securing our state's border if Washington won't do it' legislative session or the length of Rick Perry's presidential run."
- "Max"
- "As long as it takes, and send the bill to the federal government. "
- " As long you want to pretend it matters"
- "Should have never happened. Poor plan poorly executed"
- "Until there are no more illegal crossings. "
- "Pull them out. Not only does it increase the financial burden funding the police and troops, it increases the incarceration rate for housing those who are held temporarily until returned. "
- "Shouldn't have done it in the first place."
- "If it works, it should last as long as necessary. To paraphrase General Patton, 'let's not pay for the same real estate twice'"
- "Missing the 'end now' option."
- "Bring the boys back home."
- "End it now."
- "Until the feds take their responsibilities seriously and so does Mexico to secure its border."
- "It should have been over two months ago; look at the numbers."

Do you think the state can convince the federal government to pay for the border surge?

- "Just in case our legislators haven't figured it out, our nation is dead-broke. Good luck."
- "If the Obama administration was concerned about border security, they would have taken action."
- "I also don't believe in Santa Clause."

- "The federal government has paid for Boston, New Orleans and New York City emergency relief."
- "This administration will not consider it."
- "If you poke the hornets nest, expect to be stung!"
- "Not with this president."
- "Sue them"
- "Not as long as Barry and his merry band of crazy leftists are in charge "
- "As the kids used to say today: rotflmao"
- "Good luck with that!"
- "Yea right."
- "heh heh heh HA HA HA BWAH HA HAH HAH!"
- "As long as the Republican Congress can take the money from the sick poor or children"
- "To some degree, yes."
- "Obama hates Texas and Americans."
- "Not with the current administration and /or debt."
- "When we get President Rafael Cruz, he'll keep those Hispanics out. Then we won't need cost reimbursement."
- "Good luck with that"
- "I'm sure the feds are anxious to pay money to their good friends in Texas (he says sarcastically)"
- "Are you kidding? In DC, Texas is 53rd out of 50 states in priority."
- "I am sure the Obama administration wants to help Governor Perry and his colleagues."
- "Why not? We're doing its job."
- "No chance. Why would the Feds pay for it if we are already doing it now? "
- "(insert laughter here)"
- "Hell no. Who is going to enforce it?"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Wil Galloway, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Walt Jordan, 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, Matt Matthews, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Jeff Rotkoff, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Seabee, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Christopher Williston, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.