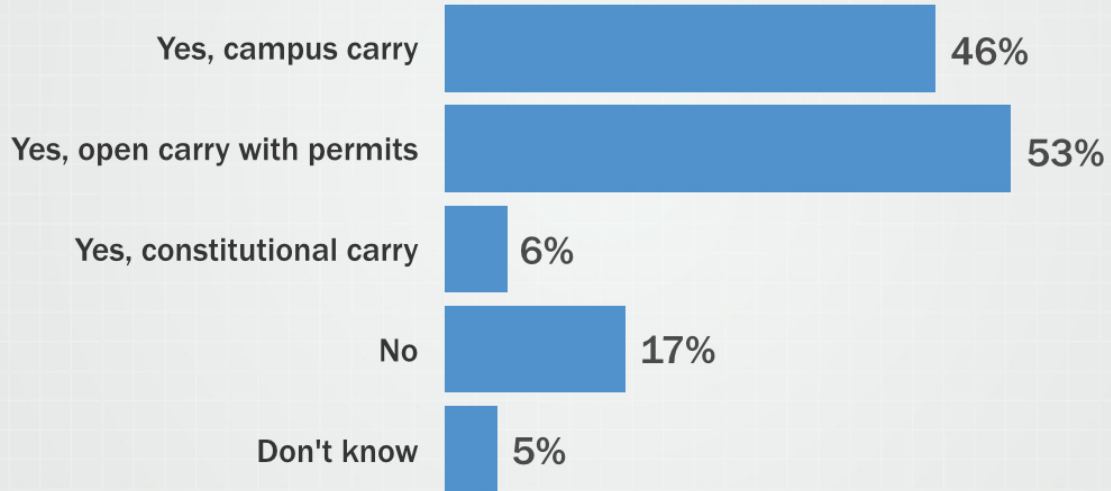


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 30 January 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

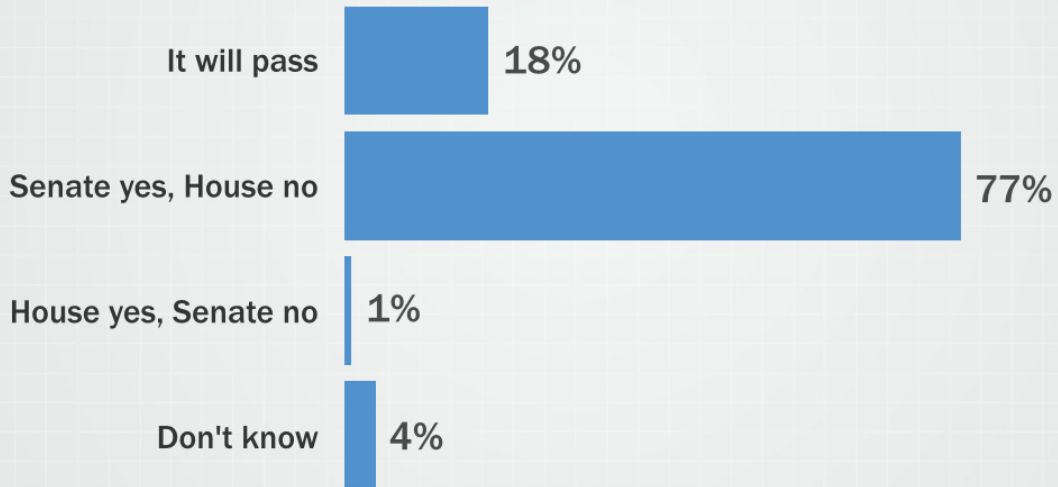
WILL HANDGUN LAWS LOOSEN?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

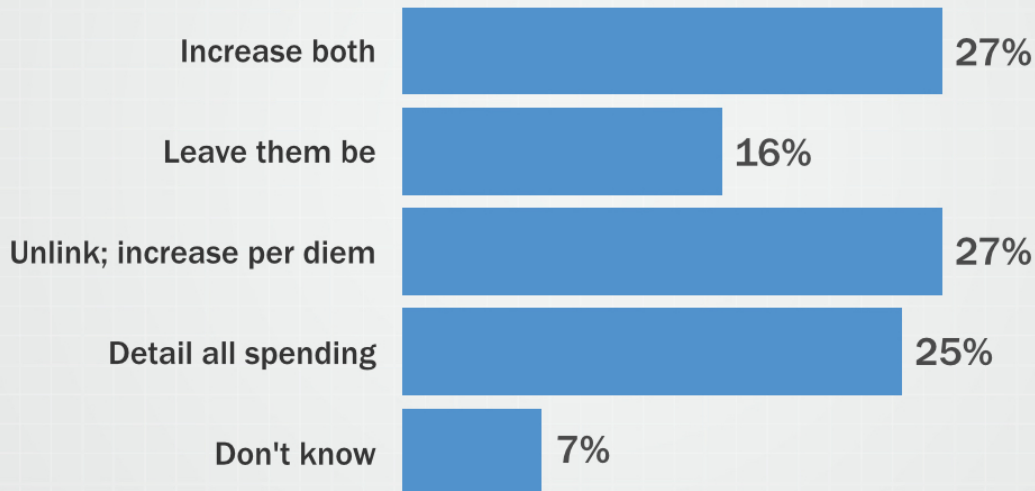
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS?



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INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

RAISING LAWMAKERS' PER DIEM RAISES UNREPORTED DETAILED LOBBY REPORTS. BEST POLICY?



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Will lawmakers broaden handgun laws this session (check all that apply)?

- "The best defense is a strong offense."
- "Maybe the biker lobby can hold a seminar for the constitutional carry groups on how to lobby."
- "Lt Gov. Patrick has a choice to make. Who leads the Senate — him or Jonathan Stickland? The bullying tactics aren't just coming from the gun nuts. Their friends at the Capitol are also willing to push past the limits of acceptable behavior."
- "Constitutional carry is maybe the worst idea I've ever heard."
- "We're Texas, would you expect anything less?"
- "Open carry will still be limited where businesses object."
- "This is a lose/lose proposition. Legislators will still get beat up on this issue, no matter how they vote."
- "Unless cooler heads prevail in the House."
- "And parents will peel away from Republicans who confirm cray cray!"

- "We have open carry — people who get to do it are called cops!"
- "Straus will not let it happen"
- "Buy stock in firearms and holster manufacturers. "
- "Campus carry will die, somehow."

What is the prognosis for legislative approval of public vouchers for private schools this session?

- "If tax relief gets done then vouchers on anything other than a small scale will not be a top priority. DOA in the House."
- "It's nuts to continue feeding the education bureaucracy that's FAILING our children."
- "With the additional funding the budget is providing for public schools they will have less to complain about as far as the impact of vouchers."
- "House leadership still believes in public schools"
- "Hard to see the House passing it, but hard to tell at this point."
- "Based on Lt. Gov. Patrick's passion for the issue, there will be significant gains in the House; time to stop protecting the educational industrial complex."
- "At some point, the issue of the current bill being a 'camel's nose under the tent' creating a multi-billion dollar expense and, raising the issue of significant new state taxes, down the road will give people pause. Taxes trump vouchers."
- "A toss up between 'will pass' and 'Senate, but not House'"
- "Do we really want to expand government into the lives of private citizens who choose to send their kids to private schools. Do we really want to expand the nanny state to private education? School vouchers supporters ... ahem, scholarship supporters, better watch what they are asking for. If state dollars are allowed to pay for private school education, additional state regulation will be needed to ensure that money is being spent wisely."
- "And will be part of early childhood and comprehensive education budget that will be historic for first term Governor Greg Abbott."
- "Perhaps some limited form of vouchers to appease the 'base'?"
- "A trimmed down pilot program appears the most likely route."

A raise in legislators' per diems this session would allow lobbyists to spend more on lawmakers without reporting it in detail. What's the best overall policy?

- "I think increasing per diem is a dangerous political move in the long run."
- "Transparency should be more than a campaign promise."
- "Disclosure is best"
- "I'm a lobbyist and I report everything. Anything less is corruption."
- "The key is timely reporting. Let the people have access to who's accepting what (or who's paying what to whom) — they're smart enough to vote out rotten apples who abuse the system. No, seriously, they are..."
- "Paying Texas Legislators a full time wage is the best solution."
- "Where's the Tea Party on this issue? For all the rants they make on guns and government transparency, they sure are suspiciously silent on this issue."
- "I am always amused to see this question arise; necessitates an answer based on implication, bribery is against the law, is and always has been."
- "Man, that's a tough question. Makes us all look bad. Maybe I ought to start thinking about getting my old job back playing piano in a whore house."
- "This question seems to imply that reporting levels for lobby spending is the issue, but I thought the hurdle was that legislators did not want to be seen increasing their daily pay. "
- "More transparency would result from a reasonable salary."
- "Report, report, report. Enough said!"
- "Your statements in your article are basically correct except for a limit per year..."
- "Anything \$50+ should be reported in detail. "
- "Dinner buys a legislator these days?"
- "Lobby reporting is simply a game of gotcha. The detailed reporting threshold is lower on a real basis than it was 10 years ago. What's the big deal?"

What was the biggest surprise in the Senate's committee appointments? The biggest winner? The biggest loser?

- "No real surprises. A lot of the same folks in the same jobs."
- "Nelson — winner Estes — loser"
- "Not a surprise in the entire line up."
- "Biggest loser — Jose Rodriguez. Based on his attempts to be a voice for

the Ds, his status is greatly diminished for his constituents with this sessions' assignments."

- "Winner — Lucio ... Loser — Ellis"
- "Whitmire!"
- "Perry as chair of Ag with jurisdiction over water?"
- "Sen. Campbell Chair of VA & Military ... Sen. Estes no chairmanship"
- "Lucio=winner, Estes=loser"
- "Estes got busted. Zaffirini busted from both her chairmanship and Finance"
- "Biggest Winner: Charles Perry — Freshman Chair. Biggest Loser: Craig Estes — Lost his chair. Biggest Surprise: Kel Seliger — Non-Tea Party Retains Chair in Hi Ed"
- "Winner: Kevin Eltife. Loser: Craig Estes"
- "Kirk Watson on Finance — a big deal for pension issues."
- "Biggest surprise is the horrible appointments to border security. Freshmen Repubs are the biggest winners, Estes and Garcia biggest losers."
- "Larry Taylor at education-surprise, surprise, surprise! Loser — qualified intelligent Democratic Senators. Winner — Republican wackos"
- "Perry appointment was the biggest surprise, but appropriate in a Senate with 8 freshmen. "

• "Larry Taylor — Ed; winner — Eltife; loser — Estes for being courageous"

- "How did Watson get on Finance?"
- "Craig Estes — dead man walking"
- "I can't say I am surprised by any appointments. Lt. Gov. Patrick was an unknown in this position and no committee assignment is a surprise. "
- "Senator Estes proved that just showing up might be 80 percent of life, but it's 0% of getting appointed a chair in the Texas Senate"
- "Paul Bettencourt gets a coveted spot on the Finance Committee big winner"
- "A freshman chair? WTF? Does the new senator even know about the secret restrooms located next to the copy room and across the hall from the elevator behind the chamber?"
- "Lt. Governor appointed two (2) Democratic chairs. Senator Lucio was the biggest winner while Senator Estes was the biggest loser."
- "Winner: rightwing nut cases. Loser: The people of Texas."
- "Biggest surprise, a freshman committee chair and freshman vice-chairs. Biggest loss, not using the institutional knowledge of Judith Zaffirini"
- "Biggest loser is Chuy Hinojosa. Senate Pro Tem and not even. Chairmanship, even to a subcommittee. We all know who won most is Sen. Lucio with a chairmanship by turning his back to the Democrats. "

- "Taking a stand based on principles is never a losing proposition."
- "Biggest winner: Charles Perry. Biggest loser: Estes"
- "Will miss Estes as a Chair. Perry was a surprise as a freshman securing a chairmanship."
- "Schwertner wins. Estes Loses."
- "Naming any D chairmen; Huffman-State Affairs; Estes"
- "There weren't any real surprises."
- "Loser Z and Estes"
- "Losers: Z & Estes. Winner: Social Conservatives"
- "Easy to see that Craig Estes was going to be AG & Water until his no vote on 2/3rds rule change. Troy Fraser seemed to get a lot of important issues under his newly formed committee."
- "Biggest Winner is Lucio who got immediate payback for the 'bipartisan' effort to eliminate the two-thirds rule. Whitmire is the biggest surprise as the Lt. Governor campaigned on having no Democratic chairs. I guess you can't ignore subject area mastery."
- "None"
- "Educ chair as surprise; winners=freshmen; losers=D chairs"
- "Kel Seliger keeping Higher Ed was the biggest winner and the biggest surprise,"
- "Frosh as Chair, followed by 6 Frosh being Vice Chairs — all 7 were rewarded more than in the past."
- "Poor Craig Estes ... he was the biggest loser. He stood up for his convictions ... and got penalized. The biggest winner was Charles Perry, who was just another freshman until Estes stepped in it!"
- "No surprises"
- "Campbell not getting education — surprise. Freshman C Perry — winner. Estes — loser"
- "Perry as Chair. Perry. 2/3's rule."
- "There will be no surprises in the Senate ... the Lt. Gov. has already told you what he is going to do...."
- "No surprise"
- "Biggest winner Seliger. Biggest loser Zaffirini."
- "Estes was biggest loser"
- "The appointment of a freshman as committee chair was the biggest surprise. Biggest winner — tie — Kelly Hancock & Larry Taylor. Biggest loser — Craig Estes; right on policy (weakens rural Texas), wrong politically."
- "Biggest surprise was Perry getting a chair. Taylor biggest winner and Estes biggest loser."
- "Taylor getting education"
- "Estes was a big, fat, loser, if you'll pardon the expression."

- "Biggest surprise: freshman rural R chair over experienced rural R chair. Winner? Bettencourt. Loser? The Democrats. Had chairs reduced by 75%"
- "Charles Perry."
- "State Affairs, where bills go to die? "
- "Perry — winner (Water!). Estes — lost. "
- "Won't know who the winners and losers are until halfway through session because some winners might do what's right instead of party line and losers may deal leadership a lot of problems"
- "Biggest winner is primary education, chaired By Taylor. Biggest loser are committees with Donna Campbell on them. "
- "W: Perry. L: Eltife"
- "Surprise/winner — Perry. Loser — Estes""
- "Jurisdiction of Natural Resources extremely broad. Charles Schwertner on 5 committees. Bob Hall and Konni Burton — where are they?"
- "Biggest Winner: Huffman. Biggest loser: Estes."
- "Welcome to the dog house, Estes."
- "A freshman chairman!"
- "Biggest winner: Eltife. Biggest loser (tie): Zaffirini and 'Present Not Voting' Estes."
- "Perry — winner. Estes — loser. "
- "Birdwell was the biggest winner! Estes biggest Loser!"
- "Estes loser, Kolkhorst/Perry winner"
- "The biggest loser was Whitmire. Now he's inside the tent. "
- "New members in Senate HHS. Winner — Senate freshman R's. Loser — Democrat caucus"
- "Lucio is a winner! Estes is a loser. See ya! Wouldn't wanna be ya!"
- "Z big time loser. Removed from finance and hi Ed. "
- "Estes busted. Perry gets a chairmanship as a freshman."
- "Craig Estes voting present hurt him. And this Republican thinks Zaffirini should be Chair of Education."
- "Larry Taylor as Public Education Chair is biggest surprise, even though he did not want it. Charles Perry, freshman Senator, is the biggest winner chairing the Water committee. Biggest Loser: the school children of Texas (read: Larry Taylor) and the women of Texas (have seen State Affairs?)"
- "Biggest surprise: Freshman chair (Perry). Biggest winner: Senate beat reporters. Biggest loser: Busted chairs (West, Estes, et al.)"
- "Joan Huffman. Makes sense just didn't see it coming. "
- "Eltife remains chair. Estes made the bed he's now lying in. "

- "Freshman w no experience in positions of power over members w institutional knowledge. "

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Kathy Hutto, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Ted Melina Raab, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli