

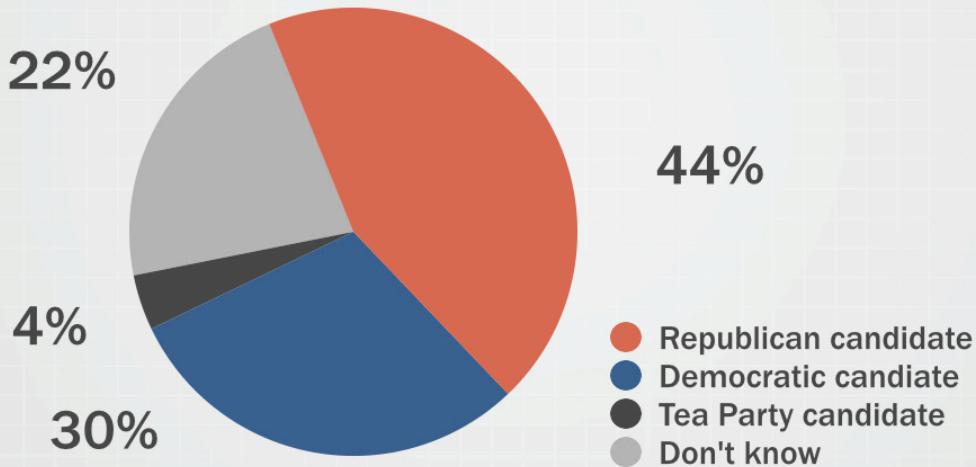
# **“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE**

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll*

*for the week of 27 February 2015*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

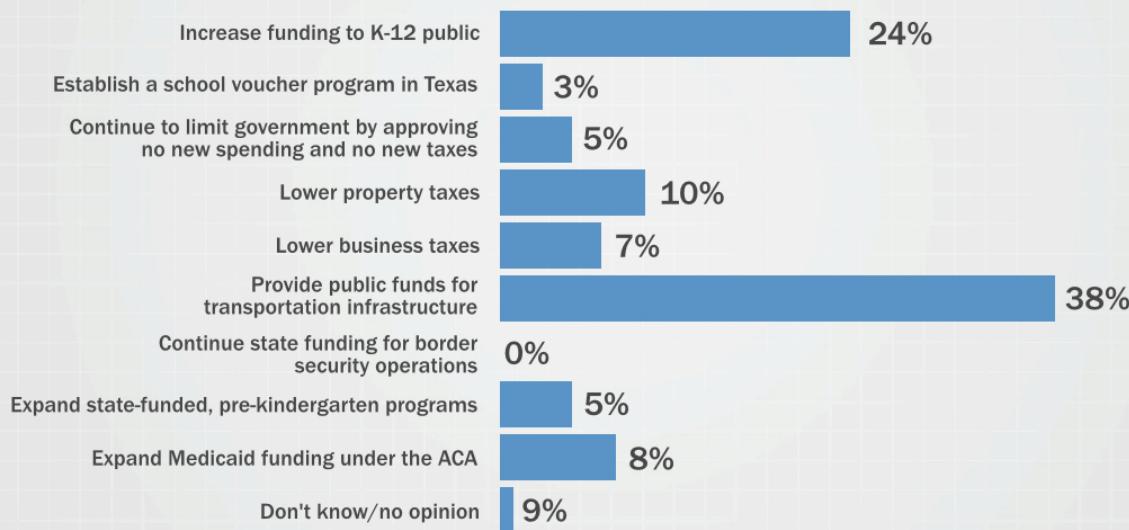
IF THE TEA PARTY IS THE THIRD PARTY,  
WHO DO YOU BACK?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

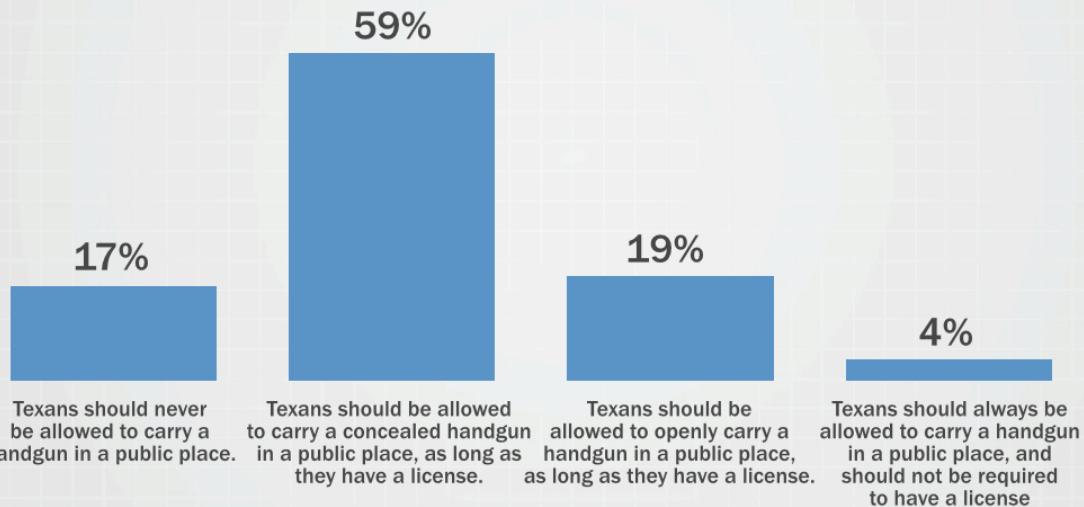
## LEGISLATURE'S TOP PRIORITY?



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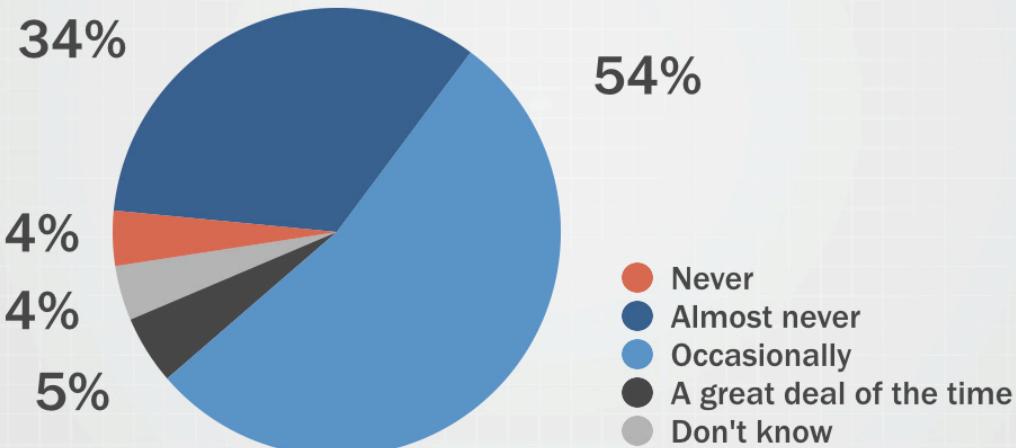
## WHICH HANDGUN CARRY POLICY IS BEST?



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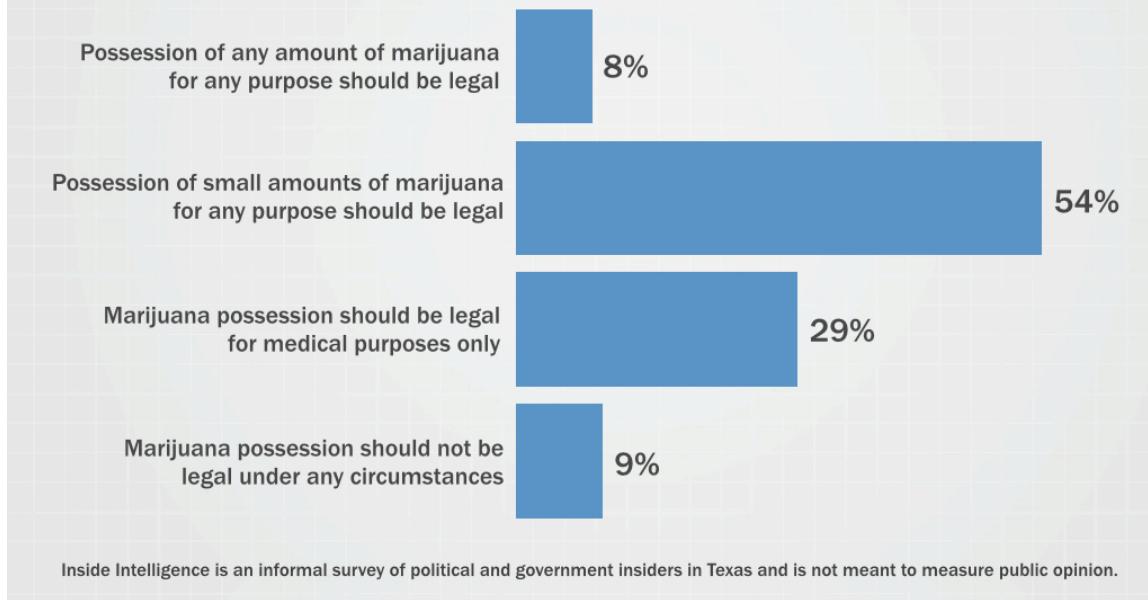
DOES TEXAS EXECUTE THE WRONGLY CONVICTED?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

## LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA POSSESSION?



***Suppose the Tea Party movement organized itself as a political party. When thinking about the next election for Congress, would you vote for the Republican candidate from your district, the Democratic candidate from your district, or the Tea Party candidate from your district?***

- "The Tea party doesn't have a unified agenda so electing someone on that ticket means ... they can vote any way they want."
- "I'd be looking for moderate candidates in either traditional party, and if Tea Party candidates believed policy outcomes that are a result of compromise between various factions — then I'd consider them too."
- "Tea partiers are killing the GOP. And I don't gather they much care."
- "Tough to say in a non-election year; however, Montgomery Brewster's campaign slogan, in suggesting vote None Of The Above, was the best: 'I'll only make things worse, and that's a promise.'"
- "I'd rather focus on the candidate and his or her qualifications and experience, but I'm old fashioned."

- "The 'TEA Party' leaving the GOP would bring back the traditional Republicans who have stayed home the past few primaries instead of voting angry."
- "It's inevitable the Tea Party will organize (and monetize) as a political party."
- "Yellow dog now and forever."
- "As a practical matter, the Tea Party 'movement' is a fabrication bought and paid for by powerful interests within the Republican party. There's no reason to suppose that it will appear as a separate political party."
- "That said, in the last several elections, the (incumbent) Republican candidate for Congress in CD-10 has been a craven cheerleader for the views of aluminum-foil hat Tea Party primary voters in the far eastern end of the district. If your fantastical supposition were realized and the Republicans fielded a candidate willing to come to grips with reality, I'd consider voting for him or her."
- "What a shallow question. Believe it or not, there are still those who walk among us who consider the actual candidate — not just a political affiliation."
- "I'd like to vote for a thoughtful 'moderate' candidate, but they can't get elected in any primary these days."
- "Depends on stance on issues. I lean fiscally conservative, socially liberal (meaning government needs to get out of my private life.) The way some Republicans have been trending toward more intrusion into my private life, I'm finding it hard to identify with any party."
- "I'll vote for the least crazy one, is there a part for that?"
- "Normally vote Republican, but will not until party moves back to right of center instead of off the globe."
- "It would not be the T- party"
- "Because John Culberson is a mouth who gets little done."
- "Depends on quality and positions. There are idiots in each of the three groups!"
- "Depends on who the D or R is"
- "Would not vote for tea party"
- "Balance among parties is good for the people."
- "I might vote Tea Party for federal, but at state level we need to keep getting things done in the same conservative manner we have been for 15 years."
- "Always look at the candidate first."
- "In many cases, especially in Texas, the tea party candidate would be the same as the Republican."
- "You're assuming that I vote. Not a great assumption."

***Below are some proposals that have been made for this session as the Texas legislature considers the budget for 2015-2016. Which of the following do you think should be the Legislature's top priority?***

- "Pay down the debt"
- "Expanding Medicaid is a fiscal no-brainer. But among options that could potentially actually happen, better support for public education, including pre-K, is the clear priority."
- "Additional funding for higher education. Reduction in size and scope of responsibility of UT System."
- "Governor Abbott will use his bully pulpit to ensure his #1 priority, pre-K, gets funding."
- "It will never happen. Our legislature has never been keen on widows and orphans and I have no doubt that the uninsured will fall in that category."
- "Children need a chance to be children and loved by their OWN parents NOT put into institutionalized confinement when they can barely walk."
- "Rural highways are in terrible repair, many without visible stripes and little signage. Urban areas are choked by traffic. Bridges throughout the state are in disrepair. This is not due to conservative policies, this is the result of irresponsible stewards of our great state. Tolls roads are NOT the answer!"
- "It is unconscionable to leave all that money on the table, when we have so many uninsured, and whom local taxpayers end up having to pay for anyway."
- "Investing in early childhood development pays dividends when the students grow older."
- "Growing the infrastructure increases the economy and gives greater opportunity to fund all other choices."
- "Public education funding is the only area that has been found to be unconstitutionally too low. Seems like that should make it the higher priority."
- "WATER WATER WATER WATER. DID I SAY WATER. NO WATER NO PAYDAY. REMIND ME AGAIN WHO DOES NOT NEED WATER. DID I SAY WATER"
- "The state should increase funding for transportation and water infrastructure, but maintaining a small-government, low-tax government should be the overriding priority."
- "In terms of competition between states, we lag far behind other top states in terms of business taxes. To the extent anything really 'needs' to happen, the Legislature should cut business taxes to make the state more competitive. All things being equal, higher taxes means fewer businesses will want to locate here."

***As you may know, Texas law currently allows legally licensed individuals to carry concealed handguns in public places. Which of the following do you most agree with?***

- "Just"
- "I really liked it better when we didn't talk about guns, everyone just had one if they needed one."
- "Unless they are felons of course"
- "A lesson well learned century before last."
- "I am a card carrying NRA, CHL guy, but no license? Why not get rid of driver licenses too?"
- "This is about nuts who have criminal records who want to carry a gun to compensate!"
- "I don't see the value of open carry, which makes a lot of people nervous."
- "Am I the only person who just doesn't care, provided that folks carrying a weapon have passed a background check? No matter what happens, I won't be carrying a handgun — at least, not anytime soon."

***How often do you think people are wrongly convicted of death penalty offenses in the state of Texas?***

- "Isn't sending one innocent person to his death too many?"
- "The death penalty should be thrown out not because it might have a fault, but because Judeo-Christian beliefs tell us every life is precious."
- "No idea, but since humans are fallible — I'm certain innocent people are convicted of the death penalty more often than we'd admit to in public."
- "If the court system was perfect, there wouldn't be any need for appeals. But that doesn't mean it doesn't work properly."
- "The justice system isn't required to provide justice, just due process. We know for a fact that wrongful convictions occur. Given those facts, one would think we shouldn't go so far as to take people's lives."
- "By and large, only the worst of the worst are executed."
- "We know it's happened in the last 20 years, but I doubt it's very widespread."

***What is your opinion on the legalization of marijuana possession?***

- "We could fund roads with pot shop taxes. Unless Wal-Mart thought that would interfere with its liquor sales."
- "Peace out."

- "Small amounts coupled with a high tax; incentivize legal domestic production regulated by Food & Drug Administration and Department of Agriculture."
- "The real conservative position is less government and less intrusion into peoples' private lives."
- "There is a lot of talk about personal freedom these days and I'm for it on every level, and I'm a liberal!"
- "If you can carry a loaded Roscoe in public what is wrong with Roscoe being loaded in public."
- "We use other powerful drugs for medical purposes. Marijuana should be used for the same purposes and in the same ways."
- "Leaders in Colorado are regretting their choice to legalize."
- "Marijuana is useful and humane in several medical situations. It should be regulated tightly, and not become a joke as in California and some other MM states."
- "It's only a 'gateway drug' because it's illegal. So if you legalize it, it's like tobacco, and I haven't heard claims that tobacco use leads to harder drug use."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Jennifer Ahrens, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Aldrete, Eddie Aldrete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Jason McElvaney, Mike McKinney, Kathy Miller, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Pollard, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlierf, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Tom Suehs, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, John Weaver, Ken Whalen, David White, Chad Wilbanks, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli