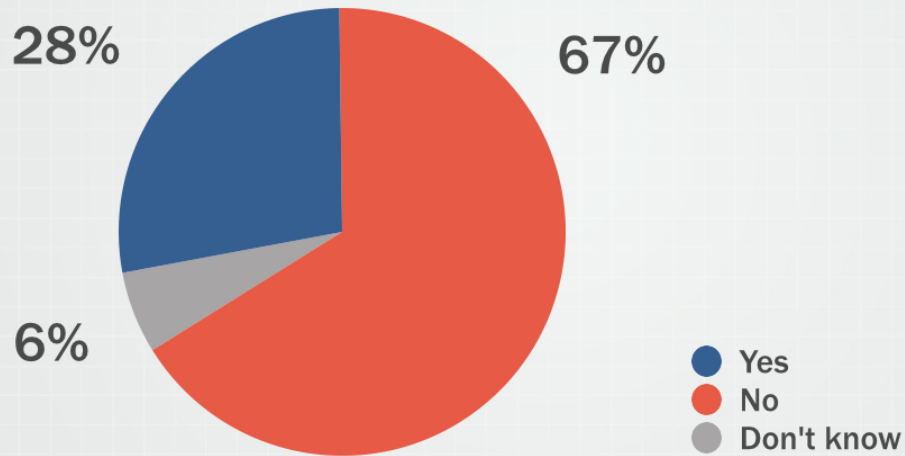


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 13 March 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

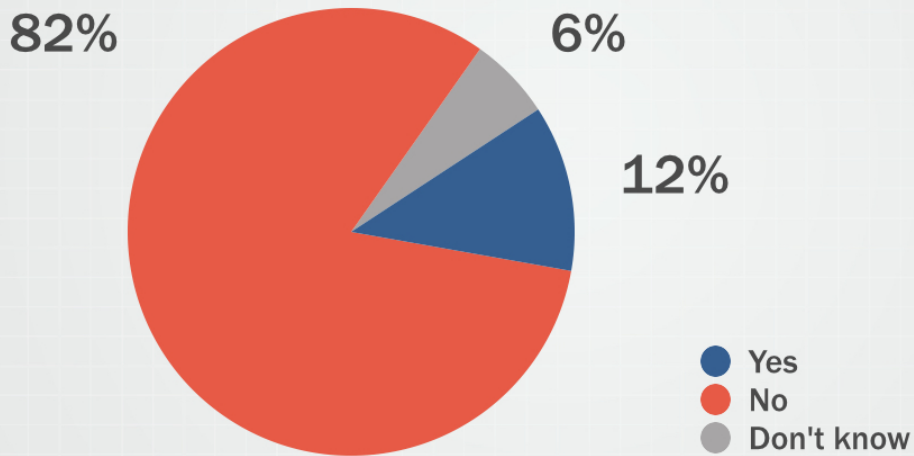
LEGE CURTAILS ORDINANCE AUTHORITY?



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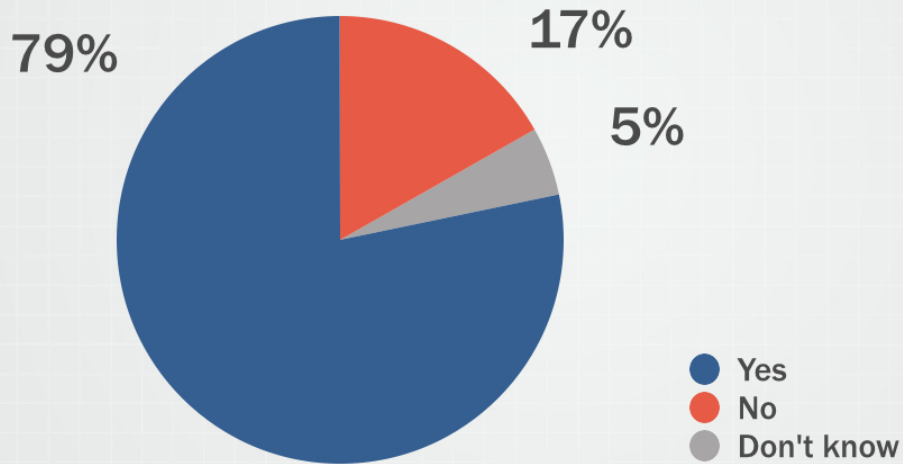
MEDICAID HOSPITAL FUNDING RESTORED?



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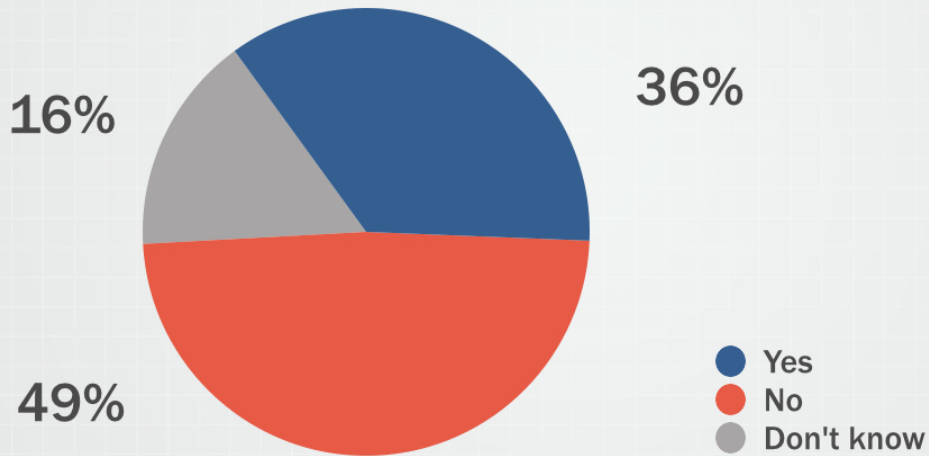
PRE-K BILL TO ABBOTT'S DESK?



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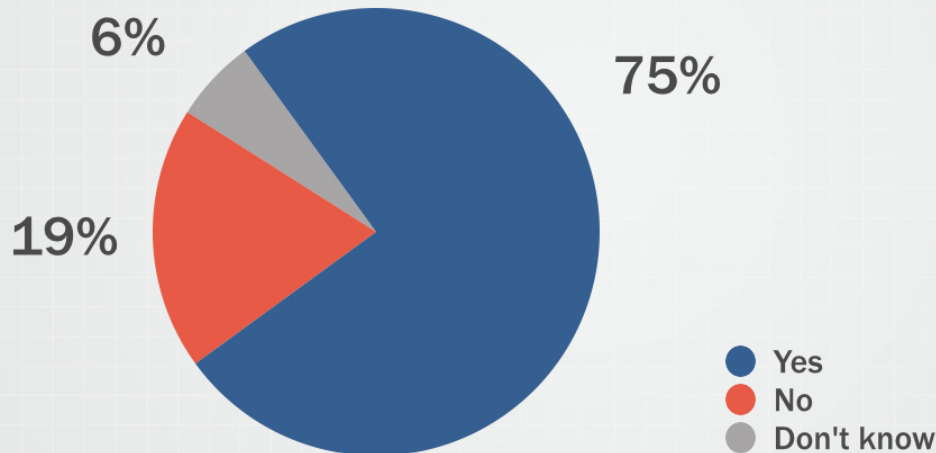
SANCTUARY CITIES BILL TO ABBOTT'S DESK?



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ABBOTT USES VETO PEN?



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Will the Legislature significantly curtail municipalities' ordinance authority?

- "What you think about, 'significantly curtail,' depends on the subject matter of the bill, and whether municipalities should have been involved in the first place (e.g., bag bans, fracking, groundwater district authority, etc.)."
- "They will certainly try, but the tea party is all about LOCAL CONTROL. You know - allowing 'the people' to govern themselves and not some big bad government in Austin or Washington!"
- "Define 'significantly.' What may not be significant to you or me might be significant to Generic City, Texas."
- "Should, but it ain't fixin' to happen."
- "TML's too tough a lobby to lose that one."
- "As a resident of Austin, however, I would toss local control aside if I could have plastic bags again."
- "Legislators know that mayors and city council members are formidable opponents ... leave sleeping dogs on the porch."
- "Local control!"

- "Municipalities have overreached, they are about to get their hand slapped!"
- "They will not curtail traditional ordinance authority as we historically know it. They will curtail the out-of-control local referenda that attempt to supersede state law and uniform state regulation."
- "Corporations have choices on where to invest and do business; however, regulatory and legal certainty are paramount, and currently Texas is lagging behind not many - but enough - other states for them to look elsewhere."
- "Well if they don't, they should. Cities are out of control."
- "Cities are the government closest to the people. If residents don't like the way the city is ran they can easily unelect their local officials."
- "There'll be heroic efforts, mostly come to nothing."
- "Local control is still a popular concept, despite the hypocrisy of those who claim to favor government 'closest to the people' only when the people don't get out of line."
- "Of course, someone has to stop those crazy liberals in Plano."
- "They will try hard - so not sure - because there are a lot of local leaders that are not happy with the rhetoric about cities."
- "No, but the Republicans who ignore their own platform will try. Straus and Hunter will kill it."
- "Some"
- "Not curtail it, but define it clearly."

Medicaid reimbursement rates have been cut by 10 percent since 2011. Will this Legislature move to adequately fund Medicaid hospital payments?

- "Is there really a gap or just a difference of opinion between Texas and the Obama White House over who should be eligible? President Cruz is going to fix all of this anyway."
- "They will at least move towards it."
- "Most in this Legislature think poor people brought it on themselves ... no need to enable bad behavior by lowering taxpayers share of uncovered health care..."
- "You can't expect doctors to work for free. It's got to stop."
- "Sure they will. But not until the 2017 session."
- "It won't play well in Republican Primaries. No one feels sorry for hospitals."
- "Our health care delivery system is falling into disrepair. Some day the contrast between what's available in

Texas and in the rest of the country will put a lid on the "Texas Miracle."

- "Move, yes. Attain, no."
- "They are paid adequately now. They get their 'uncompensated care' paid for by the rest of us. If they would cut the rates charged to the insurance companies or other paying patients in

Will a pre-K bill make it to the governor's desk?

- "Governor Abbott has expressed a willingness to fund a pre-K program, so why wouldn't a bill make it to his desk?"
- "SOME sort of Pre-K will be make it. Let's hope it is FULL DAY pre-K and that it is FULLY FUNDED and not left up to the individual districts (oops, taking away local control!!)."
- "Yea, but it'll be full of half-measures. Democrats and Republicans will fall over one another, congratulating themselves on 'fighting for Texas kids' while the can gets kicked further down the road."
- "Better question: will Governor Abbott sign it with a blue or red crayon?"
- "All the hoopla over pre-K will end not with a bang but a whimper..."
- "If the Speaker plays his cards right, he'll get the bill there in exchange for a substantial school choice legislation deal with the Lt. Governor."
- "A pre-K bill? Yes. The Governor's pre-K bill? Probably not."

exchange for expansion, they might enlist some allies. No one who ever looked at a hospital bill believes they undercharge or are underpaid."

- "No, God forbid we use reimbursement rates as an incentive for helping folks get medical care."
- "Data proves that Texas school children are lagging behind those of other states; start early, encourage parent participation, as well as invest in dropout prevention."
- "Albeit a watered down one."
- "The Gov didn't make too many asks, but he made this one. So, yes."
- "Everyone wants a pre-K bill. Especially if it doesn't actually cost anything."
- "A very modest one."
- "Why can't people and the government see that children need childhoods?"
- "Greg Abbott is stealing the Democrats' playbook out from underneath them. Pre-k, community colleges, infrastructure."
- "Yes, in name only, but not with adequate funding."

Will a sanctuary cities bill make it to the governor's desk?

- "Any bill that manages to get out of the Senate will probably be referred to Criminal Jurisprudence (chaired by a Democrat), never to be seen again."
- "Just like pre-K, it'll also be a half-assed bill. "
- "What's the pressing issue with this again?"
- "No. The Ds will burn down the building before that bill gets out of the House."
- "One should, but it will depend on how many race cards are in the deck."
- "Again, municipalities have overreached. Now it's time for the hand slapping."
- "What in the devil is this?"
- "Dan Patrick will do cartwheels down Congress before allowing such nonsense come before his chamber."
- "My prediction is that it suffocates from a lack of oxygen during the late days of session."
- "This session will finally solve the manufactured issue of the magical sanctuary city."
- "Sure. But does it really matter, except as a statement to ambitious potential immigrants that they should take their energies elsewhere."
- "It will fly out of the Senate eventually, but the House will likely hold its hearing too late. And, oh darn, we just ran out of time."

Will Gov. Greg Abbott have to use the veto pen this session?

- "Governor Perry used the veto pen freely. Governor Abbott has emphasized that he isn't Perry 2.0..."
- "Perhaps, perhaps, perhaps"
- "C'mon now. When the last time a governor DIDN'T issue a veto."
- "I think it is not a matter of 'have to' but a matter 'wants to,' just like RP."
- "Of course. Isn't that part of the fun on that job?"
- "Impossible to predict."
- "He might want to use it but will be cautious in doing so."
- "Less than you might think."
- "You might as well ask if Governor Abbott will exercise 1 of his 2 powers (the other being appointments). Of course he will."
- "Gotta set precedent."
- "'Have to'? As in 'I have to have water or I'll die of thirst'?"
- "I just don't think so."

- "He won't have to do much vetoing'."
- "That's how you mark territory."
- "Have to. Or want to."
- "Budget - If the Legislature fails to adequately fund transportation and other infrastructure needs, as seems to have been promised in too many campaigns, then he must veto."
- "Probably not, but that doesn't mean he won't."
- "According to the LRL, in the past 50 years, Governors have vetoed on average 40 bills a session. So the better question is: what is the over/under?"
- "Yes, a Governor always uses it, and a new Governor is going to want to make a splash."
- "Texting and driving"
- "If the governor has to use the veto pen, then the Legislature has failed at its task to stick to an agenda."
- "Think back to 2001, best way to put legislators on notice."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Dadrack, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzhauser, Mark Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Mike McKinney, Mark Miner, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Karen Reagan, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, John Weaver, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli