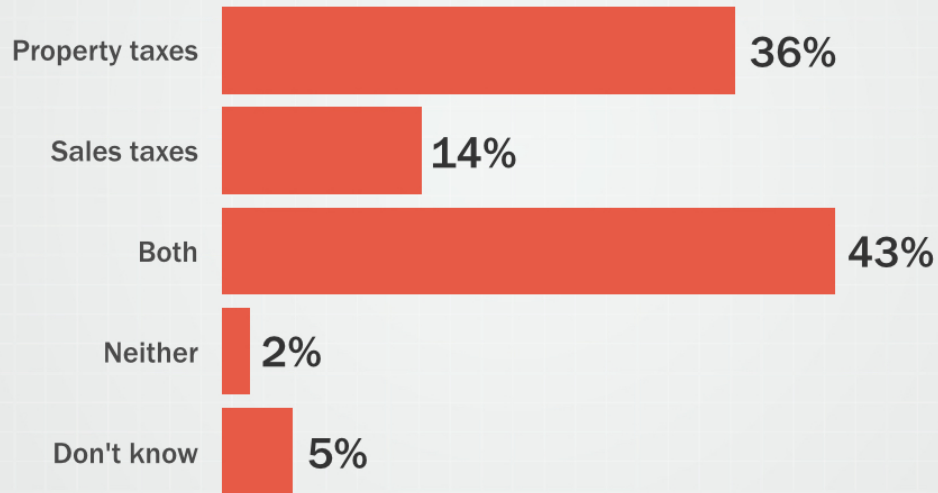


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 10 April 2015*

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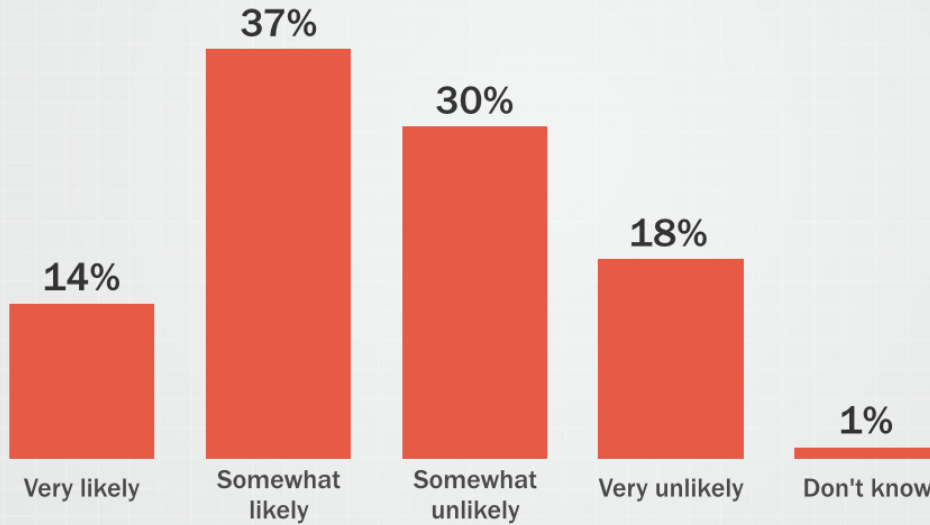
WHERE DOES THE LEGISLATURE LOOK FOR TAX CUTS?



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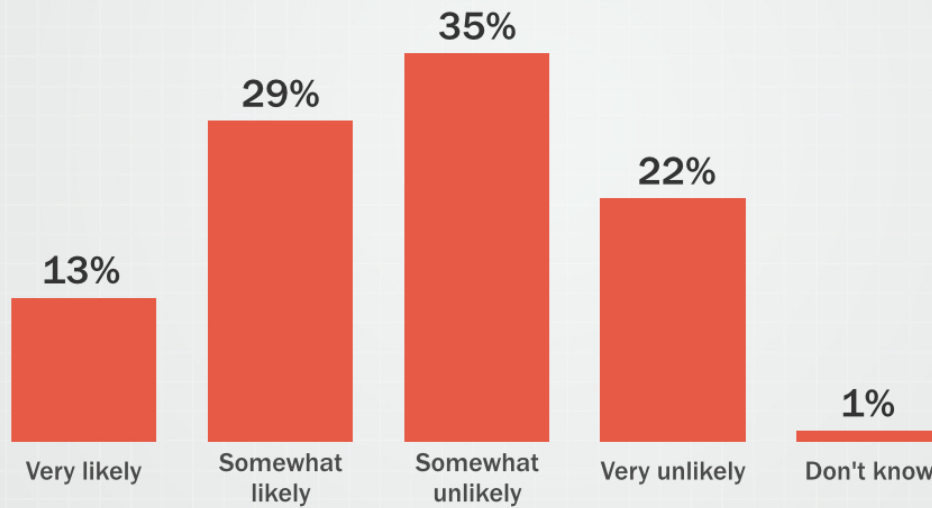
ODDS OF SANCTUARY CITIES BILL BECOMING LAW?



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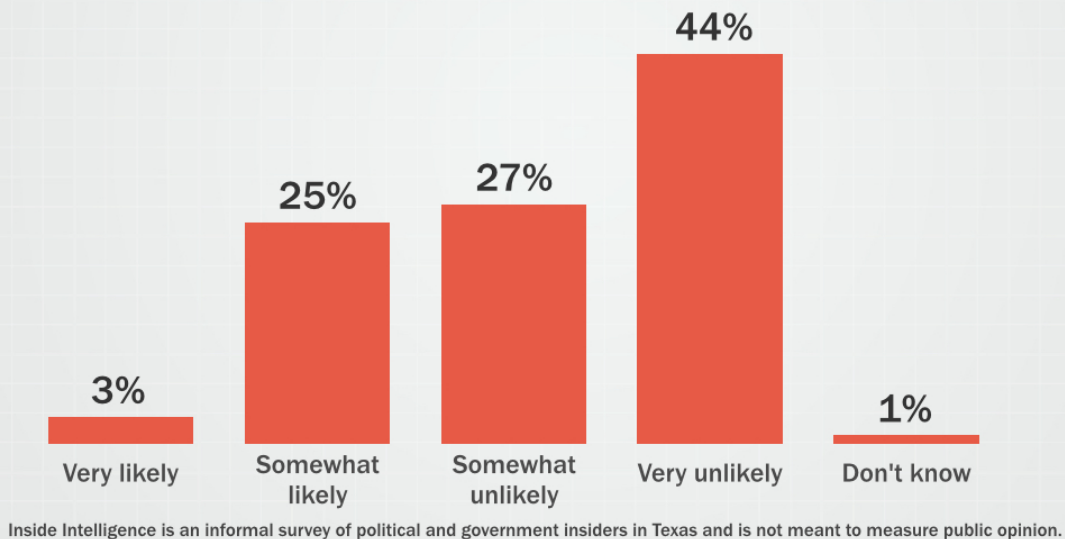
ODDS OF REPEALING IN-STATE TUITION FOR
UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS?



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ODDS OF REFORM OF MARIJUANA POSSESSION LAWS?



Senate and House plans for tax relief differ on where to look for cuts — property taxes or sales taxes. Where does the Legislature go on tax cuts?

- "They have already promised property tax relief, even before trying to understand it, but they will have to incorporate some alternative, such as sales tax, to appease business interests who correctly point out that they already pay over two-thirds of the tax burden."
- "The easiest, most practical political play is an increase in the residence homestead exemption. Sales tax rate cut will give the average household in

Texas less than the homestead exemption."

- "They'll try to split the baby (property taxes and sales tax reductions). Excuse me, they'll try to split the former fetus."
- "The majority will be from sales taxes and everyone will acknowledge once and for all that speaker Bonnen rules."
- "The property tax cut won't do anything but add to state spending,

whether it's subject to the spending cap or not. Plus, it shifts the burden more to business and gives nothing to renters. The sales tax cut is the most equitable way to cut taxes for all Texans, regardless of their financial means."

- "My best guess is a minimal reduction in property tax. The best for the state is to reduce sales tax. An added benefit is that a reduced sales tax will be felt by more voters on a more frequent basis."

- "Sooner or later someone has to remember the franchise/property tax swap that the school districts backfilled with bond debt."

- "Team Straus"

- "The appeal of a homestead exemption, however unjustifiable, temporary, and inconsequential in practice, may be irresistible to both lefties and righties. Sales tax cuts make more sense across a number of policy measures, but whose vote at primary time will be swayed by a sales tax cut?"

- "House & Abbott will roll the Senate."

The Senate this week passed out of committee a bill that would penalize cities and other local governments for preventing police from asking for a person's immigration status during a detention or arrest. What are the odds of this bill, commonly referred to as a 'sanctuary cities bill,' becoming law?

- "The Senate will pass it and the Governor would eagerly sign it, but will the House play along? Might it be a bone thrown to the Teas in exchange for increased school funding?"

- "Yes, the House will be the voice of reason."

- "Property taxes historically are eaten up by appraisal and tax increases. If placed in the Constitution, they build in an entitlement that continues to grow - stupid!!"

- "One place they won't go, despite Big Business dreams, is an across-the-board property tax cut like in 2006. Members felt it wasn't appreciated."

- "Margins Tax relief will also pass."

- "In a way that doesn't really help any actual taxpayer..."

- "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. Other BILLION dollar property tax cuts have already been tried. School districts love them as perfect excuses to raise the appraisals. We can see a sales tax cut in each purchase."

- "It's difficult to run up the debt with just one tax relief mechanism."

- "It is called the Strausonator. It will stop it dead in its tracks."

- "Seems reasonable enough, except that it'll be used for harassment."

- "Texas is becoming crazier and crazier - the Republicans are going to ensure

that Clinton is President with this type of legislation initiatives. Team Clinton should just keep cheering."

- "For being a bunch of Christian conservatives, they aren't remembering well Matthew 7:12 (The Golden Rule)."

- "Can't see Straus allowing it through the House."

- "Talk about dumb. Tell me again how many cities currently prevent cops from asking about immigration."

- "Speaker Straus is the roadblock. No true reforms can happen until he's replaced. The rule of law — 'detention or arrest' — should mean something."

- "The House Dems will burn it down rather than let this pass."

The same Senate panel also was looking at legislation this week that would reverse a 14-year-old state law granting in-state tuition to Texas high school graduates who aren't legal residents. What are the chances of success for this bill?

- "If common sense prevails, it will die. We talk about encouraging immigrants to become productive citizens. Who is more motivated to do that than someone who has graduated from a Texas school and is qualified to enter a Texas college (which is more than far too many 'legal' residents can say)?"

- "Does it need to be repealed completely or should it be revised to account for the failings?"

- "Probably passes the Senate but dies in the House of an acute case of logical compassion."

- "And the Senate is once again blocked by the House. Speaker Straus working a perfect game."

- "This should pass but it won't. Republicans will get scared. If illegal residents want to pay in-state tuition, they should apply for grants from their

home countries for the difference between out of state and in-state tuition."

- "The House leadership is the 'grown up in the room' on this."

- "This one is silly. Everyone in Texas pays Texas taxes, since we're primarily funded by sales and property taxes, so the state support is being paid for by non-legal residents. Plus, if they're here, I'd rather those individuals be educated and have a chance at a good job instead of being government subsidized."

- "I recall Conservatism meant finding a way to solve a problem and empower people."

- "Again, why would we want to educate our kids? Let's just build more jails. I personally would rather educate people than pay for them indefinitely in jail."

- "Headline: Republicans Vote for Uneducated Workforce."
- "Red meat issue... Republican primaries are the epicenter of 'red meatness' litmus tests. Sad. And I'm a Republican... at least for now."
- "Abbott + Patrick will be enough to pass it."
- "House will introduce the Senate Republicans to their new voting base - Hispanics — and kill the bill."
- "However much I wish the Republican Party would shoot itself in the foot, the House won't go for it."
- "Same song. Second dance."
- "Lets see how RP explains in Iowa and South Carolina."
- "Let's be honest here, this Senate is NOT minority friendly, especially with a minority that is the majority in Texas."

A House panel this week takes up a handful of proposals that would loosen penalties for possession of marijuana. How likely are lawmakers to reform current penalties for pot possession?

- "I wish the Tea Party would get behind this issue in a scandalous way (like, they all own dispensaries in Colorado or something and have major conflicts of interest) — I want to refer to a modern Tea Pot Dome scandal. Talk about click bait for the Texas Tribune..."
- "Legitimate legalization efforts are still a couple of sessions away but this step is a distinct possibility."
- "Alright, alright , alright."
- "And mess up their Hang'em High ratings? Nope. No reforms here."
- "Are you cool, man?"
- "Ain't no way a bunch of former Student Council members are going to make grass legal. But if alcoholics could fly, the Capitol would be an airport."
- "It's been a long time since I 'inhaled.' Who the heck knows? ... David Simpson as the hero of the 'legalize pot' crowd. Really? Is this a Fellini movie, or what?"
- "One would think that two Houston Reps. like Harold Dutton & Gene Wu would know that pot leads to crack, and that crack killed Applejack."
- "Conservatives and liberals agree on decriminalization."
- "Maybe a tiny camel's nose for limited medical purposes. Everyone else can just drive to Colorado."
- "Legislators who support 'reforms' will put a political target on their future elections."
- "Unlikely. No one in power cares enough about it to make it happen. Public support is wide but not deep."

- "Although I am a lot more in favor of it session."
than I was at the beginning of the

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Mike McKinney, Kathy Miller, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Nelson Nease, Pat Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Jay Thompson, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Angelo Zottarelli.