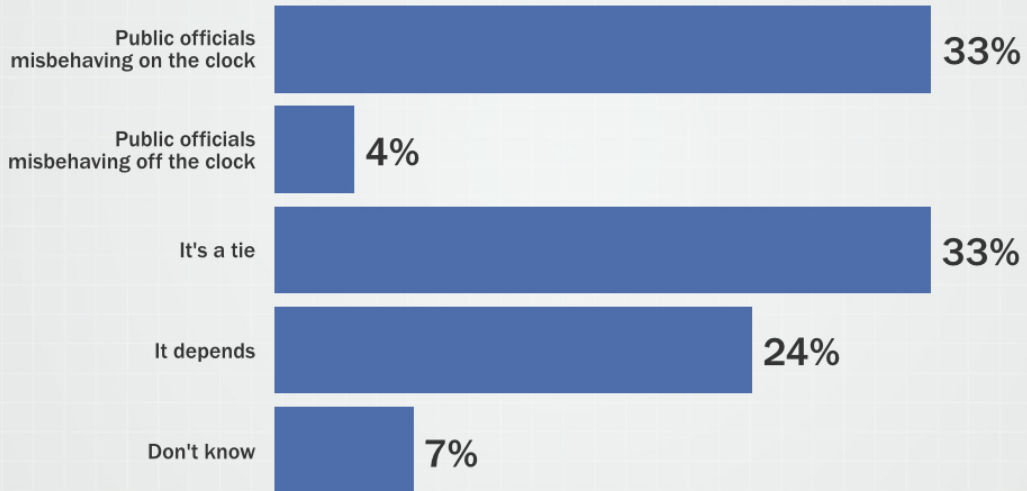


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 22 May 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

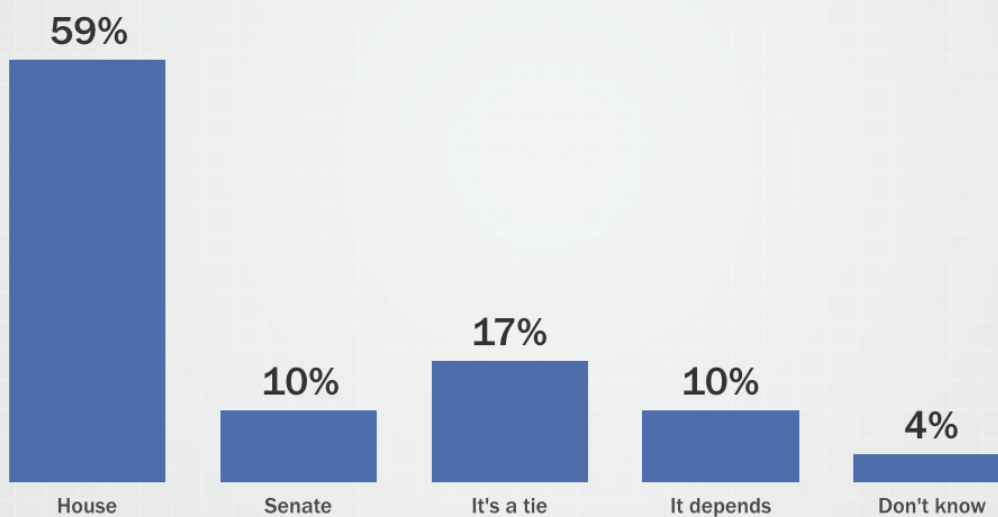
WHAT'S WORSE?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

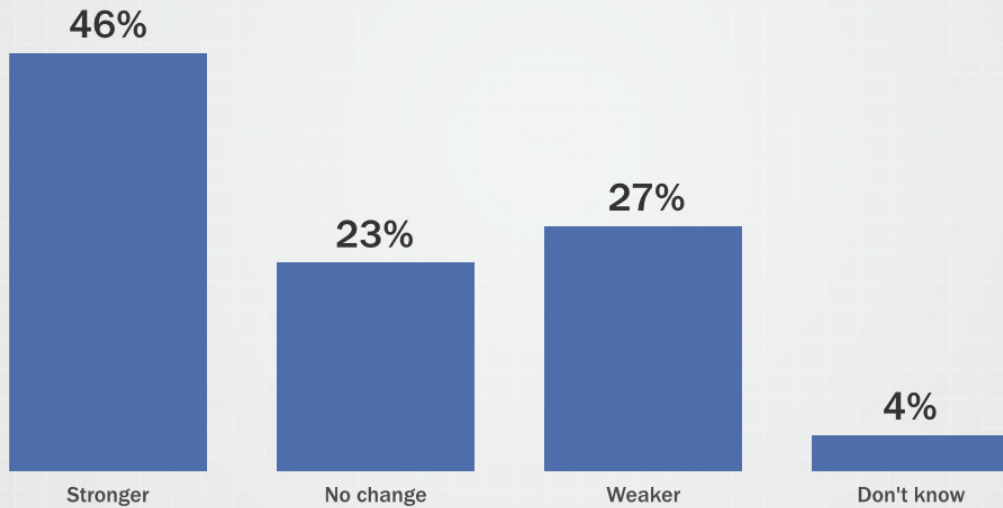
WHO'S WINNING?



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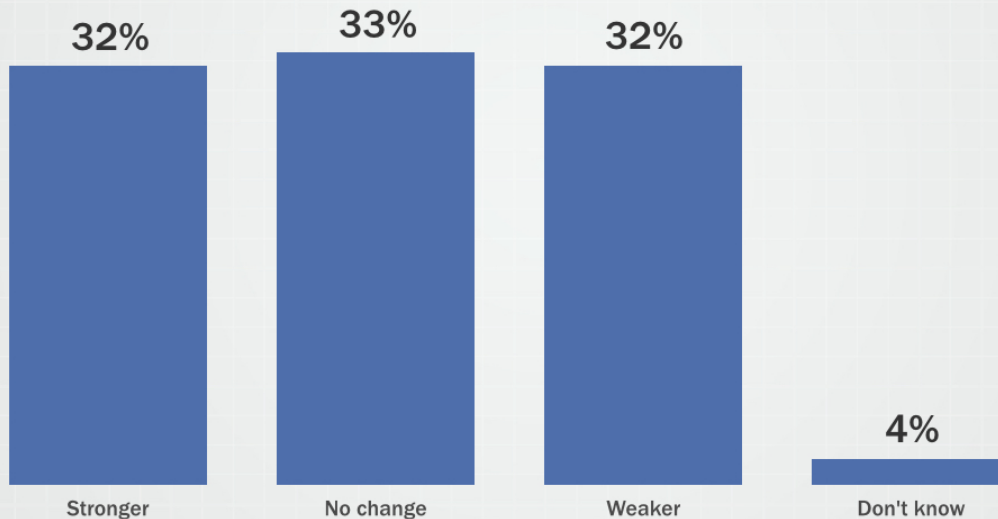
HAS TEA PARTY INFLUENCE STRENGTHENED?



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HAVE MODERATES' INFLUENCE STRENGTHENED?



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Here's a question prompted by the folks with secret cameras lurking at the Capitol: What's worse?

- "How about this — if you are an elected official conduct yourself with class, statesmanship, honor and dignity at ALL times!"
- "Define 'misbehaving'."
- "Times have changed. Public officials have always been considered to be public property, it's just that the technology of today coupled with the disappearance of the media's unseen rule about not going after public officials has created an environment that is without boundaries or rules. What you get is what we see."
- "What did Jesus say about he who is without sin? I think I was caught pulling a Rafa Nadal last week. Say it ain't so."
- "Why is it legal to video/record someone without them being made aware? What public policy good comes from legal entrapment?"
- "One public official's misbehavin' is another's good time..."

- "It is easy to take statements out of context to create a questionable narrative. Any snapshot in time placed in a different scenario can appear far more extreme than in the original circumstances. I regularly asked my kid who was always 'telling on the teacher' — 'what happened just before that?'"
- "How serious the action is depends on whether the misbehavior 'mis'influenced the outcome of legislation."
- "It depends on what the definition of 'is' is!"
- "When the Texas Tribune starts asking the same questions as the folks with secret cameras — we've clearly got a problem. That's an offensive question, asked by offensive people. I dare say that we could catch some titillating video of the employees of the employees of the Texas Tribune. Titillating? Yes, but probably quite dull. It's a vile and disgusting path. Please, take the high road."
- "If it doesn't relate to or affect their legislative work, then it ain't nobody's business but their own. If it does, then it doesn't matter when it occurs — string 'em up. Either way, the camera dorks need a ride out to West Texas."
- "See Warren Burger definition of obscenity. And Jimmy Swaggart's definition of 'comeuppance.'"
- "What a wretchedly ridiculous question, nor to mention juvenile. Who writes this stuff? A seventh grade Civics teacher is my guess."
- "Legislators behaving on and off the floor will probably be synched."
- "Especially the hypocritical theocrats."
- "I opt out of this question and all the sleaze it entails."
- "Public officials should behave."
- "All this crap will do is make lawmakers hide like they do in D.C."
- "Have the balls to question members vs. hiding like the little poontangs you are! This isn't 20/20. We all know Geren is sleeping with a lobbyist!!!"
- "Public officials are never off the clock."

Who's winning right now?

- "The HOUSE ROCKS!"
- "It's about the same."
- "I know who's not winning: MQS."
- "Anyone who has ever been to Vegas knows: the House always wins."
- "Hard to see a winner from here..."
- "I don't know who's winning but local control and trust in the electorate are losing."
- "By the end of the veto period, they'll all be claiming victory and fellowship."

Outwardly. Inwardly, they'll still be seething."

- "Not a fair fight."
- "One thing for sure: Texas is losing!"
- "The House had this deal sealed when they re-elected Joe Straus the Speaker of the House. Speaker Straus assured that win a little more when he appointed Dennis Bonnen the Chair of Ways & Means."
- "Patrick's partisan power vs. House stakeholder populism."

How does the influence of the Tea Party wing of the GOP in the Legislature compare to two years ago?

- "But it won't last. Crazy heads are gonna roll this cycle."
- "Hello? The Teabagger wackos in the Senate have made it NON RELEVANT this session! Talk about the walking dead!"
- "More of them theoretically, but influence waning. They help decide elections but like the proverbial dog that catches the car, don't quite know how to govern and often come off looking bizarre or out of the mainstream."
- "Tea party seems crazier than ever before — seem to be on Clinton payroll."
- "This question cannot be answered until after sine die."
- "Lots of members still cater to them, but I don't see that they've necessarily

- "Senate always wins."
- "NO American Laws for American Courts. NO marriage protection bill. No border compact. Still have Margins Tax. Still have CSCOPE / Texas' Common Core."
- "But it's not over til it's over."
- "The Senate lost its soul."
- "They both are lacking."

increased their power. They still play at the fringes."

- "No change (maybe weaker) in the House, but much stronger in the Senate."
- "They're taking over."
- "The Tea Party will increase litigation, and decrease business investment in the state."
- "Tea Party leaders need to elect men and women that know there's an 'I' in integrity."
- "There SHOULD HAVE BEEN a more conservative Senate, but Patrick's chairman appointments negated any potential for a more conservative Senate."
- "This session's Senate is like no other."

- "In the Senate with Dan Patrick as lite guy and Bettencourt on the conference committee."

- "Depends on which body — stronger in Senate, weaker in House."

- "When Ron Simmons gets attacked and stands his ground, they are losing."

- "Equally douchey."

How does the influence of the moderate wing of the GOP in the Legislature compare to two years ago?

- "IBID"

- "Wait — there are MODERATE Repubs in the legislature — where are they? They are all too scared of getting an opponent that they vote and ACT just like to crazy teabaggers."

- "GOP has become party of guns, bible, and abortion... No one seems to care that we are last in childcare, mental health care, education, and for the first time in 10 ten years last in job creation. And the party of no Mexicans."

- "Texas' GOP 'moderates' would be considered hard core conservatives in other states. It's not like our alleged moderates are cut from the same cloth as Massachusetts Republicans."

- "They seem to have found their sea legs."

- "Moderate is the ubiquitous pejorative adjective used by the paid minions of billionaire libertarians toward all those who won't kowtow to them. Call them what they are: Conservative REPUBLICANS."

- "'Moderate wing' really just means the members who actually have a say in

running the state. Legislation is built on compromise. The same leaders generally emerge."

- "Proven to all the rules apply to everyone; fair shake still rules."

- "Joe Straus is stronger, therefore the 'moderate' wing is stronger."

- "The more people in the Legislature change, the more things stay the same."

- "Rural R's in the Senate would have been better off keeping 2/3 rule."

- "No change in the House, but the Senate is a real piece of work collectively!"

- "The Cardinals are ruling in the House."

- "Submissive."

- "Same answer"

- "Hard to argue with common... yet it happens."

- "They are grown ups"

- "Much weaker in the Senate."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, James Bernsen, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Jim Grace, Jack Gullahorn, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Russ Keane, 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, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keats Norfleet, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Colin Strother, Tom Suehs, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.