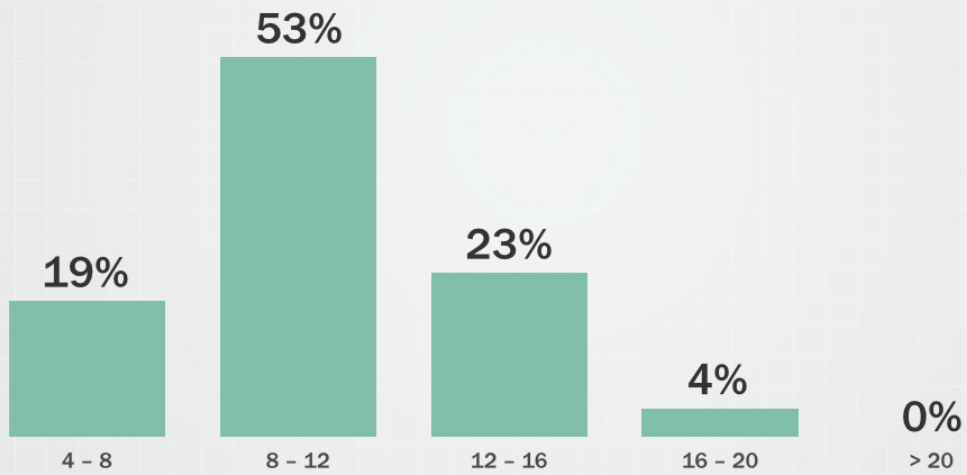


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 5 June 2015*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

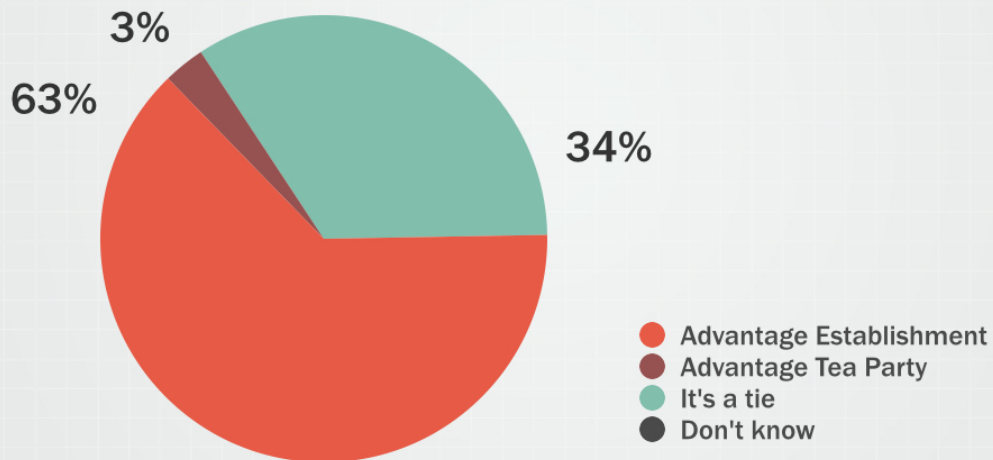
OVER/UNDER ON LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENTS?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

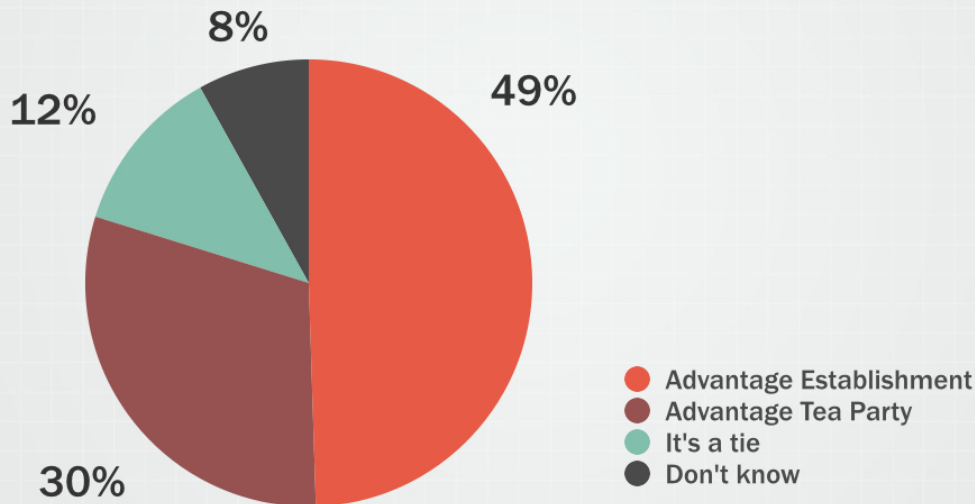
## GOP BALANCE OF POWER IN LEGE?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

## GOP BALANCE OF POWER IN 2016 PRIMARY?



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### ***Four Lege members announced retirements prior to sine die. What's the over/under on the final figure of voluntary departures?***

- "And it's sad to see the lion's share of those are good, contributing, thinking members who are tired of trying to influence those who are 'D. None of the Above.'"
- "Some see the handwriting on the wall and don't want the trouble of a challenger."
- "Fewer retirees than last year."
- "Look for more to drop. Sessions with more money are harder than budget cutting sessions."
- ""The key to being a good manager is understanding that 1/3 of the team likes you, 1/3 of the team can't stand you, and the other 1/3 doesn't care. If you can keep the 1/3 that hate you from swaying the 1/3 who don't care then you are a good manager.' — Casey Stengel. If Joe Straus comes back, then take the under."

- "Giddings, Ruth McClendon Jones, Byron Cook, and Wayne Smith are likely hanging up their spurs."

- "Bottom Line: It ain't as fun as it used to be."

### ***What's the balance of power among Republicans in the Lege now?***

- "When a Tea Partier attains a leadership position, like Lite Guv Patrick for example, and is responsible for governing, when does he become part of the 'establishment'?"

- "Tea Party in the Senate, Establishment in the House."

- "Legislators must decide whether they'll be public servants or power brokers. Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely."

- "Establishment is holding in the House, Tea has taken the Senate."

- "Especially if you count Gio as 'establishment.'"

- "The Tea Party won on some of the policy issues, such as guns, but they were not as successful as some thought they might be. They did have a great deal of influence over budget and finance issues as a result of the spending limit/no taxes/no debt rhetoric but the results were mixed. Somehow we decided to borrow \$3 plus billion for university construction but could not decide to use the billions in available revenues to buy down current debt because no one was willing to tackle the question that would confuse the primary voters back home that

- "But no Senators"

buying down debt (good) is an expense (bad)."

- "What a weird question."

- "What/who is the establishment?"

- "Tea party Senate; establishment House"

- "The Tea Party admitted they did not get what they wanted."

- "Based on what passed (or what didn't pass), clearly the establishment is in control."

- "Tea Party hasn't figured out how to play the game yet."

- "When a chair of a major committee can tell hospitals he does not want to listen to them or meet with them, I would say the tea party has power."

- "Although there are many who are fed up with the lack of serious thought among the Tea Party, the establishment didn't win anybody over this session by capturing the intellectual (or moral) high ground. Instead, in the House, they showed themselves to be condescending and dishonest — winning their victories with devious power plays rather than leadership. Their focus on self-preservation and

their refusal to give ground on ethics issues was the final straw. This will prove counterproductive for

establishment R's and will likely get more of them defeated in upcoming primaries."

### ***What will the balance of power be among GOP primary voters in 2016?***

- "Kinda depends on the geography, right? I mean, the balance of power in Rep. Villalba's district is likely to be different than the balance of power in Rep. Stickland's district."
- "Depends if Texas' presidential March primary is in play. Increasing the number of R primary voters will not necessarily help those candidates who are too far away from center-right."
- "Presidential election. Expanded primary voter base."
- "During presidential election more moderate Republicans vote!"
- "The reason for the legislators' retirements."
- "Status quo. Establishment will continue to hold the House, Tea will continue to hold the Senate."
- "But Tea Party message must be reconciled with Dan Patrick's hairsprayed 'record of achievement' and will give consternation to shaved-bald crowd."
- "It will be interesting to see. Can the Tea Party members go home and explain how things really are to their primary voters in order to actually solve some problems without looking too much like the establishment? Stay

tuned. There will obviously be a PR battle between the two in the interim."

- "Advantage goes to the people."
- "Depends on how much Hillary and Fox News scares old white people before primary season. Which I are one."
- "Unfortunately for the Tea Party, the next primaries will have high Presidential year turnout, so knocking off incumbents is going to be tough."
- "It depends on who the GOP and Dems run in the presidential race. If the Hillary coronation has already happened, some Ds may crossover and vote in the R primary and dilute the Tea."
- "Tea Party votes, 'establishment' doesn't."
- "If there is one thing these dipshits can do, it's vote!"
- "After this session, I think (and I PRAY) the soccer Moms have decided that enough crazy is enough and will VOTE in their Republican primary."
- "Depends on the district."

## ***What will the 84th Legislature be remembered for as time passes?***

- "The Phoenix Filmers" folks that don't regularly read the Austin based political rags we all read. And by those that do pay attention, as the session that all those weirdo mercenaries were out filming folks."
- "The pro gun session. Let's all be Yosemite Sam on our college campuses. Yay! (That was in sarcasm font.)"
- "The year of the Glock?"
- "Nothing"
- "Got the job completed in spite of themselves"
- "Cutting taxes instead of investing for the long-term."
- "Open carry, cannabis oil"
- "Cutting taxes, open carry and border security"
- "Picking on Dan Patrick."
- "Guns"
- "Not much ... open carry?"
- "Not doing anything about dark money"
- "Transportation funding"
- "Guns"
- "Passing a budget."
- "Do nothing."
- "Spending too much money as economy slows and setting up a crisis on school financing."
- "Guns, guns, guns"
- "American Phoenix Creepers"
- "Pre-K for the children."
- "Nothing."
- "Guns; Controls on local control; Roads; Needed environmental regulation reforms; Lack of progress on true budget and finance transparency and policy reform"
- "Guns ruled the day."
- "Not much happened! More and more legislators are more focused on re-elections and upward mobility than true help for their constituents."
- "Open carry and campus carry."
- "Not passing as much bad policy as expected"
- "Tax cuts in the short term, but, as time passes, nothing really."
- "Being Goofy"
- "Horrors! Not decreeing that gay marriage is an abomination!"
- "Just another run of the mill session. It won't be remembered by too many
- "By whom?"

- "Tax cut"
- "Phoenix project"
- "Transportation Funding"
- "Marihuana oil"
- "Hoarding \$18 billion while needs were neglected."
- "Nothing. And that's the problem."
- "Kumbay-not"
- "How much money they left unspent and how many needs they left unmet."
- "Guns"
- "Dan Patrick's Senate rules change - no more 2/3"
- "Stupid is ... stupid does."
- "Some degree of silliness did not prevent some minor accomplishments"
- "Guns and the start of DC-zed by the likes of angry 'liberty' lovers"
- "Existing."
- "The dodged bullet. A lot of really bad things ALMOST happened."
- "Squandering opportunities to upgrade our state infrastructure. Ignoring the doctrine of local control."
- "Lots of money for highways, but not for public or higher ed. It'll come back to bite them. So will the tax cuts."
- "Not much. Good first effort by Abbott?"
- "Open carry"
- "Not blowing up. Gun fight over open carry."
- "God, guns, and gays! (But mostly guns.)"
- "Open carry"
- "Guns!"
- "Guns, guns, guns"
- "Civility, tax cuts"
- "Nothing!"
- "Nothing memorable"
- "Undercover video that ruined the way the lobby and legislators do business."
- "Guns "
- "Guns, guns, guns and HATE"
- "The long term impact of their decisions on future budgets."
- "\$800 million spent on 'border security'"
- "The inability of the tea partiers"
- "Absolutely nothing."
- "Guns!"



*Our thanks to this week's participants:* Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jack Erskine, Tom Forbes, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Colin Strother, Tom Suehs, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.