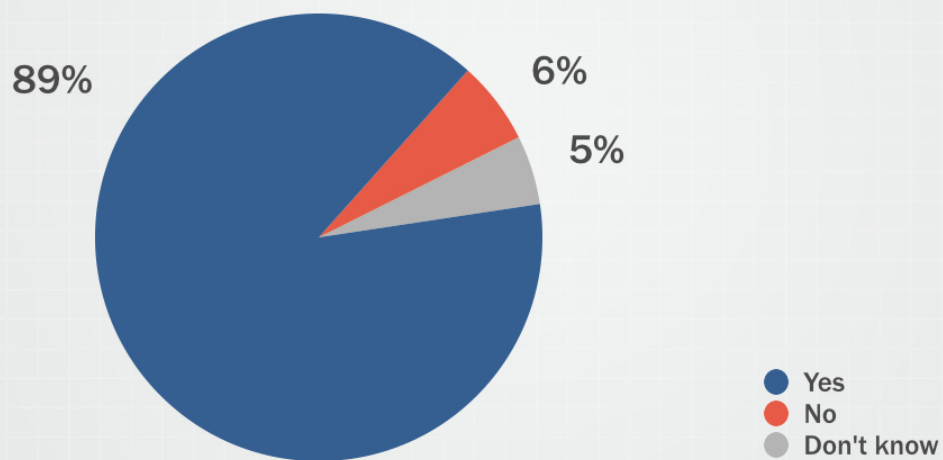


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

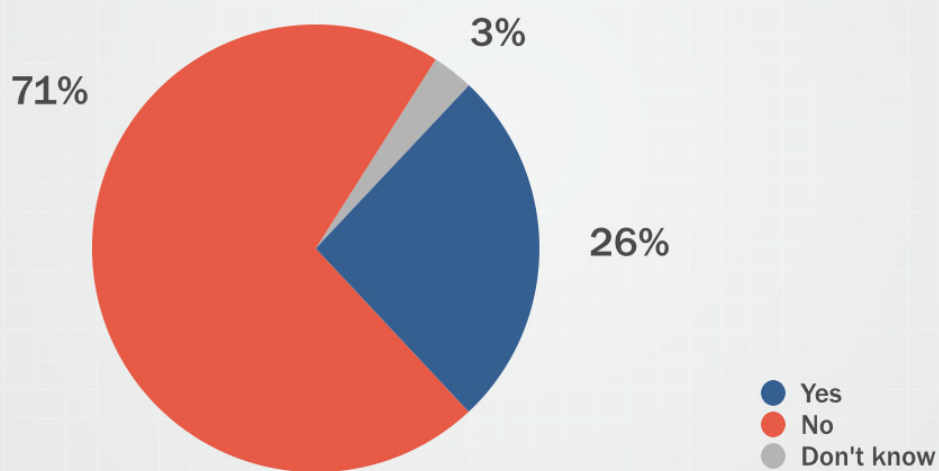
WILL PAXTON BE INDICTED?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

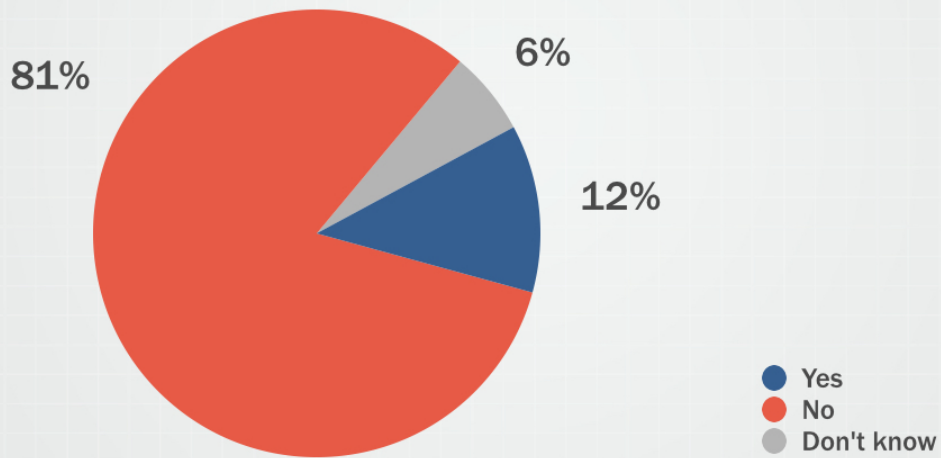
PROSECUTION POLITICALLY MOTIVATED?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

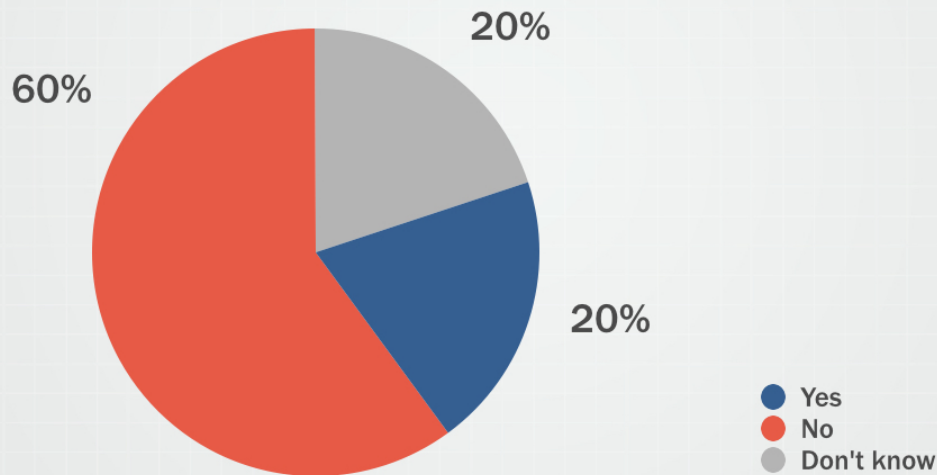
## LEGAL TROUBLES RESOLVED BY YEAR-END?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

DOES PAXTON SERVE OUT FULL TERM?



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## ***Do you think Ken Paxton will be indicted?***

- "Yes, Special Prosecutors have to make a name some way, and what better than to indict and Attorney General."
- "If a ham sandwich can be indicted, then Ken Paxton can be indicted. Convicted? That's a different story..."
- "He's exhibited a pattern of ignoring the laws and rules. He apparently hasn't tried very hard to hide his activity, merely ignored the law. His willingness to do that is the reason he'll be indicted."
- "Should have happened BEFORE the election! DAN BRANCH, people — smart, intelligent and HONEST! No illegal activities in his past! Oh wait, I don't vote in that primary."
- "President Reagan's '11th Commandment' of not speaking ill of a fellow Republican is not applicable here; General Paxton's behavior and comments are so appalling, and criminally-intended, he deserves to be indicted and judged by a jury."

- "He's already paid a fine that admits some guilt. We SHOULD NOT go further without more evidence."
- "I fought the law and the law won... wait! I am the law."
- "A Grand Jury in McKinney does not indict a Ham Sandwich. It must be bad."

- "Securities fraud is no longer waved off as crime-light."
- "Yes and the capital advisors he fronted should be indicted, too."
- "Yes, he broke the law."

### ***Do you think there is a political motive for his prosecution?***

- "No, he broke the law. Guessing the Republican leadership was thinking the Texas Rangers would be a better place, but alas, they too follow the evidence."
- "Political motivation? No. Stupidity and arrogance? Likely."
- "His problems are because of willing, or otherwise, failure to learn the rules, a sense of 'I'm important, this can't possibly apply to me', or mere stupidity. Probably a combination of all three. There aren't any Democrats available to take the fall for this."
- "Yes, but that doesn't mean it isn't also justified."
- "How can there not be political motivation in prosecuting a state attorney general? However, what matters isn't motivation but whether there are legitimate grounds to indict Paxton."
- "Not to say the indictment won't have merit, but something like this will always have political implications and motivations."

- "No, violations of the LAW are a reason for prosecution."
- "He's just a low-life crook and doesn't know the law as evidenced by his erroneous opinion on gay marriage licenses."
- "No, it's a legal one — he broke the law and advises others to do the same."
- "Yes. He's the ONE statewide elected officials who's willing to push back on the SCOTUS."
- "A political motive doesn't automatically equate to innocence."
- "Absolutely. Look no further than the fact that the Travis County DA, Dallas County DA, and special prosecutors have all chosen not to indict on the original claim that made the headlines, and the special prosecutors are not pursuing some tangential matter. This is purely political. And let's not forget it's still being pushed by a certain political consultant."
- "Every decision we make is political, regardless of affiliation. Gen Paxton's

team is adding fuel to the fire with their rhetoric, but it's all good politics."

- "He broke the law..."
- "By who?? In GOP friendly McKinney? My goodness, this is the poster child that challenged the Speaker!"
- "The only crime is that our party elected him!"
- "Are you kidding? The left is very good at this, it's called character assassination. They are vapid in the arena of ideas so they attack you."
- "Duh. All politics."
- "Paxton has shown a clear lack of respect for either following or applying the law."
- "Texans for Public Justice exists to attack Republicans. They have been doing it for years. Of course it's political."
- "Ever since Democrats discovered they could no longer win statewide elections, criminal indictments have been their weapon of choice. Kay

### ***Do you expect a resolution to his legal troubles before year-end?***

- "No, unless, he resigns. But, that is not in Republican's nature."
- "Which troubles, the special prosecutors or the SEC? Either way, there's no way this all wraps up in less than six months."
- "The legal system always takes a long time. He will turn slowly in its breeze."

Hutchison, Tom DeLay, Rick Perry — all subjected to spurious charges by Travis County Democrats. That said, the Paxton charges seem to have more substance."

- "Maybe legislators will rethink their recent move to local prosecutions."
- "OF COURSE THE DEMOCRATIC PLAYBOOK INCLUDES THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POLITICS."
- "There may be a political motive, but he sure looks guilty, anyway."
- "I suspect the Texas Rangers were very cautious — only moving to this stage after careful consideration and double checking the evidence."
- "Paxton's prosecution is going to give political prosecution a good name."
- "Isn't there always political motivation for everything done to an elected official?"
- "How could there be a political motive in this deeply Republican state?"

- "The clearer and more convincing the evidence, even his 'friends' will not want to see this drag out. Otherwise, it could take a while."
- "The wheels of justice grind excruciatingly slow."
- "It took years to politically dismantle Tom DeLay. That seems to be the goal here."

- "This is a long-term process that will only solidify his base. Those activist judges are getting out of control."
- "Only if he resigns rather than fights it to the bitter end, hurting his party."
- "He will appeal his guilty verdict and football season is coming up."
- "Would require a plea bargain, not likely in this case."
- "He'll drag this out until kingdom come."
- "Paxton will resign before the end of the year and Governor Abbott will appoint Don Willett as his successor."

### ***Does Paxton end up serving out his entire term as attorney general?***

- "No, eventually it all comes crashing down."
- "He likely will, but he shouldn't. The Attorney General of Texas should be beyond reproach. Whether or not there's fire near this smoke doesn't matter — there shouldn't be any smoke near the AG"
- "Hope not. Texas deserves better."
- "He will become too toxic for even his staunch defenders who are also public officials... forcing his resignation."
- "Way too early to tell. We will wait to see what the 'something else' is that the Rangers discovered while they were looking for whatever they thought they were looking for."
- "He will finish his 'term' just like Dan Morales — from a jail cell (albeit a NICE Federal jail cell)."
- "It will be a cold day you-know-where before he admits to any(more) wrongdoing."
- "That's his decision. IF he's indicted."
- "He's going to ultimately prevail in court, there's no question in my mind on that. And because he'll prevail, there's no reason for him to leave office."
- "He will be One-term Paxton. He serves until the end, but will cut a deal to save himself from visiting the pen."
- "No way. He did not do a petty political move. He messed with Federal law."
- "Paxton should have done the honorable thing and resigned from the candidacy as soon as he was caught and he decided to pay the fines. It's embarrassing to this state that our AG broke the law and assumed paying fines would rectify his felonious behavior, but it is even more embarrassing that his supporters continued to back him despite the facts."
- "Unfortunately, this is going to hang around his neck and get heavier and heavier."



- "He should be able to continue until he's convicted. Not after that."
- "THE SLOW DRIP OF ATTACKS AND RESPONSES WILL RESULT IN AN END."
- "Paxton will resign before the end of the year and Governor Abbott will appoint Don Willett as his successor."
- "Paxton will be serving, but not as Texas AG."
- "This state deserves so much better. Doing what's right for Texans should trump politics, but it's likely that the blind followers will defend him in spite of the facts."
- "The Tea Party can really pick 'em..."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Holly DeShields, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, John Esparza, Tom Forbes, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, Clint Hackney, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Bill Stevens, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.