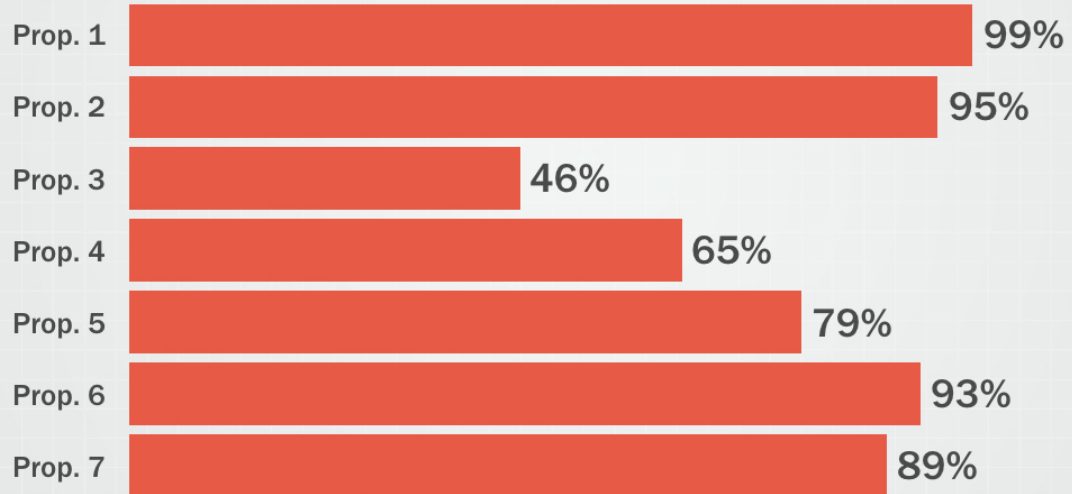


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 30 October 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

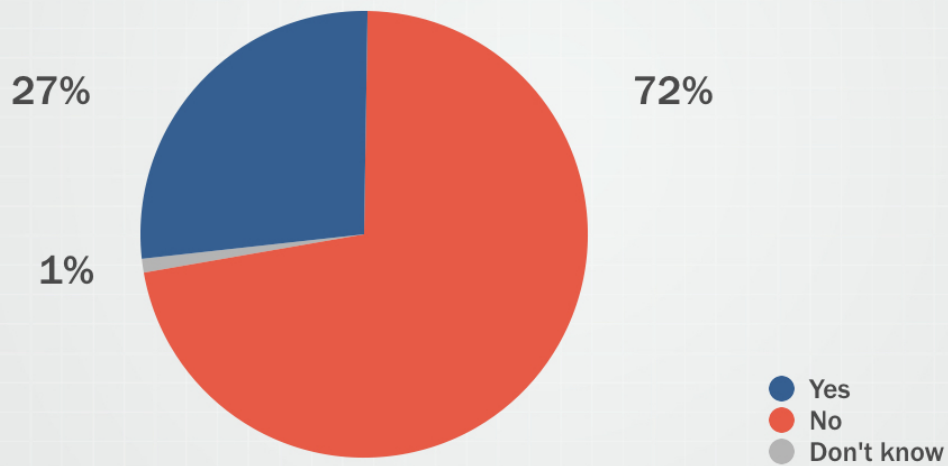
WHICH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS WILL PASS?



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

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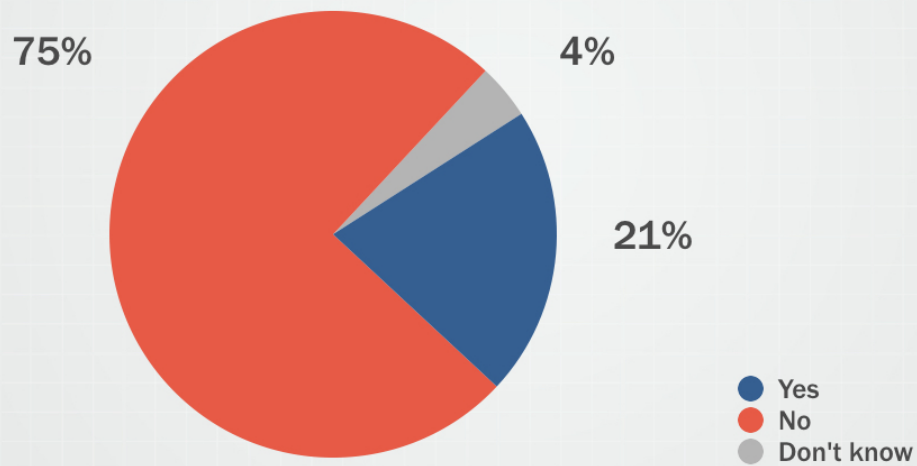
WILL TURNOUT BE GREATER THAN THE LAST
AMENDMENT ELECTION?



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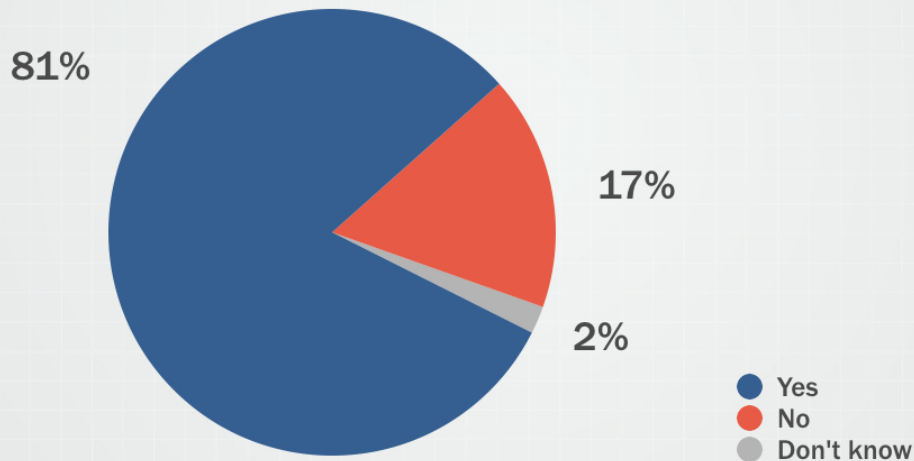
ARE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS A GOOD WAY
TO MAKE PUBLIC POLICY?



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ARE THERE TOO MANY AMENDMENTS
TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION?



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Of the proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot next week, which will pass?

- "Will Paxton be able to serve from Huntsville?"
- "They'll probably all pass. That don't mean I'm voting for them."
- "Only concern has been carving out raffles for pro sports by those concerned about gambling. It will pass because the concern is unfounded."
- "Without any organized opposition, these things always pass."
- "I have great respect for the military. But don't their kids and spouses along

with the retirees still need services like education EMS Fire and police. Absolutely no one should be exempt. Republicans will tax exempt and tax reduce us into a state income tax just as they have already raised taxes on Texans. Especially the franchise tax. Since when is it a Republican ideal to tax a business that makes nonprofit. WTF? Have a plan not talking points. I say this and I am a Republican. I mean super right wing. When does the nonsense stop?"

Less than 9 percent of registered voters turned out to vote on nine proposed amendments in November 2013. Will turnout this year be greater?

- "One-third of the vote will come from Harris County; with an important Mayoral vote in Houston and the HERO ordinance driving huge turnout in that area, I think the number will be slightly higher."
- "Interest in the City of Houston elections will boost statewide turnout."
- "Houston Mayoral already doubling the Harris County turnout and sweeping collar counties into the voting 'frenzy.'"
- "Harris County, specifically the City of Houston is currently performing at a higher turnout than 2013. Houston's mayoral race and the HERO ordinance is the catalyst behind the increased voter turnout."
- "(snoooooze)... Huh? Wha? snort, snoooooze. Turnout will probably be lower this time than last."
- "There's no high profile national or statewide contest to attract voters to the polls. Ain't nobody got time for proposition silliness."
- "Higher turnout will not be because of the amendments but because of local issues in Houston and Montgomery County, among others."
- "Only in Houston because of city ordinance will there be a big turnout."
- "A ton of money was spent in 2013, but this cycle there is very little paid communication. Eight percent would be an ambitious goal."
- "Because of mayor's race in Houston."
- "Other elections around state will boost turnout."
- "Houston's HERO vote will pump up the numbers."
- "The HERO ordinance vote should help surpass that number."
- "Yes — the City of Houston mayoral race and HERO proposition will drive up turnout, and Houston is a big chunk of the electorate statewide."

Are constitutional amendments a good way to make public policy?

- "It depends on the issue. There are times when the Constitution simply needs to be changed because we have made it such a complex document that details so much of how our state government does (and does not) operate. The problem is that important public policy issues are then punted by a Legislature without the will to make important decisions to an electorate that is too often clueless about what they are voting on."
- "The state constitution is a serious document and should be treated as such. Not all of these items BELONG in

the state constitution - REALLY hunting as a 'right?'"

- "The Legislature amends the constitution — the voters just ratify the changes. It is cumbersome, but it requires lots of legislative (2/3) and voter buy-in to achieve. Not a bad thing."

- "Even California and Colorado-style ballot initiatives are better than political garbage amendments like the right to hunt."

- "Gives voters another participatory outlet. No, but in a good way..."

- "These amendments are just another way electeds punt their duties to avoid answering to the constituency. For some officials, the Capitol has the same effect as George Costanza jumping into a cold swimming pool."

- "Structurally, yes, constitutional amendments are a good way to establish lasting policy. The contents of any amendment, of course, may be trash. And so, on occasion at least, we're establishing lasting trash."

- "This is just lawmakers deflecting responsibility. They were elected to make tough choices and should do so — and be held accountable for their votes. Instead, they duck and cover and punt the big, major issues to the voters under the guise of fairness."

- "This is just one step in the process."

- "Constitution obviously has a very important role to play in our system. Alas, that role is not what our constitution has become."

- "At least it requires a high degree of bipartisanship."

- "People who actually follow politics rarely know what these are about. Those who don't follow politics are going in completely blind."

- "It really depends on the issue."

- "If more than 5 percent of the general population could name a single solitary provision of the TEXAS constitution, I'd be floored. Why we have this document in the shape that it's in is beyond anything I can explain legally or from a public good perspective."

- "At least we don't have initiative and referendum."

- "But we have no referendum or initiative in Texas"

- "We need a constitutional convention..."

- "It allows politicians to blame someone else and not lead and not be accountable like a TIRZ at the local level."

- "Abdication of elected leaders responsibility."

- "Not really. But, OK, Indian tribes will make sure gambling is never on ballot."

- "That is, if you want it sealed in concrete."

- "Not really, but our cumbersome Constitution often requires it..."

- "No ... BUT, it's preferable to full R&I (referendum and initiative). States that

make general law by popular election (see, e.g., California) are way more screwed up than Texas."

- "Depends on whether you agree with the amendment, I suppose."

Evaluate: there are too many amendments to the state constitution...

- "In some instances, legislators are shifting the burden of lawmaking to the voters. The voters elected them to make laws but fear of bad election sound bites on good public policy can inhibit lawmakers."

- "It is the nature of the beast. If you want to limit the number of amendments, scrap the current document and start over with something basic and simple and force the Legislature to do its job — legislate. Good luck with that."

- "We have exactly as many constitutional amendments as we need."

- "For a constitution as poorly written as ours, it's a wonder we don't have twice as many."

- "As soon as I get MY constitutional amendment in there, then that'll be enough."

- "Of course nearly 500 amendments added to the state constitution is too many! There shouldn't be any bragging rights in having the longest

constitution. Talk about inefficiency — sheesh."

- "We needed a Constitutional Convention about 20 years ago when the Lege was still bipartisan. It is far too dangerous with extremist influence in the Lege today."

- "The purpose of the constitution should not be creating a law that is just harder to change in the future."

- "Are there too many Globetrotters to name after Curly?"

- "Have you seen the thing? This has got to stop — the cluttering of our constitution!"

- "Streamlining the Texas Constitution: The job everyone knows needs to be done but nobody really wants to do."

- "Not too many to this Constitution. But if we had a reasonable constitution it would be."

- "Limited government, baby!"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jack Erskine, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Clint Hackney, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, Ken Hodges, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Bill Stevens, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Angelo Zottarelli.