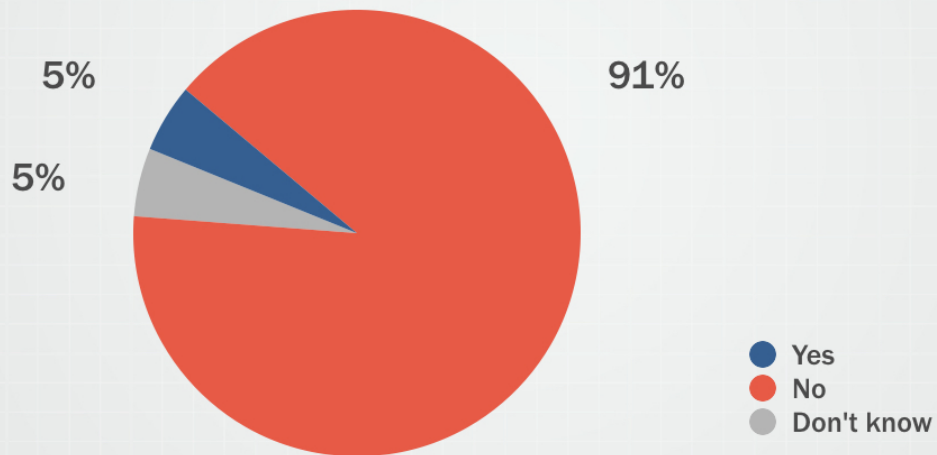


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 22 January 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

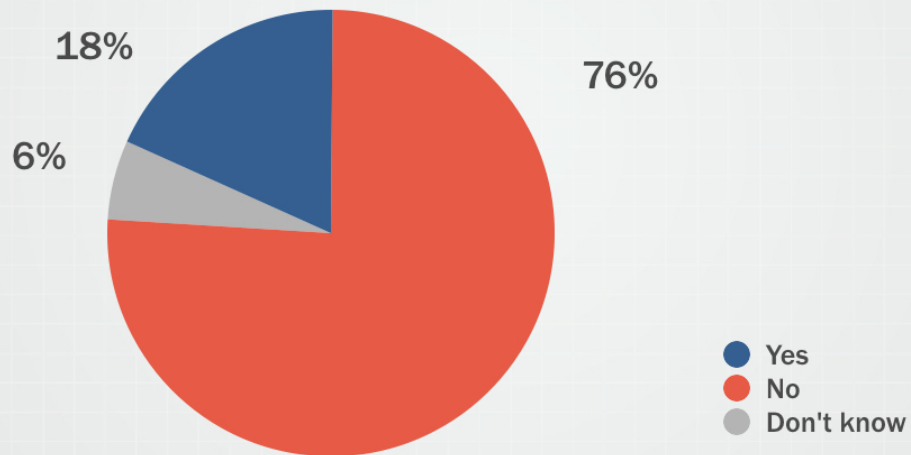
WITH LOW OIL PRICES, ARE ODDS GREATER THAN
50-50 THAT GAMBLING EXPANDS?



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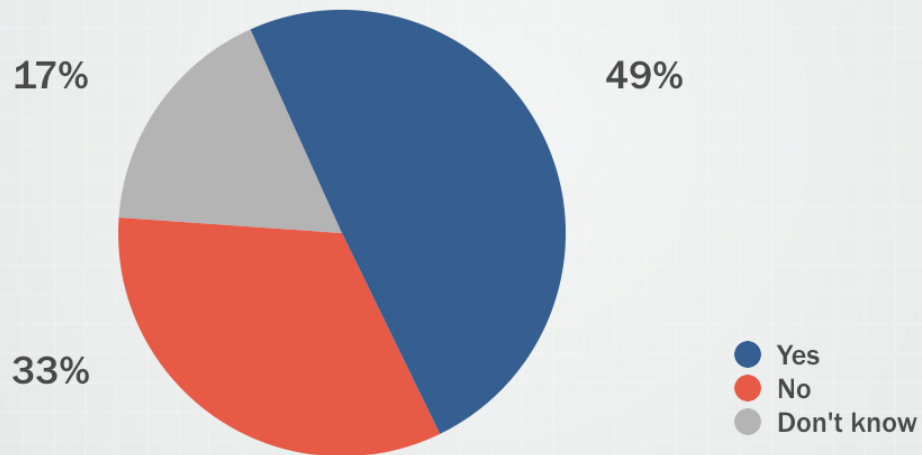
DOES THE LEGISLATURE ALLOW THE TEXAS LOTTERY
TO OFFER FANTASY SPORTS BETTING?



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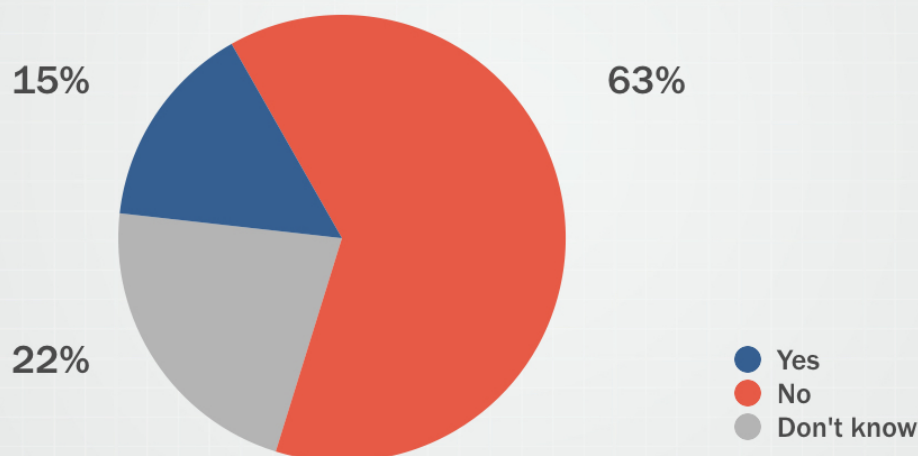
WILL THE RACING COMMISSION AVOID BEING
SHUT DOWN OVER HISTORICAL RACING?



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CAN THE STATE'S RACETRACKS SURVIVE WITHOUT
ADDITIONAL GAMING LIKE HISTORICAL RACING?



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Does the impact of the low price of oil on state revenues make the odds greater than 50-50 that the Legislature expands the footprint of gambling in Texas?

- "How many wackadoos get defeated is a better indication of the expansion of gambling."
- "It would be great but, in fact, they are trying to limit the little gambling we currently have in horse-racing."
- "Hard to see 'em legalizing casino style gambling. If they didn't do it a few years ago when the hole was so deep, why do it now?"
- "Really, have you seen a list of our legislators lately? Most, whether they enjoy playing the odds or not, like being elected more. And its hard to get through a R primary publicly supporting that evil family destroying ol' addictive vice of gambling."
- "Gambling is outlawed in Texas."
- "Too many social conservatives in the Lege to go for gambling. But too many conservatives of all kinds (including Ds)

to raise taxes, which is what needs to happen. Even though this is the perfect time to raise the gasoline tax — gas would still be cheap, voters are fed up with congestion."

- "DOA until D's take over..."
- "If the gambling interests couldn't get it done in 2001/2003 they have no chance now."
- "There are too many people in the Legislature who are looking to repeal the current gaming legislation, regardless of the financial consequences."
- "They haven't done it before during downturns, why would this one be different???"
- "Of course not... an expansion of gambling vote is suicide."
- "Depends on the elections."
- "This debate is over. Gambling is a tax on the stupid and a majority of Texans recognize that."
- "Christian element of Tea Party will stop any gambling expansion."
- "The low price of oil hurts all of Texas, especially at the local governmental level such as far lower school tax revenues, but it will NOT change the politics on gambling."
- "Texas is a very conservative state and growing even more conservative as new members are elected to the Legislature. This ultra-conservative

Legislature will cut spending in the areas of education (public and higher education) and other vital social services before they will ever consider any form of gambling."

- "The economic argument for gambling has never held sway in the Capitol, where the opposition is moral, not material. Weak oil prices don't change that equation."
- "The New Right still doesn't believe in certain freedoms. Like the freedom to gamble."
- "Not 50-50 but moves it closer and makes the chances of cutting a deal on it greater. Still too many strong voices in the Lege who are against gambling. However, this all becomes irrelevant if oil is back over \$40 a barrel. A year in the life of oil prices is a long time, my friend. What happens with Iran's oil supply? How much pain can Saudi Arabia continue to sustain? That is one of the keys. Wow, Saudi Arabia's oil impacting chances of gambling in Texas? Perhaps."
- "No, same odds as the Powerball."
- "I think it makes them greater, but probably not 50-50."
- "That's a revenue-focused question; the reason for gambling will be a spending requirement."
- "They will just cut programs."

Will the Legislature end up authorizing the Texas Lottery to offer fantasy sports betting?

- "Wait — so that is not legal in Texas?"
- "Even Nevada calls it gambling."
- "Online fantasy sports betting is on its way to being dead."
- "The Republican controlled Legislature/executive will not increase the footprint of gambling no matter who the big money interests are from Texas."
- "That's not gambling! ☹"
- "Of course not... an expansion of gambling vote is suicide."
- "Why not let the state make money?"
- "You mean so the Lottery can provide all the money for education, like it is now?"
- "No, see the comments above to Question No. 1."
- "No. Remember it was only two sessions ago that the House voted to REPEAL the lottery entirely. They ain't votin' to expand nothin' where gambling is concerned."
- "It is the only way it will happen here."
- "Are you kidding? They almost cut the Lottery Commission funding."
- "Camel's nose under the tent for casino gambling."

Will the Racing Commission avoid being shut down over historical racing?

- "Can't avoid the shutdown. Quit being about historical racing and more about who could pee the furthest a long time ago."
- "Seems like they're spoiling for a fight."
- "But, they may be shut down because they picked a fight they couldn't win and pissed off the Chairwoman of Senate Finance."
- "Even with new appointees they're steadfastly headed toward extinction."
- "Nope... hasta la vista baby."
- "No, I believe that religious conservatives after completely dismantling reproductive rights will make the Racing Commission their new target, move to eliminate the Racing Commission by defunding it as they will with Planned Parenthood. They will need a new enemy to keep their agenda alive and remain relevant."
- "Lots of talk and threats, scares and whatnots, but ultimately, things are likely to go on as before. yawn"
- "Please, a government agency closing down? What kind of hallucinogens are you taking?"

- "The horse racing industry is dead in Texas, and everyone knows it."

- "Abbott appointed new people. Game over."

Can the state's racetracks survive without additional gaming options like historical racing?

- "The Lege is making sure thoroughbred racing leaves this stupid state!"

- "Have you been to a racetrack in Texas lately? They are GHOST TOWNS! For a fan of horseracing, it is QUITE sad to see — the amounts I am betting and spending on food/drink will NOT keep them in business."

- "It's a dying industry across the country but especially in Texas. Without additional options to bring in revenue, it's only a matter of time before the tracks shut down."

- "If they can't make money without gambling, then it should be shut down like any other failing business."

- "No, but no one cares... they have never paid their own way. They opened based on a bet that they could get slots, but then got real greedy when they wanted to be grandfathered in for their locations being casinos... fought competitive bidding. 'Pigs get fat, hogs get slaughtered.'"

- "And who cares?"

- "They've survived for this long without it."

- "Nope... they are already struggling."

- "If they can't survive without slot machines, then let them close. Why do we need racetracks anyway?"

- "It is a matter of time before they all close. This will have a detrimental impact on rural Texas, which has lost what little manufacturing that existed. There won't be a real demand to raise and train horses in Texas. Kentucky already has the market and we will give them the last vestiges of the racing industry."

- "Not sure they need to."

- "Yes, if you call endless subsidies from the track owners 'surviving.' Tracks hang on year after year, losing money, only because of the distant hope that one day, the tracks will get expanded gambling. The owners will hang on at least a few more years because of this dream."

- "The horse racing industry is dead in Texas, and everyone knows it."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Jay Brown, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Elna Christopher, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Ted Melina Raab, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Ben Seabee, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.