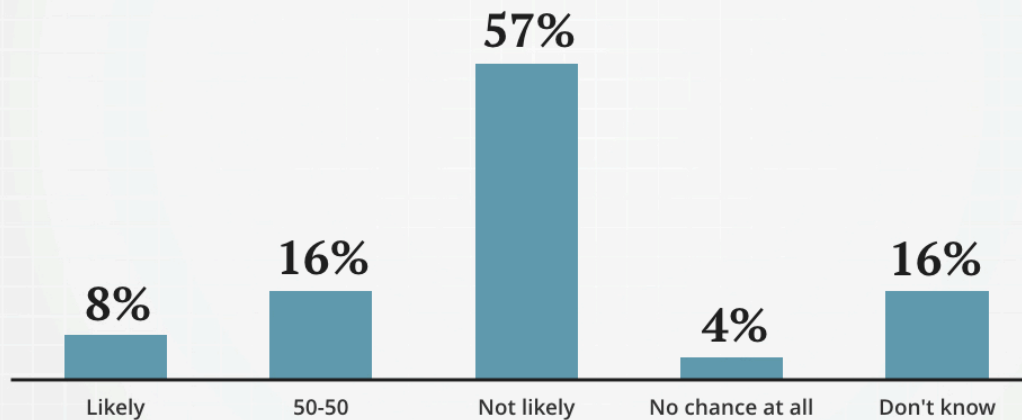


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 27 January 2017*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

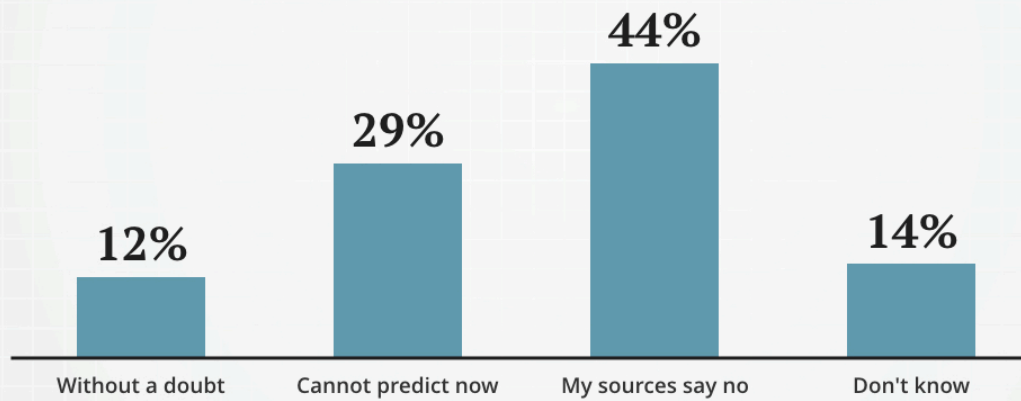
How likely is it the Legislature acts to roll back or curtail the school tax abatement program commonly known as Chapter 313?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

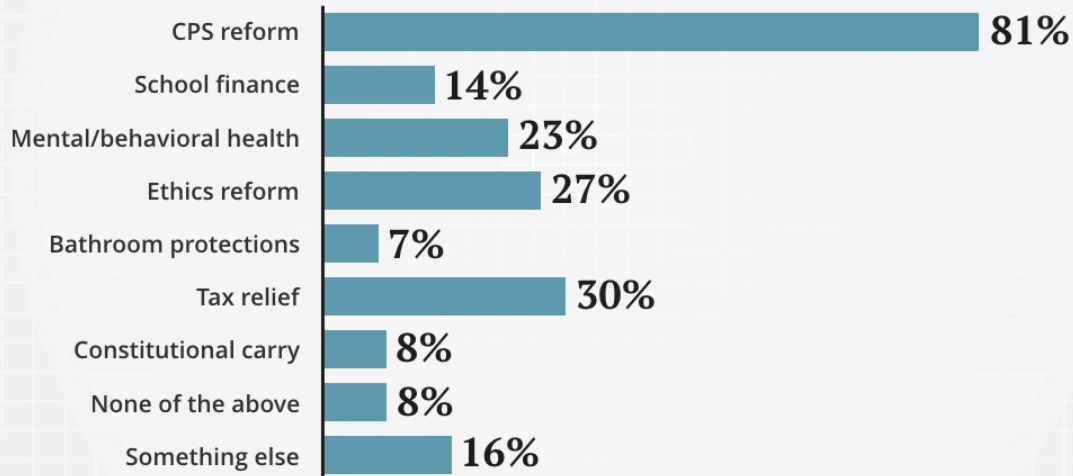
Does the Legislature act to change the regulatory structure of the title insurance market?



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Which of these priorities get singled out as emergency items by Gov. Greg Abbott?



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How likely is it the Legislature acts to roll back or curtail the school tax abatement program for manufacturers and energy producers commonly known as Chapter 313?

- "Too important as a tool for economic development to abandon at this point. EPA regulations will be relaxed and opportunities in other states regarding economic initiatives in the manufacturing and energy sector will spur more competition. The new Secretary of Energy likes this program and so should Texas."
- "I can foresee the Senate taking an ax to the program, but not the House. I guess at the end of the day it stays as is."
- "They'll at least require some kind of independent verification that companies getting 313 tax breaks meet the statutory job/wage requirements, as the State Auditor has repeatedly recommend. And maybe even require

companies to provide that they wouldn't come to Texas without special treatment, even if what is attracting them here is the Eagle Ford or West Texas winds."

- "They should at least roll it back, but it is a tax abatement and it is questionable the Legislature can/will do anything that can be seen as a tax increase. At the very least, the abatement should go directly to the company as a stipend and not through the public schools as a tax reduction."
- "The misinformation campaign has been unusually active on this and other

economic development matters. It's sort of a religion thing for them."

- "Under the guise of supposedly reining in corporate welfare, Republicans are going to get more money to spend... wait. They sound like Democrats."
- "No New Taxes... and that's what opponents will make this look like."
- "313 is one of the best tools out there."

Does the Legislature act to change the regulatory structure of the title insurance market?

- "This is a multi-session issue."
- "We have a title insurance market — who knew? And why exactly does it need fixin'?"
- "Too many legislators own title companies. Look it up."
- "Senate maybe ... House doubtful."
- "Concentrate and ask again."
- "Too soon to tell. The only guaranteed winner in this fight is The Lobby. \$\$\$"
- "It would be nice, but it's hard to say where this fits in the priority pecking order."
- "But will not be victorious."
- "Hahaha!"
- "Too entrenched."

Which of these priorities get singled out as emergency items by Gov. Greg Abbott?

- "School choice."
- "They will pass something on CPS but it won't do a damn thing to help kids. Just get some headlines. The suffering
- will continue because abused foster kids don't vote in the Republican primary!"

- "Pre-kindergarten. Both the Senate and House cut the Governor's highest profile initiative."
- "All signs indicate that his personal convictions are reasonable and responsible. Let's hope that his legislative agenda isn't defined by primary politics."
- "Whatever does not cost money and what ever helps his re-election chances with Republican Primary voters."
- "Sanctuary cities, Convention of States and one surprise"
- "School choice"
- "School vouchers"
- "I don't know about the Governor, but I'm pretty sure that some would think

If you were governor, how do you complete this sentence: the state of the state is _____...

- "A mixed bag"
- "Hunky dory"
- "Not good for most Texans and getting worse especially our children, our sick, our mentally ill, our women and our poorest citizens."
- "Adequate."
- "Rife for reform: ethics, livability, education, tax structure; time to govern and not pander for my own political career."
- "Great"
- "In flux"

that health costs for educational retirees (95 percent of whom have no Social Security, many of whom live on fixed incomes and rely solely upon their TRS annuity, the average of which is \$2,000 per month) is a pretty big deal."

• "In addition to CPS and ethics, add a ban on sanctuary cities (courtesy of our new Travis County sheriff)."

- "Sanctuary cities"
- "Sanctuary cities"
- "Deregulation for small business"
- "If he has any sense of compassion, he should make CPS reform a priority before other volatile issues take center stage."

- "Tricky right now."
- "Shaky — at best."
- "Sound"
- "In flux."
- "Strong economically but there are many items that must be addressed to continue the momentum we have."
- "Tired of politicians who lead by headline."
- "Bright as long as I get the March cover of Texas Monthly..."
- "Good."

- "Fiscally sound, just not ideal."
- "Meh."
- "More content with itself than it should be."
- "Beautiful"
- "In flux and shaky"
- "Marginal, tbd"
- "Great but not perfect."
- "Resilient and moving in the right direction."
- "Good."
- "Steady, but can be better."
- "Undernourished"
- "'Better' after the November election. Our border is porous. Our oil economy needs the federal boot removed from its throat."
- "Improving"
- "Better now that Donald Trump is President."
- "Strong"
- "...being hindered by constant, politically-motivated tax cuts. There comes a time when everyone must pay their bills."
- "Evolving."
- "Regressing."
- "Diminished."
- "Please, I don't want to be governor of this state."
- "Convalescent."
- "Meh..."
- "Strong and getting stronger"
- "Challenged by a brief economic downturn, but this state is resilient, and the future looks bright."
- "Very, but could use a little fine tuning."
- "Strong. Now let's keep it that way."
- "Inert. (Sorry, I was a chemistry major.)"
- "Good"
- "Expected to be improving over the coming biennium; however, there is a definite need during this timeframe to move away from the middle 1990s school finance methodology to one that is consistent with the 21st century educational needs."
- "Guarded, but optimistic."
- "The Greatest State in America"
- "Let me stick my finger in the air and feel which way the wind is blowing before I say a word or stake a position on anything."
- "As an 'R' I would say 'very bright.' As a 'D' I would say we are on a mid-term (8-10 years) trajectory to serious economic trouble due to underfunding of education, health and mental health needs."

- "Strong... even though we have to steal money from the Rainy Day Fund because we have been chicken shits and borrowed money rather than raise the gas tax to let the users fees pay for the transportation system, among many other dumb moves to assist in Perry's losing race for President."
- "Solid!"
- "Good"
- "Doing well and is on cruise-control"
- "Excellent and soon to improve."
- "Texas, and we are free."
- "Exhausted with bad ideas from the Senate."
- "Improving."
- "Is in good shape, but we still have work to do, especially making sure the children under our care are prioritized and not shifted around to become someone else's burden. No child, and I mean NO CHILD should ever have to worry about their safety in the foster care system. No child should ever have to worry about the state of Texas taking money out of the public school system to create an entitlement program for the wealthy, and no child should ever have to worry about their health care."
- "Resilient"
- "...Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!"
- "Looking better as oil prices increase."
- "...good, but improving under thoughtful, conservative leadership."
- "Good but could be better with reasonable investments in our infrastructure namely highways, public schools and the agencies that directly benefit our most vulnerable citizens. We are as strong as our weakest link."
- "Great place to live and work"
- "...in jeopardy long-term if we don't fix public education finance."
- "Bright... in fact, our star shines as bright as it ever has."
- "Great and getting greater."
- "Good"
- "Carnage"
- "Decent"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Jim Dow, Tom Duffy, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Michael Grimes, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Susan Hays, John Heasley, Steve Holzheuser, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Mike McKinney, Vinny Minchillo, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Karen Reagan, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Dennis Speight, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Chris Wallace, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.