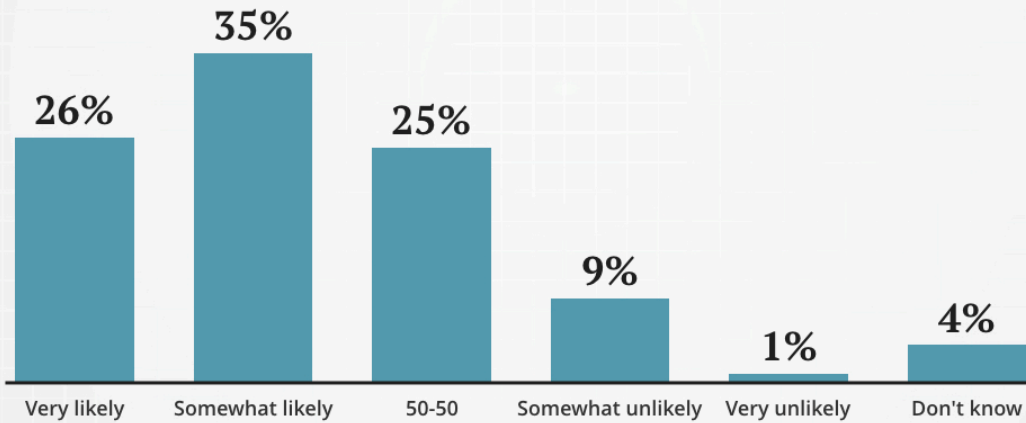


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 28 April 2017*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

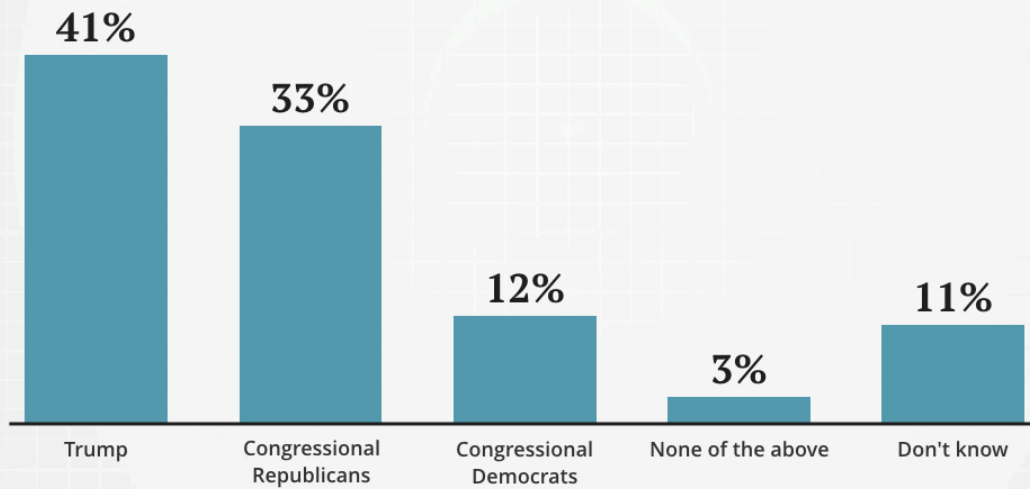
As things stand now, what are the odds a deal is struck this week to prevent a government shutdown?



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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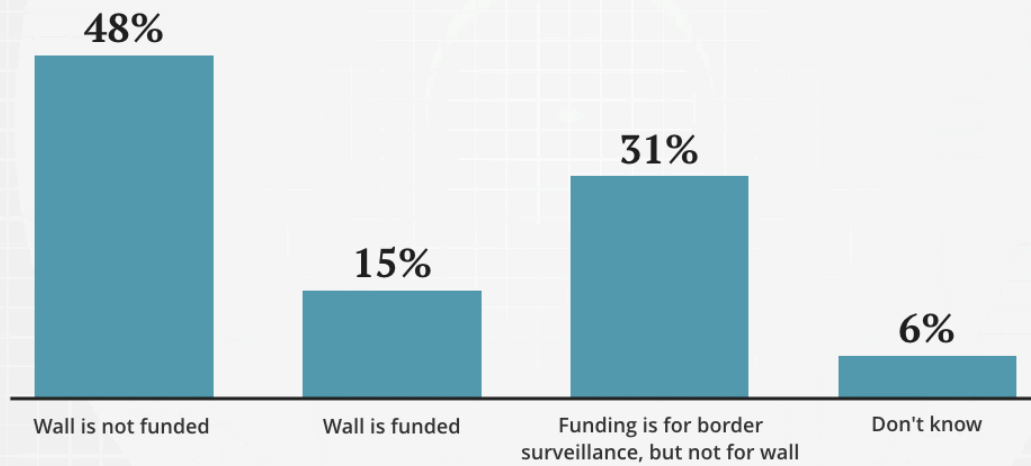
Who gets blamed if there's a limited federal government shutdown at week's end?



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What happens to Trump's demand for border wall funding in a government-spending bill this week?

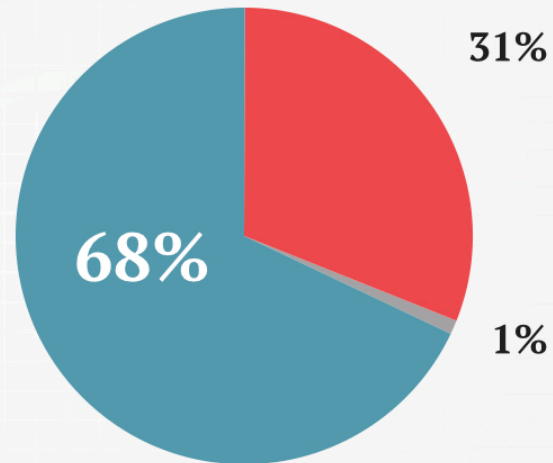


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Some speculate that Texas lawmakers won't complete their budget in the regular session. Do you think there is any risk that Texas could go to the wire, as the feds are doing, on government spending?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



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As things stand now, what are the odds a deal is struck this week to prevent a government shutdown?

- "We're in *his* world now, the Art of the Negotiator! Lawd help us!"
- "Ds can use the leverage for concessions on other things."
- "I think a true repeal of Obamacare is the sticking point. Is it important enough to break a campaign promise? Important enough to shut down the government?"
- "The deal is already done."
- "Who cares? I'm not paid to follow D.C. BS but to pass my clients' bills here in Austin in the next 30 days."
- "Federal government? Never heard of it."
- "They have tricks to play to keep it open several more weeks, just like last time."
- "It will likely involve a continuing resolution and a delay in the showdown."

Who gets blamed if there's a limited federal government shutdown at week's end?

- "The Trump spin machine will find a way to blame the Dems."
- "Depends upon who's doing the blaming ... but Congressional Republicans seem to be filling the scapegoat role rather handily as of late."
- "GOP always get the blame. Schumer and his media allies will ensure the GOP gets raked over the coals if the federal government is shut down."
- "Everyone will get the blame!!"
- "Regardless of the facts, Republicans always get blamed."
- "They are like watching a Keystone Kops movie."
- "The majority party will be blamed."
- "The deal was set until he threw in The Wall."
- "The sad thing is Dems cause this to happen and it is always the Rs who get blamed. They just can't play the PR/messaging game."
- "All of the above."
- "'Blamed' by whom. Silly question. The question tells more (about the questioner) than the response ever could (about the audience)."
- "Dems do not want to fund the President's wall. He was elected to build the wall. Of course, he will make it virtual in some remote areas."
- "But as always, they will try to pin it on the Democrats."
- "Trump should be able — even with media against him and spinning frantically the other way — to blame a shutdown on the Dems. Senate will be debating a bill with at least some wall funding. If Dems filibuster, and refuse to consider it, the finger will be pointed at the Dems. 'We prefer a government shutdown to a bit of wall funding' is not a good argument for the Dems."
- "Trump by the media. Congressional Democrats for a majority of voters. Don't think it helps Rs for Trump to make an issue of the wall."
- "That depends on who is doing the blaming. The media, having become predictably one-dimensional and nakedly partisan, will blame Trump. Not everyone will buy their version of events."
- "If Democrats shut the government down over the wall or Obamacare they'll learn that the party that gets punished is the one that gets in the way of the party that has the majority representation. Their implosion will be nearly complete."
- "Congress loses all around."

- "It's a circular firing squad. Dems will blame Trump and GOP. GOP will blame Dems. Trump will probably blame both

of them in some form or fashion.
Business as usual in a Trump D.C."

What happens to Trump's demand for border wall funding in a government-spending bill this week?

- "They will argue that no funds would be expended at this time anyway."

Texas side of the RED River, different outcome altogether."

- "Democrats have voted to fund the wall in the past. Why won't they this time? Because Trump is President. And if Hillary were President, Republicans would find reason to oppose anything she wanted to do."

- "Wall may not be funded directly, but there will likely be funds that can be used for wall construction."

- "But funds won't be spent ... too many existing roadblocks."

- "No need to fund it because Mexico is going to pay for it! Remember — he promised"

- "Unless the Congressmen are tone deaf, they know that this is a priority for most Americans."

- "Let's be honest, along with not funding it, I'm honestly hoping to get to hear Congressman Vela tell the President where he can put the wall again."

- "That ridiculous wall will not happen. Now if he were willing to build it on the

Some speculate that Texas lawmakers won't complete their budget in the regular session. Do you think there is any risk that Texas could go to the wire, as the feds are doing, on government spending?

- "The budget will be finished — how to spend the money and where. What will get held up is the funding sources — that will go to the wire."

- "'Any' risk? Sure. Significant risk? Unlikely."

- "Lt. Gov. wants one."

- "Isn't this issue recycled every two years? And yet, what happens? When was the last time a Texas Legislature did not pass a budget before Sine Die? Yeah, I don't remember either."

- "It'll be Patrick's fault if the Lege goes into a special session on SB 1. We all know what he likes to do and that's to hold things hostage until his tantrum results in what he wants."

- "Yes, they will go to the wire. No they won't fail to pass the budget. They don't want to spend the summer in Austin."

- "Who wants to spend state money we don't have on a special session? This makes no sense to me."
- "Protecting the ESF is worthy of going to the wire."
- "Our process is a joke. We can't get committees earlier? Bring back Bullock! And we jack around the first two-and-half months or so. Please, people, make the hard choices and grow up!"
- "Since the House has given Patrick no victories on other matters, I suspect Patrick will hang super tough on the budget. He'll have the upper hand on it because he doesn't mind having a special. Then the House will have to make a decision on a budget much closer to the Senate's."
- "We are at risk anytime the Legislature is in session."
- "Always a risk. But it will get done."
- "There will be a special session in which the Lt. Gov. gives \$1.5 billion to fund one-time needs like CPS and road improvements from the Rainy Day Fund. Education will get another \$1 billion from the general fund for the biennium and in return the Speaker will give the Senate some school choice for special needs and families at or below the poverty line in urban areas. Rural areas will be exempted."
- "The call of a carefree summer will push them to finish..."
- "Straus wins. Too risky for the Republicans to go beyond the regular session. Patrick goes on to say his program was hijacked and feeds red meat to his base."
- "They always go to the wire. But, they also always get it done."
- "We will get a budget."
- "But no special session, and they get the Legislature completes its work before Sine Die."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Janis Carter, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Dadrick, Doug Deason, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Jennifer Harris, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Bill Lauderback, Luke Legate, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Vinny Minchillo, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Robert Peeler, Bill Pewitt, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Mark Smith, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Sherry Sylvester, Vicki Truitt, Chris Wallace, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.