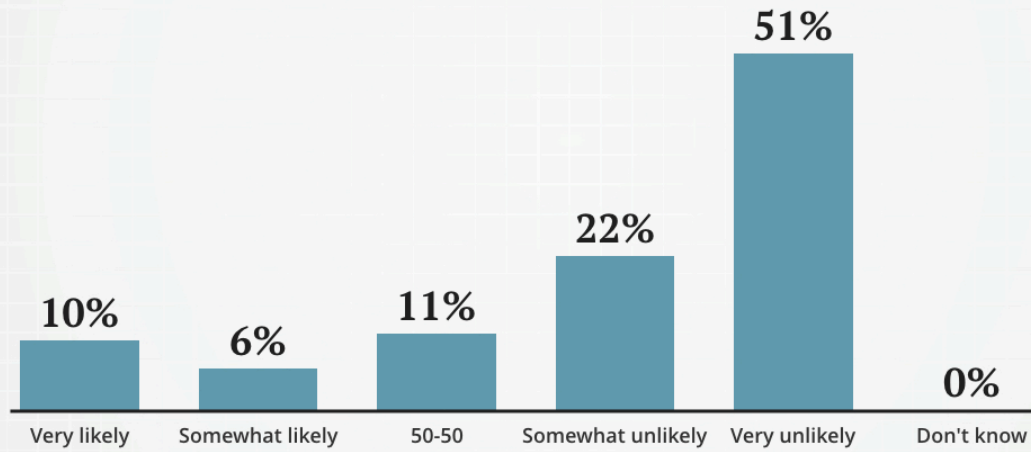


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

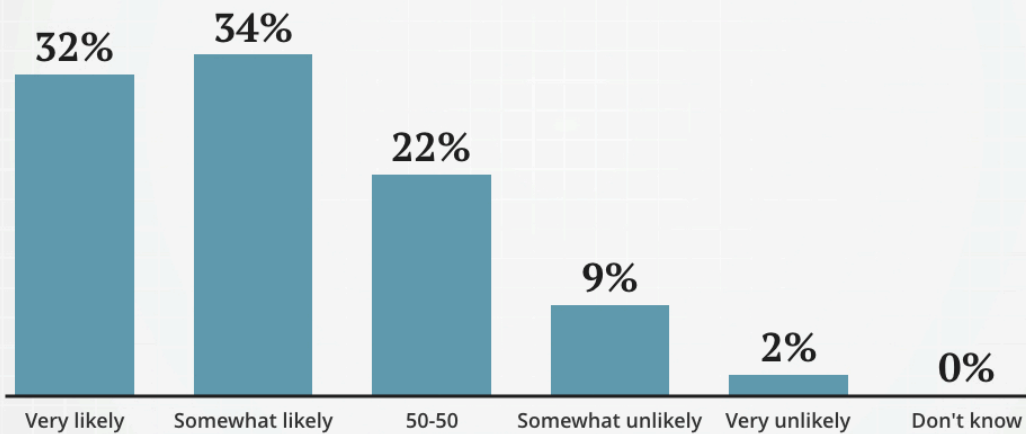
What are the odds of a blowup between the House and Senate that would endanger the sunset legislation?



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INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

What are the odds of a blowup between the House and Senate that would endanger property tax reform legislation?

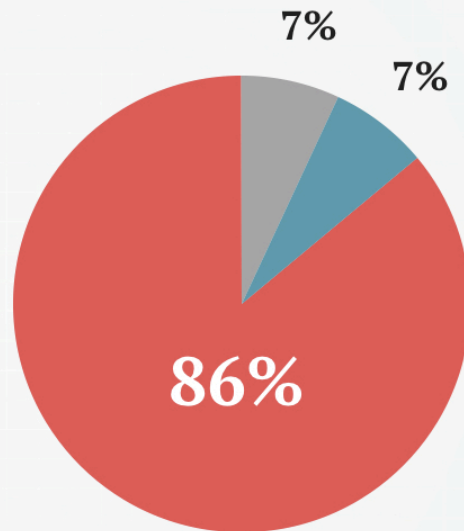


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**Evaluate the following:
As a policy matter, tying
teacher pay raises to
lottery funding is a
smart move...**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

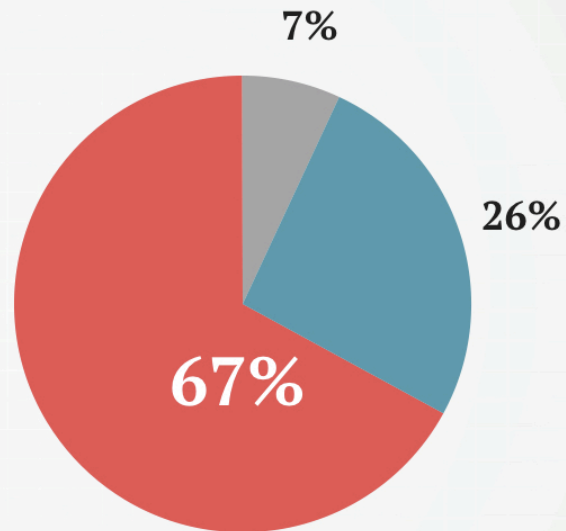


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What are the odds of a blowup between the House and Senate that would endanger the sunset legislation?

- "Right now it's like a game of Jenga, someone is going to push the wrong piece and it is all going to tumble down."
- "This one is a shall, not a may."
- "Don't ask me. Ask Dan Patrick."
- "A blowup needs to happen, but not on sunset legislation."
- "Sunset is done. It is all that HAS to be passed. There is no reason for the governor not to sign it now!"
- "NO ONE WANTS TO BE HERE."
- "There has to be a chance that common sense will break out."
- "Let's go home."
- "Is this a real question? Things are already blowing up!"
- "I think a better question would be the likelihood that the House leadership will lose control over some of the agenda as they did on the immigration bill and the fear of the primary will

allow some of the Senate agenda to prevail. To prevent that possibility (likelihood) it seems that Straus will have to keep the subjects off the floor. But he will have property tax on the floor, and probably teacher pay increase of some kind. Another likelihood question is whether the House leadership strategy of 'just don't do it' will come back to hit Straus (in particular) hard IF he runs again."

What are the odds of a blowup between the House and Senate that would endanger property tax reform legislation?

- "It sure won't help."
- "Don't ask me. Ask Paul Bettencourt."
- "TML needs to be exposed."
- "REFORM? Is that what those Senate yahoos claim to be doing?"
- "A rollback bill doesn't have the votes in Ways & Means."

Evaluate the following: As a policy matter, tying teacher pay raises to lottery funding is a smart move...

- "The lie is out there now. We'll talk about this for 20 years and how the lottery was supposed to save teacher pay."
- "Lottery money fluctuates with the economy. When education funding was first tied to lottery funds and they didn't perform, less money was put in the school system. Additionally, all of the lottery funds are already being spent and they flow into the PSF. This is like watching a bad magician performing a trick right when the

- "No way. The other members would beat senseless someone who jeopardized their one ticket home."
- "Sunset & Sine Die — even Joe Straus wants to pass that bill."

- "Is this a real question? Things are already blowing up!"
- "Who cares? — Everything they have filed is meaningless."
- "Buckle your chin straps for this one!"

smoke clears, so the mirror reflects all the secrets."

- "Budget flimflammy."
- "The bait-and-switch program known as the Texas Lottery is advertised as supporting our education system. That is, at best, a half-truth. So, why the heck not?"
- "Aren't lottery sales down? If the sales trend is down year over year, does that mean teachers' salaries will be cut accordingly?"

- "Do you think it wise for teachers to become lobbyists for the lottery?"
- "Forcing LOCAL school districts to attempt to find an extra \$1,000 for every teacher is crazy. The state needs to reform education funding; fully fund schools and THEN they can give a raise. This SHAM of the 'state' giving a \$1,000 raise is crazy."
- "Lottery funding is already committed to the schools. This policy provides no new funds, just ties school district hands and makes uninformed voters feel they have done something good for their schools (they have not)."
- "Teacher pay raises should be tied to performance (i.e. teacher's activities, professional development, and student performance/progress)."
- "It was always meant for GR."
- "Education and legalized gambling shouldn't go hand-in-hand."
- "Talk about Enron accounting — let's take lottery money that goes to public ed and spend it on public ed."
- "Dumb."
- "Is this a real question? Things are already blowing up!"
- "It's just another attempt to dodge fixing public education in Texas."
- "But not for reasons many will cite. The key issue isn't the source. Rather it is that teacher pay should be more differentiated on the basis of effectiveness — criteria that are not being discussed by either side."
- "We were told the lottery was the answer to school funding. That was a lie, now, wasn't it? Liar, liar, pants on fire. When a politician moves his lips..."
- "I recuse myself from this question. Conflict of interest."
- "Thought lottery was already dedicated to Public Education?"
- "Retirement, maybe."
- "A great idea, and proof that the lieutenant governor will try anything to get the job done."
- "Robbing Peter to pay Paul!"
- "Burton is a complete hypocrite."

As a political matter, tying teacher pay raises to lottery funding is a smart move...

- "Teacher pay is a lot like playing the lottery anyway, a lot participate but very few actually win."
- "Yes — it smacks of accountability. Both the general public and the GOP primary voter will appreciate that. This was a pot of money most folks always thought was supposed to go to education anyway."

- "Of course, teachers and parents vote. We've spent years berating administrators, but we still love teachers. Smart move politically."
- "Just another move to shirk responsibility by so-called decision makers."
- "Surely that ship has sailed by now."
- "This policy would make it seem like the state policymakers 'care' for teachers to the voter that has to vote on the constitutional amendment."
- "The 3R voters in Texas are TOLD what is 'politically smart.' They don't get to make their own determination about such things."
- "Smoke and mirrors"
- "It worked for Ann Richards and she was re-elected — um, or not!"
- "Sure. No one understands state finances, so you can pitch as new money."
- "Is this a real question? Things are already blowing up!"
- "Ah, isn't it sad that the substantive and 'political' answers so often differ these days."
- "Shitty policy"
- "Same as above."
- "Fool me once, shame on you...fool me twice..."
- "A great idea, and proof that the lieutenant governor will try anything to get the job done."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Kerry Cammack, Janis Carter, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Jennifer Harris, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, Dick Lavine, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Vinny Minchillo, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Bradford Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jim Suydam, Sherry Sylvester, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Chris Wallace, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.