

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY

Protecting every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity

Newly-released scientific survey of Texas voters reveals

Voters' views are opposed by taxpayer-funded lobby associations

AFP has analyzed the Tower Institute's scientific voter survey and taken the legislative agendas for the taxpayer-funded organizations and found that taxpayers and the organizations they fund have divergently opposite views. The poll questions are listed below along with the associations' public legislative positions on those issues, along with a link to the association websites. In all questions, the voters' views were opposed by taxpayer-funded lobby associations:

Taxpayer Protections

The majority of the taxpayers want greater control over the growth of government. Voters surveyed responded that 64.8% wanted to have the opportunity to approve increases in government spending above 5 percent. (Survey question #15) The voters' views were opposed by taxpayer-funded lobby associations:

- TAC has opposed taxpayer approval of spending increases (<http://www.county.org/taxcap/index.asp>)*

Under current law, local taxpayers must gather signed petitions for a tax rate rollback election to lower property taxes if property tax collections increase by more than 8%. 54% of those surveyed said they support a change in the law to allow for an automatic rate rollback election without a petition of the voters. (Survey question #18) The voters' views were opposed by taxpayer-funded lobby associations:

- TAC has opposed taxpayer approval of spending increases (<http://www.county.org/taxcap/index.asp>)*

Texas has a property tax appraisal cap which is constitutionally set at 10%. 69% of voters surveyed said they support a constitutional amendment to lower the 10% cap to 5% or less. (Survey question #10). The voters' views were opposed by taxpayer-funded lobby associations:

- TAC has opposed taxpayer approval of spending increases (<http://www.county.org/taxcap/index.asp>)*

Taxpayer-funded lobbying

Many cities, counties and school districts hire lobbyists. 70% of the voters who responded to the survey said they did not believe it is an acceptable use of tax dollars for cities, counties and school districts to pay registered lobbyists to lobby the state or federal government for even more tax dollars or against measures intended to reduce the level of taxation. (Survey question #16)

- AFP research revealed that in the 79th Legislature (the most recent research available):
 - 541 taxing entities hired lobbyists
 - 1,618 lobbyists were paid by taxing entities
 - Taxing entities spent as much as \$52.6 million on lobbyists

72.8% of the voters who responded to the survey stated they did not believe it is an acceptable use of tax dollars for cities, counties and school districts to pay fees or dues to associations that lobby for more government spending. (Survey question #17)

- TAC has 22 lobbyists and 26 lobby entries on the TEC website

[The full survey is available on the Tower Institute website here.](#)

[The summary is available here.](#)

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Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best safeguard to ensuring individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth, and returning government to its constitutional limits.