



## Local News

# 📰 Could the Texas Lottery go up for sale?

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By ELISE HU  
KVUE News

Governor Rick Perry is expected pitch an idea to sell the state lottery to private companies. The governor's office will not give details of the plan but said Perry will be addressing the proposal in next week's State of the State speech.



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Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank, backs the idea.

"If the state is gonna have a lottery, we would much rather have it privatized. Private businesses run things more efficiently than government entities do," spokesman David Guenther said.

Questions abound over what this would mean for the state. If the plan looks like ideas proposed in Illinois and Indiana, the state would likely sell off the lottery and get a lump sum of cash at once.

It's analogous to a lottery jackpot winner, said Dick Lavine with the liberal-leaning Center for Public Policy Priorities. Just as lottery winners can choose to take their winnings in a lump sum or annual payments, if the state sells it would likely get a lump sum instead of the annual revenue it sees now.

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[KVUE's Elise Hu reports](#)

"The State of Texas would get a huge pile of money all at once, instead of a billion dollars a year into the future forever. And they might waste it," Lavine said.

He said privatization poses too many problems.

"[It's a] long term cost to the state. Both in giving up the long term money from it, and giving up control over a monopoly that could be used not to benefit the people of Texas," Lavine said.

Specifics are unclear, but are expected to be revealed next Tuesday, when the Governor gives his annual State of the State address.