

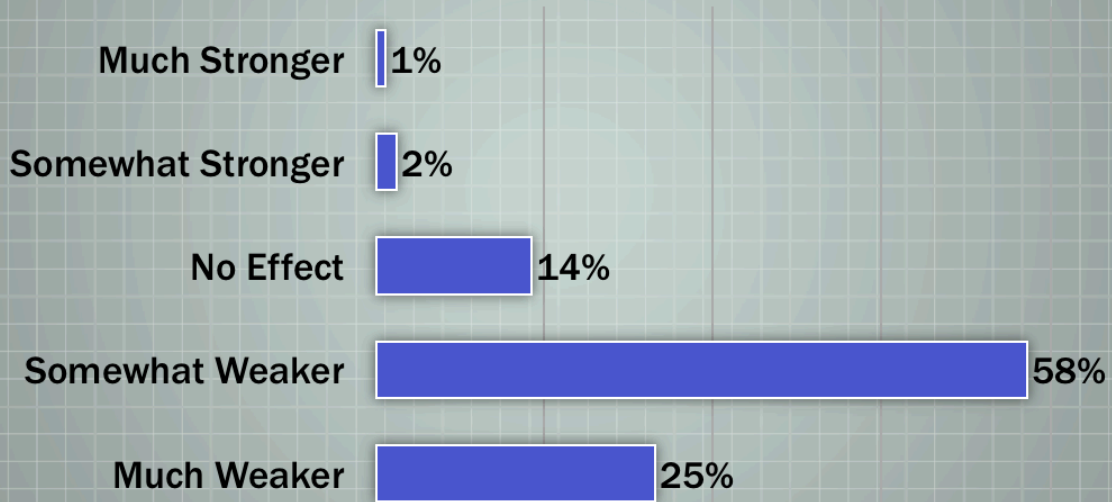
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of August 6*

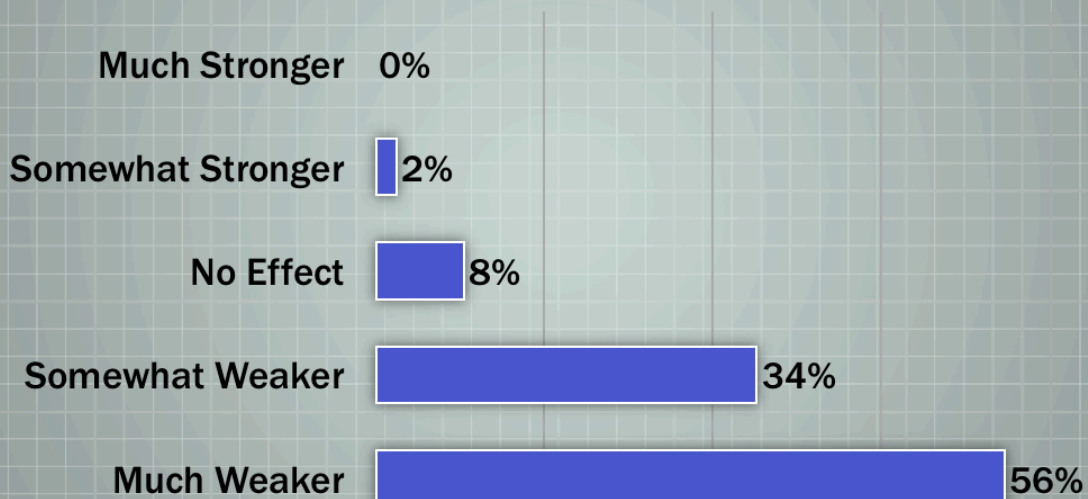
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Rick Perry's post-election clout?



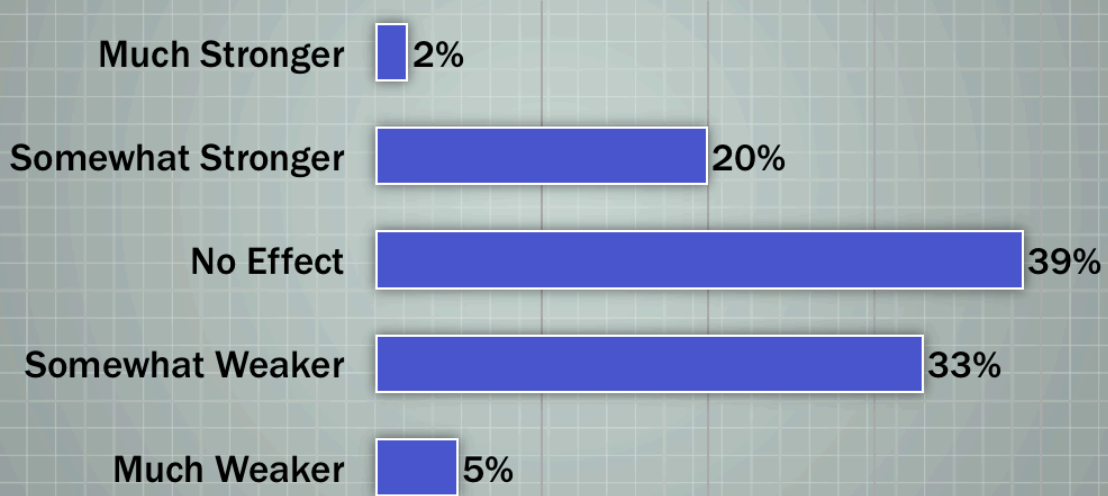
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David Dewhurst's post-election clout?



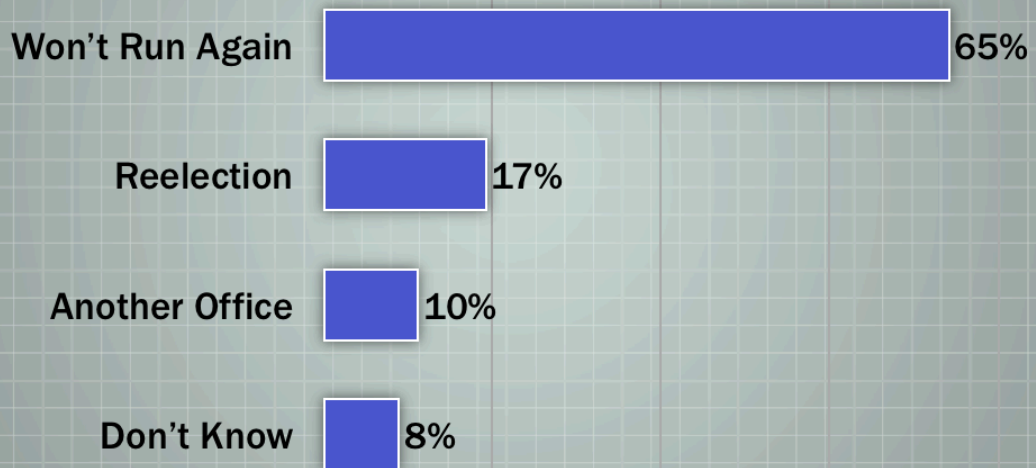
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Joe Straus' post-election clout?



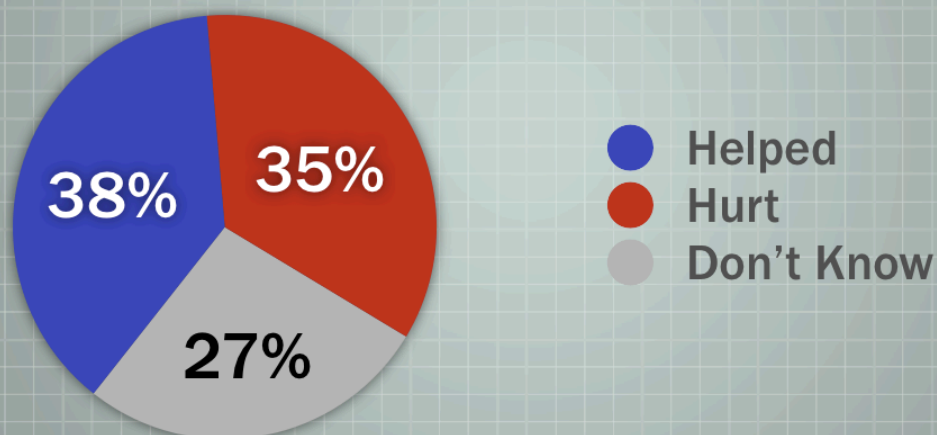
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Will David Dewhurst run again, and for what?



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Election's effect on reelection of Speaker Joe Straus?



How will the election results affect the clout of top state officials?

- "Between his primary /run-off endorsement record and his national performance, RP has seen the luster come off his political shine. DD and JS remain in relatively the same position, even if they've got more conservative members."

- "Perry is seriously damaged goods...opposing him will be a lot easier. Dewhurst may face a revolt from Senators counting on him being gone by January. Straus will always sit uneasily in the Speaker's chair, but he's okay for now."

- "Perry did what he had to do. No more no less...no effect. Dewhurst is still Lt. Guv and Senators still respect

him. With House trending more to the right, Straus should be concerned."

- "The people currently in power will always tell everyone they were the 'winner' from recent developments... don't believe them."

- "All will be reacting, directly or indirectly, to the shadow of the Tea Party."

- "Perry still holds the whip hand on agencies, but he also only won w/39%;"

- "There are a lot of people that will try to say that Perry is weaker and that he has less influence. Like Perry

always does, he will get a pass on this with the Republican voters. Have the Texas Poll as the favorables of Perry. Straus easily holds the Speakership and will continue to drive Empower Texan crazy/sane."

- "Rick Perry has no stroke in his own state. If Dewhurst remains in office, he will be neutered and furthered embarrassed by the senators. Straus has his head on a swivel, if not the chopping block."

- "Conventional wisdom says they've been hurt, I know, but all three can be fine, if they're flexible. They each have a lot of residual power."

- "Perry or Dewhurst will be challenged next election. Probably, by Abbott."

- "It is doubtful that Perry or Dewhurst will any longer aspire for federal jobs. Nor will they convince voters that they love their jobs more than life itself. Rather they will cling to their reduced power for as long as they can."

- "These leaders, effectively, all lost a party election for a major office."

- "No more compromise."

- "Dewhurst is the big loser as the guy who wanted to a new job, failed the interview, and now has a boss (the public) that knows he's disinterested in his current job."

- "Members are tired of Perry. Each of the election results/losses for the

Legislature were not the result of the Tea Party, but the result specific of a specific set of problems each candidate possessed."

- "Blood is in the water, Patterson smells Dew's blood."

- "2012 has proven to be a very bad year for Gov. Perry. His disastrous showing in the presidential race appears to have significantly damaged his standing at home. Dewhurst is, of course, weakened somewhat by his US Senate primary loss, but he wasn't that strong to begin with. Straus appeared to have emerged from the primary with a wash. He lost some lieutenants, but some unfriendlies were eliminated as well. That coupled with a half dozen or so additional Democrats, should solidify his position."

- "No solutions for the state's problems (schools, roads, water) from this crowd."

- "Can't be good for either Perry or Dewhurst. I don't have a clue on Straus, though it's a given that the tea party folks will be energized and flexing. My bet is that he is back at the big podium in January."

- "Dewhurst is a free man not constrained by future elections."

- "Much, much stronger will be the far-farther-right representatives who will replace the defeated committee chairs."

Do you think David Dewhurst will run again, either for reelection or for another office?

- "Too old. Already tagged as out of touch with the base/electorate. Some say his heart hasn't been in it the past couple of sessions. Might be time for the cowboy to rope his last calf and retire to the ranch."
- "If Perry quits, he'll try to buy the governorship. If Perry runs again, he won't run again. He could possibly even resign before January, because he knows how little his word is worth in the Senate."
- "Egos run large."
- "What's he gonna run for? Gov? He's liberal compare to Perry so he can't run on a Tea party platform, and he sure as hell can't run as a moderate after he tried to sell himself as a conservative. The only thing he has is to stay second in command, but now he's gonna have to really fight for it."
- "Cruz proved he's a paper tiger."
- "Who will he trust when they tell him to self-fund another race after wasting \$20 million this go round?"
- "Think the "players" on the bench will finally get a chance to move up. Dewhurst hangs up his hat next go round."
- "After the voters tell you no, then...."
- "He will never win another race in Texas."
- "Let's just say he shouldn't. Money can't buy you love."
- "If he's smart;)"
- "He won't run again because 1) Tricia wanted DC and that is off the table, 2) David is smarter than that. As the saying goes, "Fool me once..."
- "He can't risk another defeat."
- "Unless the Widow Bivins finds another landing spot (or another spouse)"
- "He may not know it yet, but he's toast. Burnt toast."
- "He's damaged goods who was rejected by his own party. There's absolutely nowhere for him to go. It's over, whether he can accept that fact or not."
- "The Dew even thinks \$24 Million is a lot of money."
- "He will run, but he will not win."
- "Buh-bye, Dew."
- "He wants to be governor but the people would prefer Abbott."
- "No reason to believe Dewhurst could win for Governor and he has lost enormous credibility at the capitol."
- "The party Dewhurst helped create has left the building. He can't relate and doesn't want to relate to those voters who now decide republican primaries."
- "If he wants to pay off the millions he loaned his campaign then he will run again so the lobby can pay off his loans through contributions."

- "He may resign early..."to be with his family. The campaign has shown me how much my family means to me and I owe it to them to be there." Blah, blah, blah..."
- "He's done. His cutting horses are much less difficult to deal with than egomaniacal state senators."
- "It's time to fire up the Gulfstream and head to the Chateaux."
- "Now that the Lt. Gov has shown his money can't save him in a primary, he will likely conclude that he can't win reelection or another office. So, in his late 60s, he will likely walk away in 2014."
- "He's too old."

- "What for? He can go home, enjoy his young wife and remaining money, and rope calves."
- "I can't see Perry or Dewhurst running again...too many loyal surrogates waiting impatiently."
- "I obviously don't know his plans, but would guess that there will be tremendous pressure for him to step aside from those with higher ambitions."
- "He will be a high-profile ambassador should Governor Romney become president"
- "He just ran the worst campaign this side of Rick Perry's presidential campaign, outspent his opponent 3 to 1, and lost badly. He's done."

Have the results so far helped or hurt Joe Straus' chances of another term as Speaker?

- "Sure, he's lost some chairmen, but he still retains the support of at least 76 representatives, which at the end of the day, makes him the Speaker."
- "This development will be used against Strauss but his position is secure."
- "Last man standing among the big three."
- "He has worked hard to pick up support from new members. He is everywhere."
- "I'm not sure, and I don't think the shift in the house is any different than what occurred in 2010."
- "While the results hurt the Speaker's chances, still no candidates who can muster the votes to defeat him."
- "No effect."
- "But he will still win easily"
- "No real impact due to the lack of another consensus candidate, if anything, should solidify D support."
- "The far right will never be comfortable with Straus... and we just elected a BUNCH of far right guys..."
- "But Hughes cannot beat Straus."
- "He's free to do what he thinks is best for Texas."

- "Can't say they hurt or help. I will say that Simpson seems to be attempting to get the fish under his wing and I'm assuming this is an attempt to sway them to vote for another speaker...Hughes."
- "As the incumbent, Strauss stays unless someone pushes him out. Nothing has occurred that is remotely close to pushing him out. Annoying? Yes. A threat to another term? No."
- "Really about a wash. The biggest concern would be the "out with the old" results, but Strauss is relatively new and young."
- "But conventional wisdom suggests he holds on"
- "He'll get it anyway. The far right has no one with talent or charisma."
- "He didn't really need any help. He's got the votes. He's got the record. He's got the results. Any questions?"
- "No one thinks Strauss will not be Speaker again. That should be obvious when the best candidate to come forward is a Trial Lawyer. Who thinks TLR is going to let that happen."
- "Losing chairman like it's going out of style can't be a good thing."
- "The speaker has lost some chairman, but there are still very few members in the Hughes camp."
- "He is the weakest of the 3. And now weaker than ever."
- "Question posed poorly...as usual.... neither helped nor hurt substantively"
- "Strauss suffered marginal damage in the run-off after a substantial loss of lieutenants in the primary. What he leads now is a House even more dominated by anti-government radicals. His time as Speaker - never fun - will be even less-so next year."
- "Overall, his team is still in place to get him another term, however, there will be some who are reading the tea leaves and may want to jump ship."
- "No change."
- "Strauss will be ok for one more term...exactly the amount of time he wants to have anyway."
- "You want me to chair a committee, of course I'm with you Mr. Speaker..."
- "Probably re-elected. Watch Tea Partyish house members who will feel emboldened. Watch the d coalition that supported Strauss. Will all d's stay with him or will some re-align?"
- "Weakened his position, but he will survive."
- "Who's going to challenge him? Remember, for every one of his lieutenants that lost, there are new committee chairs and plumb assignments to dole out."
- "When 50% of the voting pool has no frame of reference before 2011, the known quantity is the safe choice."
- "Joe Strauss will be Speaker again, no ifs, ands or buts."
- "Speakers got 40 new committee assignments to make including several new chairs - advantage Strauss."

- "Again, I think the primary results are largely a wash for him. But there will likely be 6 or 7 new Democrats in the House come January. Where else are they going to go?"

- "The election hurt Straus, but probably not enough to kill him. Unless Trey M-F gets fancy."

- "The Speaker has lost some loyal buddies . . . but some of the "loyal

opposition" have gone away as well. Too early to tell, but leaning toward the "hurt" selection at the moment. Too bad."

- "But that is relative, he should easily get reelected. Who does the other side have to put up? Bryan Hughes? I don't think so."

- "No impact."

You be the pundit: What's your take on the election results?

- "I think Republicans should be concerned about the long-term viability of their party in an environment where moderate's are demonized and defeated. White married women will decide the majority of the elections in swing districts in the fall and I don't think they woke up on Wednesday feeling like the Republican Party was getting any closer to sharing their values."

- "I thought conventional wisdom was that if turn out were higher it would be good for Dewhurst, that Cruz needed low turn out to win. Boy, were we wrong! Looking ahead: what does Abbott decide to do with \$12mm in the bank?"

- "Voters hate Washington and do not know the difference between Washington and Austin governments. Sad."

- "3 things happened: 1). The DeMint/Cornyn US Senate Leadership fight provided Cruz with \$17 Million in campaign funds that allowed Cruz to get his message out 2). The voter mood is anti-incumbent. Dewhurst ran as a virtual incumbent

with out having the advantages of incumbency. 3). Ted Cruz is an exceptionally talented candidate."

- "The beginning of the end for the corrupt Perry machine."

- "Anti-establishment. Not a good time to be an established incumbent running against an "outsider"."

- "Not a good time to be an incumbent. Tea Party is more organized and effective and has become a bigger player and consideration in politics - Bipartisanship is dead for the time being."

- "Conventional wisdom would make one think that whoever had the lead in the primary would probably win the runoff - take that wisdom and throw it out the window."

- "Voters have looked behind the curtain, and while they still want a show from time to time, they're figuring out the special effects."

- "Dewhurst wasted his money and his consultants got rich."

- "Mama said there'd be days like this. Think passing good public policy and working collaboratively will be much harder as the primary voters seem intent on pushing D.C. style politics into TX."

- "Scary!"

- "You reap what you sow, and Texas Rs have encouraged the far right to the point that it came around in the case of Dewhurst and Perry and bit them in the ass. Serves them right but is really bad for the future of our state."

- "The electorate has lost faith in incumbents. I believe that Washington is the culprit for this."

- "All elections are local. With a few exceptions, the results can be explained on a race-by-race basis. It is overbroad to characterize the results as Tea Party driven. Tea Party was a factor, but only one of many."

- "Forced Republicans farther to the right. This isn't your country club group anymore. It's your organized base that really doesn't like Obama or Washington."

- "Craaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaazy"

- "Twilight Zone"

- "Odd election timing, so hard to draw any trend like conclusions. Texas is still a solid GOP state."

- "People are trying to make Cruz v Dewhurst into something more complicated than it was. It was simply the case of a relentless candidate against an incumbent who had not

been in a REAL campaign in a long time."

- "We just elected a bunch of people to the state legislature that think they are going to Congress to vote on Obamacare and the EPA... they aren't interested in governing our state or running programs... just pandering to the people... it's quite possibly the low water mark in modern political history in Texas."

- "Runoff took too long, helped Cruz."

- "Down-ballot there is no clear narrative. Perry had a terrible runoff, losing Dewhurst, Medina, Hopson, Landtroop & Miller. Straus lost two more chairs. Dewhurst is the biggest loser. 2014 is very unpredictable right now."

- "More of the recent same. Bad time to be an incumbent."

- "I don't think we should read too much into this election. The timing helped the challengers. Some like the Dew ran horrible campaigns. Some like Wentworth should have exited before. Some like Landtroop were doomed to be one termers."

- "GRASSROOTS, GRASSROOTS, GRASSROOTS! Doesn't this Dewhurst loss make Carney 0 for 3?"

- "One of the three parties worked harder than the others. And they came out best, now they must produce, for which they are wholly unprepared"

- "Leadership should not have played games with redistricting. Otherwise, the primary would have been held on the regular date and the turnout

would have prohibited this from happening."

- "Horrible campaign run by Dew and it was everyone else's time to go."

- "Shows how split the rep party is and only time will tell if the ones who have been funding the party will continue to do so. Maybe TLR can get tea party money to take the place of some who are not supporting them any more"

- "The Cruz victory will intimidate Republican candidates and office holders to move further to the crazy right's positions. Long term, it will drive moderates and independents away from the Republican Party."

- "Cruz, Lozano, Villalba - sure looks like Republicans will elect Hispanics."

- "Margin of victory for Cruz startling. Generational change, a new day dawns in Texas."

- "Lame duck in the mansion, lame duck in the Senate and a sitting goose in the House. The uber conservatives are going to drive the show."

- "Texas: Land of the weird. Makes Florida look sane."

- "Texas is "governed" by the Tea Party."

- "Low turn out is the perfect storm for the TP. Not that hard to influence elections when 1.1 M go to the polls."

- "More family fights to be announced at a later date"

- "Meh."

- "We're still # 1 (in teen pregnancy, poor health care quality, preventable disease incidence, # of working uninsured, etc) and now likely to stay there; is there a John Tower incident on the horizon?"

- "It's war. No more compromises. Winner take all, and salt the loser's fields."

- "Not a new era but a conservative shift in Senate. The Fall will determine direction of House."

- "Voter apathy is more obvious than ever, as is the grassroots tea party momentum"

- "Texans are renowned for our pride in our state. It is pitiful that we do not take pride in electing our leaders. The abysmal turnout should an embarrassment for every Texan."

- "Generally good for GOP to have high level Hispanic officeholder"

- "Perry seen as loyal to his friend. Cruz becomes the new Dan Patrick It was a bad night for incumbents."

- "Never underestimate the GOP's capacity for anger, which is now directed inward. If Romney loses, the internal bloodletting will begin in earnest at the national level."

- "Mixed bag really. Some new crazies to join the old. Some solid new comers. Still solid leadership available if they choose to lead. However, they will still all soil themselves when it comes to budget decisions."

- "No real surprises. Primary structure needs to be changed if

Texans are ever to have real choices to make in the fall general elections."

- "I was one of the very small percentage of insiders who said in your survey months ago that Cruz would win. It looks like the majority of us were smoking too much of Inside Austin!"
- "Anti-incumbent. Straus is in trouble if the clowns opposing him can get organized."
- "All in all a good group of future leaders were elected in the House. And, some dead weight was thrown over board."
- "The base in the republican party can elect a Hispanic in the primary."
- "Could not be happier for Texans. The good ole boy network can no longer inflict absolute control with their money."
- "Just another post-redistricting turnover following the over-reaching by the majority party and strategic blunders by the lawyers."
- "We have come to expect these things in the ever shifting mosaics of the legislative/electoral process."
- "The Texas business leadership, which began to abandon the conservative Democratic coalition led by Lloyd Bentsen and Bill Hobby in the 90's to follow W's Republicans, are not likely to be impressed by the new Texas Republican Party."
- "1) This is the first election where the non-Texan groups have dictated the Texas Republican Primary. 2) In 8 years we will look back and identify

this cycle as the reason independents shifted to the Ds."

- "Ted Cruz winning was predictable given the July election date. The more "Republican Establishment" elected officials and leaders that jumped on the Dewhurst bandwagon, the more energized Cruz supporters became."
- "Rick Perry and David Dewhurst ran to the right with massive budget cuts and an invasive sonogram law and got absolutely nothing in return."
- "The Tea Party movement is not movement at all. This election will be the turning point for Republicans...do we wake up and take our party back or do we let the inmates control everything."
- "They're good until the courts throw out those districts, the lege redistricts this session, and everyone runs again."
- "All good. Cruz at the top of the ticket helps the GOP in November. Entrenched GOP statewide are on notice to get back in touch. No chance of any Democrat getting any traction - - God is in his heaven and all is right with the world. ."
- "Frustrated and angry voters, not a unified force. Big money special interests fed the flames and will expect those elected to pay the fiddler."
- "Bad night for incumbents and establishment candidates. Missed opportunity for"
- "Republicans are in a tea party trap and unable to effectively govern a rapidly growing state with lot of

educational and other infrastructure needs."

- "The next generation of inmates is taking over."
- "Significant number of Texans are "anti-incumbent", definitely desire some new articulate representation, are unaffected by endorsements by other politicians or news media, are very angry with gov't ineptitude and entitlements, and Ds only have a chance where the districts are heavily weighed in their favor."
- "Wake me when it's over."
- "The state will continue to thrive."
- "Both State and Washington will continue to run "business as usual""
- "Tea party is not as powerful as they think."
- "HELP WANTED - NEW POLITICIANS NEEDED No experience necessary or tolerated."
- "Republicans will move farther to the right."
- "We're doomed to suffer through a session of uncertainty. Anyone who says they know what's going to happen is trying to sell you something."
- "The voters are exhausted with the continued "no tax" rhetoric when they see water and electric shortages, bonding of highways, and school property taxes increasing. No new taxes is a farce and they are way ahead of the polls, as usual, on picking up on the BS. People are not looking to messaging, but results. The state

elections were a reflection of what is going on in D.C. and not in Texas."

- "The calendar was the cruel task master that broke Dewhurst's back. Ted's adventure was excellent indeed."
- "Which of Dewhurst's consultants will have the balls to step up and say "my bad"? Short line."
- "A major step backwards for the Republican Party, and a major step forward for the Democratic Party"
- "Careful not to over hype results; only sure of one thing, 31 highly disappointed folks."
- "The Texas Legislature has arrived at the total partisan gridlock of Washington, DC."
- "An anti-establishment, anti-incumbency agenda carried the day, to the benefit of Tea Party conservatives in some instances, and pro-education moderates in others. Even on the Democratic side, some new blood emerged in Congressional primaries (Gallego, Veasey)."
- "Some good. Some bad. Thank goodness Leo Berman, Wayne Christian, and Sid Miller are gone. That's good for the State."
- "Bad and getting worse."
- "The Republican establishment machine in Texas blew a gasket."
- "The dog caught the car."
- "People are pissed off?"

- "Elected Republican leaders are going to trip over themselves in a rush to embrace the Tea Party agenda after last night's runoff results."
- "Attorney General Abbott is now the dominant non federal statewide elected official. He is admired by both mainstream Republicans and by Tea Party Republicans, has \$16 million in the bank and will zero in on a run for Governor in 2014."
- "Activist shoe-leather won, big money lost."
- "GOP makes moderate a dirty word"
- "Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right!"
- "The nut bags have begun the destruction of the GOP - and this is a conservative republican saying this."
- "My headline: Tea Party accomplishes what Demo. leadership has failed to do: Make November elections potentially competitive"
- "Mixed bag. Anti-incumbent sentiment that the Tea Party folks exploited."
- "Bad night to be an incumbent. And when is some of this stink from the redistricting-incurred delayed primaries going to stick to Greg Abbott? How do so many establishment conservatives get gutted by a weird primary date and he comes out smelling like a rose, like usual?"
- "The groundhog saw his shadow... 4 more years of Perry, Dewhurst, Abbott, Staples, Straus"
- "Crazy. People."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Amy Beneski, Adam Haynes, Allen Blakemore, Andrew Biar, Andy Sansom, Anthony Haley, Bee Moorhead, Billy Howe, Bill Stevens, Bradford Shields, Hugh Brady, Brandon Aghamalian, Bill Ratliff, Bryan Mayes, Bruce Gibson, Bruce Scott, Tom Duffy, Cathie Adams, Chris Britton, Charles Bailey, Clyde Alexander, Colin Strother, Craig Murphy, Christopher Shields, Christopher Williston, Dennis Speight, Darren Whitehurst, David Dunn, Deborah Ingersoll, Debra Medina, Denise Davis, Daniel Gonzalez, Doc Arnold, Dominic Giarratani, Donald Lee, Robert Kepple, Elna Christopher, Ed Small, Gene Acuna, Gerard Torres, Gardner Pate, Harold Cook, Hector De Leon, Homero Lucero, Jack Erskine, Jenny Aghamalian, James LeBas, Jim Henson, James Clark, Robert Jara, Jason Johnson, Jay Arnold, Jay Pritchard, Jeff Eller, Pete Laney, John Greytok, Janis Carter, Parker McCollough, John Weaver, Jon Fisher, Jeff Rotkoff, Jim Sartwelle, Jay Thompson, Julie Shields, June Deadrick, Keats Norfleet, Kinnan Golemon, Kim Ross, Keir Murray, Kerry Cammack, Kraege Polan, Keith Strama, Dick Lavine, Lee Woods, Lisa Kaufman, Louis Bacarisse, Larry Soward, Luke Marchant, Luke Legate, Marc Campos, Matt Mackowiak, Mike Barnett, Dan McClung, Mark Jones, Michael Quinn Sullivan,

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