

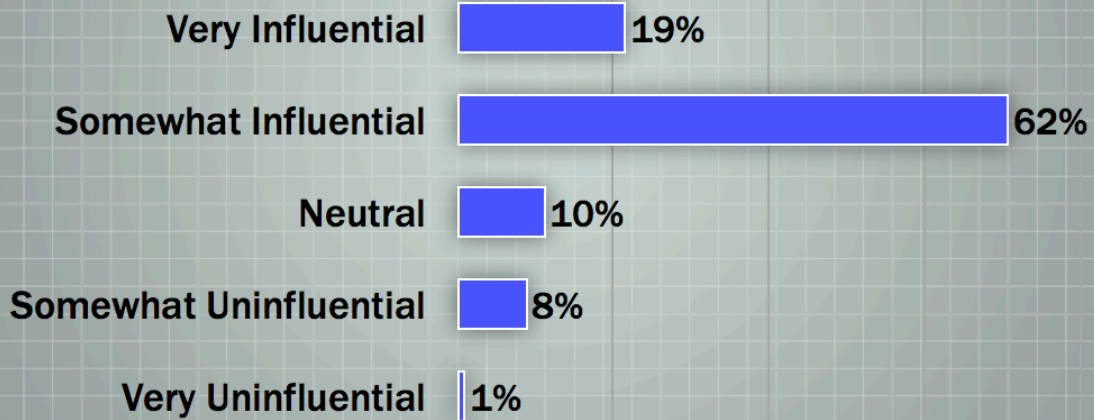
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of December 17*

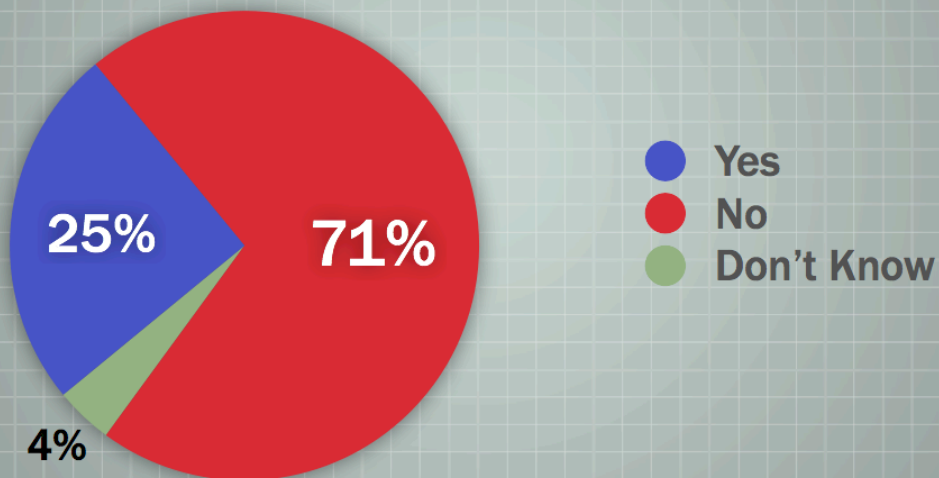
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How effective will activists be during the 2013 session?



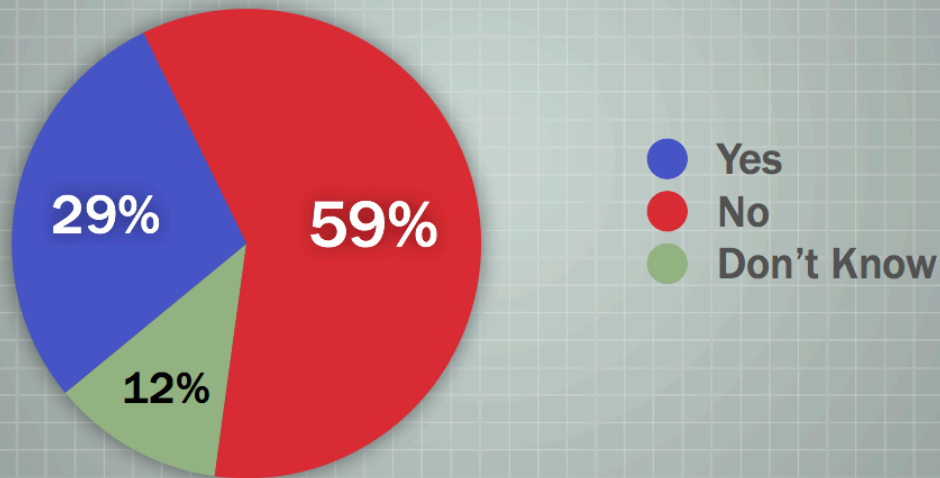
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will outsiders influence the race for speaker?



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Will outsiders influence changes in Senate rules?



How influential do you think outside activists will be during the 2013 legislative session?

- "They will make a great deal of noise but accomplish very little."
- "While the average is somewhat influential, that is the status quo. The 'very' applies because of the impact of outside influencer communication tools that haven't been in play as much before now. So some outside groups will be 'very'."
- "Because there are so many statewide elected officials positioning themselves for the upcoming 2014 elections, I expect they will be one-upping each other constantly on their pandering to outside activists."
- "Are lobbyists counted in this group?"
- "Some members can still be swayed by these outside groups representing a small, but vocal, portion of their districts on many of the 'hot' button primary election issues."
- "Degree of influence depends on issues and activists: Pro-Life lobby? Some. Environmental Activists? Less than none."
- "Lawmakers have always responded to outside activists -- and the new lawmaker iPads will make it easy for activists to grab their attention. Whether it will make them more responsive remains to be seen."
- "Tea Party people will have 'offices' to monitor their legislative minions!!"

- "Only because Members overreact to them"
- "Outside activist are called LOBBYISTS! Some are just paid more than others."
- "Grover Norquist and Michael Sullivan do not appear to be winning as many."
- "I think they hit their high-water mark last time around. I say neutral because they'll be less influential on the House side, slightly more so on the Senate side."
- "No more or less than before."
- "Right wing groups keep score, and some members pay attention for their election consequences."
- "Outside groups will have 'perceived' power, but will rarely impact the process."
- "Especially on social issues."
- "Lots squawkin' from all sides of grassroots to no real effect. Wait, are lobbyists considered outside activists?"
- "Outsiders will make a considerable howl but without much real effect. The members already have their

mandates from back home. Most won't listen to outsiders unless it conveniently aligns with the folks back home."

- "The rightwing activists will have clout on the social issues, giving many of the Rs an excuse to do more harm."
- "It appears the right-to-lifers will be out in full force."
- "The freshmen will help us within--so that we'll be more influential."
- "It's extremely disappointing to see very small, but loud, right wing factions of the Republican Party dominate the agenda during a Session. With the emergence of online activity, the noise has only gotten louder. Sensible Republicans simply don't care enough to sit around and blog, tweet, etc."
- "Ugh yes, lobbyists."
- "When you had lawmakers ceding the legislative process to trial lawyers and businessmen last session, this cherry got popped."
- "Private school vouchers will be a big issue so let us see who comes out of the woodwork to suck on the state's teat."

Will outside activists have any effect on the race for speaker?

- "TEA party's time has expired"
- "Lot of smoke and noise but no real impact as Straus holds on."
- "If you have to ask, then they already have."
- "If you keep splitting the same base, you keep splitting the same base."
- "But that doesn't mean much"

- "Yes. They will make the halls on opening day even more crowded. Other than that, none!"
- "I am confused, when did we start romanticizing Craddick's speakership style versus Straus?"
- "It would be unanimous for Straus without outside agitation; as it is, he will win comfortably"
- "While there already is a well-oiled social media machine armed and ready to 'oust Straus!', the only way the answer could be YES is if you consider House D's to be outside activists."
- "They will definitely cause a lot of noise and needless chatter, but no real impact on the actual outcome."
- "No one is paying attention to the Speaker's Race but the press, and lawmakers know it."
- "He will huff and oh my will he puff, but Michael Quinn Sullivan will not blow the House down."
- "No effect on the outcome, that's for certain."
- "No impact, other than on several freshman members who won't understand why they didn't get on a committee that could remotely matter to their district."
- "Outside activists in the Speakers race will give David Simpson a crowd to speak to. That is the effect they will have. But best anyone can tell, Simpson has 2 votes. His and Brain Hughes. So now David Simpson is the candidate preferred by the Personal

Injury Trial Lawyers. That is going to go over big with Republicans."

- "Miller, Landtroop, B Keffer, Christian, Beck and a few others are not back for a reason."
- "No, but don't tell anyone because they are paid to act like they do. Don't mess with this vital cottage industry, without it you'd have fewer stories to cover."
- "Every time activists fail to take out Straus, their bite appears weaker"
- "The speaker's race is over. We are just going through the motions. The media, however, feels there is a need to make it a race."
- "-ish"
- "Anyone who has served more than one term in the House knows that the members pick their Speaker. At least so far, outsiders just end up making members mad."
- "It's Straus. It seems doubtful that any challenger will even come close."
- "They will help drive rhetoric but probably won't impact outcome.... Straus wins going away! This isn't a real race. The spotlight won't help Simpson at all."
- "The minute Hughes got out and it became Chamber of Commerce R vs. Tea Party R, the race was over."
- "Yes, I think outside activists will have influence, but will not be triumphant, in the Speaker's race."

- "Race is over and has been since last session.... where do these news articles come from.... idiots??"
- "You didn't ask if they will have a determinative effect on the race. That's a harder question to answer. But will they have some effect? Sure they will. That's part of the new paradigm. Lunatics and charlatans with funding and email lists weighing in on stuff they can't understand or don't care to."
- "They had a chance to drive the media circus for a while until yesterday. There was never a chance to elect someone other than Joe Straus. Hughes brain: This isn't going so well for me. Maybe I should bow out and

let David Simpson make a fool of himself instead."

- "The only thing that will have an impact on the race for speaker is the personal greed of the members."
- "Members are sick of MQS and his Twitter account"
- "Will make a lot of noise, but won't have much actual effect."
- "Whether this becomes a real races depends upon whether Democrats back Straus. And it looks like he's making important concessions on education funding necessary to secure their support."

Will outside activists have any effect on efforts to change Senate rules?

- "The 2/3 rule protects rural Texas and the members who represent those good people won't lose sight of that fact."
- "But inside activists may."
- "They reached their high water mark when efforts were made to overturn the 2/3rds rule."
- "The 2/3rds rule will mostly likely be reduced to 60% since it works so while for Congress!!"
- "I assume the House and Senate will both organize along partisan lines the LAST session before Democrats regain control - this will be the Mother of all self-inflicted wounds by the Grand Old party. But the Democrats aren't likely to take control in 2014, so it would be premature for the

Republicans to conduct their magnificent maneuver."

- "After his most recent electoral debacle, the Lt. Gov now sees conservative pitfalls around every corner. This presents numerous opportunities for the Tea Party to gain ground in the Senate."
- "Given Dewhurst's craven need to re-ingratiate himself with those who've rejected him, this is the one spot where this angle might work."
- "Sadly, the Senate is vulnerable!"
- "That's still a decision left to the senators. Until the tea party wackos stop focusing on Straus and look to the Senate, expect the rural versus urban divide to keep the 2/3 rule in tact."

- "Outside activists . . . no. New members of the Senate . . . perhaps."
- "The rules work. Doing away with the two-thirds rule now might not look so good in 2018. Be careful what you wish for."
- "Before the Rs get all jiggy with changing the 2/3 rule, they better look out to sea and see the demographic wave coming. That rule worked to their benefit for decades; it will yet again."
- "Fear of activists is the only factor driving this proposed change, which almost all Senators privately oppose. It will almost certainly fail."
- "The Lite Guv, trying to become a true conservative (haha), will be the one leading the charge to change the rules."
- "Despite the gnashing of teeth and rending of garments by the far right, the Club, by and large, will keep its rules intact."
- "The new conservative senators already have their plans. But Dewhurst seems vulnerable to the howlers outside the walls, so he may cave to their demands."
- "Debate over U.S. and Texas Senates rules are interesting to watch. Dems trying to limit debate in Congress and Repubs trying to limit in TX."
- "Again, I think outside activists will support efforts to change the Senate rules, but not be successful."
- "As the Lt Gov works to move to the right...."
- "Rules protect the Senators...why would they change them?"
- "I'm not hearing as much about the rules as I have in the past."
- "Yes. Because the Dew is delusional and desperate enough to think that one day, if he just tries hard enough, they will love him."
- "Dewhurst is soft. He is trying to earn his stripes back after the whipping. Senate rules are the way to do that."
- "Only the weakness of Dewhurst or his attempt to influence will effect the Senate rules."
- "Who cares? Republicans ignore the rules when they feel like it."

Are there particular issues or votes where outside activists have significant influence on lawmakers, and if so, who has the most influence?

- "Teachers" social issues and taxes. There not for anything."
- "Unfortunately conservatism had become confused with puritanism. The only the 'activist' care about are
- "Vouchers and taxes - tea party"
- "Probably no tax increases."

- "You mean, besides every vote"
- "Sanctuary cities, TSA pat downs, same ole, same ole..."
- "Vouchers, abortion"
- "Primary hot button issues...a lot of which are social or pocketbook."
- "Outside activists who oppose women's access to birth control and abortion still have substantial sway with Texas legislators and the governor. While these views are out-of-step with national trends, Texas seems to be heading for at least one more session of imposing further restrictions on women."
- "Social Issues. Controlled by RWN."
- "Immigration. Tea Party nuts."
- "It really varies, doesn't it? Sometimes it's just the money talking, and then other times a moral position, consumer experience or local perspective captures lawmakers' imaginations and ends up winning the day."
- "They'll have an impact on social issues."
- "The influence of outside activists is primarily isolated to social issues."
- "Tea Party on the usual array of xenophobic paranoid causes like sanctuary cities and airport screenings."
- "Vouchers"
- "This may be the year pro-gambling and anti-groping make it through the Lege."
- "Taxes (Grover Norquist crowd) and eminent domain (property rights above all else types)"
- "Education reforms. More anti-abortion legislation."
- "Voter ID"
- "Although waning, the influence of the xenophobes (there are other, less charitable appellations, one supposes) is likely to remain a factor when it comes to issues relating to those pesky brown people."
- "Social issues. Far right has the most influence."
- "Social conservative issues (women's health, no Medicaid, DOMA, end-of-life) - pandering to the right"
- "Immigration"
- "Pro-life / state abortion rules will be influenced heavily by national groups or at least impacted by their political advocacy."
- "Vouchers"
- "Advocates on gun rights, schools, life and tort reform will continue to have significant influence on lawmakers. All of these are equally hot."
- "Yes. Tea Party Activists and Trial lawyers."
- "No."
- "Is knuckle-dragging considered an 'issue'?"

- "All the social issues! They are pissed they lost the White House and will take it out on the poor, uninsured, women, public education, etc."
- "Taxes Tapping the Rainy Day Fund"
- "Educational assessment"
- "Immigration and social issues"
- "Everyone has the right to try and influence legislation they believe would benefit Texas. I hope all Texans from Teachers to value voters to pro business types will have a respectful influence. There should be no place for threats or intimidation and every member of the legislature should know that once you have sold or traded your vote, you are for sale, the only question then is price."
- "School vouchers"
- "Not sure."
- "Money."
- "Taxes Corporate Interests"
- "Budget--hands down."
- "Testing the superintendents"
- "Issues particular to the district of the legislators will be the ones that get the most attention"
- "TSA, Sanctuary Cities, Dream Act, overall budget levels"
- "Spending and taxes."
- "Mothers For Meaningful Assessment and the soccer moms will be heard."
- "Real teachers, pro-life leaders, and advocates for the handicapped"
- "Abortion (there is no end to anti-abortion group demands), spending levels, taxation"
- "Texas Right to Life has strong influence on the right and with Senator Dan Patrick at the height of his power in the Senate thus far we should expect to see another session about abortion."
- "New taxes. Taxpayers."
- "The Dream Act will be used to 'purify' the Republican Party from all of those conservatives who want to actually be governing ten years from now."
- "Immigration, budget"
- "Not a majority, thank goodness"
- "Evangelicals on social issues."
- "Tort Reform--TLR."
- "'Hot button' Republican primary issues--such as vouchers, women's issues, immigration issues."
- "Groping and abortion. You know, true Governing."
- "Property rights, water rights, education standards, use of the Rainy Day Fund, infrastructure needs"
- "Yes. Intimidation by MQS and other radical right types. Dewhurst is already showing signs of fear."
- "Social issues and tax increases."

- "Abortion Social Issues Immigration Spending money Tea Party on all of these"
- "Social issues. The anti-choice bunch will just give the rightwing white men excuses to do more harm to women's health services. . Local control issues. It's amazing how the right clamors for local control except when it comes to local governments!"
- "Seems to be on the neo-con social issues. Why do those people keep bringing their social issues to the government to solve? What happened to less government?!"
- "No more than in previous sessions..."
- "Pro-life groups"
- "Pat Fallon will be a horrible State Representative who only do what he is told by Empower Texas."
- "Vouchers. Maaaaaaaybe."
- "What day is it again?"
- "Social issues"
- "Bipartisan issues. The Tea Party and progressive left both oppose the Governor's major funds - TEF, ETF, CPRIT. There's probably some ethics reforms, too, they would agree on, and TEC is up for sunset this year."
- "Tort Reform issues"
- "Guns. The National Rifle Association has made this the issue that dare not speak its name."
- "Tea Party"
- "Tea Party will still prevent state from looking at new revenues / taxes."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Jennifer Ahrens, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, David Anthony, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, James Clark, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, Scott Dunaway, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Tom Forbes, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, Ken Hodges, Billy Howe, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Phillip Martin, Bryan Mayes, Scott McCown, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Bill Pewitt, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay

Propes, Bill Ratliff, Patrick Reinhart, Jeff Rotkoff, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Bradford Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.