

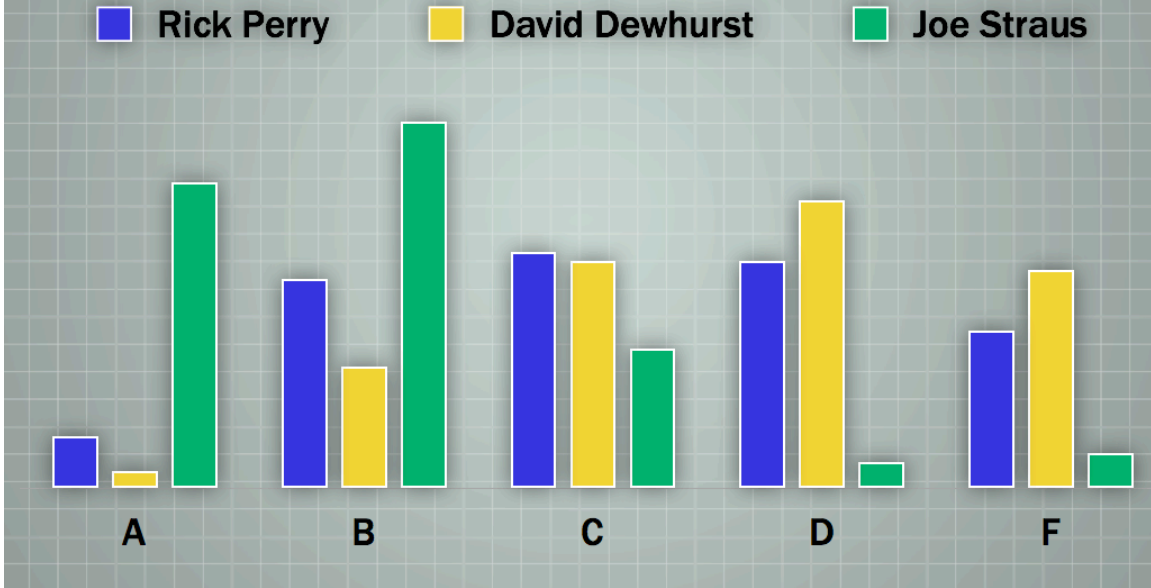
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

Sponsored by: **Hahn, Texas**

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of June 3*

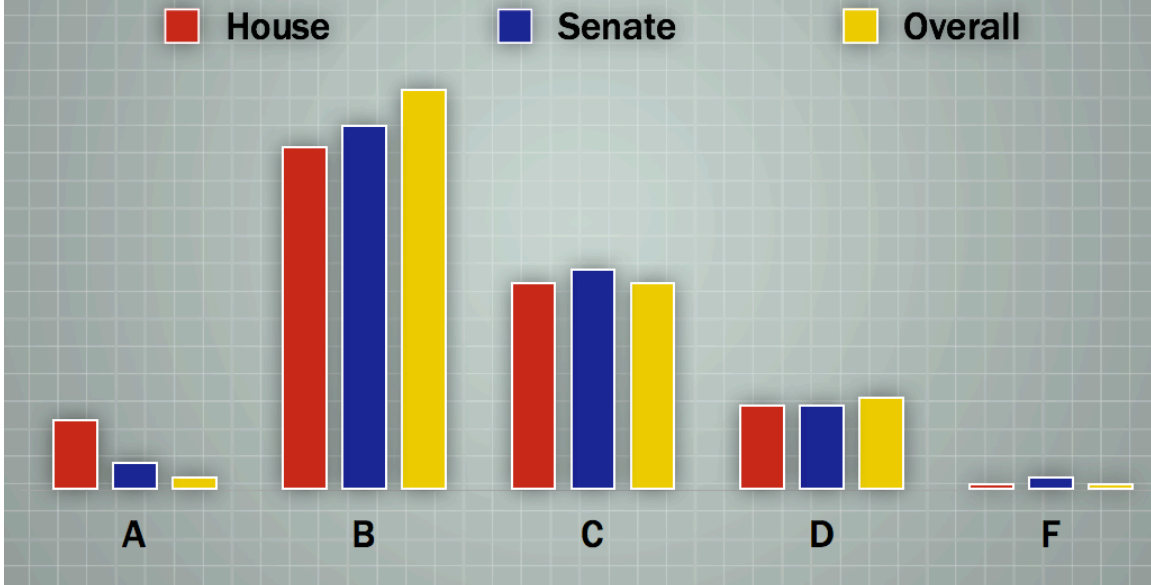
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Grade State Leaders



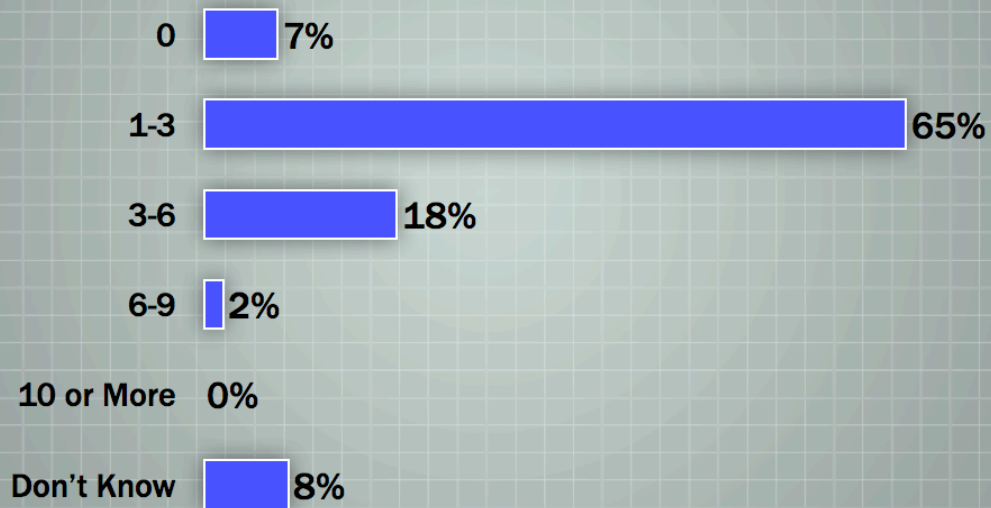
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Grade the Legislature



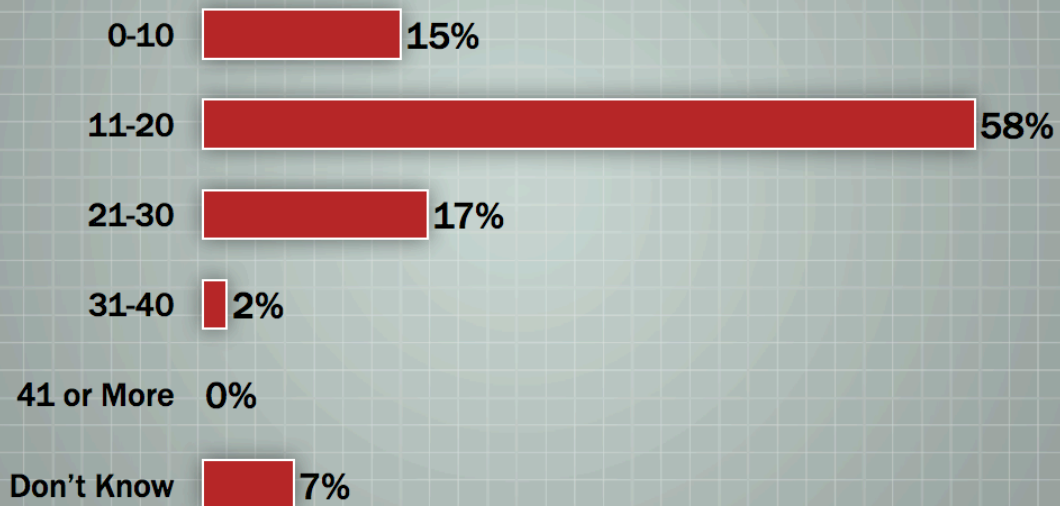
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How many senators won't return?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

How many House members won't return?



How would you grade these state leaders this session?

- "Without Williams' performance, I would rate Dewhurst lower."
- "Perry gives a speech in January, disappears, and then makes demands with a couple of weeks to go. Real leadership right there! <end sarcasm> Also, not very transparent in doing the bidding of/protecting MQS's group."
- "In the past, Gov. Perry has offered strong leadership setting the agenda for both Dewhurst and Straus. It seemed that he was more hands off during the 83rd."
- "Time to clean house boys and girls. It's like watching The Expendables 3."
- "For a guy whose it trying to protect his right flank, Dewhurst had a funny way of showing it."
- "Governor Perry is a shadow of his 2011 self. The oops debate has haunted and will haunt him until he hangs up the spurs. David Dewhurst's special session plea for conservative relevance came off as too little too late."
- "Perry was a huge F. He went from Furniture--he didn't even bother to declare emergency items--to Failure--vetoing bipartisan bills like 'dark money' and 'buy American'."
- "You left off the two real chamber leaders this session: Dennis Bonnen and Kevin Eltife. Both get an A."
- "A lack of leadership across the board."
- "Dewhurst? Is he still around?"
- "Re: Dewhurst, Gotta show up for class to get a passing grade."
- "The work got done and the train stayed on time."
- "Straus is the weakest speaker in recent history. I guess that's what we get for a man who ran on bowing down always to 'the will of the House.'"
- "Dirty Rick and the boys had 140 days to get their personal 'conservative' agenda items passed, and as always their failed leadership is going to cost taxpayers millions of dollars in a special session. Nice going, fellas."
- "The Governor and Dewhurst are so over. Gentlemen, please retire! After this session, what could they possibly be clinging too? Can it be that much fun riding around in black SUV's? Meanwhile, the Speaker continues to pretend that there is still a country club wing in the GOP. Although beloved by the press -- he squandered his good PR capital, offering no leadership or vision on anything -- budget, education, transportation, water -- nothing. Nice man. What a waste."
- "If there is leadership to be found, it is in the history books. Dewhurst could have presided from Houston and based on his presence on the dais, may have. At least Craddock was heard if not seen on the dais. Straus must have broken some kind of record for turning the gavel over to others. Neither presiding officer presided. As usual Perry was for Perry."

- "Waldo describes the speaker - dew is out of touch and the gov at least acts like he is in charge"

- "The Guv: Did everything right to keep himself relevant (he already has the "red-meat" record under his belt). Did not do anything to further alienate the women and Hispanic vote in case he does another run for Prez. The Dew: Our state has not witness a weaker Lite Guv than the Dew. He looked weak begging for a special red-meat session. The Dew has failed to govern and will pay the primary price. Speaker Straus: The Speaker should be thanking his lucky star for Dennis Bonnen. It was clear from day one who was running the show. The Speaker should also be credited for identifying Bonnen as the can-do go-to member this session."

- "Dewhurst whined at the end of the session about getting little done after he was nowhere to be found for the duration. When he did engage, he was ineffective because the senators have such little regard for him (born of his own actions -- or inaction -- over the years). And he wants this job again?"

- "Straus's style may be too hands off for some people, but he let's the

House be the House. He may be as good as Pete Laney."

- "Dewhurst wanted to lead and was a non-factor"

- "Dewhurst was the most ineffective Lt. Gov since... well... since before any of us can remember. Bob Bullock must be turning over in his grave."

- "Mr. Perry's usefulness as the state's chief executive has reached its limit. Dewhurst may be the worst Senate President in modern history, and Straus - well he looks OK compared to Thing 1 and Thing 2."

- "Perhaps we should rename them leaders doesn't fit. Three blind mice maybe"

- "Perry was disengaged for most of the session, but still somewhat effective because he might run for re-election. Dewhurst's session was his worst, although he managed to avoid screwing things up, largely by being mentally absent. Straus kept his herd of cats together, no small accomplishment."

How would you grade the Legislature?

- "With a few failures (e.g. transportation funding), they addressed the matters they needed to address, handled the available resources reasonably well, and did so in a much more collegial atmosphere."

- "The adults in the House by-and-large prevailed over the kooks and newbies (not mutually exclusive)."

- "Completely mediocre. Cs across the board."

- "The freshmen and sophomores filed good bills, but Straus' leadership didn't let them see the light of day. Dewhurst was supposed to prove his conservative credentials, but bills including the budget proved quite the opposite."

- "Really, we had to put the funding back for k - 12? The education system is already bloated. They need to learn to get by with less period end of story. I see this stuff up close. When I hear 'we have cut to the bone' it makes me laugh. Please people. Get serious. One thing is for sure, the fox is watching the hen house when the administrators are in charge. The system is overly did I say overly top heavy with administrators and administrative costs. The money needs to be spent on teachers and classrooms."

- "The sum of the parts is greater than the whole."

- "Tax cuts: check. Water funding: check. Restoring education funding: check. Balanced budget: check. Hard to argue with the end result, though it was sloppy getting there."

- "House: points off for poor clock management"

- "Spent to much but got all bases covered and can get out of town having done what they have to do; pass a budget"

- "For having a bunch of money and, thus, a pretty easy go of it, the session was mediocre and forgettable."

- "Ironically, the performance of both chambers never got higher than their worst members -- Wendy Davis blocking all things good in the Senate

-- while factions of different 'status quos' kept anything meaningful from passing in the House."

- "House, better than expected and the Senate, boring."

- "Access to healthcare-uninsured is a real problem"

- "It takes real leadership and courage to go from one of the most combustible sessions in our history to one that ran fairly smoothly."

- "A session in which treading water on education funding (while dumbing down curriculum) is scored as a major victory."

- "Tarrant County gets an F."

- "A harmonious House makes things look better...."

- "Generally, a pretty common sense legislature. Their inability to 'get' that the public wants them to reform themselves is the only thing holding them back from an A."

- "Despite the tea party nut jobs and followers of MQS, House came out with pretty sensible solutions for the session."

- "Both bodies acted like adults, and managed to do their jobs without drama. One of best sessions in recent years."

How many members of the Senate will leave or be replaced in the next election cycle?

- "At least 2 Senators plan to run for statewide office."

- "Turn over is real and we do not need term limits. If people actually

did the homework and math they would see that there is a consistent turn over rate."

- "Patrick and Hegar will try to move up. I could envision a retirement."
- "Adios, Senators Davis, Campbell, and maybe Hegar, who will be a great Comptroller."
- "Are you including the light guy in this question?"
- "Why would anyone leave the Texas Senate? Notice that only TX House members leave to run for Congress. TX Senators already have a better deal - part-time work, outsized power."
- "Lots of folks with aspirations for statewide office."
- "A couple my try for a statewide slot if Perry moves on."
- "Depends on what happens with redistricting"

• "Davis will surely be defeated. Can the Fort Worth Republicans stumble three times in a row?"

- "There are several senators whose time has come, they just don't know it yet."
- "Redistricting - don't care much at moment"
- "What senators are not running for state wide office?"
- "Paxton to AG and Hegar to Comptroller at a minimum."
- "San Antonio is calling they want their Senator back."
- "Paxton (the dude from California) wont' be able to stop himself from running. Patrick either."
- "It's difficult to see any retirements or serious challenges for any Senators."

How many members of the House will leave or be replaced in the next election cycle?

- "I hope the liberals give up the ghost."
- "If any of the incumbents were going to be replaced they would have been last time. A few of the freshman will get beat. There will be very little turnover"
- "Lots of primaries and cardinals retiring."
- "The House is due for some high turnover. You have some moderate

districts that elected extremists who are likely to balance back out. As the wars end, the economy stabilizes, and the heat of the Obama re-election gets further in the rearview mirror, the Chamber of Commerce Rs will claim some territory back from the Tea Party Rs.be it in the primary, or by voting with Ds in November."

- "This is a great ending session for many members, with a budget surplus and water funding taken care of. Why not call it quits and stop

being hassled by the fringe on either side of the aisle?"

- "The good ones are tired of waiting for a chance to move up within the Capitol, so they head for local positions where they can actually get something done. E.g. Mark Strama."
- "Tough to say for certain without knowing if the current map will stick."
- "Always a low turnover the second session after redistricting."
- "Depends on what happens with redistricting"
- "Can't we start with a clean slate? Get rid of all of them and start over???"
- "Those expecting a huge conservative backlash will be disappointed. Voters don't like to pick their way through votes -- they really do expect their leaders to manage the details and most of the GOP have done fine. Meanwhile, Democrats will continue to return the same old folks who kiss the rings of the trial lawyers

and make sure the teachers unions are happy."

- "Surely fewer than the last two cycles."
- "I think they are staying for the most part unless they need their pension"
- "The moderate conservatives and the few conservative democrats are a dying breed. Expect Mostyn and MQS to be heavily involved this primary cycle."
- "Branch, Geren and Hilderbran to statewide offices and Senate challengers to vacant spots."
- "Retirement is the more likely option. Who wants to serve in a body with man-children like Van Taylor, Schaefer, Krause, and Stickland?"
- "Not that many, hard for anyone to run to the right of some of these guys."
- "Normal attrition. This session was relatively pleasant, and not apt to drive excessive retirements."

Who were the heroes this session, and who were the goats?

- "Heroes branch, cook, dukes, dutton, geren, s. king, lewis, murphy, wu, duncan, eltife. Goats: Carona, Fraser, w.davis, l.h brown, laubenberg, phillips, riddle."
- "Heroes: Ritter, Zerwas, W. Davis, Corona"
- "Jimmy Don Aycock House Hero. John Otto House Hero. Jim Pitts House Hero. Sylvester Turner House

Hero. Dennis Bonnen House Goat. Drew Darby House Hero. David Simpson House Goat. Van Taylor House Goat. Bob Deuell Senate Hero. Bob Duncan Senate Hero. Tommy Williams Senate Hero. Kel Seliger Senate Hero. Royce West Senate Hero. Donna Campbell Senate Goat. David Dewhurst Goat of Goats"

- "Rick Perry definitely the hero"

- "Heroes-Aycock, Darby, Geren, Otto, Sylvester Turner, Zerwas, Carona, Duncan. Goats-Stickland, Simpson, Hughes, Taylor."
- "Heroes: Pitts, Ritter, Otto, Sly Turner. Goats: Stickland, V Taylor, Miles."
- "Heroes: Aycock, Williams, Van de Putte, Huberty, Straus, D Bonnen, Eltife. Goats: Campbell, Stickland, V Taylor, Drew Darby."
- "Hero: Williams (I'm picky). Goat: V. Taylor, Schaefer, Stickland"
- "Hero--Pitts, Strauss, Turner. Goat--Williams, Van Taylor."
- "Williams did a great job; Pitts did a very good job. They were the heroes."
- "Jimmie Don Aycock was a goat. Dan Patrick a hero."
- "No heroes but plenty of goats. A couple of examples of goats whose political ambitions got in the way of the public good: Hilderbran, Kolkhorst."
- "Hero -- Ken King. Hero Kel Seliger. Goat -- Dennis Bonnen. Goat -- Glenn Hegar"
- "Freshmen and sophomores were the heroes. The goats were the leadership and their lieutenants."
- "Geren, Otto and Darby were the heroes and Stickland, Taylor and Schaefer were the goats."
- "Heroes: Conservatives who motivated Dewhurst & Patrick to 'show me.' Goats: Dewhurst & Patrick who couldn't."
- "Every member of the leg who helped advance getting movement on water infrastructure is a hero. The goat is the taxpayer"
- "There were no real heroes or goats."
- "Heroes: John Zerwas and JD Sheffield for having the courage to remember their obligation to the public health despite their party's short-sighted ignorance of health care issues. Representative Stickland. Need I say more?"
- "Jim Pitts is the Hero, but then again he seem to always be, What's up with Tommy Williams? He is spending every dollar in sight."
- "The Geren/Seliger bill was an embarrassment."
- "Goats-Simpson-two time winner, Stickland, Toth, Taylor, Sheets"
- "Heroes--Joe Straus, Todd Hunter, Robert Duncan. Goats--David Simpson, Abel Herrero, Sylvia Garcia."
- "Hero - Kacal"
- "Everyone will say Wendy Davis was some kind of hero. She was above average, let's be honest. Sylvester Turner=hero for systems benefit fund and budget fights. Joan Huffman=goat for killing exoneration commission. David Simpson=goat for general douchebaggery."
- "You're kidding! Heroes?"
- "Glenn Hegar was a hero! There were too many goats to count."

- "Sylvester Turner and other Democratic house leaders were heroes in holding together a coalition that led to restoring funding for education and delivering the votes needed to pass SJR 1 and HB 1025 for water funding. Elizabeth Graham is the goat for extremist views that were reflected in actions by certain members against religious leaders in open hearings."
- "Heroes include Dennis Bonnen, who really ran the House and kept the members going, and Tommy Williams, who exercised patience and problem solving. Goats have to include Sen. Davis and Rep. Wu (seriously, we don't need your comments on every bill) and Rep. Creighton, who did almost nothing to help leadership."
- "Heroes: Williams, Seliger, Giddings. Goats: too many to name"
- "Hero's - Zerwas, Pitts, Turner, Huberty. Goats - STICKLAND, STICKLAND, Schaffer, Y. Davis, Simpson & STICKLAND"
- "Heroes- Darby, Otto, S. Turner, Aycock, Uresti, Williams; Goats- too many -Campbell, Davis, Duncan, Huffman; Allen, Alonzo, Elkins, Farias, McClendon, Moody, T. Parker, Phillips, Reynolds, Riddle, V. Taylor, Vo, Zedler and at least 1/3rd of the Freshman Class"
- "Hero: Chairman Williams, Chairman Pitts - miracle workers. Goat: Rep. Harless for killing the shark fin bill while sporting the world's ugliest leopard print blazer with an actual leopard emblazoned on the back; Rep. Sarah Davis for killing the raw milk bill in Calendars - nanny state nonsense!"
- "Jim Pitts and Tommy Williams = heroes. Harvey Hilderbran = goat."
- "Dewhurst, not a hero."
- "Straus is a hero. Perry is worse than a goat."
- "Heroes of House: Darby and Otto, goat was Simpson. Senate goat is Zaffirini for being a cry baby about her tuition revenue bill and her claim she was disrespected by the House; grow up, it's not always about her. Hero would be Eltife, he kept the Senate running in the absence of Dewhurst. Although it's easy to be a giant in the land of midgets."
- "The biggest goat is an easy choice: Dan Patrick. He gave away all of his reform leverage by siding 100 percent with the forces of the status quo at the beginning. Then they killed virtually all his reform proposals. This was the weakest show by a chairman in memory. There were a few good performers but no real heroes. This us not a time of heroes - sadly."
- "Williams Hero Patrick Goat"
- "Van Taylor - our very own resident idiot."
- "No heroes so stop placating these bloated politicians."
- "Saw no heroes. Goats-Reps. Carter and Phillips"
- "Freshmen who recognized governing takes work, cooperation and even compromise."
- "Heroes - Harold Dutton & Dan Patrick on education. Larry Taylor, Mark Strama for last day speech, Ken

King, JM Lozano, Goats. Lance Gooden, Lyle Larson, Wendy Davis, Aycock, Yvonne Davis, David Simpson, Alma Allen, Abel Herrero."

- "Heroes- Williams, Seliger, Whitmire, Hegar, Pitts, Eiland, Darby, Raymond, Ms. T, Geren. Goats- Patrick, Huffman, Campbell, Estes, Taylor, Stickland, Krause, and the rest of the TEA Party freshmen"

- "Heroes- Otto, Darby, Nelson and Williams Goats-Tea Party House freshman, Carona Sticking to their guns- W. Davis and DPatrick"

- "T Williams / Pitts /s turner"

- "Bonnen was the clear hero on the House side. He turned the Speaker Pro-Tem position into one of a whip. He was able to bring Speaker Straus the votes in the freakiest of times. The Dew failed miserably. Enough said."

- "Heroes - Senators Seliger, Duncan & Ellis. Goats - Senator Huffman."

- "Williams, Pitts, Hegar and Aycock."

- "Obviously, Rick Perry and the conservatives made Kel Seliger and Charlie Geren the goats. Given the missed opportunities this session I can't see any positive standouts."

- "Hero - Joe Straus. Goats - David Dewhurst and Dan Patrick."

- "Hilderbran showed he can move major legislation, unorthodox though his style may be. Ellis flubbed his chance to knock over the apple cart on HB 500. Van Taylor, Stickland, and Simpson were the sad clowns of the House."

- "Heroes: Sylvester Turner, Robert Duncan. Goats: House Republican freshmen, MQS, Texans for Education Reform"

- "'Heroes - Public Education advocates. Goats - TLR."

- "Heroes: Joe Straus, Jim Pitts, Tommy Williams, Robert Duncan, Troy Fraser, Jimmie Don Aycock. Goats: Matt Schaefer, Van Taylor."

- "No heroes. But very few goats"

- "Pat Fallon was a waste of space."

- "Few Heroes. Garnet Coleman (few understood how sick he has been this session, yet still quietly accomplished things). Tommy Williams. Chuy Hinojosa (few understand how much he got done). Goats all over the place. Dennis Bonnen for being a bully that made the house look bad."

- "Heroes-Straus, Pitts, Aycock, Anchia, Larson, Geren. Senate-Duncan, Seliger! Eltife, Watson, Ellis."

- "Tommy Williams, Sylvester Turner and Yvonne Davis = Heroes. Jonathan Stickland, Matt Krause, Ken Paxton = Goats."

- "Goat = Stickland"

- "No hero's; Texans were the goats!"

- "Heroes-Zerwas-rationale leadership, clear explanations, sound judgment; Donna Howard-solid performances on immunization issues; Dr. Sheffield-a rising star; Tom Craddick-for fighting the good fight on texting; Myra Crownover-congenital screening champ; Pitts-makes the House budget process"

work in the tea party era; Larry Phillips, Chuy Hinojosa-the medical school in South Texas, long needed. Goats; Capriglione-yelling at the bishop after the advance directives hearing; Branch-the member from UT Southwestern runs hard right on House votes; Van Taylor-Plano arrogance and all those who fought transparency and resisted identifying tax breaks embedded in state law."

- "Heroes - Pitts, Otto, S. Thompson. Goats - Stickland, Simpson."
- "Hero: Sarah Davis -- she kept the House from cutting itself up in the appropriations process again over women's health issues"
- "Heroes: Sylvester Turner, Craig Eiland. Goats: Jonathan Stickland, Donna Campbell, Lt. Gov. Dewhurst"
- "Hero - Geren. Goat - Stickling, Hero - Watson. Goat - Fraser"
- "Heroes: Tommy Williams, John Zerwas, Jim Pitts. Goats??:"
- "Hero- Aycock, Pitts and Zerwas. Goats- V. Taylor, Campbell, Chen button and Paxton"
- "Heroes - Sen. Williams, Rep. Pitts, Rep. Ritter. Goats - Rep. V. Taylor, Rep. Krause, Rep. Sylvester Turner"
- "Hero: Joan Huffman, Dan Patrick, tommy Williams, Joe Pickett. Goat: Sylvester Turner, Ruth McClendon, Charlie Geren"
- "Lucio III was the hero for the valley."
- "Aycock will be seen as hero because Patrick is such a goat."

Dewhurst is the worst Lt. Governor in modern history. Representatives Simpson and Stickland are not goats, more like jackasses."

- "Heroes STurner, Otto, Zerwas, Williams, Price, and all the rest who came to Austin to get it done. Goats the tea party freshman, Simpson, V Taylor, Bonnen, Campbell and the Dew"
- "Heroes Pitts Darby Otto Ritter Williams. Goats Patrick Aycock Phillips van taylor"
- "Heroes- Bonnen led with very little biting sarcasm but still funny, Straus didn't waste time with bills that were DOA, Darby played smart away from the limelight and always the first to congratulate his teammates, Otto kept everyone straight on revenue, Turner kept the pressure on for schools and fairness, Kolkhorst matured into a states person (Wu should take notes), Zerwas for trying to do the right thing all the time, Williams led, and Duncan and Eltife rounded out senate leadership. Goats- Wu should know less is more (took Kolkhorst place on the mica too much), Stickland became synonymous with fool, Patrick never let a fact stand in his way, Phil King attacking the asst DA from the front mic went from interesting to weird, Toth was scary extreme"
- "Heroes: Williams, Zerwas, Ritter, Aycock, Duncan, Seliger, Deuell, Eltife, Nichols, Anchia, Sarah Davis, Eiland"
- "Heroes? Among this crowd? Gimme a break."
- "Senfronia Thompson, John Whitmire-Heroes; Stickland-GOAT"

- "Heroes - Jane Nelson, Wendy Davis, Joe Straus, John Zerwas, Ruth McClendon, Diane Patrick, Charlie Geren, Lois Kolkhorst, Royce West; Goats - Dan Patrick, North Texas Freshmen"

- "Rep Otto, Seen Williams were heroes this session."

- "Hero Sylvester Turner and Geren; Goats Creighton Kolkhorst Herrero, Phil King, Van Taylor, Yvonne Davis"

- "Heroes?"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Tris Castaneda, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Dadrick, Roberto DeHoyos, Nora Del Bosque, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Dan Shelley, Bradford Shields, Jason Skaggs, Brian Sledge, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Bryan Sperry, Tom Spilman, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.