

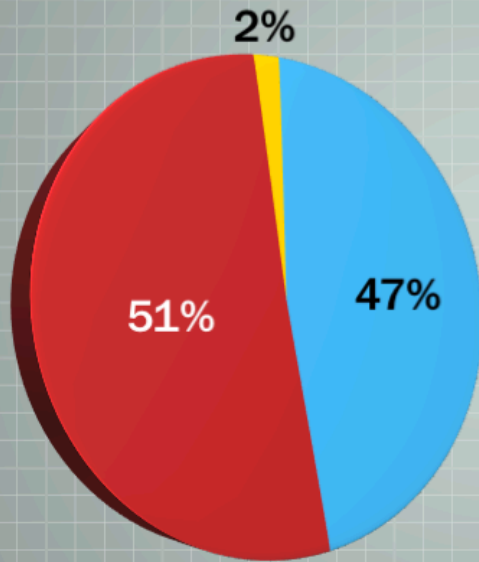
“INSIDE”

INTELLIGENCE

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE
TEXAS  WEEKLY

The insider's poll for the week of May 9.

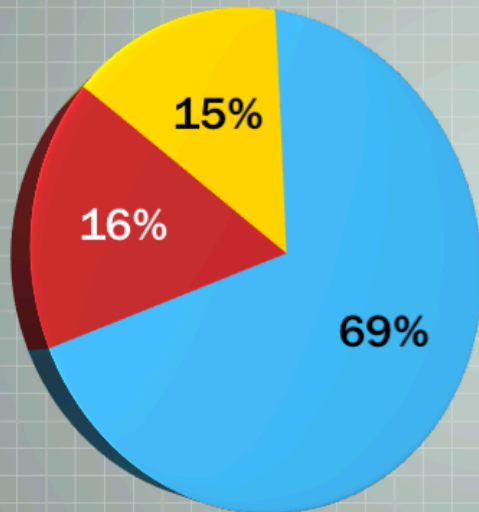
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE



Will lawmakers agree on a budget or force a special session?

- They'll agree
- Special session ahead
- Don't Know

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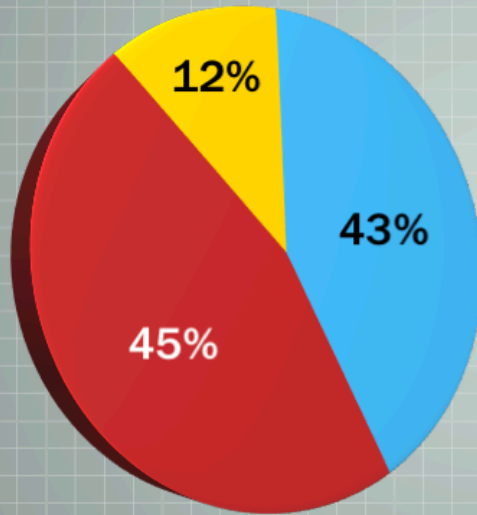


Will the Senate approve a redistricting map?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will lawmakers agree on congressional redistricting?



Will the House and Senate agree on a budget or will that issue force one or more special sessions this summer? "

- "Neither House nor Senate want to start the process all over again in the summer."
- "It will be a very lean budget with most severe impact on health and human services"
- "How can they agree on how much to spend when they don't even agree on how much we have in the bank to spend?"
- "They will get out of their jam by deferring over six billion into the next biennium, allowing the House to add only a few billion to their version and the Senate to say they are betting on the rebounding economy (or the Economic Stabilization Fund) to bail them out of having to implement severe cuts to public education and health and human services in 2013. Either way, I think they should halt their pursuit of a federal balanced budget resolution. Makes them look just a little hypocritical to be pointing their fingers while playing with their own balance sheet."
- "The Senate will blink. The budget will get passed. The governor will sign it."
- "They'll agree, but without a single Democratic vote in either the House or the Senate. There will be no question who owns the budget - Republicans."
- "Without the voice of Democrats in the Senate (they were taken out of the budget debate today by Ogden and Dewhurst), there is little for Republicans to argue about among themselves. All will vote for the budget, and all will move to the 2010 Primary, where more will be defeated than presently imagined."
- "I thought they might finish on time. I still think there's a chance, but it is shrinking by the day. The gap is just too large."
- "They seem increasingly ready to put this session behind them and to take the summer to recover."

- "The House and Senate may well see a draft conference committee report, perhaps an actual conference committee report, and they may even adopt a conference committee report. However, they will not agree on a school finance bill--a necessary accompaniment--leading us into one or more special sessions this summer."
- "They'll agree. Ogden already removed the RDF for the next biennium so it not only matches in that respect what the House has done, but the remaining differences can be hashed-out in conference committee."
- "They could agree if all of the R's hang together. Otherwise, they will hang separately."
- "Not much time left to resolve the differences, especially school finance. When you're cutting that much from current formulas, it takes time for 181 folks to figure out what's happening."
- "They'll 'agree' (i.e., the Senate will get rolled). The Dew's track record in conference is pretty pitiful."
- "Gov. Perry will be forced to enter the debate because of the leadership void in the House."
- "Not sure how destructive the House will demand to be"
- "Senate Parliamentarian will say that a House bill is not subject to the blocker bill, and the Senate will vote a bill out 19-12. After that, it is all downhill."
- "Democrats have about as much say in this session as children in a bad marriage. Eventually, they'll do what they want. It might feel like a divorce, but they'll get it done in this session. No Republican has an interest in dragging this out. They only have an interest in circumventing any Democratic opposition in the Senate."
- "The moving parts of the public education puzzle and congressional redistricting will drive a special session."
- "The senate and house will agree, since the senate is willing to throw the 2/3rds rule out the window."
- "The gap is too big at \$12 billion to resolve in conference. Plus, waiting until July gives a clearer picture of what the sales tax revenue will look like and allow more money to be spent."
- "It's the only issue they have to pass and no one wants to be here this summer."
- "The Senators don't want to blow up family plans this summer."
- "Agree to disagree and vote for it."
- "It's increasingly obvious that Senator West and a few others realize they have a lot more influence (what little that is) in a regular session with the blocker in place than they will in a special. That's the one piece of math they all understand."
- "If the abrogation of the 2/3 rule, along with the abandonment of reaching into the RDF in the senate are any indication, the Teas are in firm control. On both sides. Which means the House wins. In regulation."
- "The Senate Republicans will have to come around to the House way of thinking on the budget. None of them want to walk into the next election cycle having been out 'Conservatived' by the 'liberal' Joe Straus and Jim Pitts. They know there will be Hell to pay at home, in their newly (LRB) drawn Senate Districts."
- "Until about 4:30 Tuesday, my answer was special sessions ahead. Now, I really don't know."

Will the Senate vote out a redistricting map?

- "What happens from there...?"
- "Does Dewhurst view passing a redistricting map as a political advantage or liability going into his US Senate race...does he want his name on a map that decreases Republican House numbers?"
- "Easiest redistricting job of the whole bunch: just one big incumbent protection racket."
- "They have about 17 days to pass it out of the Senate, but the House will hold it hostage until the Senate conferees agree to more cuts in the budget."
- "They will vote out a 20-11 map. The Rs will count on picking off a D whenever they need him next session."
- "The Senators know the unbiblical mandate that God helps those who help themselves."
- "Right behind the budget. Don't think it will pass the House though."
- "The Dems will block with the Senate's two-thirds rule."
- "But it will be so weak, the Governor will veto it."
- "I'd feel a lot better if Seliger had actually kicked a map out by now."
- "They don't want 4 or 5 people who have higher offices in mind drawing their future"
- "After the budget flap, I'd be surprised if they can get agreement to sine die."
- "Although the Democrats would be better off with a Senate drawn map than one crafted by the LRB, it would seem they stick together. That along with a handful of unhappy Republicans will make it difficult to pass a map."

Will the House and Senate agree on a congressional redistricting map?

- "As much as they have agreed on anything else."
- "The Texas legislature is controlled by the republican members in both houses. Therefore the Texas legislature will pass the redistricting bills for the House, Senate and Congressional seats. The maps passed by the Texas legislature will likely be retrogressive to the Latino and African American communities. Ultimately the courts will determine the outcome of the Texas congressional and House seats. Time will tell if the Voting Rights Act prevails in the Texas redistricting process."
- "Not enough time. Three federal judges will get to decide how much work political consultants get for the next decade."
- "Majority rules. It's good to be the king."
- "There is no easy way to divvy up four new congressional seats; too many factions fighting against each other for the same cause. Obviously the House isn't too concerned with Sec. 5 of the Voting Rights Act and doesn't care about retrogression and packing and cracking precincts. We're not sure what the Senate will do as they haven't even addressed their own districts, so this may end up being a bigger fight than expected."
- "They don't want a court to do it. If they think they'll be in special on the budget anyway, they might not rush it."
- "Travis County will be drawn and quartered. The Ds best hope is that the Rs get greedy and run afoul of the VRA."
- "Where is Tom DeLay when we need him?"

- "LRB here we come. With 4 new seats, will be incumbent protection excepting Doggett."
- "History is on my side."
- "The House will try. But they won't get the Senate to go along."
- "I don't really think the incumbent R members of Congress want them to do it. They seem comfortable about getting a 'good' draw of 3 judges off the DC circuit."

- "55-45 that they do."
- "Sure they will. In a special session."
- "Sure--but maybe not during the regular session."
- "It will be difficult for the Senate to get a map voted out. If this one goes to special session, however, they do have a chance of getting it done."

What issues are most likely to be left unfinished at the end of the session?

- "Redistricting."
- "SUNSET"
- "Judicial selection reform"
- "Transportation, corporate practice of medicine"
- "Budget, Senate & House Redistricting"
- "The state needs new revenue streams to continue to sustain the state's growing needs. Refusal to increase taxes and find new revenue will only strain Texas' ability to provide quality services - education, health care, building and sustaining infrastructures."
- "How to fix the structural deficit, how to pay for highways, how to pay for water, how to pay for the last three months of the two-year state budget."
- "Congressional redistricting, any semblance of business tax reform, funding for the state water plan and probably at least one sunset bill will run out of gas."
- "Budget, redistricting and one or two other 'urgent' items like meddling with women's reproductive rights. 3 specials total - all summer."
- "Budget, healthcare funding"
- "Budget"
- "Education funding"
- "Congressional redistricting"
- "Redistricting"
- "None"
- "Budget, and redistricting (because DOJ likely will not pre-clear the House map.)"
- "Redistricting and Budget"
- "The state's structural deficit and the related failure to implement a sustainable and stable revenue stream for K-12 education."
- "Redistricting"
- "Congressional redistricting, budget -- special session to come starting July 15"
- "Redistricting"
- "Budget budget budget."
- "Budget"
- "Health, education and many others, if your question goes to leadership. If it is only a question of crossing the t's and dotting i's, it will all get taken care of."
- "Budget"

- "Creating a revenue structure that will provide for the state's anticipated needs while maintaining a business friendly environment"
- "I think they get it all done. The Senate will adopt the House version of the appropriations bill plus the additional non-tax revenue measures."
- "Budget, school finance, REDISTRICTING"
- "The Public's interest..."
- "EVERYTHING. Despite a super-majority, the Republicans can't agree to pass anything because they are too spooked by the hard right. This will/should be known as the do-nothing legislature."
- "Fixing the structural budget problem."
- "Budget, school finance, perhaps a few other such minor issues. But that's okay because we'll have ensured the provision of sonograms to the illegal aliens voting to balance the budgets of sanctuary cities through the sale of condemned private land."
- "Are you kidding? They'll finish!"
- "The budget and house redistricting"
- "Budget and redistricting"
- "Redistricting; budget."
- "A few sunset bills"
- "The budget."
- "Money and guns"
- "I bet it will be gambling."
- "Congressional Redistricting"
- "Redistricting"
- "Budget and redistricting."
- "Redistricting"
- "Anything helping the middle and working class."
- "Structural deficit"
- "Redistricting"
- "Budget"
- "Budget"
- "Budget most likely"
- "How we are going to get ourselves out of this downward spiral of budget gaps which will lead to irreversible harm to our educational system from birth through higher education and abandonment of our most vulnerable populations."
- "Budget. Repairing the structural deficit caused by the shortfall in the revenue from the margins tax."
- "Guns on Campus"
- "Illegal immigration. But then again, how could Texas 'fix' it without causing other unintended consequences. Gambling."
- "Budget"
- "Sanctuary cities"
- "Tax breaks for Yachts!"
- "Public ed and congressional redistricting"
- "Everything."
- "Budget"
- "Nothing."
- "Railroad Commission Sunset bill."
- "Cock fighting!"
- "Budget, reapportionment"
- "Open carry."
- "Franchise tax reform."

- "Budget."
- "Budget particularly dealing with education."
- "Budget"
- "Congressional redistricting and budget"
- "Congressional redistricting."
- "Budget, redistricting"
- "None"
- "No idea. Perhaps Congressional redistricting."
- "Budget and redistricting"
- "Redistricting"
- "Redistricting"
- "Letting Mike Leach sue Texas Tech and making the hamburger the official sandwich of Texas."
- "Gaming"
- "Casino Gaming"
- "TWIA funding reform. TDI and other agencies' sunset review."
- "Scores, but the two most significant are the budget and redistricting. Barring any major agency sunset bills tanking, these are the two that would merit a special."
- "Money money money"
- "The budget"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Mike Barnett, Eric Bearse, Dave Beckwith, Mark Bell, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Fred Bosse, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Tris Castaneda, Elizabeth Christian, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Harold Cook, Hector De Leon, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Alan Erwin, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Billy Hamilton, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Albert Hawkins, Adam Haynes, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Tim Lambert, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Scott McCown, Robert Miller, Steve Mostyn, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Gardner Pate, Bill Pewitt, Tom Phillips, John Pitts, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Carl Richie, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bradford Shields, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Terral Smith, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Stein, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Russ Tidwell, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Chad Wilbanks, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.