

“INSIDE”

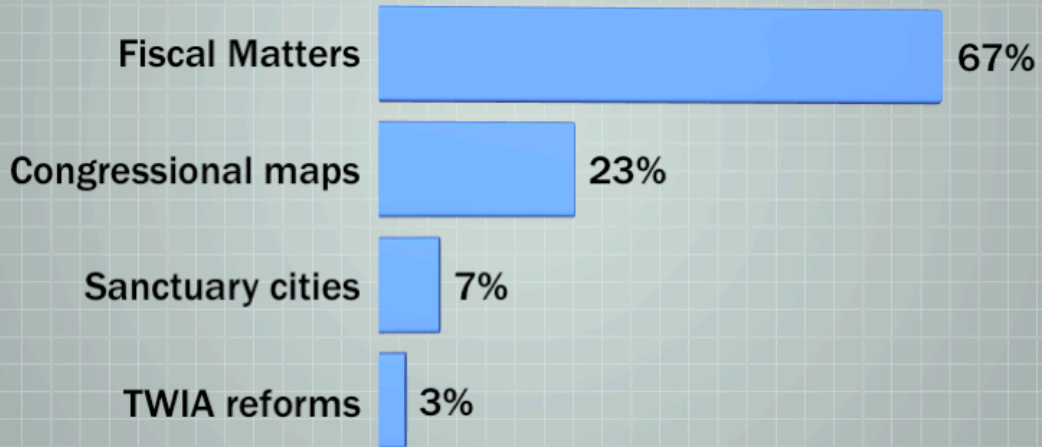
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THE TEXAS TRIBUNE
TEXAS  WEEKLY

The insider's poll for the week of June 6.

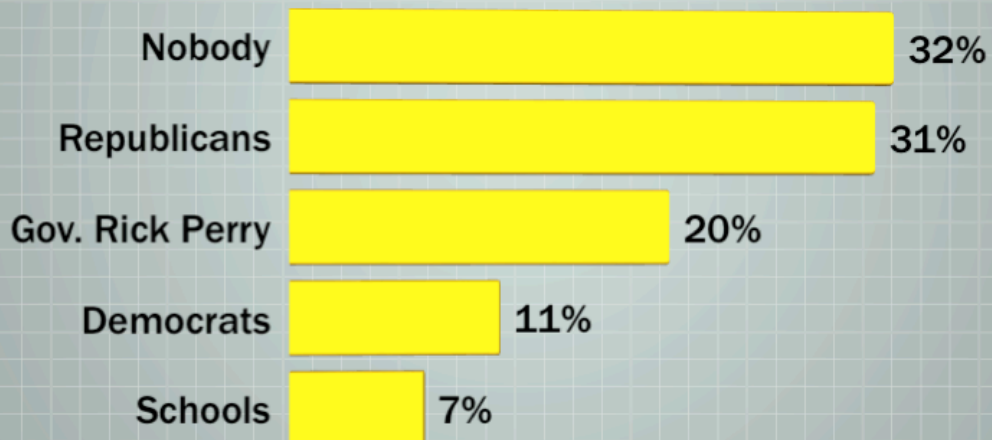
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Lawmakers will approve:



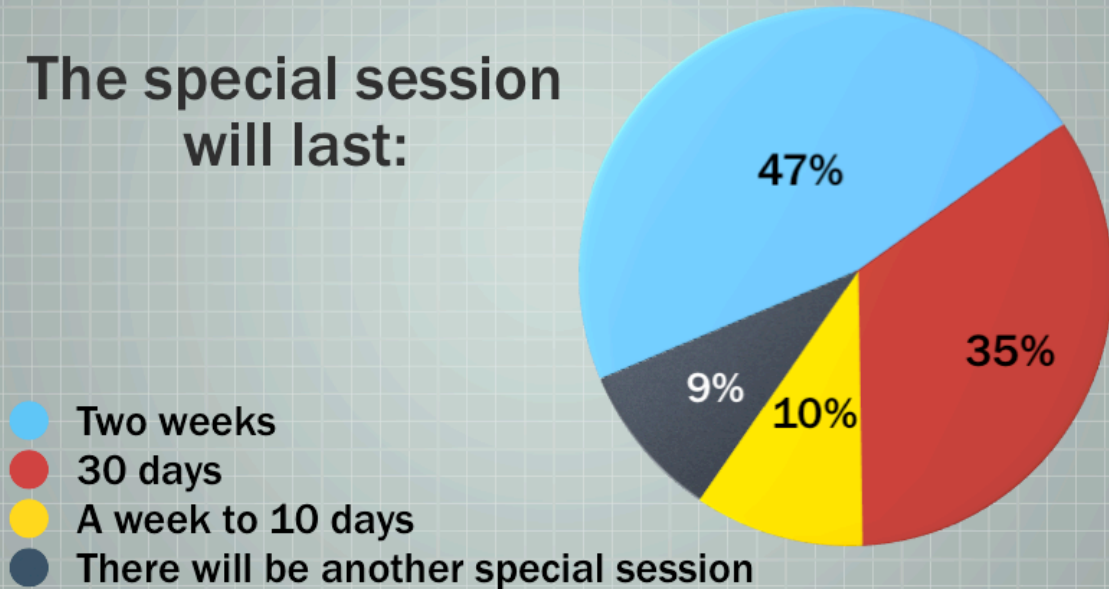
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The special session benefits:



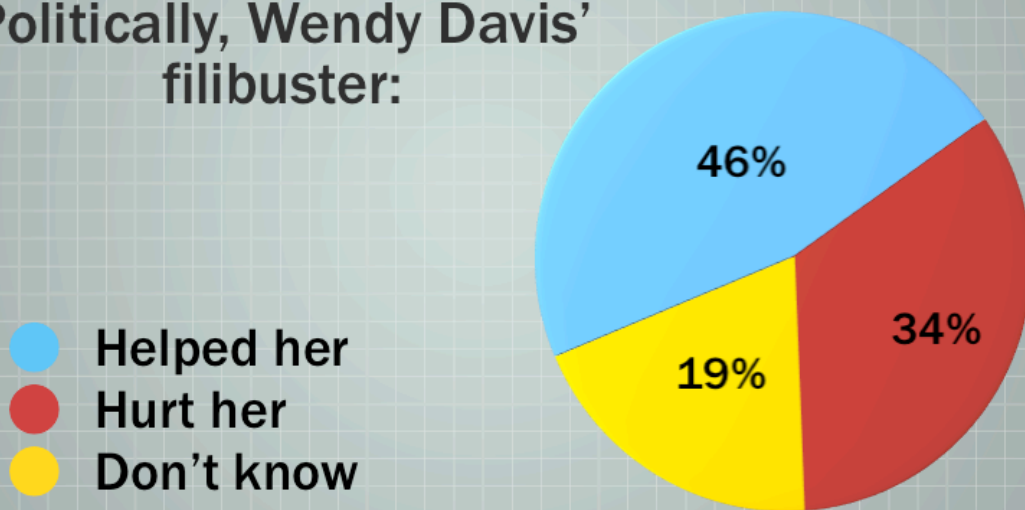
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The special session will last:



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Politically, Wendy Davis' filibuster:



The special session is good for:

- "Finish what the Democrats derailed and without 2/3 rule in Senate and super majority in House it has to be good for Republicans."
- "The Texas legislature will pass bills that are harmful to students, the poor, the Latino community and the immigrant community."
- "Rs get second bite of the apple on many issues that Ds had managed to make go away during the regular session."
- "It raises the level of public awareness, and although I expect the outcome for public education funding to be the same, Democrats have yet another opportunity to let people know that there is more than enough money in the bank to spare our schools the \$4 billion cut."
- "Republican Congressmen who do not want the courts to draw their maps."
- "It is good for Perry because he got his budget through. It is bad for Dewhurst because it shows he has no leadership ability."
- "The nice restaurants around Austin."
- "Perry will be able to claim victory as a fiscal conservative (budget) and a strong party leader (congressional redistricting)."
- "If teachers and parents organize and raise hell."
- "He should be able to control the agenda."
- "Rick Perry, Republicans and Local Restaurants"
- "This special session is an everybody wins, everybody loses moment. The Rs may get a second bite at the Sanctuary City apple, but their inability to use their super-majority to move policy has been laid bare. The Ds get to drive home the notion in people's brains about who's to blame for the school cuts - which will conveniently come home to roost right after the special ends."
- "In the short term, this will be good for Perry, but in the longer term, it will be bad for the Republican Party because they will push an ultra-conservative agenda too far and there will be a backlash."
- "I'm a steamroller baby..."
- "Hopefully"
- "Specials can be showcase for Gov. (but this one reflects failure of Reg. Sess. leadership) or could reflect strength of the Ds (but---to use the Laney phrase--this special shows they know how to take hostages but haven't learned how to write the ransom note)"
- "Republicans will get to show they can't govern and essentially hate schoolchildren, senior citizens and nuns, and Democrats will show themselves to be officious, ineffectual nitwits whose closest proximity to power is when they plug their iPhones into a charger."
- "All about the gov."

The special session will last:

- "First two weeks are key...but as more issues are added, more time will be needed."
- "21"
- "Earlier, Perry said he would call a special in the middle of July for TWIA, so I assume his political campaign advisers have a calculated reason (national spotlight) for having another session in July. If he adds TWIA to the first called, then my answer would be 'the full 30 days.'"
- "21 days."
- "Am guessing that once the Dems run out of delay tactics on the business at hand, more issues will be added to fill up 30 days. A second special would likely be perceived as a waste of money, and not a good political move."
- "Two weeks, but if TWIA and sanctuary cities are added, could go longer."
- "Let us all pray together, 'Let them leave...'"
- "This will be the session where the bully turns around at the kegger after the Democrat says, 'Wow, someone's smoking reefer.' The bully will humiliate and intimidate the Democrat but let him walk away. And the next special session will be the one in which the bully beats up the Democrat, leaving the Democrat bloodied and asking for reassurance from his friends that no one saw it."
- "There will be 2 or 3 rolling mini special sessions within the special session based on how and what the Governor decides to 'add to the call'"

Are Wendy Davis' political prospects helped or hurt by her filibuster at the end of the regular session?

- "She will be the reason all of the above passes."
- "Tell her to save the newspaper headlines, articles and editorials for the scrapbook - to reminisce about her one term in the Senate."
- "Neither. She was already dead woman walking"
- "The filibuster has already raised her political profile significantly, however, her Republican colleagues drew her district to eliminate her immediate political prospects. Maybe she should jump in the U.S. Senate race!"
- "Why didn't another D tackle her before she did something stupid, like cause a Special Session."
- "Her primary stock rose dramatically, but it doesn't matter; she loses in the general."
- "She was toast anyway..."

- "She's getting screwed out of her district anyway, so she was better off standing on her principles to boost her statewide profile."
- "I mean doesn't matter - she can't win re-election to the State Senate. She can't win a statewide general election and she didn't run for Mayor of Fort Worth. Her career is on ice for a while unless she runs for the new minority State Rep seat in Tarrant (which there's no reason to think she would.)"
- "It does not matter. She is gone anyway."
- "God Almighty couldn't help Wendy Davis at this point!"
- "Didn't matter...she gets beat in her new district"
- "If her new district holds as currently drawn, only major league screwups by the Rs will get her a return trip to Austin in 2012."
- "Doesn't matter - she was done anyways"
- "Wendy, representing a democratic area, will be fine. She will now turn to run against Harris in SD 9 and her actions will assist her in that effort as well."
- "The final Senate map will either favor her or it won't; her hijinks are way down the list of things that will impact whether she returns."
- "I think here political fate is dependent upon the federal court determining whether the Senate's plan violates the Voting Rights Act."
- "They couldn't get any worse given the district the Republicans drew for her."
- "It really doesn't matter if the Senate redistricting map holds up on appeal."
- "She had nothing to lose and this might help her."
- "The folks in FW will appreciate the fight and moxie. She'll only lose her election by 4 or 5 points, as opposed to 8."
- "Senator Davis has obviously resigned herself to losing her Texas Senate district to Mr. Gerry Mander. However, can you name a single other Democrat in Texas who can be more closely identified with fighting for schools in such a public way. (Point of Orders don't count.) Her filibuster was the beginning of her statewide campaign. She's got looks, smarts, keen debating skills, and now a real record to point to. She may be a scourge among the vacation-hungry Capitol class, but she is a hero to many around the state - most of whom hadn't heard of her two weeks ago."
- "Will the Governor invite her to the bill signing for sanctuary cities?"
- "Unaffected...."
- "That's 'former senator' to you."
- "She may not return as Senator, but she assured herself as a rising star among Democrats."
- "Her district is Republican, so she will lose regardless."

- "Her political prospects were apparently at an end anyway, unless the senate map changes. Interesting how much she had the mike in her hand in the last 2 weeks of the session."
- "Wendy Davis became THE voice against the program. She just grabbed the microphone and will have it for a while. Rick Perry's coming out party just has been delayed. There will now be more scrutiny on what happened in Texas both by Texans and the national media."
- "Looked to me like it played better at home than in Austin."
- "She was a dead woman walking before, and still is. The only question now is if she earns the scorn of some fellow Democrats if the special session results in a body of legislation that is tilted more to the conservative side than that which would have been in place had this special session been avoided."
- "As long as she's not for torture, I'm for her. Of course, if she's not for torture, what is she doing in the legislature?"
- "She wasn't going to win before the filibuster and she isn't going to win after it."
- "Solomons' and Seliger's new CD 33 might be too cute by half."
- "She literally had nothing to lose. This raised her profile and sets her up to run for statewide office if she chooses. She's the kind of Democrat that can bring out a lot of voters, especially women -- attractive with a compelling personal story. Whether that means she wins a race for Attorney General or Comptroller is up in the air."
- "Neither helped or hurt. Her political prospects were fixed once they drew the map."
- "Especially considering her district is now RED. Yes, capital letters were needed."
- "The filibuster raised her stature at home, but not enough for her to overcome the partisan makeup of 'her' district in 2012."
- "Not for senate, mind you--that ship sailed off with SB 31--but for whatever she runs for next."
- "It's being portrayed as 'she stood up for public education.'"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Walt Baum, Eric Bearse, Dave Beckwith, Mark Bell, Rebecca Bernhardt, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Jose Camacho, Lydia Camarillo, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Tris Castaneda, Corbin Casteel, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Scott Dunaway, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Terry Frakes, Dominic Giarratani, Scott Gilmore, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Marta Greytok, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Albert Hawkins, Adam Haynes, Ken Hodges, Shanna Igo, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Donald Lee, Leslie Lemon, Richard Levy, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Mike McKinney, Lynn Moak, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate,

Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Chuck Rice, Carl Richie, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Patricia Shipton, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Terral Smith, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.