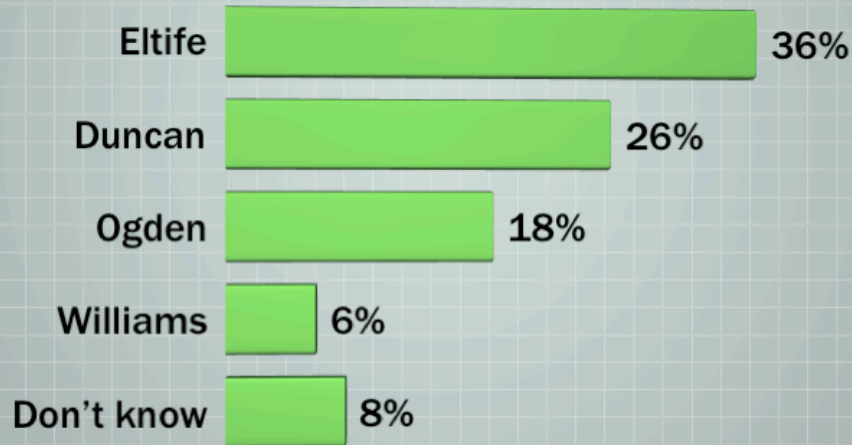


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

**The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider's poll
for the week of September 5.**

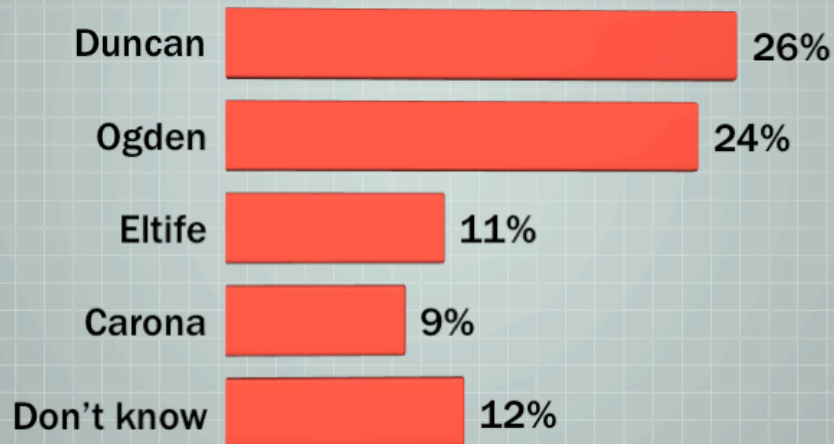
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Which Senator Would Become Lieutenant Governor?



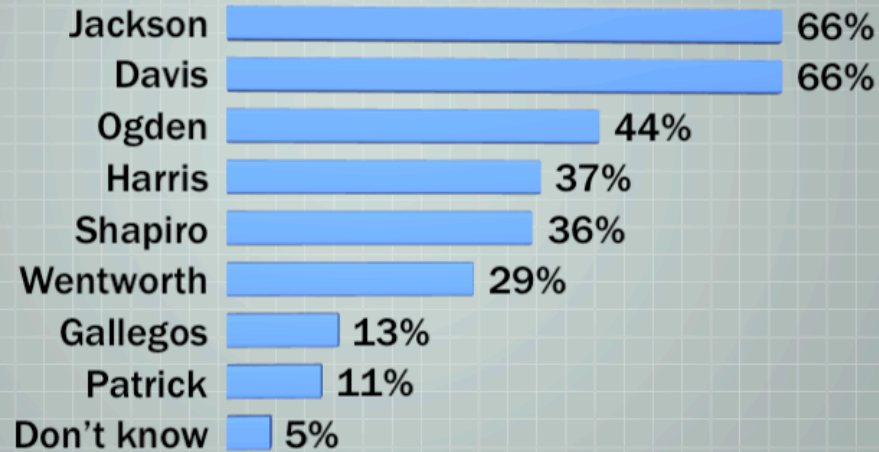
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Which Senator Would Become Governor?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Which Senators Won't Return Next Session?



If David Dewhurst moves on after the 2012 election, which senator is most likely to be chosen by colleagues to replace the lieutenant governor?

- "Eltife has earned respect from the moderates and D's. They feel he would run the Senate in a fair and efficient way."
- "Shapiro and Patrick have the ambition but not the personality. Double for Fraser."
- "This is only if Perry stays as governor."
- "His fellow Senators see him as intelligent, consistent. He has the ability and willingness to work with everyone."
- "Its much easier to tell you who is least likely to replace Dewhurst."
- "I think RLD is the most respected among the body as the most balanced."
- "Assuming he will be a member of the 83rd Senate."
- "While I'm not sure about my pick, I'm 100% sure it won't be Senator (Congressman?) Jackson."
- "Seliger would have been in close, but he 'drew' redistricting and lost votes because of his artwork."
- "Deal will be cut on major chairs. Eltife is seen as the fairest and most trustworthy of the group."
- "They'll choose someone like Ratliff back in '01--someone who doesn't

threaten them, someone who will let them do as they please. Eltife fits that bill. So does Duncan, but he's going

to get beat in his next race--you heard it hear first!"

Which senator would senators choose if they were choosing someone to act as governor if Rick Perry and David Dewhurst both move up or out?

- "Some one else."
- "Please, please, please not Patrick."
- "Too many what ifs."
- "Ogden would be chosen to be Lt. Governor in the event BOTH Perry and Dewhurst move up. Therefore, Ogden becomes Gov. and the senators must choose again for Lt. Gov. In this case, Sen. Eltife will be the overwhelming choice for Lt. Gov."
- "This was harder. I suspect that the Rs would make the call on this one. I think Tommy would have a lot of support if he wanted it. The cynical

side of me would say 'who do they want to get rid of?'"

- "He can't vote against suspension any more and doesn't present a challenge to Abbott."
- "If Rick Perry moves up, Dewhurst would sacrifice and say the state of Texas cannot afford to send two of its best leaders up to D.C. Since Perry is in a more influential place, Dewhurst could best serve the state if he gave up the Senate seat and instead take the mantle of governor. Oh, and I guess he would also be able to select the individual who would serve in the interim as U.S. senator."

Which senators do you think will not return next session, for whatever reason (didn't run, got beat, moved up)?

- "Impossible to predict at this point."
- "Wentworth only if an opponent is found from Bexar county that either has \$ or knows somebody that has \$."

• "Duncan will get beat, Harris will retire, Jackson and Uresti will run for Congress."

• "The Dan Patrick Crazy Pants Caucus is about to get a little bit bigger, and not just because Senator Patrick likes doughnuts."

Democrats are in the minority in the Senate and will be until the next Legislature is sworn in, which could happen after they've chosen successors for Dewhurst and/or Perry. What influence will Democratic senators have on the outcome of a succession race?

- "Significant. R's are not able to stick together to pick the winner---too much interpersonal competition."
- "Hopefully influence in moderating those selected"
- "None. Vote will be taken in Republican Caucus."
- "Depends on the amount of power the republican caucus gives them."
- "The Democratic Senators will be the swing votes in the succession vote."
- "Depends on the pressure of the teavangelical element of the republican party. A couple of moderates could vote with the democrats to alter conventional wisdom. Today that doesn't seem likely."
- "Depending on what the outcome of the November elections is, they will either have zero or be the pivotal vote."
- "In actuality none, however, it will be done in such a way that they will appear to have a seat at the table. All this is in keeping with the collegiality of the body."
- "A tremendous influence. They should be able to pick who they want. 11 Ds and 5Rs ought to be able to agree on one of the 5 Rs....in the end I think it'll be 9-10 Ds voting along with 10-12 Rs for somebody like Duncan"
- "I doubt Republicans can achieve unanimity on a successor (jealousies, rivals, retribution, etc) no matter Dan Patrick's wish (he would be the last guy chosen) and therefore think the D's can and will play a role."
- "Significant"
- "If two-thirds are required to confirm a successor, then they will have a role in determining which Republican is chosen."
- "Hardly any."
- "That depends on whether senators vote their district or their party. Dan Patrick is hell-bent on radically reshaping the Senate."
- "Could possibly make a deal with a GOP candidate for Lt. Gov., if no GOP can do it on his/her own"
- "Very little. Rep. Caucus will decide."
- "A lot"
- "HUGE!"
- "Major influence"
- "The Democrats will be the swing vote because with a secret ballot Republicans won't have to honor the Republican Caucus vote and Michael Sullivan."
- "Not much, unfortunately."
- "If the R's split on the selection of a successor then the D's get to pick. Otherwise, they have no influence at all."
- "A helluva' lot."
- "They will combine with the moderate R's to pick the leader."

- "A moderating influence."
- "The potential of a coalition candidate may keep the Rs from selecting the most conservative of their caucus."
- "Very little."
- "It is likely they will coalesce and throw all their support behind one Republican for Lite Gov -- like the House D's did in the initial election of Speaker Straus."
- "A great deal. The Republicans will be divided by the Tea Party and the traditional Republicans. If that permits the democratic members a chance to hold together for a moderate republican (or dare I say a Dem???), a majority can be possible."
- "The dynamic will be similar to when they selected Ratliff, i.e., the Democrats will largely vote as a bloc in the later ballots and that bloc will push the result away from the firebrands and toward choosing a replacement who has a more collegial style. But if they have to choose 2 replacements (Gov and Lt Gov), that may put some twists in the road that we can't anticipate at this point."
- "They will be players."
- "They will have the same influence as the Republicans. We have already read the book on how this process will be conducted. Sen. Patrick can cry all he wants about having the Rep. Caucus choose the next Lt. Gov....but this will not happen."
- "Could play a considerable role in electing Eltife over a candidate like Tommy Williams."
- "I would think having a bloc of votes would be GREAT for any person seeking to be elevated to Lt. Gov or Gov. If the Dems are smart and vote as a bloc, that might give them some leverage and influence in the race."
- "The best the Dems can hope for is a Straus-like result, which is possible."
- "They'll have almost no influence."
- "Democrats as a bloc will have great influence on the election of a Lt. Gov from amongst themselves. Fraser and Carona will divide R's; D's will go with a Duel or Ogden for leadership spots."
- "100 percent"
- "None"
- "Not much since the Republicans have the majority, but they could help out with a consensus vote on a candidate should the Repubs split between two senators."
- "They will be a bloc around which a handful of Rs will coalesce. There are too many fractures among 19 Rs to unite behind one ala the House Speaker election last year."
- "They will be able to block the ascension to LG or GOV of any of the half dozen Republican senators who they consider to be the most objectionable."
- "If they vote as a bloc it could be decisive"
- "Vote as a bloc for the best replacement, even if that person is a Democrat. Show some principle."

- "Little"
- "Little"
- "As much influence as they want, IF they stick together as a bloc."
- "Too early to tell"
- "Assist in move to 'moderation'?"
- "Obviously, if the GOP senators are in lockstep on a strategy, this will be a non-issue. (Except for the timing issue which could really get interesting if the Democrats pick up a couple of seats, as unlikely as that sounds.) Certainly will be among the most intriguing threads running through the process."
- "None"
- "They can break some tied or close vote races"
- "A lot"
- "Very little if they don't vote as a bloc for a Senator that will work with them."
- "None. It is power play time and the junior varsity will be warming the bench"
- "If several Republican senators (and their campaign consultants) begin to see themselves worthy of ascending to the throne, then Democrats could play kingmaker. Otherwise, if it's Patrick and one other Republican, Democrats' votes won't be necessary."
- "Substantial; The next Lt. Gov will be chosen by a majority of Rs in coalition with a majority of Ds"
- "Bloc voting is their only hope."
- "Despite calls for purity, the winning R Senator will have to have D votes to become Lt Gov, which is why he will not compete in the race in 2014."
- "They can vote in a bloc or be the swing votes in Choosing the Governor and Lt Governor"
- "Little if any"
- "Limited. Even if they get to vote, the deal will be cut among the Republicans on who the Lt. Gov is."
- "None"
- "Huge if they play it right. R's will split and a D coalition will matter."
- "With just a handful of moderate Republicans, they become the decision-makers."
- "Democrats will have influence in the outcome of a succession race only if they stick together. However, if history is an indicator, we will see one or two democrats jump ship and cut their own deals."
- "Less than Democrats in the House had on the choice of Straus."
- "As in '01, and as in the House in recent years, look for them to vote as a bloc for a more moderate GOP choice. And they'll succeed."
- "Significant, if they remain as a voting bloc, and are able to persuade the moderate R's to form a coalition. Absolutely no impact if the R's stick together."

- "None"
- "If the Tea Party/MQS folks go after mainstream Republican Senators they whom they perceive as moderate (Harris, Wentworth), then Democrats could form a coalition with any Republicans left who still believe the Earth is round and have an influence disproportionate to their numbers."
- "Coalition of Dems and Moderate GOP's will pick successor"
- "As a bloc, they will be the kingmaker."
- "Their votes count, and they get to vote."
- "They will fight tooth and nail against Dan Patrick and Tommy Williams will be more acceptable choice and will be Lt. Gov. at end of day"
- "They could be the deciding factor. It depends on who emerges as the candidates. A Senator who gains half of the Republicans and a majority of the Democrats can win. Similar dynamics as a House Speaker race. At this time, I don't see a Republican who can bring all of his R colleagues with him."
- "The deciding votes will be cast by them in a split chamber decision."
- "Because of the influence of moderate Republicans, the Democrats in the Texas Senate could have outsized influence on the selection process - and far beyond what Texas voters have given their party."
- "They will decide it."
- "They will whine, but without Wendy Davis, they will have no power."
- "Not much"
- "Substantial"
- "Zero. Decisions will be made in GOP Caucus. Whitmire becomes as influential as Truan was at his peak. Zero."
- "Minimal influence. They won't make major gains in their Senatorial ranks in 2012. Maybe in the next election cycle."
- "None"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Mike Barnett, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Mark Bell, Luke Bellsnyder, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Tris Castaneda, John Colyandro, June Deadrick, Jeff Eller, Alan Erwin, John Esparza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Michael Grimes, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Adam Haynes, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Carl Isett, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Russ Keane, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon,

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