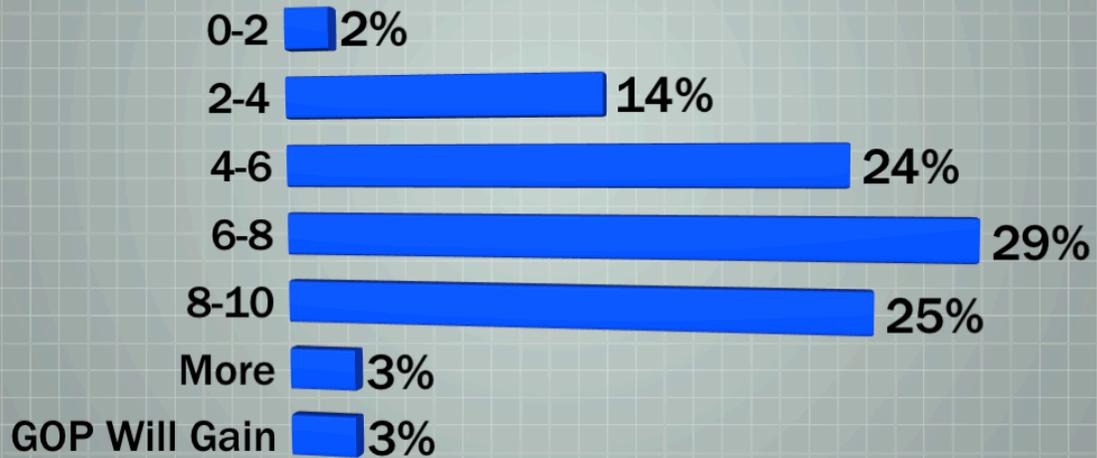


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of April 9*

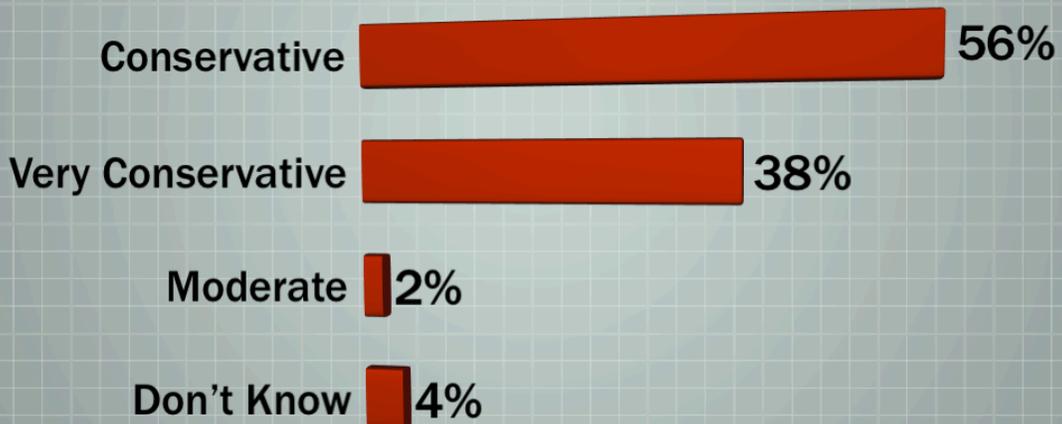
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will Democrats Pick Up Texas House Seats This Year?



## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

What Kind of Republicans Will Prevail in the Primaries?



***There are now 102 Republicans and 48 Democrats in the Texas House. How many seats will the Democrats pick up this year?***

- "Redistricting numbers are the best predictors."
- "Cuts to public education will be a key issue in some pockets of the state."
- "The Democrats will end up with at least 70 seats."
- "Maybe 3 new Ds would be a good thing...the Rs could have a caucus without telling someone to stay home"
- "The ECONOMY will drive people to the polls to vote AGAINST Democrats."
- "A lot depends on turnout. This could be a bad year for Democrats if they do not go vote and if there is a large turn out against the current administration in Washington."
- "OBAMA at the top of ticket wipes out Ds potential for significant gain."
- "The D's would be lucky to hold on to what they've got, especially now that Lozano has switched sides and is running as an R in a swing district, as House Democrats need to focus on those incumbent seats and try not to loose them."
- "This election will reflect more on the status of R vs. D at the Texas level than the national, which has swayed the last two elections. There won't be much excitement produced by either parties' presidential candidates."
- "Dems might lose two or gain 12 or something in between."
- "Women's Health Program will help."
- "Strong anti-Obama sentiment will reduce potential Dem gains in state legislature."
- "The Democrats don't 'pick up' seats; the Republicans drew districts for them. The Democrats LOST 25 seats in the election of 2010."
- "6-8 for now, but if the Republicans keep up their idiotic attacks on women's health care & nominate Santorum, 8-12 is not out of the question."
- "With the higher turnout that will come in a presidential election year, I expect a net democratic gain of 12. The pendulum always swings back."

***What sort of Republicans will prevail in this year's primaries?***

- "I would say Very Conservative, but even those crazies enjoy Memorial Day so it should even out."
- "But all races are local. Open seats will tend toward the more conservative candidates, but in at least a couple of cases moderate Republican challengers will beat very conservative Republicans. And Democrats will surprise in at least one

or two urban races if Obama's re-election effort remains viable."

- "God help us if we're not entering some sort of post-tea-party period in Texas politics"
- "Voters are FED UP with conservative rhetoric. They want CONSERVATIVE ACTION."
- "Though I wouldn't have said this just a couple of months ago, the climate seems to be shifting away a bit from the most extreme tea party elements in the GOP. Despite that, however, the standard policy positions on issues such as women's health, etc. on the Right have gotten a lot more radical."
- "Even former moderates now run as conservatives and there aren't many of them."
- "Difficult to answer because the crazies keep redefining what 'conservative' means. I am predicting that fewer crazies are elected. They will still be conservative, but they will be more realistic."
- "Are there any other kind of Republicans left in Texas beside the super-right? Hardly!"
- "Depends on the district, but generally education issues

(specifically, funding) will separate the far, far right from the right."

- "Low turnout is likely to give them the edge in Primary & OBAMA adds to their numbers in General."
- "All Republicans are 'conservative' on at least some issues, so the answers to this question don't tell us much."
- "Do we really care? In the end Texas still ranks at the bottom half of everything and the R's have no plans or solutions to bring us back to glory days."
- "There will be a mix, and it will come down more to the strength of campaigns than the will of the people."
- "Tea party anger is fading, or being channeled towards national election. Tea party and extreme right wing always make more noise than election-day impact anyway. No major changes expected."
- "Anything less than very conservative is considered liberal these days."
- "Incumbents"
- "The tin foil hat caucus will grow."

*What races are critical to the makeup of the next Legislature — the must-wins for the lobby, interest groups, the political parties, and other factions?*

- "Straus--for the state"
- "The Lobby has bet a bunch on Hancock and Shelton. Davis is a must for the D's. Lozano is important to the

R's Hispanic outreach. MQS is betting on a ton of losers and will finally be sent to the pasture next Session."

- "The must-wins for the 'kids' faction are the candidates who support public education and are running against candidates/incumbents who would dismantle and defund public education. I suppose the re-election of Speaker Joe Straus is a must-win, or it will signify that my answers to questions 1 and 2 are 3 probably wrong."
- "Davis/Shelton"
- "All of the suburban districts are critical to D prospects. Obama provided a surge in 08...but took it away in 10."
- "SD10"
- "Wendy Davis is probably the most important race for the Democrats. TLR has staked its reputation to some extent on beating Wentworth and Tuffy Hamilton. The Republicans would really like to defend minority members such as Lozano and Garza."
- "Matt Beebe v. Joe Straus is the most critical race. Speaker Straus has to have a big win to show he has staying power. Otherwise, his ability to lead his coalition might be compromised."
- "There are no 'must wins'. A wise man once told me, 'anyone's position in business or politics is much like your finger in a pail of water, pull it out and it's like you we're never there'. Life goes on!"
- "Wendy Davis must win if any hopes of a balanced Lt Gov election; Speaker Straus must be back anti-tax groups."
- "If Shelton beats Davis."
- "HD117, HD78"
- "Speaker Straus needs to keep the Empower Texans candidates from winning."
- "Jim Pitts"
- "With Dewhurst running, the U.S. Senate race is the most important to the makeup of the next legislature. If he wins - which is highly likely - who will become the next Lt Guv? Will he/she govern to the right of the right or hold decorum? We just don't know."
- "Wayne Christian will key because of his unabashed conservatism. David Simpson for the same reason."
- "Lobby---the ones that will do as they say interest groups---ones that think like they do political parties--only ones that have drink the Kool-Aid"
- "Wendy Davis is a hugely important seat for Ds in the Senate"
- "Wendy Davis seat for GOP"
- "Democrats must win Wendy Davis. Democrats must defeat Lozano or there will be other defections."
- "It's imperative that Dewhurst be elected to the US Senate--for the sanity of all who work in the Texas capitol. Also, someone must win SD9 so that calls from those candidates will cease!"
- "Wentworth, Todd Smith, Wendy Davis"
- "None. No one person is irreplaceable."

- "Internal election of the new Lt. Governor"
- "Wendy Davis."
- "Must wins are in the Senate. Davis. v. Shelton becomes important for a variety of business and legal issues. Taylor in Jackson's district becomes important."
- "Other than Straus, which members are elected is only of interest to the lobby and interest groups. Otherwise, to partisans, it is only a question of the size of the majority in each house."
- "Lt. Gov."
- "Lon Burnam will lose by a wide margin. He is the most endangered incumbent in Texas. Surprising that so few people have noticed this."
- "There are no single races that are critical. Republicans will dominate the General. Even if the House leadership changes it will not make any difference as to the legislative agenda. Gambling will not pass no matter what happens and abortion cannot be regulated anymore than it already; how could the House get anymore conservative?"
- "Wendy Davis' Senate seat as will determine whether Republicans have a two-thirds majority in the State Senate. In the House: J.M. Lozano, John Garza, Connie Scott & Dee Margo."
- "Uh, what's the criteria for makeup we're using: GOP vs. Dems, rural vs. urban vs. suburban, social cons vs. moderate cons? These are all predictable and no one race or handful of races will tilt the balance from side to the other."
- "Lozano losing in the primary will further establish the ethnic bias of the Republican base. TLR will be exposed as a paper tiger after Wentworth cruises to victory. Keeping Wendy Davis as the 12th vote would help to keep the other Democrats honest."
- "US Senate will be the most critical - everything hinges off of that"
- "Defeating Wentworth is now critical to the street cred of TLR and others backing EAJ while the Democrats need to defeat Lozano to send a message to any other potential defectors."
- "Anyone but Wendy Davis"
- "Straus!!!!"
- "Speaker, Pitts, Ritter, T. King, & few remaining tenured members in House."
- "The critical races will determine the leadership."
- "Davis/Shelton biggest race. Todd Smith/Kelly Hancock will be the biggest lobby race. All of these pale in comparison with Lt. Gov's race"
- "If parents and teachers can beat just a handful of legislators who voted to cut school budgets, a shockwave will go through the Capitol."
- "Pitts"
- "TLR - Wentworth v Jones, Party - Shelton v Davis"

- "Wendy Davis is a critical race to watch, especially for the Senate D's who need that one extra vote to hold things off - can't count on Lucio; see Best/Worst Legislators of 2009 for the reasons."
- "TX HD43"
- "None."
- "Shelton/Davis; Wentworth/ Ames Jones"
- "Straus, duh!"
- "Straus"
- "They all are."
- "Wentworth/Jones, Smith/Kelly"
- "Dewhurst's Senate race has the most impact - the Senate changes dramatically if he wins"
- "The Speaker"
- "Jeff Wentworth over EAJ, Tuffy over James White"
- "Wentworth, Smith-Hancock; Hamilton-White"
- "?"
- "The makeup of the republican caucus in the House will determine the outcomes of the session."
- "SD 10 is huge. If Shelton beats Davis, a very vocal and liberal member will be replaced with a relatively quiet conservative. This is the key general election race in 2012."
- "No clue"
- "Pitts, Eissler"
- "Primary SD25 - helps the GOP gain a real Republican and true conservative in the Senate. General SD10 - gives the GOP the numbers they need to advance a conservative legislative package"
- "Wentworth vs. EAJ, and Smith vs. Hancock. Question is whether or not Trabulsi & Weekley will own the Senate."
- "SD 25 - whether TLR will be successful as the big bully for Senate races. Whole slew of races with TFR, YCT, and Empower Texas that care nothing about public policy, only ideological purity"
- "If Democrats do make gains in 2012, it will be in winning back some inner ring suburban seats that they lost in 2010."
- "Wentworth"

*Which legislative and congressional races will be the most expensive?*

- "Wentworth, Doggett. Wendy Davis"
- "Ames Jones v. Wentworth. And nobody will outspend The Dew."

- "Davis/Shelton; Wentworth/Jones et al; CD 25; RRC seat"
- "HD 117 and CDs 14 & 23. In the primary, CD 33."
- "CD25, HD19"
- "Dewhurst will spend the most, followed closely by Doggett. Davis and Wentworth will be the most expensive legislative races."
- "CD 25"
- "US Senate"
- "D/FW and greater Harris County races"
- "The ones were the incumbent's committee membership / chairmanship impacts the largest and most regulated industry."
- "US Senate"
- "Wentworth and Doggett"
- "SD 9&10"
- "CD33, CD35, CD23"
- "Wendy Davis, Jeff Wentworth"
- "Congressional District 23 will become the most expensive."
- "US Senate between Dewhurst & Cruz, et al"
- "The ones the lobbyist are most interested in"
- "CD25 with the two Williams, etc."
- "Duh, the competitive ones, Canseco, Davis, Wentworth/EAJ, Christian/Paddie"
- "Senate District 10 (general), Senate District 25 (primary), Senate District 11"
- "The SD 25 primary and SD 10 general elections."
- "Wentworth, Todd Smith, Wendy Davis"
- "The ones with the most consultants!"
- "U.S. Senate (Hutchinson seat)"
- "Hamilton v White, Gallego v Canseco"
- "Senate 10 and US 25, (depending on court decision on 25)"
- "KBH's seat will cost millions."
- "Hancock/Smith, Taylor/Norman, Wentworth"
- "Taylor"
- "Congressional: TX-25 for the primary, TX-23 for the general"
- "Very difficult to say at this juncture."
- "CD-25: Austin AND Ft. Worth (with some Waco thrown in) media markets. That's a lot of expensive TV ads."
- "CD 25 and CD 33."
- "US Senate will be the most expensive. EAJ & Wentworth likely"

expensive and the Williams brothers congressional battle as well"

- "Wentworth/Jones"
- "The real expensive races will be in the Republican primary: US Senate, CD-14, CD-25. Other than that, in November look to CD-23 and SD-10. That's about it for expensive races in the fall."
- "Congressional Dist. 10, 25 & 33; Senate Dist. 10"
- "Wentworth's and the open seats and open season in DFW will be most expensive."
- "Wendy Davis will be forced to spend an arm and a smoking hot leg. In the end she will prevail."
- "Davis v Shelton"
- "CD25"
- "TX SN10, TX SN8, TX HD43, US CD23"
- "One would probably expect S.D. 9 and 10 to be pretty expensive. At the congressional level, one would have to conclude that the Doggett race will be pretty pricey as well."
- "HD 43... HD 114... CD 33... CD 35"

- "Wentworth"
- "Wentworth/Jones"
- "All of them all contested races are expensive now days. Pity the poor lobby."
- "CD 25 because of Roger Williams. HD 88 because of Ken King."
- "Doggett race."
- "SD 10 leads the pack for the general. In the primary, the Wentworth and Harris seats will be costly, as could the Estes seat. In the House, I would bet the Scott-Herrero race will cost a ton in the general, and the White-Hamilton race will not be cheap, either."
- "White v Hamilton"
- "CD 14 & 23"
- "Gallego/Canseco"
- "Primary SD25... General SD10"
- "Gallego-Canseco. EAJ-Wentworth."
- "SD 25, SD 9, SD 10"
- "SD 10, Hamilton/White, SD25"
- "Wentworth"

*If you could pose one question to every candidate this year, what would it be?*

- "How will you pay for education"
- "More specifically to those candidates who claim God is 'calling' them into politics. 'Being that God didn't even put His own Son in politics, why is God telling you the best place to further His will is in the Texas Legislature?'"
- "What is the most important policy issue for people in your district? And

please answer without injecting politics."

- "If we don't teach safe sex, don't provide birth control, don't allow abortions, don't require health care mandates, don't fund public health care programs, don't provide safety nets kids, and don't fund their education, what will Texas look like in 20 years?"

- "Why would you ever want to hold political office?"

- "Are you willing to vote to increase taxes to pay for improvements to our educational system, transportation needs and water infrastructure, or do you oppose any increase in revenues for these purposes?"

- "Will you support a tax bill or will you have the courage to make deeper cuts in the state budget?"

- "Why don't you consider both revenue and expense when putting the state budget together?"

- "Are you willing to make serious changes to the state budget next year, even if it requires higher fees/taxes/etc?"

- "Will you err on the side of your district regardless of party or chamber politics?"

- "How is starving the Texas schools of resources good for the future of Texas?"

- "How will you fund our schools and state water plan?"

- "Would you restore the \$4 billion in cuts from education plus \$1 billion in

grants? Do you think the Texas budget must be cut further, and if so how will your constituents be impacted."

- "Do you agree with the Legislature's decision last year to cut education spending instead of using Rainy Day Fund money to make up the deficit?"

- "Will you commit to passage of Dream Act."

- "If you want the schools to continue cutting their budget, give us your plan for your local district to save 15%."

- "Currently, the Texas Public Utility Commission is considering regulatory changes designed to make electricity more expensive and designed to increase generator profits. These changes are intended to address the state's future resource adequacy challenges. Do you think this is the right approach? Do you think regulators should change the rules to make electricity more expensive in Texas?"

- "Why can't we seem to grasp that issues we keep describing as 'coming problems' or 'looming problems' (like K-12 funding, Medicare/Medicaid, and water) are already full-fledged, five-alarm catastrophes that demand more than rhetoric and buck-passing?"

- "Seriously? Does it matter?"

- "What is sustainable development?"

- "Will you represent you district or will you represent a cause?????"

- "How do you propose getting local cities to pony up money for water

plans to match what the legislature can offer?"

- "When does government get so small that it's useless?"
- "Why do you care what Empower Texans and other fringe groups think?"
- "What does 'conservative' mean to you?"
- "What are your priorities in State Spending?"
- "Would you please think and act for the future of the state, including education, services for the poor, water, transportation, to name a few, instead of being selfish people who think only about your own political futures and whether Grover Norquist and the government-hating tea party-types approve of you?"
- "If you are currently an elected official or if you win office, will you participated in the State / Federal Sponsored health insurance program?"
- "Will you support measures to restore financial integrity to public education?"
- "What would it take to convert you from a lobby / money driven politician to a public servant? (Might figure out a way to say it less confrontationally!)"
- "Why?"
- "Why do you want to subject your family to this crap?"
- "Politicians often say they are putting the next generation ahead of

the next election. Please give a few examples of how you have done or will do this in elected office."

- "'What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?' (If they answer 'African or European?' then they have my vote. The rest is just details.)"
- "What is your number one priority if you are elected to office, and why is that your top priority?"
- "When was the last time you read the U.S. and Texas constitutions?"
- "What is your plan for water, schools, and roads?"
- "Some people believe that partisanship is growing at the expense of democracy. Do you think the current movement towards stauncher partisanship makes the state weaker or stronger?"
- "Since fictitious cuts to Medicaid did not work, what is your plan for resolving the structural deficit in the Texas state budget?"
- "Are you for more taxes?"
- "Are you ready for school finance????"
- "What are you going to do with respect to Transportation funding?"
- "Will you (1) vote to restore the \$400 per-student cut to public education that the Legislature created in 2011; (2) keep per-student funding the same, which will necessitate more funding due to enrollment growth, or (3) impose more per-student cuts to public education?"

- "Yes or No, will you vote for more cuts to public schools?"
- "How will you approach state revenue generation?"
- "How do you propose to maintain state budget priorities while ensuring public education is not cut further than in 2011?"
- "How will you fix our structural budget deficit?"
- "Two part question: To address the continuing budget shortfall, what is your priority action to take on the spending and revenue side of the equation?"
- "Political considerations aside, what do you personally really care about the most?"
- "Why would you want to be a member of the legislature, have you lost your mind?"
- "School finance"
- "How do you propose Texas fund its highway, water, education and health care infrastructure going forward?"
- "Are you capable of getting along with other members so that the best interests of the state are served?"
- "What are your goals for public education and higher education for next session?"
- "Do you understand the need for greater rigor in education as a matter of highest priority for the economic future of our people and our state? Or is your thinking on education shaped by the educrats on one side or those who have abandoned public education on the other?"
- "Always ask yourself what would SpongeBob do"
- "What is your stance on funding for the Women's Health Program?"
- "How do you plan to fund the state's water plan?"
- "Isn't it time we stopped ideologically-inspired posturing and replaced it with attention to the long-term problems facing Texas?"
- "Will you be covered by a lame duck governor?"
- "Why in the world would you want to be a part of this train wreck we call a legislative session? Followed shortly by: You know it only pays \$600 a month, right?"
- "Will you hire me?"
- "What is governments role?"
- "Will you support open carry in the 83rd Session?"
- "Are you willing to publicly acknowledge the undeniable facts that a) Texans want government services like roads, schools and health care, and b) those services require more tax revenue than Texas currently brings in?"
- "How would you fund the state water plan?"
- "Can we adequately prepare the future workforce of Texas if we keep cutting public education?"

- "Are you willing to reform business taxes and close loopholes in order to have increased revenue to invest in education for the future of business in Texas?"
- "Why the hell are you running?"

*Our thanks to this week's participants:* Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Walt Baum, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Jay Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, John Colyandro, Randy Cubriel, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, John Esparza, Norman Garza, Bruce Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Michael Grimes, Wayne Hamilton, Sandy Haverlah, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keats Norfleet, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Tom Phillips, Royce Poinsett, Jay Propes, Jeff Rotkoff, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Bruce Scott, Dan Shelley, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Ellen Williams, Seth Winick, Angelo Zottarelli.