

***Do you think Joe Straus will win another term as speaker of the House?***

- "Noisy outsiders are just that. The majority of members appreciate the Speaker's leadership style and integrity."
- "As has been the case for years, the incumbent is protected by low quality of his challengers."
- "But not without the Democrats' help."
- "But barely."
- "The equation is there for another term."
- "While he has suffered a few losses in the primaries, those should be made up for by several new Democrats being in the House in January. Where else are Ds going to go?"
- "About the only decision the House Dems can influence is the Speaker's race."
- "It depends on if the Ds continue to give away their votes for little in return."
- "Its hard to take a challenge by a trial lawyer seriously."
- "Has done a good job but greatest strength is that it's hard to beat someone with no one. Elect someone who voted pnv in last speaker's race? Seriously?"
- "Few alternatives that can be competitive."
- "It's a lot easier to get support of newbies when you are in a position to deliver on your offers/promises (plumb committee assignments, anyone?), as opposed to trying to lead a coup."
- "No question."
- "As good a guess as any."
- "Straus has confidence of members and they like how he runs the House."
- "Yes, he lost several chairman and he'll offer those posts to others."

- "He lost the Dems in 2011, and he lost some Republican support in the primaries when it was clear just how exposed he had left his own members. And if there's one rule in politics, it's not to expose your members. It leaves them dangling."
- "Brian Hughes Really"
- "He will need to work the freshman members"
- "I honestly can't believe the media continues to make this a story. Barrack Obama could file for Speaker and you guys would call it a race."

***Who would you say is the frontrunner in the race to fulfill the remainder of David Dewhurst's term as lieutenant governor if he leaves?***

- "It's down to Carona and Eltife; either are good for business. Te Party types won't be pleased but who cares. The catch is who can make Democrats most comfortable."
- "ABP - Anyone But Patrick. I would hope it would be someone like Duncan who has a long tenure and is well-respected."
- "This will be a good one. Lots of maneuvering going on behind the scenes. Carona is playing the Democratic and centrist Republican card, and has to be ahead now"
- "Sen. Eltife is likable and respected. He has the reputation of his yes being a yes and his no being a no."
- "The body is more likely to choose someone just for a transition to 2014. Think Pope Benedict."
- "Patrick smoked out Carona through his machinations. Eltife has smartly kept his powder dry."
- "Pray for rationality."
- "Isn't SD-1 always the default?"
- "But the likeliest lieutenant governor going forward is Dewhurst himself!"
- "It should be someone who has seniority in the Senate, has respect of both parties, has a proven record of working well with members of both parties, and because of the political reality of today someone who is right of center (not too far, just enough on governing philosophy and principles). Sadly, the ideal candidate (Duncan) isn't pure enough for certain members of his party, which is a shame. The Texas Senate

will need Duncan's leadership and experience during what promises to be a challenging session."

- "That's assuming Dew can win. The odds are that the person entering the runoff with the lead usually loses. I'm sure Carney is READY!"
- "The new more conservative Senate may not think the leading placeholder candidates are sufficiently conservative enough..."
- "Carona is working hard but I think he has hurt himself by being too aggressive with the D's. Eltife will wind up as the Lt Gov. That is if Dewhurst doesn't self destruct before July"
- "Senator Carona brings a wealth of experience, wisdom and strategic thinking to a job that desperately needs an elected official that does not pander to the extremist right wing faction."
- "Are we really stuck with that list?"

***Will Dewhurst's replacement be chosen by the GOP caucus or will the Democrats have a voice in the selection?***

- "Well, the replacement will have the majority support of the caucus, because, hey, who doesn't want to back a winner?"
- "Patrick will mount a huge bid for the caucus choosing, and the outcome is uncertain."
- "This will be the beginning of a battle royale in the next election cycle."
- "The GOP caucus will run the table with the replacement process. The Democratic leadership can ask for inclusion, but there is little capital to put down to guarantee that inclusion. Democrats would be better to look for partnerships with strong contenders for the Lt. office and hedge on the selection."
- "Depends on how rabid the GOP winners are."
- "There will be a power struggle between the republicans and it will linger throughout the session."
- "As the Primary indicated, Republicans are the new Democrats--infighting and back biting prohibit consensus."

- "Last I checked, the Lt. Governor presided over the entire body and represented the entire state."
- "For the Democrats not to be relevant, the Republican caucus would have to be cohesive and organized. We should refrain from participating in rumors that they are not cohesive, many do not like each other very much, and may, in fact, be gay."
- "He or she will be chosen by the Committee of the Whole, per the Texas Constitution--despite the wishes of Dan Patrick. 'If the office of Lieutenant Governor becomes vacant, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall convene the Committee of the Whole Senate within 30 days after the vacancy occurs. The Committee of the Whole shall elect one of its members to perform the duties of the Lieutenant Governor in addition to the member's duties as Senator until the next general election.' Article 3, Section 9 of the Texas Constitution."
- "I am afraid the world as we have known it has changed."
- "Not sure they will need to worry about it frankly!"
- "There will be rumors of conjecture masquerading as theories until we all see the white smoke come from the pink dome, but that's only going to be someone's cigar."
- "Since Dewhurst is going to be Lieutenant Governor, there's no need to speculate"
- "The Caucus will not be able to determine a consensus candidate rendering themselves powerless."

***What's your take on the election results? What's it mean for the House and the Senate?***

- "It's not clear yet given the runoffs"
- "Much more conservative in both bodies."
- "Move to the right in both houses is a precursor to more DC style partisanship in the legislative process."
- "Obviously a more conservative Senate (and possibly even more so depending on Wentworth & Davis) but relative status quo in the House."
- "Pretty much as expected. The turnover being very high is going to prove to be interesting and probably somewhat chaotic."

- "Both chambers remain conservative. No new taxes, no expansion of budget. Compassionate conservatism perhaps...."
- "Hello more conservative Senate. Hello more freshmen in the House."
- "No more ability to kill crazy stuff in the Senate. Of there are 75 sane members of the House, they can run things."
- "There will be a few one-termers in the new class of Representatives. They won't like this process much."
- "Strauss continues to grow in strength, Senate takes turn farther right."
- "They will be more conservative than ever"
- "Both moving more to the right."
- "Nothing surprises me anymore in Texas politics."
- "More conservative. Period."
- "A sorry mess for Texans."
- "As for the House, mixed results. Many of the Speaker's closest lieutenants are leaving, but many of the newly elected members will be loyal to Speaker Straus, as well. The fact is, however, that with so many new faces, much like last session, things will move slower and there will be a steep learning curve. Those with seniority and experience will find their influence has increased. As for the Senate, it will become more conservative, it appears."
- "A more divisive and rancorous body with increased intimidation by the right wing nuts."
- "More conservative, House & Senate."
- "The membership of both houses will be slightly more conservative, but not the leadership."
- "Sad to see some institutional House knowledge leave, namely Eissler. Interested in the Wentworth run-off and obviously Dewhurst/Cruz to see what shake-ups there are on the Senate side."
- "A total wreck"
- "Republican controlled and both move toward the middle."

- "Lots of Newbies & more inexperience in the House and interesting to see who can move into being effective leaders in Senate Committees."
- "No real surprises. The House will have fewer Republicans but they will be more conservative. The Senate will be more conservative. I think there is a pattern here. It is also worth noting that almost every election outcome from last Tuesday can be explained in local terms, without regard to conservative/Tea Party/moderate labels."
- "The state keeps getting more Republican and conservative, and the date of the demographic-driven eventual Democratic resurgence keeps getting postponed."
- "Straus lieutenant losses mean that a new Speaker is imminent."
- "A wash - lost some good ones and lost some not so good ones. Still facing a Session with some big decisions that need to be made - but don't know yet if anyone will step up."
- "Tea party power might be running low in 2012. Results in Texas could be a case study of what will happen nationally in other state legislative races and in US Congressional races."
- "Both houses got more conservative-if that's possible- and Straus may be forced to move further right. As always the Senate will have to play the role of the grown ups. The former House members while more conservative than their predecessors will be forced to moderate as they balance district interests that just got 5 times larger than their house districts."
- "More of the same."
- "Tough break for the incumbents that lost."
- "More Tea Party craziness and the continued obliteration of the collegial traditions of the legislature."
- "Both Houses move further to the right"
- "The REALTORS are a force to be reckoned with...they took out an incumbent...something rarely done."
- "It will be a SCARY session - not much of real significance will be accomplished."
- "House in the hands of the Tea Party nuts. Senate with a presiding officer that will cause division and not cooperation."
- "All more conservative and that trend will carry into policy and budget decisions"

- "Wentworth runoff is very important to the future of the Senate and whether the Ds will be able to play a role."
- "No change in the Senate. Speakers power gets marginally better"
- "Let the R on R warfare commence. So long as the apostles of purity are free to exact their revenge, Texas Democrats are handed the opportunity for real power their statewide leadership is unable to provide."
- "The more things change the more they remain the same."
- "Another crummy session"
- "The further to the right each chamber goes, means that the Ds can become the voice of reasoning. This coming session will set the tone for Republican primaries and eventually our downfall as independents will start abandoning us."
- "Trial lawyers will have less influence in Senate requiring democrats and others to fight harder on those issues. House will be a learning process with more power to experienced vets."
- "The Senate has become more conservative, which could have significant implications if Wendy Davis is unable to win reelection. The House will net probably be a little more moderate. A few extreme members -- Berman, Christian and possibly Sid Miller - are departing, while some moderates lost as well. But 6 to 8 new Ds should marginally move the House back to the middle, though practically it won't mean much given the huge Republican numerical advantage. The primaries demonstrated Gov. Perry's decline in influence as well."
- "Something tells me this won't be the last election cycle with a big turnover in the House!"
- "House - Chairmanship turnover. Senate - Same"
- "A pool cleaner replaced Eissler. Dumb."
- "Status Quo"
- "Senate will be more conservative, House will have about 94 Republicans."
- "Hope everyone enjoyed last session because the election results won't change a thing policy-wise"
- "Dems lose a lot of experience. Repubs improve their caucus IQ by about 30%."

- "The House grows more naive and doctrinaire with each entering class. The Senate has replaced seasoned moderates with ideological hacks. The state continues to fall further behind the curve in the process."
- "Unbelievably, every outgoing Senator is being replaced by someone more conservative. Hopes for necessary investments in the state's future (education, water, transportation) are dim."
- "The House will have the Bitter Caucus that continues to demonize those that don't hate Straus and Senate will watch as Carona and Patrick duke it out only to see a third candidate rise up and be the President of the Senate"
- "Overall, it's further to the right."
- "Hard turn to the further to the right. If the capitol was a NASCAR track, it just converted from an oval to a circle."
- "If a moderate leader does not step up, both Houses will teeter on the brink of conservative disaster."
- "A more conservative House. A Senate which remains unchanged. Difficulty in the budgeting process."
- "More conservative Senate; slightly less Republican House"
- "It's a push--the Senate now lists more to starboard, but the House will correct to port a bit (but still lean right)."
- "Primaries aren't over!"
- "Initial impressions would suggest that the senate at least made a pretty sharp turn to the right. As for the west side, it would seem that the speaker will have his hands full finding new leadership. I'm sure the talent is there, but it has not surfaced yet."
- "Education policy is really up in the air."
- "Tea Party candidates marginally out performed traditional establishment Republicans in several important races, which is likely to manifest itself in a more conservative Legislature next session."
- "The usual zoo. Only zooier."
- "Not much change."



- "Results were varied enough to allow most factions to claim victory(ies) and thus keep on fighting."
- "Eissler should have worked harder. Guess he really wanted to lobby."
- "Three steps to the right...spin around.... crazy time. Texas state government becoming more like D.C. each election cycle."
- "Chaos"
- "Tea party is insignificant."
- "Good for Straus. Losing Chairs means he gets to give them to somebody else. Look for someone who voted against him the first go round to get a Chair. Senate is a tougher body. Look for the House budget priorities to win the day."
- "More partisan and ideological rancor in both houses. Perry compounds it."
- "A more conservative Senate and a more volatile House"
- "Important state infrastructure needs will go unaddressed again, meaning a four to six year delay will have occurred at this time. A hole is being built just as the hole in prison capacity developed over time, requiring a tripling of prison beds by huge spending in the early '90s. But, roads and water projects take longer to build and are central to growth, so delays there are even more harmful."
- "Tea party just won't go away....."
- "More conservative body but budget and education restraints will make it a wash policy wise."
- "More conservative, more anti-establishment. Worse Lege."
- "Polarization"
- "A very small group of very powerful members will (fortunately) dictate the terms of this mess we call democracy."
- "House more of the same...Senate more conservative."
- "Those who want to take significant dollars out of the 'rainy day fund' will be very disappointed."
- "Straus is strengthened."

- "Both a tad more conservative, with 2013 now even less likely to see tax increases, major draw downs on the rainy day fund for the next budget cycle, and gambling than 2011."
- "For the House, it means that revolving special interest support is now more important than ideology or party. You can't win re-election with too many of the special interests arrayed against you. For the Senate, Dewhurst being forced into a runoff by doing what the Senate wanted means that Republican Senators will have to be even more ideological to appeal to their statewide base. Ergo, yee-haw."
- "The Senate will be somewhat more conservative but the house members moving over have work across party lines and I expect they will continue. Too much has been made of the losses in the house and not enough about the freshman that won. Strauss will win a 3rd term without breaking a sweat."
- "Generational change"
- "If the Lege were a sports team, 2013 would be what they call a 'rebuilding year.' It's a lot of new people in the House, and people who are new to the job they just won in the Senate. And we've lost so much institutional knowledge between folks who are retiring and folks who lost primaries."
- "Moved more conservative in both chambers but voters showed a lot of it had to do with anti-incumbent sentiments."
- "The next session will be a rough one. As they say in NASCAR tighten up those seat belts boys we are going racing and it will be door to door bumper to bumper beating' and bangin'"
- "Both chambers are undeniably more conservative. Straus can't protect his team which makes it a free-for-all"
- "'Straus losses lieutenants' isn't the story. Those people were beat for a number of reasons, but being committee chairs was not one of them. The House will run similar to last session, the Senate should actually be more functional now."
- "Bad night to be an incumbent. More polarization in the leg."
- "Slightly less conservative House when they convene in January. Too early to say on the senate. Wentworth and Davis still to be decided."