

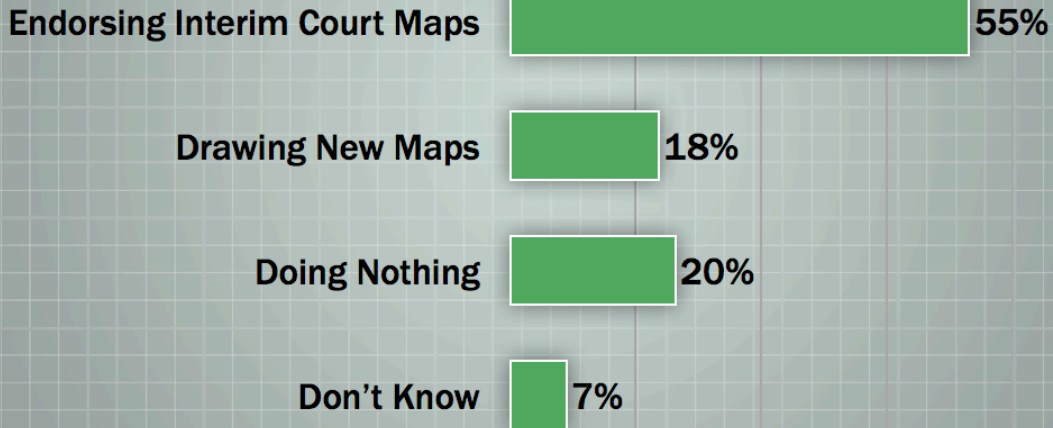
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of June 10*

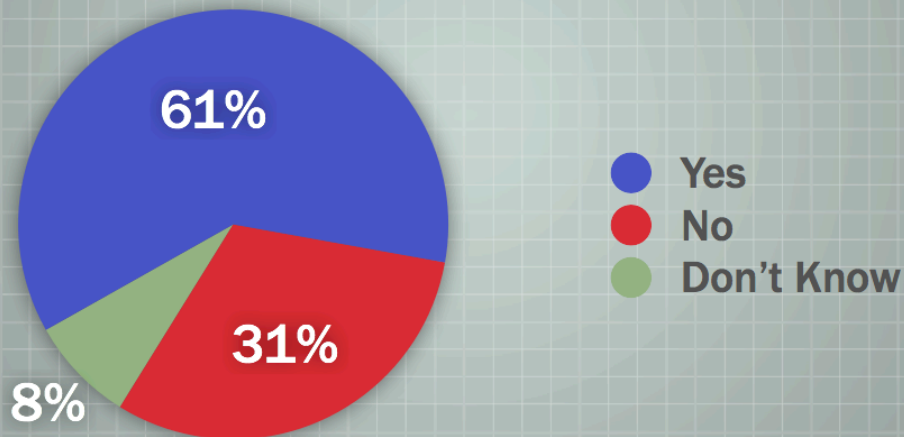
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The session will end with lawmakers:



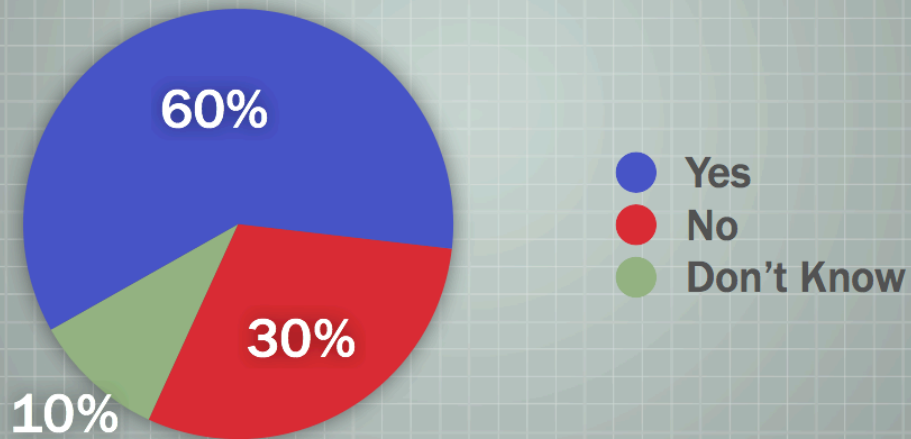
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Will the governor call them back if they don't finish redistricting?



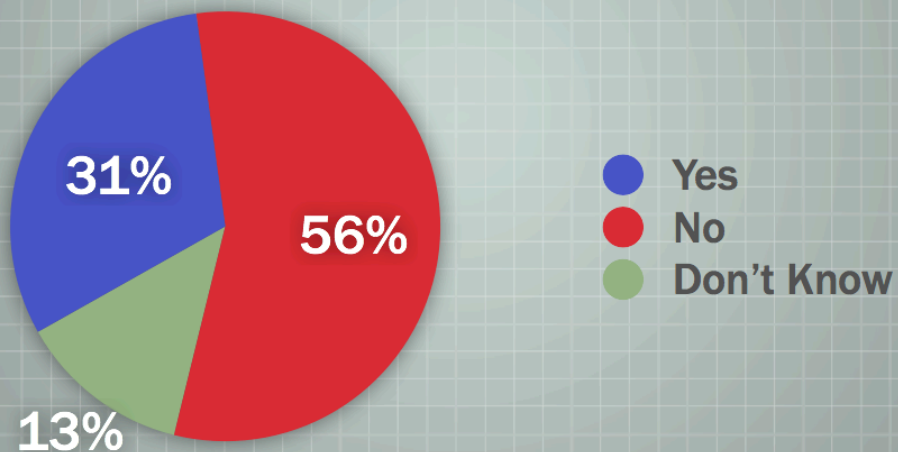
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Will maps be ready by September?



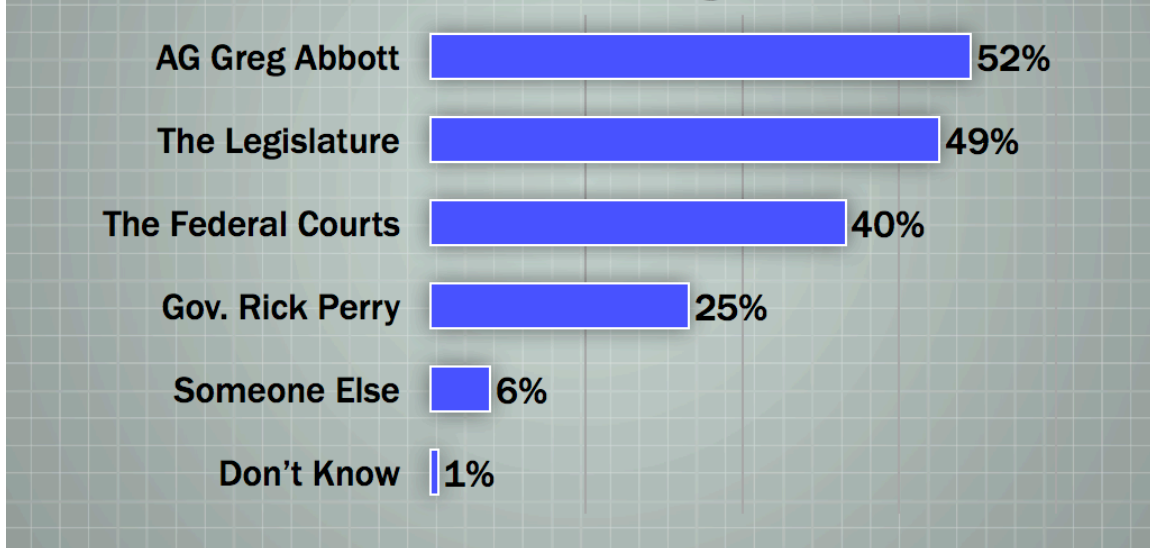
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Will the 2014 primaries be delayed?



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Who's responsible for the unfinished business of redistricting?



The special session's redistricting work will end with lawmakers:

- "The court's action was not significant enough to warrant the fight, and besides, the R's control the majority of all districts."
- "Once one district line gets moved, all bets are off (and the wheels with them)."
- "The D's will make enough noise that the R's will agree to some cosmetic changes to the court maps to allow the D's to go home with something."
- "The panel of three federal judges say they're legal. Why do TMF and Texas Democrats insist on fighting the federal judges?"
- "Why isn't 'Democrats take a summer trip to Louisiana' an option?"
- "Summer is here; Austin isn't the destination vacation most of the 181 elected types are looking for...."
- "Who cares? Redistricting is an intramural skirmish best avoided by amateurs!"
- "Collapse. Melt down. The realization that Greg Abbott is not the smartest man in the room - and this from a Republican."
- "The AG has the benefit of having taxpayers foot the bill for his team. Ds must raise their own money. Rs will be content to swing for the fences...again."

- "There will be some minor edits, but overall, the maps remain the same. However, this does not mean we have seen the last of redistricting. For some reason we tend to forget that redistricting in 1991 did not end until 1998 and redistricting in 2001 did not end until a few years later."
- "Need a crystal ball for this question."
- "Look for changes only where absolutely necessary or in cases of vacated seats."
- "FEW changes will be made to the 2012 maps."
- "The Dems will howl and the Leadership will be aghast at their lack of understanding which all makes for good theatre but the real drama lies in what the Supremes rule on Section 5 of Voting Rights Act."
- "They are holding a 'road show' around the state over the next ten days to blunt the Democrats criticism of short-changing the normal process and citizen input."
- "Wishful thinking but anticipate that Republican majority and attorney general will at least want new maps that reverse some of the court ordered decisions for 2012. Districts such as the congressional district in Austin; senatorial district in Ft. Worth; and a few other house districts will be impacted."
- "But the answer seems much less important that the overall political fall out with the voters and among the Rs for even calling the Session and making the Members open up Pandora's litigation laden box"
- "Continued litigation that results in either a delayed primary or, if the Democrats get their way, no primaries and everyone running on a general ballot next November."
- "It's the safest route -- although not completely safe. Legislative stupidity in 2011 may have saved the Voting Rights Act, and Texas legislature is now under the microscope as a judicially-determined biased body."
- "Why travel all over the state if you are not going to do anything. They may not do anything meaningful, but they will do something."
- "This Special will only result in wasted taxpayer money."
- "With the Senate map not in play, the Lt. Gov. in France, and the Speaker not aligned with the Governor's call, this is not a formula for success--more of a witches' brew stirred by the AG."
- "House and congressional"
- "Whatever the result, it won't stop the courts from having the final say."

Do you think the governor will call another special session if lawmakers don't approve redistricting plans during the current session?

- "But not on redistricting."
- "Do you think the Governor will accept defeat when he has the power to hold the Legislature hostage in perpetuity?"
- "This may be the one thing Jeff Wentworth got right. I move the suspension of the rule that bills be read over three several days..."
- "Depends on why the maps might not be adopted--did they run out of time or were the votes not there? If it's a time issue, then yes, he'll call them back. If it's a numbers issue, then he'll have to reconsider. Who wants to risk association with two failed special sessions?"
- "It's his call to make."
- "I think he will do anything to try and remain relevant."
- "He has done his job, MOFOs!"
- "Who knows what lurks in the mind the Haskell shadow."
- "Yes, but... it won't be necessary."
- "Unless he goes to France..."
- "Since they've only left themselves a week to get a bill through after their road show, it is likely they'll have to have more time."
- "Why not?"
- "No way!"
- "But not immediately..."

State election officials say they need final maps by September 1. Will maps be ready by then?

- "They're ready now."
- "And they'll get another lawsuit on September 2."
- "The timing of this could very well turn on the Lt. Gov's summer vacation schedule."
- "Temporary maps might be available by Sept 1 (either the current temporary maps ones or updated ones) but final maps seems very unlikely. However if the Legislature adopts any new maps this summer
- there is no scenario under which those maps will be ready by September 1, 2013."
- "We'll be in court far past that. They have already had 2 years and are no closer than they were at the beginning of the process."
- "After the last go around, only a fool will make redistricting predictions."
- "See #1"
- "It depends on the SAT court."

- "Even if Republicans approve maps in this or a subsequent special session, court challenges will carry beyond September 1."
- "litigation litigation litigation . . ."
- "Something will be ready... ready for litigation."
- "It depends on the courts, not the legislature. And it seems unlikely."
- "Likely litigation"
- "The maps will still be under court review."
- "They will have maps in time to print ballots for a primary in March!"
- "No, of course not! There are only 372 shopping days till Election Day! That's not nearly enough time to buy a legislature."

Do you think the 2014 primaries will be delayed by legislative and judicial work on the state's political maps?

- "If they tweak the current maps at all, we can count on some court action that could result in delays."
- "Shelby v. Holder may prove to be game, set, match for Section 5 of the VRA"
- "Hell yes. The Ds want Texas badly. Obama and his people will use IRS tactics, AG spying on media tactics or whatever it takes to mess with Texas."
- "I think the courts have tired of the shenanigans and will order maps."
- "We will look at this question in the near future and realized you picked a bunch of dumb guys to participate in your Inside Intelligence. Maybe a few will get lucky and call it right."
- "Surely political party leaders learned from the primary date debacle of 2012. Please tell me they learned that it's hard enough to get rational people to vote in primaries. It's almost impossible to get rational people to vote in postponed primaries or special elections."
- "They can just use the current maps pending a judicial outcome."
- "Likely to be delayed by litigation."
- "Depends on whether Abbott learned from the last time that delayed primaries are dangerous business for established office holders."
- "NO ONE wants a repeat of the delayed primary/runoff! Ask David Dewhurst how that turned out for HIM last time!"
- "Depends how SCOTUS decides on Shelby; no if Section V is gutted, yes if it is upheld."
- "The members will make every effort not to put themselves through that again."
- "May be wishful thinking here..."
- "That is a question only the courts can answer."

Who do you hold responsible for the unfinished condition of Texas redistricting? [Choose all that apply]

- "This is all about political posturing and partisan strength. Texas needs a redistricting commission, perhaps like Iowa, restriction on when and how many times redistricting can occur in a decade, and a clear statement about communities of interest attempting to prevent weirdly shaped districts which benefit only the politicians and not the citizens. It is time we again allow our citizens to pick their representatives instead of the politicians picking their constituents through gerrymandered districts."
- "Greg Abbott is responsible for the unfinished condition. Lots of other bit players in this fiasco, but the flawed legal strategy is his. And now he wants the legislature to hurry up and endorse court maps so he can devote himself full-time to running for governor."
- "Both parties are more interested in protecting themselves as opposed to getting reasonable maps passed."
- "You failed to provide the correct option: an outdated Voting Rights Act."
- "Xavier Rodriguez should have removed himself from the start. He is taking revenge on Republicans for voting him out of office. He has lost sight of Justice."
- "The lengthy litigation is frustrating, but there are two pieces here. The 3-judge court in San Antonio is standard Voting Rights Act stuff - and is the same process from 1990's when minority party Republicans challenged the Richards/Bullock maps. On the other hand, the DC court has made legal rulings that could never have been predicted and that are not supported by statute or prior case law. Texas is right to appeal those unjustified rulings for as long as it takes to overturn that naked judicial activism by the DC judges."
- "I wish 'the process' was an option. This is ridiculous. Appoint an independent commission, ignore incumbency, make the districts 50/50."
- "All of the above. Those in power will do their best to stay in power. It is called human nature."
- "Political overreaching by the Leg and the AG."
- "What's that old saying? Pigs get fat. Hogs get slaughtered. The Republican majority Legislature could have drawn maps for comfortable majorities. But rather than being comfortably full, it opted for gluttony. Now there's this 'predicament.' If Republicans don't get it right this time, they risk the courts drawing maps. The last thing the Republicans want is Democrat judges drawing redistricting lines. If that happens, watch the red fade."
- "House & Senate leadership."
- "Gerrymandering is not illegal but apartheid is."

- "The Republican leadership, in the congressional delegation and in Austin, sought to minimize minority voter gains following the 2010 census even though 85 percent of the population gains were attributable to minority population increase."
- "Republican partisans not remembering that pigs get fat but hogs get slaughtered."
- "Overreach by Texas Republicans (in the legislature) and inexcusably incompetent litigation decisions by Abbott put us in this position."
- "The Redistricting Narrative is being driven by the Democrats. They believe that portraying Republicans as racist is a good message for them -- this is one of the few opportunities they have to get their name in the paper. TMF gets to sound off all the time and pretend he is relevant."
- "The AG should NOT have filed all of his suits. He was SO arrogant and certain that he would prevail, but all he did was delay the decisions."
- "Uncertainty about Sec. 5 of the Voting Rights Act."
- "Abbott has fumbled this issue miserably. In an attempt to put this issue behind him and ramp up his political machine for 2014, he's put Republican legislators in a no-win situation and will likely try to place the blame on Speaker Straus and Lt. Gov. Dewhurst - all while costing tax payers millions of dollars to be subjected to another month of Kabuki Theater."
- "I blame Coco."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, James Clark, Harold Cook, Addie Mae Crimmins, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, Susan Hays, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Robert Miller, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Jerry Polinard, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Patrick Reinhart, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward,

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