

“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

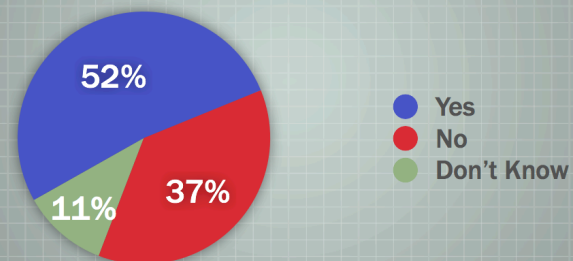
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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of September 16*

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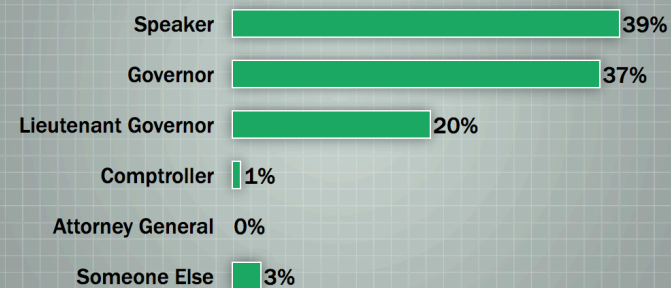
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Will power shift back to the
Legislature when Perry leaves office?



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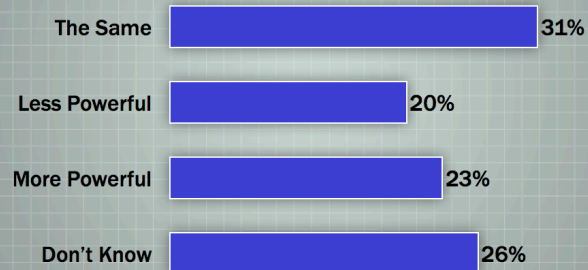
Who will be most influential
after the 2014 elections?



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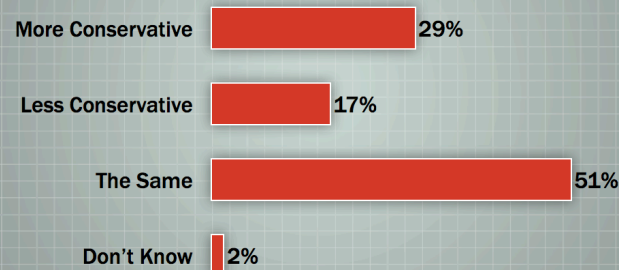
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After the next elections,
the Lt. Gov's influence will be:



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After the 2014 elections,
the Texas House will be:



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Will power shift back to the legislative branch when the governor's office changes hands in 2015?

- "No matter who the new governor is, male or female, the legislature initially will flex a little bit of that muscle that's gone soft."
- "That doesn't mean the Governor won't be powerful."
- "It must. The legislature will have its usual amount of turnover and ambition, but the governor will be someone who has not had decades dealing chits and making board appointments and trading favors so he/she will be comparatively weaker in comparison to the legislature."
- "Depends on the style and leadership of the South, West, and East wings of the Capitol. Today, the South wing dominates; West is strengthening; East is a joke."
- "If Patterson is Lt. Gov, you'd better believe it."
- "Depends on who's Lt gov and how well Abbott knows the Lege process and his relationships with legislators."
- "Maybe the Senate, but not the House. Turnover has limited the experience-level of members. Not sure House members would know what to do. And considering the make up of that body, that's not a bad thing."
- "Lack of tenure and new state commission and regent appointments. It will take some time for the executive branch to consolidate power."
- "Probably a little since all the appointees of agencies and departments will not have been appointed by the then governor. This will make the legislature a bit more powerful relatively."
- "The power was never in the governor's office."
- "Huh? Shift back to the legislature? The governor has the power now? Maybe you are right because he has made every appointment in Texas, but from the legislative process standpoint, who cares about what the governor thinks now?"
- "The power will stay with the cronies and the sycophants."
- "Unless Bob Bullock is making an unexpected comeback, we are more likely to have a void rather than an shift."
- "With a new governor, the Legislature seems to always retake power, if only for a session or two. Their experience in the arena gives both chambers an upper hand when the new governor and his/her staff get their feet on the ground. One exception was Bush who won a tough battle on a limited number of issues, so the Legislature worked off of the fact that the voters endorsed his issues."
- "Too early to tell"
- "It will be up for grabs."
- "It's always been with the legislative branch."

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- "Texas' legislature lacks strong leadership....Abbott and staff are ambitious, so it's difficult to envision much change."
- "Governor Abbott already has called for greater executive power. 84th session will be a show down."
- "Power is with the Legislature for 5 months every other year. That won't change."
- "Depends on who is Governor"
- "Exactly what power was transferred that would be transferred back? Was the executive branch passing legislation? So the legislature rubber-stamped all of the Perry Plans en masse? This question couldn't be more stupid if you were trying. The legislative branch will have exactly the same power in 2015 as it had in 1999."
- "It should!"
- "It will never shift back to the Legislative branch. Your own poll confirms that, showing that 75% of Texans have not heard of Joe Straus. Everybody knows who Rick Perry is and before the campaign is finished, everyone will know who Greg Abbott is too. He will define what the issues are. The legislature can agree or not agree, but the Governor will continue to run the show."

- "Yes it will take the governor some time for he and his staff to get up to speed. The power will be in the House provided the inmates don't take over the asylum. The Senate will be adjusting to a new Lt Governor hopefully. If not it will be rudderless with Williams and crew having to save the day."
- "Yes, because the Republicans in control of the House and Senate are not going to take marching orders from Governor Wendy Davis."
- "Speaker Straus is still the only adult sitting at the table, but Gen. Abbott should bring an energized approach to unresolved problems. No comment on the East Wing of the building."
- "It never shifted, Perry just managed to get them to do what he wanted!"
- "A matter of degree and depends to some extent on who the Lt. Gov. is."
- "I think the moribund executive branch will be invigorated. It will take some time to stand up a new government. Is that possible?"
- "I never knew the power lied with Governor Perry."
- "What the legislature ceded in 2003, they can't get back."
- "Doesn't it already?"

With a new governor in place, who will be the most influential state official over the new few years?

- "The Speaker should be the most influential unless it turns out all three top officers are new."
- "Hopefully Straus."
- "By constitutional design, it should be the Lite Gov, but we'll see how that shakes out..."
- "The speaker led pretty well this session."
- "Maybe not as influential, but stick with Governor's Office."
- "House is always the biggest variable"
- "Perry has built that office into a position of power and authority. It will remain that way. Any future governor who does not embrace and utilize it will do so at their own detriment."
- "The Speaker should be the most influential, but he has to win the races he hopes to win in the Primary to assure himself of influence. Otherwise, he'll be ringmaster of infighting while the D's look on (again). Until we see who wins the primaries, we won't really know."
- "The ability to appoint thousands of people and renew billions in contracts will make the new governor immediately powerful."
- "Unless there is a change in philosophy or officeholder at the Lt. Gov's, it will be a toss-up between the Governor and the Speaker."
- "Assuming it's Dan Patrick. If it continues to be David Dewhurst, he's so ineffective at using his power, the Speaker will probably cast the deciding vote more often than not."
- "Assuming Straus will maintain the speakership, he will be the officeholder with most experience in the legislative arena."
- "With his longevity, and House leadership, the Speaker will be the most influential during the next legislative session. How that power is used will determine if there is a shift."
- "No strong alternative in sight"
- "Gen. Abbott is popular and enjoys being popular. He's a man in a hurry to make TX look like Greg Abbott's TX, and because he'll win big he'll have a mandate to make big changes."
- "Depends on who gets elected and how grandiose he or she is."
- "If Straus can maintain his leadership role, he will be the most influential. If momentum builds to elect more tea party activists, he could be in trouble. In that scenario, the Lt. Governor, depending upon who is elected will be the most powerful voice. If DHD or Patrick are elected and Straus is not, Abbott will have the stage."
- "He has the most experience and is using his influence for good traveling the state and helping to get the Water issue passed."
- "See above."

- "The power will be in the House provided the inmates don't take over the asylum."
- "Too many assumptions are needed to even guess."
- "I think it depends on who wins the race. A Governor Davis will lead the show, a Governor Abbott will end up getting overshadowed by Lt. Gov. Patrick."
- "(Former Senator) then Lt. Governor Leticia Van de Putte"
- "Gen. Abbott is a strong leader and that will go with him to the Governor's office."
- "If he has a House which can be managed, Straus should emerge as the

clear leader. He was often the only adult in the room this past session."

- "People are thirsty for a different drink!"
- "With all the state offices being redistributed - very likely among republicans - it will take a while for the answer to this to evolve. If Patrick is chosen Lt Gov, and Republicans continue to hold enough seats for solid control of the senate, then - given his bent to the right wing - he will probably be the strongest at least in the beginning. However, if Democrats win even one statewide administrative seat, then I suspect the GOP will be in disarray."
- "Just hoping someone competent shows up."

After the 2014 election, the lieutenant governor's role in the Senate will be:

- "It's hard to imagine a less powerful lieutenant governor."
- "Depends on who wins!"
- "Seeing how the Lite Gov derives most of his legislative power from the Senate rules, it really depends on the outcome of the SD-10 race. If R's flip it, then it won't matter because of the super majority--look for a less powerful Lite Gov."
- "Patterson would restore the Lt. Governor's office to its rightful and constitutional place."
- "Depends on who's Lt. Gov. Will they lead like bullock or follow like Dewhurst?"
- "Depends on who wins the seat. Leadership means people will follow. Does anyone believe Patrick or Patterson can be consensus builders who can get senators to follow?"
- "It could be a jump ball depending on who is in the chair."
- "Any of the three challengers will actually take the role of a Lt. Governor and make it stronger and more successful. They will have an agenda."
- "Depends on who wins. If Patrick wins, we'll get to see the weakest lite gov ever!"
- "Depends on who wins the Republican Party Runoff. Which,

thank goodness, won't be in July of 2014."

- "Depends on who's the Lt. Guv. Doesn't it?"
- "Depends. If it's Patrick, it will be less. If it's Patterson, it will be more. If it's Staples, it will be the same. If it's Dewhurst, we are all surprised, but the Senate will be in control."
- "The prestige of the Lieutenant Governor's office was much diminished when David Dewhurst handed the gavel to Robert Duncan on the night of the Davis filibuster."
- "In this instance, personnel is policy. If it is Dew: no change. Jerry: more power. Todd: less power. If anyone else gets it, we should abolish the office."
- "If Staples wins, it will be more powerful. People respect him and he respects the Senate. If Patrick wins the Senate will do everything in their power to cut him off. Dan will be busy chasing headlines an trying to make everyone else look bad."
- "Again, assuming it's Dan Patrick."
- "This really depends on the new Lt. Governor. If Branch wins, expect the Senate to pull back some of his powers through the Senate rules. If Staples wins, however, expect him to be stronger than the past 3 Lt. Governors because of his experience, ability and personality."
- "Depends on election outcome."
- "If Dewhurst or Patrick are elected, the Lite Gov role will be diminished by the Senators. Patterson and Staples

have the potential to be more powerful than the office is now."

- "Which is powerful, but not Bob Bullock powerful."
- "Depends. The role will be more powerful with Todd Staples, the same with David Dewhurst; and less with Dan Patrick."
- "100% dependent on who wins. Dewhurst, less powerful. Staples, more powerful. Patrick, wild card."
- "Depends on who wins the Lt Governor seat and what the makeup of the Senate is."
- "Depends on who the Lt. Gov is. If Dan Patrick wins, he will be rendered powerless by the Senate."
- "If Patrick wins, power will shift to senate"
- "All depends upon who it is."
- "The notion that the Lt. Gov. is the most powerful person in Texas is no longer true in anyway that matters. That is partly the Dewhurst legacy and partly the result of Perry using the media to transform the role of Texas Governor into the actual leader of the state."
- "It all depends on the new guy. Patterson and Staples are different personalities both have been there. It will still take either one some time to come up to speed."
- "Unless Dewhurst wins, any of the other candidates will improve the office."

- "Will the Republican Senate Caucus rewrite the rules in their favor, just to take power away from Leticia Van de Putte?"
- "Tradition!"
- "Depends on who wins the race. See Q. 2"
- "If Dan Patrick is elected the position will become ceremonial."
- "If its Patrick, committee chairs will be rearranged like the titanic."
- "Assuming Patterson prevails. If Patrick - the Senators basically vacate the chair. If Staples - more of the lowest common denominator. And Dewhurst - well, does anyone really believe he does better than 3rd place."
- "If Dan Patrick wins watch for a change in the Senate rules"
- "I think a lot of it depends who the Lt. Gov is going to be and if that person has the gravitas to lead but allow the senators room to lead, too."
- "Unless Patrick wins, then all bets are off."
- "Depends on who it is."
- "This question really depends on the individual who wins."
- "More powerful if wielded by Staples. He understands the chamber and is respectful of all. If it's Patrick, his old 'friends' might want to curb him some."

After the 2014 election, the House will be:

- "Until Obama is out, more conservative legislators will be elected. The electorate's action is a direct response to the overreach of Obama's administration."
- "No major shifts in the lines in the on-going Redistricting Wars means no significant changes in the make up of the body."
- "Texas is the last redoubt of the TEA Party."
- "Tea party picks up more republican seats."
- "More conservative. Heaven help us all!"
- "The Republican electorate is still in a state of flux and the conservatives seem to be the loudest and better organized for the Primaries. But they wont win all the races they hope too. It'll be a wash in the Primary."
- "The power of the extremist score card is much diminished. Moderates are on the rise again, especially in the House."
- "There are many conservative-minded members, but they need guidance and direction to focus their efforts. The outcome depends on whether Abbott can set a tone and carry out an agenda that is as effective and conservative as Perry's."

- "State is slowly becoming less conservative, but off-year elections have lower turnout and favor the GOP base."
- "Except that the 83rd session freshmen will have the common sense benefit of having stood for reelection."
- "Depends on what you mean by 'conservative.' The hard right will be less in power. The House will be more conservative fiscally in philosophy, but less in practice. Too much has been left undone for too long. It will be time to pay the bills for roads/bridges, water and education--the three legs of the Texas infrastructure stool."
- "With Pitts and Branch gone, it may actually trend more conservative. Hard as that is to imagine."
- "They MUST start leading and making the hard decisions to provide help on issues which have received inadequate attention of late: health, education, transportation. Those will

all involve spending and serious legislators will be in a position to compromise in their search for revenue."

- "The squishy Republicans won't prevail anywhere, but the Tea Parties who are challenging some of the most right-leaning House members won't prevail either -- they may pick up a couple of seats, but there's no momentum to throw them out."
- "More conservative in the type of Republicans in the House, but not the overall number of Republicans/"
- "More nutjobs in the house!!"
- "I have been told I'm an optimist."
- "Thank God John Otto is staying, if not we would be in a mess"
- "Hard to get more 'conservative,' if by 'conservative' you mean incapable of rational discussion on the future of Texas."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Harold Cook, Addie Mae Crimmins, Chad Crow, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Jim Henson, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Debra Medina, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips,

Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Bill Ratliff, Brian Rawson, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.