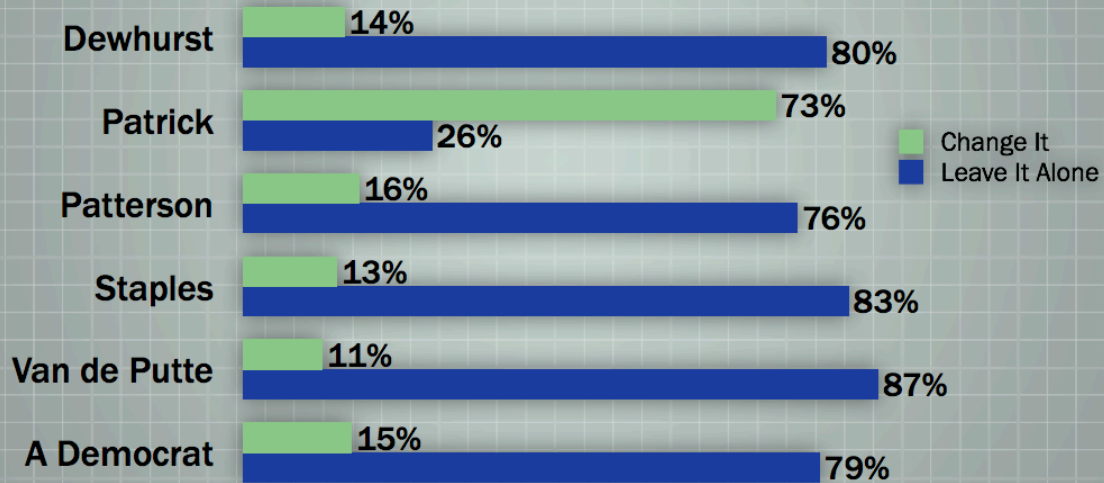


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of October 21*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

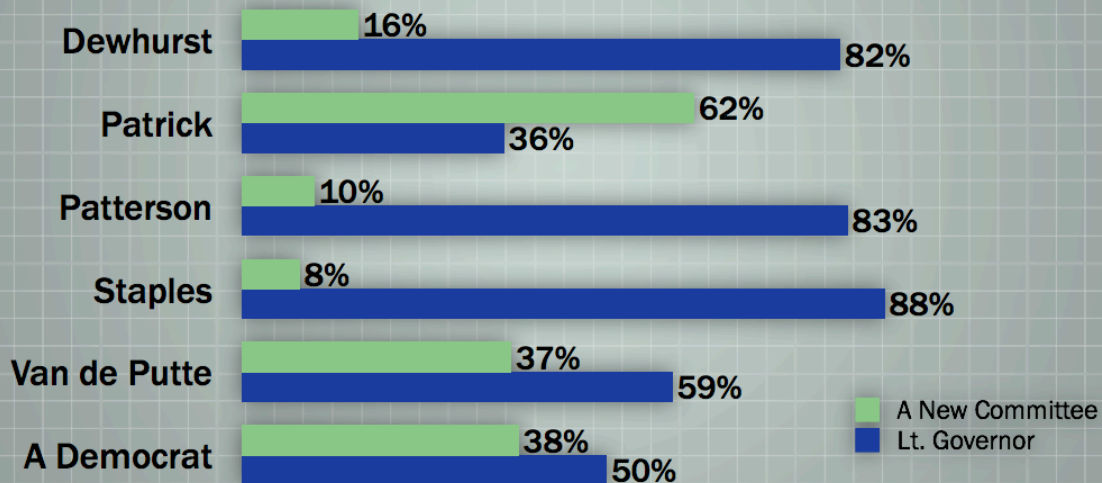
Depending on who's in charge,
what will happen to the Senate's 2/3 rule?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

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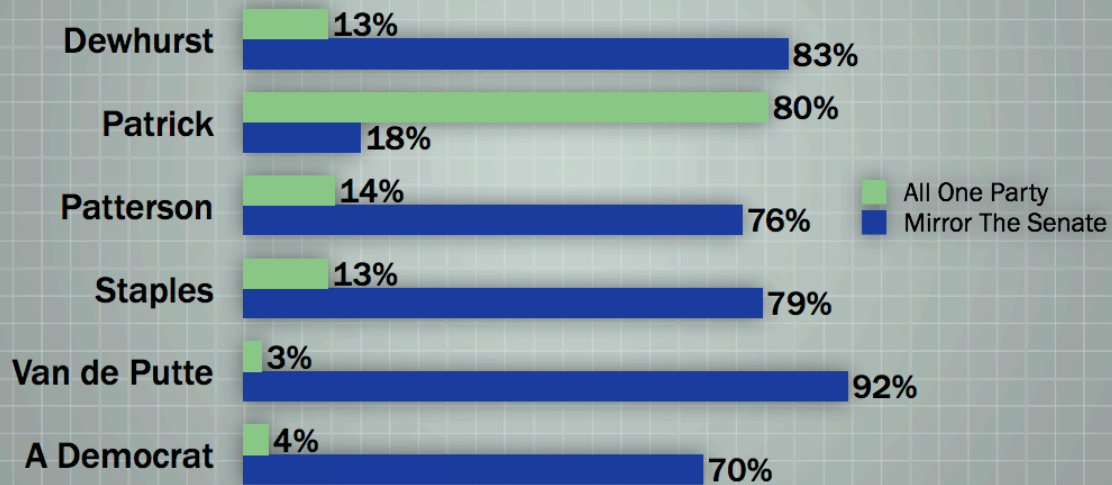
Depending on who's in charge,
who will set the Senate's daily agenda?



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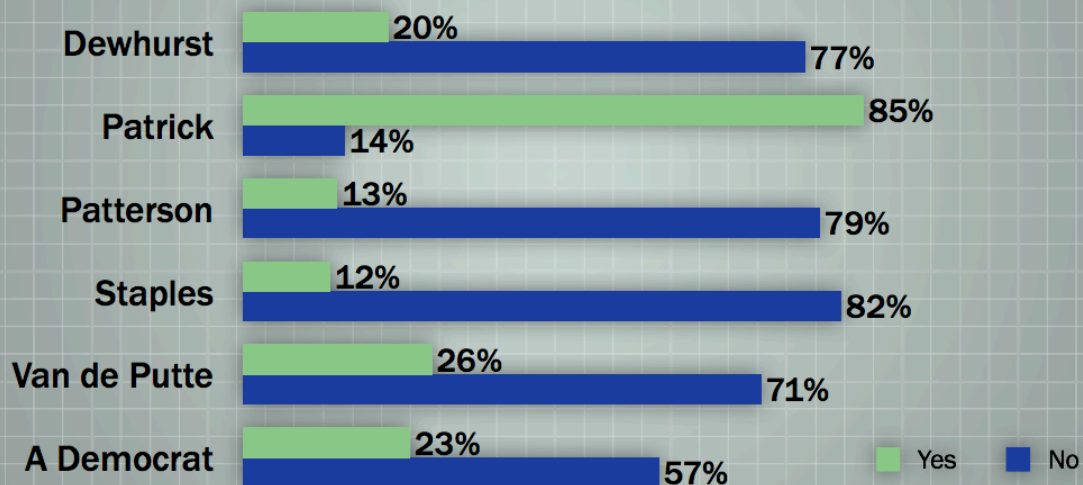
Depending on who's in charge, what will be the partisan balance of Senate committees?



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Depending on who's in charge, will there be major changes to the Senate's rules?



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Depending on who is elected, will the Senate change its 'two-thirds rule' or leave it alone?

- "The idea of changing this rule is great fodder for the TEA Party but Senator Patrick may be the only candidate crazy enough to actually mess with it."

- "Will likely be a moot point if the Repubs take back SD-10."

- "Dewhurst is doing all he can to pander to the crazies in his party (don't think it will help him!) so he would probably change it. Patrick will for certain change it. Patterson, having served as a senator, will understand the detriment of changing the rule - since the Democrats will again become the majority party some day in this state. Staples - not certain - he served as a senator, but he also might want to give in to the crazies. VDP keeps it as is."

- "Senate will ignore any attempt by Patrick to change the rule."

- "Not gonna happen."

- "It should mirror the federal Senate 60%."

- "For the GOP be careful what you wish for. Some day we might be sorry the 2/3 rule is abolished when the democrats take over."

- "With the exception of Patrick, the other state senators are not likely to remove that filter"

- "This question and those following ask whether the election of a particular person as lieutenant governor will lead to major rule changes in the Texas

Senate. However, that election won't decide what, if any, such rule changes will be made. That will depend on who is elected to at least four open Senate seats and how those new senators and their more senior colleagues balance ideology, personal beliefs, electoral hopes and the interests of their districts and our state. None of the announced or rumored candidates has enough political muscle to affect appreciably the decisions made by individual senators, not even those within their own party."

- "Don't be ridiculous. That rule won't change."

- "But the final answer to this question is answered in the first part of the question, it depends upon who is elected!"

- "Even if/when Patrick wins, they won't need to because Princess Davis' seat will go Republican."

- "Let's only hope they leave it as is . . . regardless of who may be in the center chair."

- "At the end of the day the body won't allow it to change."

- "Dan Patrick is the Ted Cruz of the Texas Senate's Republican Caucus. The deluded base loves him but he makes the adults cringe."

- "I am sure Dan Patrick will try to change it but then the Senate would strip power from the Office of the Lt.

Gov. And the Texas Senate as we know it will be a memory."

- "Staples talks out of every side of his mouth on this issue (and others)."
- "The senate members will change the rules relating to the powers of the Lt.

Gov depending on what candidate is elected but I think the 2/3rds rule stays in place."

- "May not have to do anything if a D doesn't win the Davis seat or pick up a seat elsewhere."

Depending on who is elected, will the Senate leave the lieutenant governor in charge of the daily agenda or create a calendars committee to do that?

- "The senators risk backlash if they try to strip the Lt. Gov of this power. They would only dare do it if a fringe candidate (Patrick) or a Democrat were to win."
- "Let's be more like the House!!"
- "Once you are the Lt. Gov and have the power of the agenda why would you give that power away!"
- "If elected, Dewhurst or Patrick will find their powers significantly cut by the Senate."

- "Even if they say they will, why would they give up that power?"
- "That committee is dysfunctional, worse than 60%."
- "With a near-supermajority, the Republicans won't allow a Democrat to control the agenda. But that's a hypothetical...a Democrat won't win."
- "If Dan Patrick is elected, the office of Lt. Gov. will be stripped of its powers in ways never contemplated before."
- "Dewhurst is going off the rails!!"

Depending on who is elected, will Senate chairmanships mirror the partisan mix of the Senate, or will all of the chairmen be members of one party?

- "As with the calendars committee question there are very few reasons to disturb this senate tradition, the rantings of the TEA Party notwithstanding."
- "For Senator Patrick, that one party would be the Tea Party. We'll have a

few members with several chairmanships."

- "The success of the Senate, historically, is its comity. True, for most of its life it was in a Dem stranglehold, but there was division between conservative Dems and

liberal/progressive Dems. But whoever the Lt. Gov. was, he split chairmanships. In later years, so did Hobby, Bullock, Perry, Ratliff, and Dewhurst."

- "Again, The Dew has to be as crazy as Patrick - and sense he has already said he gave Democrats 'meaningless' committee chairmanships you can bet he would not give ANY were he elected again. Patrick most certainly will only allow redubs to be chairs."
- "Not certain whether committee chairmanship appointments will be left in the hands of Lt. Gov. if certain candidates win."
- "You need a category for 'a few democrats'. I think even Patrick will have a few demos. Dewhurst will have less than the mix, but still have a few."
- "Not necessarily mirror the partisan mix mathematically, but the Ds will get some sop somewhere."
- "Is the power to appoint Senate committee chairs constitutional, or is it provided by Senate rule?"

- "Separates those interested in governing versus ruling"

- "Bad choices. They won't be all one party, but if Sen. Patrick wins, there won't be as many Democratic chairmen. If a Democrat wins, there will be more Democratic chairmen."

- "It's neither of the above, for a Republican Lt Gov. The next R Lt Gov will have some D chairman, but fewer than their proportionate share of the body."

- "All the Republicans will have Democratic chairs but Dewhurst, Staples and Patrick would have fewer than needed to 'mirror the Senate mix'"

- "Absolute power in the hands of one party in a legislative body does not work. Exhibit A: Washington DC"

- "No matter who elected, I think will be something in between."

Depending on who is elected, will the Senate make major rule changes or leave things mostly as they are now?

- "The Senate wants to stay the same, but if they do not have confidence in the Lt. Gov (fringe candidate or a D wins), they will make changes to protect themselves and the chamber."
- "'Make' or 'attempt to make'. There is a difference."

- "Patrick realizes the Lite Guv derives his power from the Senate Rules, right? If he chaps enough hides, they'll strip some powers, like setting the calendar (see above question)."

- "Same logic--even if Dewhurst were to prevail, he is likely to make the mistake of trying to accommodate the

doctrinaire Rs in that chamber, as he has in the past"

- "The Senate is all talk on changing the rules. Short of a Democrat winning Lt Gov versus a supermajority of Republicans, the rules won't change."

- "Bottom line is that DP or any Democrat will mean serious changes to the way the Senate conducts business. And not for the better."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Jay Brown, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Lawrence Collins, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Stephanie Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Richard Hardy, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Mark Lehman, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Brian Rawson, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli