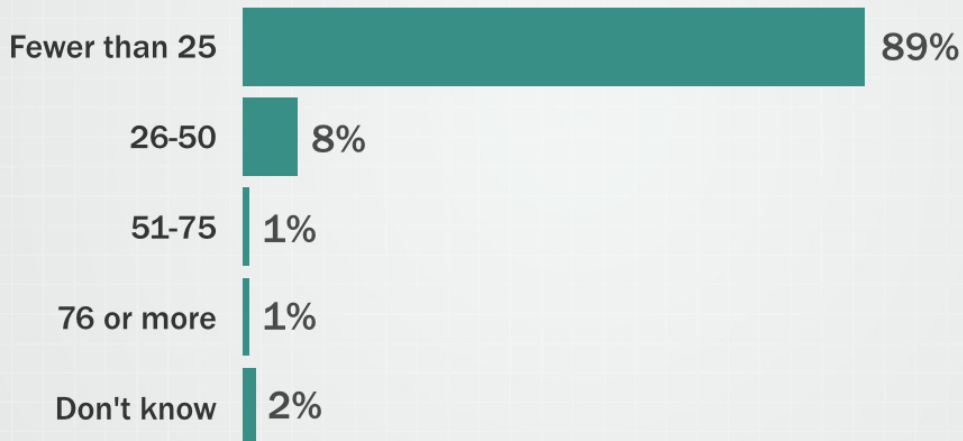


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 21 November 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

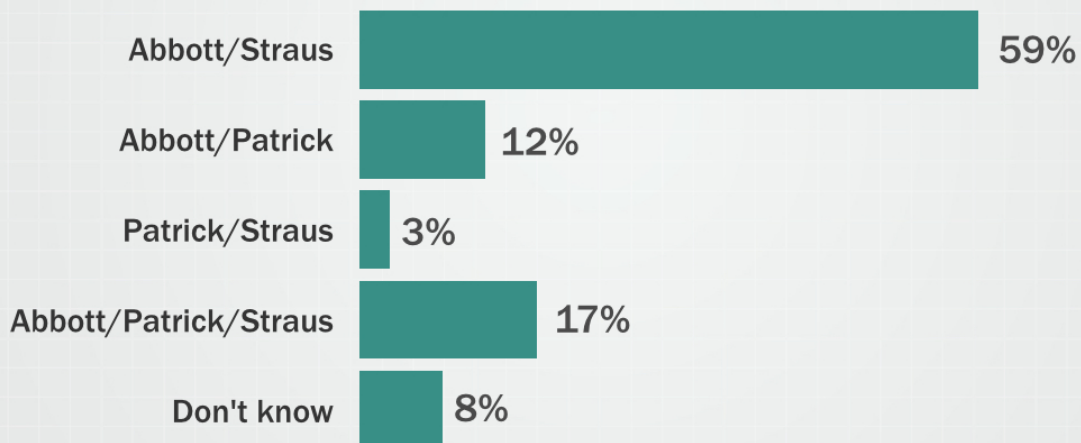
HOW MANY VOTES FOR SPEAKER DO YOU THINK
SCOTT TURNER WILL RECEIVE?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

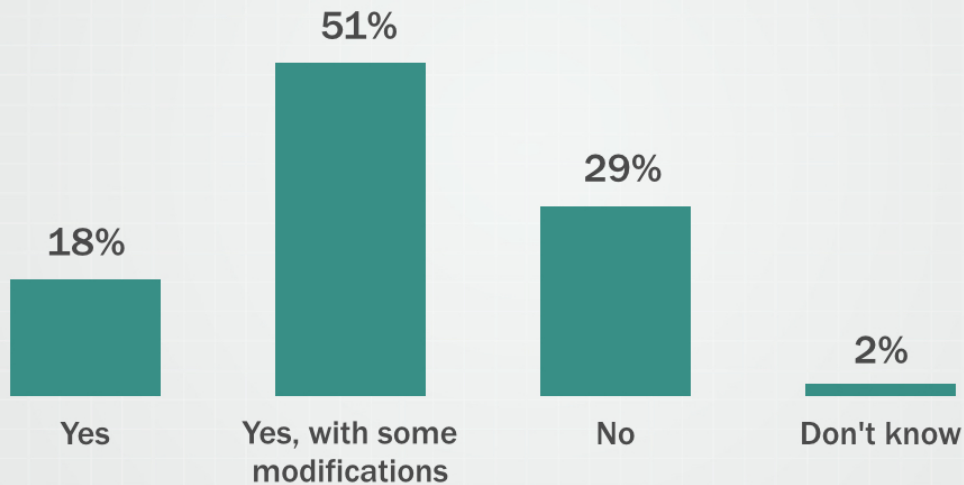
THE MOST LIKELY DAY-TO-DAY ALLIANCE
DURING THE 2015 SESSIONS?



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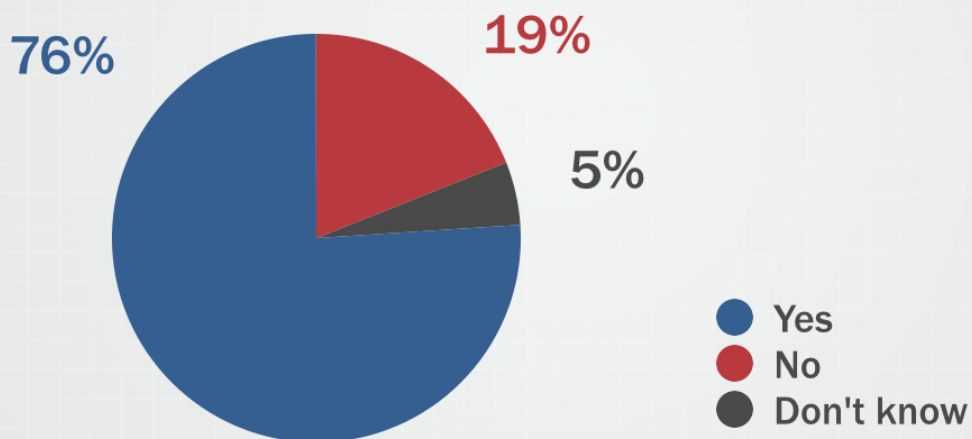
WILL THE SENATE KEEP ITS 2/3RDS RULE?



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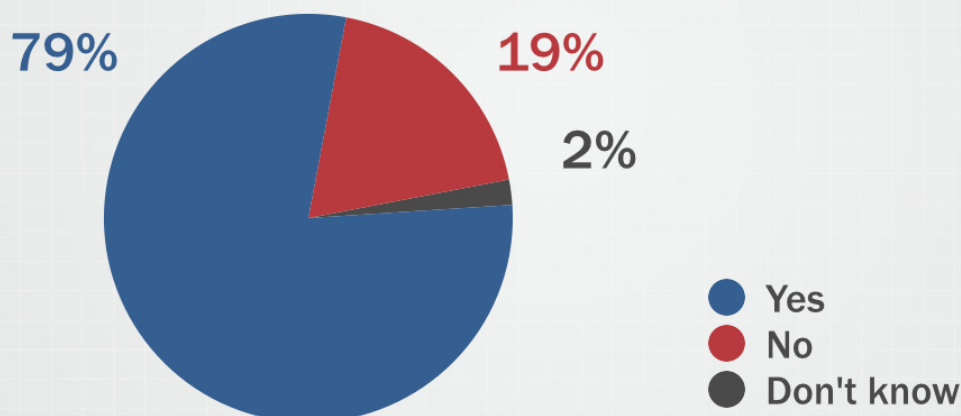
WILL THE SENATE HAVE ANY DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMEN?



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INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

SHOULD REPORTERS BE ALLOWED ON THE FLOOR
DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION?



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How many votes do you think Rep. Scott Turner will receive in his bid for speaker?

- "If he is crazy enough to take it to a floor fight (did I actually just type that! OF COURSE he is crazy enough!)"
- "An option should have read 'Fewer than 10'"
- "And it'll be a self-identified idiot test!"
- "If he gets 20 it will be a surprise."
- "You forgot to use the term 'quixotic' when defining his 'big for speaker'"
- "10/15/2014"
- "In the end, he may get none. Either because he withdraws in good judgment, or his few supporters run like rabbits when the record vote comes."
- "Rep. Scott Turner is a WINNER!"
- "Fewer than 25? All reasonable answers are much less than that. You need a categories for 15-25, 10-15, and less than 10. "
- "In this case the conventional wisdom will hold true. And the outside groups pushing hard on the inside process won't make much of a difference. "

- "It may be fewer than 15."
- "What theatrics and great fun for the onlookers!"
- "I would like the following song from Queen to be playing during the vote: Pressure pushing down on me... Pressing down on you, no man ask for... Under pressure that burns a building down... Splits a family (PARTY) in two... Puts people (CONSERVATIVES) on streets"
- "According to the T Party people he only has 18. "
- "Have you ever seen a Speaker candidate campaign to party activists rather than to colleagues?"
- "Scott who?"
- "A newbie Speaker I don't think there is a prayer"
- "Great way to start out a Legislative session. Meaningless acrimony. Impressive. "
- "He's is doing the tea girls no favors! "
- "They are bound and determined to go down with the Titanic."

What's the most likely day-to-day alliance among the top three officeholders during the legislative session?

- "Mr. Patrick is there be divine ordination, therefore he does not need to work with the other two. He is KING of the world - well at least the senate. "
- "Patrick will relish his outsider role. However, DP doesn't understand he needs Abbott and Straus in order to be a successful Lt. Gov."
- "If was ok for Gov. Bush to work with Democrats Bullock and Laney, why can't the Tea Party play nice with the Texas GOP?"
- "To set up his next run, Patrick will work to distinguish himself from Abbott and especially Straus. "
- "Patrick will do his best to minimize Abbott as governor to keep his own quest for governor rolling."
- "Straus/Straus/Straus; Abbott and Patrick will consume each other like starved wolves."
- "This first session they will try to get along. "
- "They'll sort of all get along, but none of them really think alike or trust each other. Abbott has no legislative experience, nor does his COS, so he'll be at a disadvantage this first session."
- "You need another option: It will be TRIUMPHANT with Speaker Turner-- 3 men working together."
- "Depends on how long it takes Patrick to realize that leading the Texas Senate is not a campaign speech, sound bite, or poke at the other Party."

- "I don't believe even the big 3 themselves can accurately predict this yet. Also, some may scoff at the Abbott/Patrick/Straus choice but there is a small chance it could work out that way. "

- "Both Abbott and Straus are adults who will try to get positive legislation approved, and avoid unnecessary drama"

- "Abbott and Straus already working closely together on issues - they align much better and remember who the drivers are behind the anti- Straus movement-the same supporters of Patrick who Patrick continue to work hand in hand!!!"

- "Abbott and Straus will work well together. Patrick will try to maintain a bit more distance because he has a pretty sizable ego that can only cozy up so far to others, but he will work collegially enough with the Governor and Speaker because he is also

politically savvy and is writing his legacy in Texas politics from the Lt. Gov's office. This session won't be all puppies and rainbows, but it will not be the kind of divisive session for which the Tea Party faction of the GOP hopes."

- "On election night, the new Lite Guv sent a clear resounding message when he interrupted Guv Abbot's victory announcement, 'All by myself, I wanna be, all by myself.' "

- "There won't be a daily alliance. It will change constantly, maybe even several times a day, depending on the issue."

- "Straus is too liberal to go along with Abbott or Patrick on much of anything. Besides, he is beholden to the Democrat Party for his chair. "

- "Lets hope Abbott realizes that Straus is the alliance that will make or break his First session."

Do you think the Senate will keep the two-thirds rule in place?

- "Bye, bye two thirds rule (this will be so SWEET when the Dems come back in control and can point to the repubs for getting rid of the rule!)"

- "That modification being 60 percent rather than two-thirds."

- "The Senate Republicans will embrace the US Senate tradition of 3/5ths. So the first vote in the Texas Senate will be to bring the Harry Reid rule to the Conservative Texas Senate. Let me know me how that works out for you, DP!"

- "They will change it from 21 to 20 votes, and that one vote will make all of the difference. "

- "19 is the new 21"

- "Patrick may not be able to resist an opportunity to get rid of the two-thirds rule, even if doing so means long-term damage to the senate and the state."

- "60% like Congress"

- "My guess is it will be a 60% rule. "

- "It would be a politically unacceptable result for the Tea party to win the Lt Gov seat and not at least reform the rule. "

- "I think the senate repubs will drive the show - not wisely but will get their fundamental issues of concern over to the house. More interesting will be the urban vs. rural or other issues out there that will cause some 'pause.'"

- "The real RED MEAT issues will not abide."

- "If they change it -- what else do they change?"

- "Yes, because they don't need it. LVP seat will be vacant for a large portion of the session."

- "60% threshold "

- "In reality it exists now only if it doesn't make a difference on something really important - like voter ID or redistricting "

- "2/3rds rounded done to 60%"

- "Tradition be damned"

Do you think Lt. Gov.-elect Dan Patrick will appoint any Democratic chairmen?

- "Well he better not! He promised he wackadoodles, I mean supporters that he would NOT. "

- "One or two for relatively minor committees."

- "Whitmire, Hinojosa and West; Patrick's Dream Team."

- "Yes...West, Whitmire, and Hinojosa."

- "Let's just see Patrick try to refuse a committee chair to the Dean of the Texas Senate, who has forgotten more about the Texas Senate Rules than Patrick will ever know."

- "Less than a handful."

- "Do you think Lt. Gov.-elect Dan Patrick enjoys the use of his knees?"

- "He has to. They will be West, Whitmire and Hinojosa. "

- "At least Whitmire."

- "Very few"

- "One or two. No big chairs."

- "Wasn't there a campaign promise?"

- "Yes. One. Lucio."

- "Boogie"

- "It'd be a lot cooler if he did"

- "Criminal Justice? And, if we see fewer committees, maybe Democrat chairs of subcommittees?"

- "But not Leticia!"

- "Possibly one. "

- "Keep hearing 12 Chairman which means all Repub and Senate Finance appointments for other Repubs and key Democrats. Although he doesn't need institutional knowledge here-it's a whole new game!"
- "Say what you want of him, but we all can acknowledge he is a shrewd politician. "
- "Whitmire, Z, Lucio, Hinojosa and West"
- "Whitmire, Hinojosa and either West or Ellis"
- "2 - Lucio and Whitmire"
- "Don't want a bunch of angry veteran Senators do you?"
- "At least Whitmire"
- "One or two. "
- "Probably a few to minor committees. Even Dewhurst appointed Democrat chairs to minor committees and gave Republicans three-quarters of the seats on the most important committees."
- "Buggy"
- "Two."

Should the Texas Legislature continue to allow credentialed reporters on the floor when the House and Senate are in session?

- "Keep the press out? Why so they don't write about the train wreck that will be happening on the Senate Floor?"
- "However, in the interest of good governance, House and Senate members should be excluded from the floor at those times."
- "You scumbags get enough special treatment already."
- "Only if they agree to join in on chatting with the gallery during disruptive proceedings."
- "No. The very definition of 'journalist' has become corrupted by the cancer of politics. Journalists - fake and real - should be relegated to the gallery with the alternate benefit of creating the appearance of an interested public. "
- "If they're real reporters, yes."
- "The influence and relevance of the press has been in decline for years. The 2014 campaigns were conducted in spite of the press, not with any real input from them."
- "No, they should let credentialed LOBBYISTS on the floor."
- "We need all the sunshine we can get for Texans."
- "Legitimate ones, that is. Not MQS who 'claims' to be a journalist. Although, it would be far more convenient for him than all those text messages he sends - just call 'em over to the rail."
- "Credentialed reporters should be allowed; but 'credentialed reporter' lobbyists should not. If an appropriate

distinction cannot be made in the rules to prevent reporter-lobbyists from being on the floor during session, it would still be best to allow reporters on the floor. Our press coverage of government is too important to compromise."

- "But anyone who is recruiting candidates, sending paid media to voters, or engages in campaigning is not a 'credentialed reporter' regardless of what other hats they may be wearing. Certain roles and activities should completely disqualify people from any claim of being a 'reporter.' "

- "No real harm in it. Some actual reporting occasionally results."

- "Transparency and Freedom-basic USA fundamentals!"

- "I am standing firm on this one. If they won't allow lobbyist on the floor during session, then reporters should not be allowed as well. Reporters are just lobbyists pretending to be something else. "

- "No longer necessary when we have an increasingly accessible live stream and members increasingly are live tweeting -- reporters are actually

analysts at this point trying to determine the direction of public policy by what they decide to cover and how they cover it. Letting them on the floor is archaic. "

- "Who exactly are credentialed reporters? Breitbart news?"

- "No. When the press was the sole source of timely news for constituents, it made sense for politicians to have them close by to schmooze, cajole, and leak stories to. But social media in the 21st century has removed the political utility of having the press at your elbow. It's time for reporters to have to chase down members just like the rest. Join us up in the gallery, folks, the weather is fine up here."

- "How does one define 'credentialed' though, or better yet - what activities would preclude someone from receiving credentials to 'report' from the floor?"

- "Who is even proposing that?"

- "Yes, unless MQS's minions are granted credentials, in which case I don't think they should be allowed in the building."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom

Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Mike McKinney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Joe Valenzuela, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.