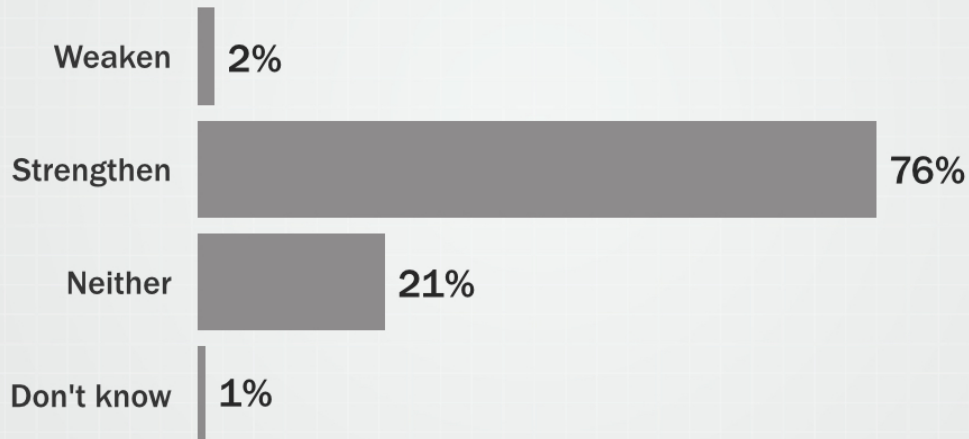


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 16 January 2015*

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

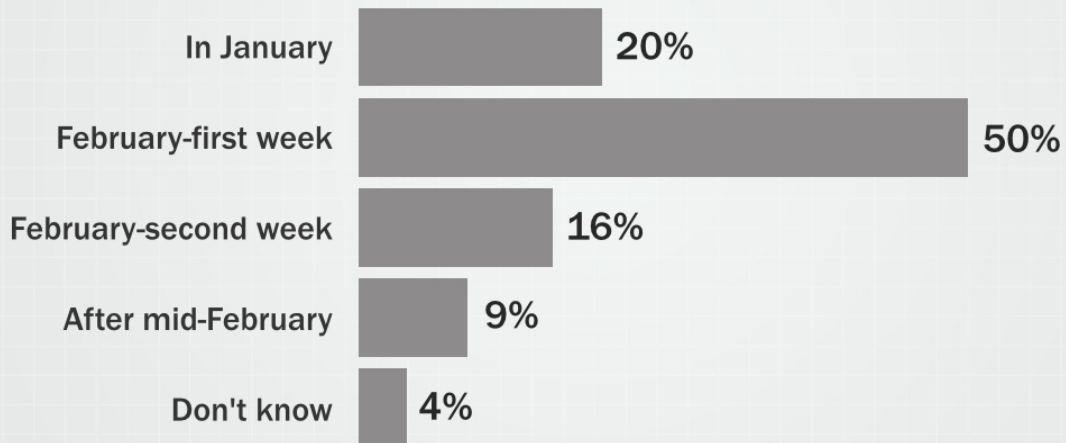
WHAT DOES A CHALLENGE DO TO STRAUS' POWER?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

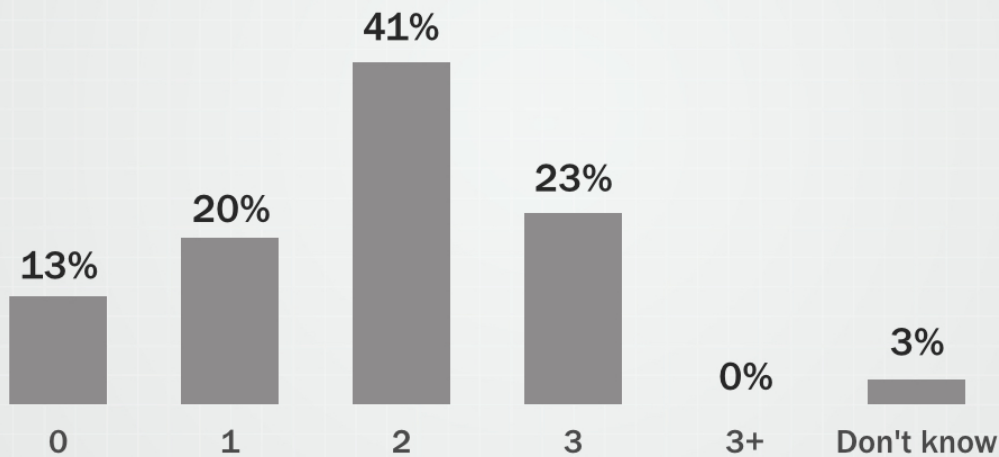
WHEN WILL HOUSE COMMITTEES BE NAMED?



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# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

HOW MANY DEMOCRATS WILL CHAIR SENATE COMMITTEES?



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## *Will Scott Turner's bid for speaker weaken or strengthen Speaker Joe Straus for this legislative session?*

- "Glenn Beck robo calls statewide for Scott Turner were of little help and there seems to be a rising awareness that Straus maybe the only non patient in this asylum."
- "Every legislator voting for Straus must now convince his constituents that he can accomplish the conservative agenda that he campaigned on. That will be a TOUGH road because Straus will fight him every step of the way. One lieutenant complained to me last week that he couldn't pass a bill because another lieutenant talked against it on the floor. The majority of legislators then bowed to Straus to kill the bill."
- "If you try to kill the king, you'd better succeed."
- "Many members who were concerned about how much influence Empower Texans has, now know it's very little."
- "19 votes out of 150 - REALLY???? Those people need to take a basic math class if they are calling that a 'mandate' on how the House conducts business. "
- "The Turner yes votes will galvanize those members cred with their

primary voters. It's always about politics. "

- "How many Republican votes does one need to prove his support?"
- "With whom? House members? Strengthen. Tim Dunn et al.? Who cares? "
- "In the words of Henry Clay, enemy is the Senate."
- "He did much better numerically with Republicans than his first election as Speaker in 2009 when he only got 11 Republican votes."
- "Turner did not have a cut dog's chance."
- "Nothing like an election to measure Straus' support"
- "The Turner 'challenge' had about as much impact on Speaker Straus as that bug that hit his car windshield during his drive into Austin from San Antonio. "
- "It will also strengthen the Democrats. "

• "Turner has 20 votes; he's not a factor."

- "Scott's irrelevant. A nice, irrelevant chump."
- "We'll know who voted how, and once committee's are assigned, a message will be sent to the 84th Legislature."
- "When Straus gets 130+ votes, it'll only strengthen his position."
- "Turner, call Gohmert "
- "This demonstrates with clarity and certainty the limitations of Michael Quinn Sullivan's reach. Yes, he has grass roots, a database built through numerous campaign organizations, but if Scott Turner's the best he can muster at the Capitol, he doesn't have much to fall back on."
- "Everyone knew he never stood a chance so it is inconsequential."
- "Stronger! Shooting at the bear and wounding him only makes him angry."

### ***When will House Speaker Joe Straus appoint committees?***

- "He's got to weigh all those IOUs and that takes a bit of time. He will penalize those who voted for him reluctantly and the 19 who voted against him. Sore winner!"
- "Unlike the other chamber, the House under Straus has not been notoriously slow on getting its committees out."

- "The Usual: 4/430pm Friday Jan 30."
- "St. Patty's Day would be preferable, but that just ain't gonna happen."
- "Revenge is best served cold."
- "Patrick's appointments will likely come in January as there is a great deal of interest in actually getting the Legislature started earlier. But

because Straus is so insulated, his team is unlikely aware of it and will continue to take their time about it ...annoying those who want to get to work. "

- "What's the hurry?"
- "End of January is my bet"

***If the Senate has a dozen committees this session, how many Democratic chairmen will Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick appoint?***

- "If he stiffs Whitmire then he will have gorilla warfare on his hands."
- "He must fulfill his campaign promise."
- "He'll let the chairs name subcommittees who may or may not be Democrat. "
- "More than 0, but not by much."
- "Whitmire & Lucio"
- "You can have them pissing in or out the tent. Patrick's call!"
- "Go ahead tell the Dean of Senate and resident multi-issue policy expert why he's not qualified to chair a committee. "
- "Lucio & Whitmire"
- "He better not cut out the Democrats for as Bob Bullock discovered when he axed the Republican chairs, idle hands are the devil's workshop."
- "Only Whitmire"
- "He doesn't want to give the wily Dems (I hear you laughing) too much time to get mischievous."
- "I take the Lt. Governor at face value when he states that the thinks republicans should chair all the committees."
- "If only 12 committees, then only Whitmire gets a chair. I think it likely there are a few more committees, and that 2 Ds (Whitmire + 1) get a chair."
- "Two of twelve. And they will be crappy committees at that."

***Play pundit: What will be the biggest surprise when committee appointments are announced?***

- "See above."
- "The Senate will have a special committee on education apart from its standing committee. The special committee will be created to allow the standing committee to handle its normal workload while the special committee looks at 'reform' issues and 'savings.' All this is to say school vouchers will be the number one education priority for Patrick."
- "I hope its that the Finance Chm is NOT Nelson."

- "Sen. Bettencourt named freshman chairman"
- "Could we see a Democrat chairing Appropriations?"
- "Repub primary voters will be SHOCKED that Dan Patrick actually will appoint 2 Democratic chairs after he PROMISED them than NO Democrats would receive Chairmanships!"
- "Straus will appoint a Turner vote to a chairmanship."
- "Senate freshmen as chairs."
- "Freshmen Senator wins chairmanship!"
- "Patrick will find a way to have his cake and eat it too."
- "Patrick will replace Nelson on Finance."
- "No Senate Democratic Chairmen"
- "Straus doesn't send the 19 to Siberia like past Speakers would have done."
- "Speaker will appoint more D chairs."
- "That only Democrats want certain committees."
- "Senate Ed goes to the challenged member from sd25"
- "Hunter won't be at Calendars"
- "Senate chairs will be solid policy people, not red-meat ideologues."
- "Who believes they will get a Senate chairmanship but doesn't."
- "Sen. That D's run major sub committee's. House: that committee's will be appointed before first of March."
- "Whitmire will not chair anything"
- "Paul Bettencourt will chair and serve as poster child for the Tough Nut Committee."
- "That the 19 who voted against Straus will have the temerity to whine about their committee assignments."
- "A significant role for at least one Democrat."
- "The number of Sophomore House members that are Committee Chairs."
- "Who of Turner's supporters get good committees"
- "Freshman Paul Bettencourt is NOT appointed to Chair Senate Education but is appointed to be a member of Senate Finance - the only freshman who will be appointed to the Finance Committee."
- "Seliger and Eltife won't have important committees"
- "That John Smithee will finally not be the chair of insurance"
- "Make up of the committees"
- "Whitmire, West and Ellis getting Chairs"
- "No idea"
- "Debbie Riddle"
- "Scott Turner will chair the House Committee on Trade with Ceylon."

- "Don't know"
- "Changes through consolidation and in jurisdiction of certain committees in the Senate and relatively similar committees in the House."
- "The biggest surprise will be that there are no big surprises. Standard chairmen. They'll move around a little, but same people. Same leadership. Boring will be the surprise"
- "House Chairmanships"
- "Putting Huffman in charge of any senate committee"
- "Bettencourt to chair education ... wait no - retract that."
- "That Patrick will appoint a Democrat (Whitmire)."
- "That some are going to be really bad"
- "Senate State Affairs"
- "Zerwas chairing Ways and Means"
- "Lt. Governor Dan Patrick will lead the Senate in a surprisingly balanced and fair manner."
- "There won't be surprises in the Senate - Senators leak like an old boat."
- "Dennis Bonnen gets Ways and Means. Yikes."
- "Natural Resources in Both Houses"
- "Ignoring John Whitmire....."
- "Jessica Farrar as chair of House Appropriations"
- "Senate education"
- "Number of democratic chairs"
- "Sen. Hancock as Chair of B&C"
- "They're always a surprise."
- "Todd Hunter"
- "Strauss will look to weaken the tea party folks and anger MQS."
- "Look for Austin's Kirk Watson to make a play that will get him a Chairmanship, Austin, UT and Central Texas have too much to lose if he doesn't play well with others, including his former foe General Abbott. "
- "New Calendars Chair"
- "In the Senate, no D's as committee chairs or vice chairs. "
- "Democrats. Will chair a couple of (irrelevant) committees"
- "No biggies.... some moves and fewer committees in the House...a few Chairs in the House will no longer be chairs"
- "Senate freshman chairs"
- "The biggest surprise will be the enormity of the American economy entrusted to Senator Troy Fraser."
- "Kevin Eltife"
- "Who ends up serving as Vice-Chair of Finance"

- "The number of Freshmen Senators as Chairmen"
- "None"

*Our thanks to this week's participants:* Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jennifer Ahrens, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Blaine Bull, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Eva De Luna-Castro, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Bradford Shields, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.