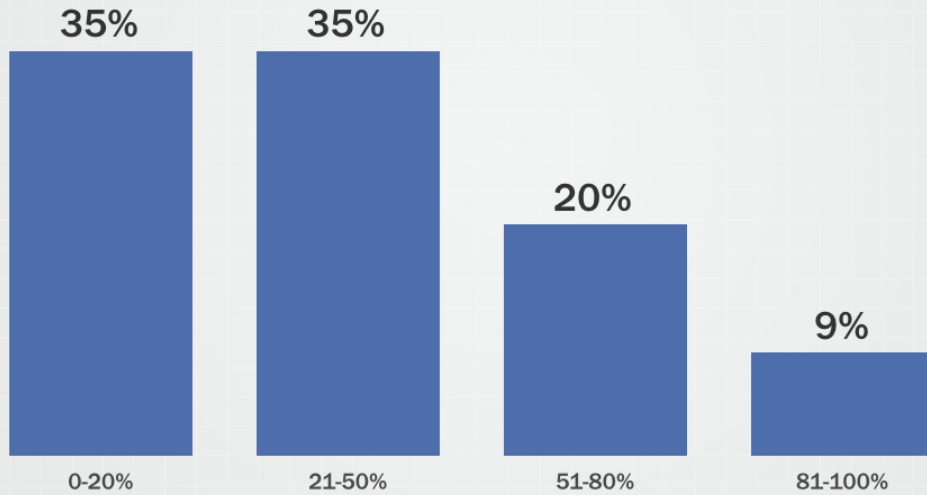


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 1 May 2015*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

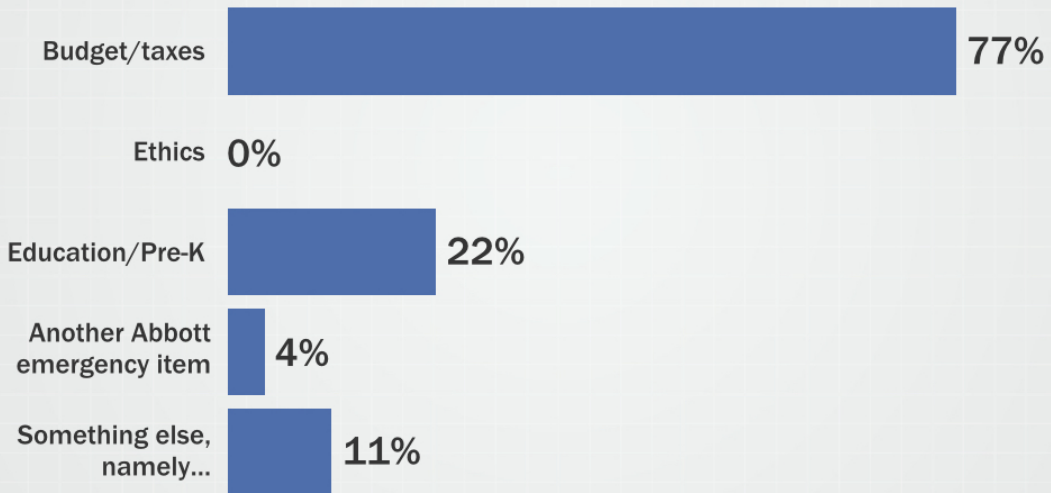
ODDS OF A SPECIAL SESSION THIS SUMMER?



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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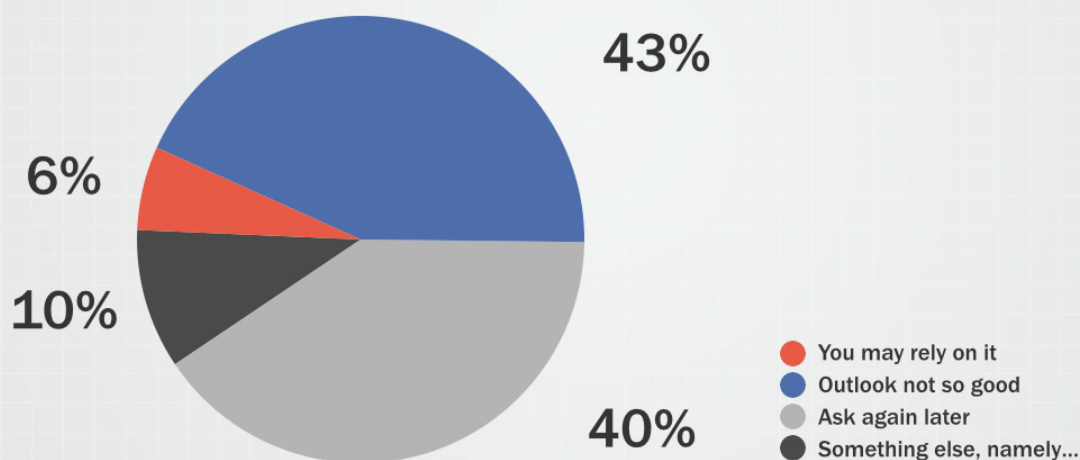
WHAT WOULD CAUSE A SPECIAL SESSION?



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LET'S PLAY MAGIC 8 BALL: HAVE THE CHAMBERS RESOLVED THEIR DIFFERENCES?



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What are the odds of a special session this summer?

- "The biggest problem with a special session is the Comptroller will need to redo the revenue forecast. I suspect the number would be lower, potentially killing the tax cuts that might necessitate going to a special session."
- "Different verse, same as the first. Seems like we go through this dance each session — Oh no! They don't agree on X issue! We'll be here all summer!! And yet, they seems to always work it out."
- "Dear Texas Senate: This is on your shoulders. Sincerely, Everyone else"
- "School finance, and redistricting alone will have them back before winter."
- "We will get a deal before June 1st."
- "I'm not sure that parties are interested in avoiding a special."
- "Will Gov. Abbott call a session to pass pre-K? Yet let traditional marriage and

ALAC and a border security compact and electric grid protection and pro-life bills die?"

- "Special session odds good, but for 2016."
- "Very low. If they hate each other so much, Abbott will have to give them time to let the dust settle."
- "IF there is a special session in this biennium, it will be very soon. No way they will let this show holdover into an election year."
- "Good thing all these fiscal conservatives want to save the state \$!!"
- "Despite their differences, the Lt. Guv and Speaker want to look like they can govern. The Governor just wants to look like he can lead. A special session does not send that message. They will do

If there's a special session, what would cause it?

- "Evaluation of Operation Jade Helm, Trinity Community College, and all things dealing with marriage; gay, straight or other."
- "I believe the Governor will call a special session on Redistricting."
- "Dan Patrick's Tea Party Advisory Council"
- "Redistricting"
- "Voter ID"
- "HHS sunset"

whatever they can to avoid a special session."

- "Patrick can't leave town without a homestead exemption, and the House is not going to throw away another billion dollars on homestead relief that no one feels and no one thanks them for."
- "If the tax reform messes up the budget, we will be back. As to whether it will be in the summer depends on the new governor's understanding of how the special session game is played."
- "Ever the optimist."
- "I bought my vacation cancellation insurance policy, didn't you?"

• "A special over pre-K or ethics? Don't make me laugh. Only money talks like that."

- "Another CORPORATE gift at taxpayer expense. Taxpayers already pick up the tab for education, health care and food for low-wage workers. Taxpayer-funded pre-K could provide a windfall of new low-skill, low-wage workers. Just what the CORPORATE puppet masters want."
- "Only public school finance by court order will send this bunch back in before 2017..."

- "Federal court decisions on redistricting."

- "School finance."

News reports this past week gave differing accounts of how well the House and Senate are working together. Let's play Magic 8 Ball: have the chambers resolved their differences?

- "They hate each other. Moderates in the House are scared of conservatives in the Senate."

- "Both chambers are working with each other. The media is bored and making stuff up to fill their newspapers and websites. In other words, the media is trying to generate excitement of a rather boring session. News flash: the process we are seeing today is the same process which has taken hold for past sessions."

- "It appears progress was made, but it can break down at any time."

- "Outlook not so good at moment but you would think that a Republican Administration would get it done — and I'm hearing that may be the motivation needed — Republicans worried about re-election."

- "When the Governor considers pre-K an emergency, a bill VETOED by former Gov. Perry, then it becomes clear that there is a leadership vacuum in the Governor's office."

- "Patrick's problem isn't his shaky math, it's that he wants to pick a fight with Gov. Abbott."

- "Let's play another game, Legislative Monopoly and the House owns Park Place and Boardwalk with 3 hotels on each, 2 Railroads and the Electric Company and the Senate has no get out of jail free cards."

- "The Senate will lose out to the House. They almost always do."

- "You left out the possible Magic 8 Ball responses of 'Don't Count On It,' 'Better Not Tell You Now,' and 'My Sources Say No' — all of which are applicable."

- "The Senate has managed to unify the House — because the House is right on tax policy, but they are wrong on the politics — Patrick's Senate will win in the political arena. The much-criticized House leadership has experience that Senate leadership doesn't have, and it shows. But the House Leadership is still politically shackled with Straus, so their stand won't count for much in 2016."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Jennifer Ahrens, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, James Bernsen, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.