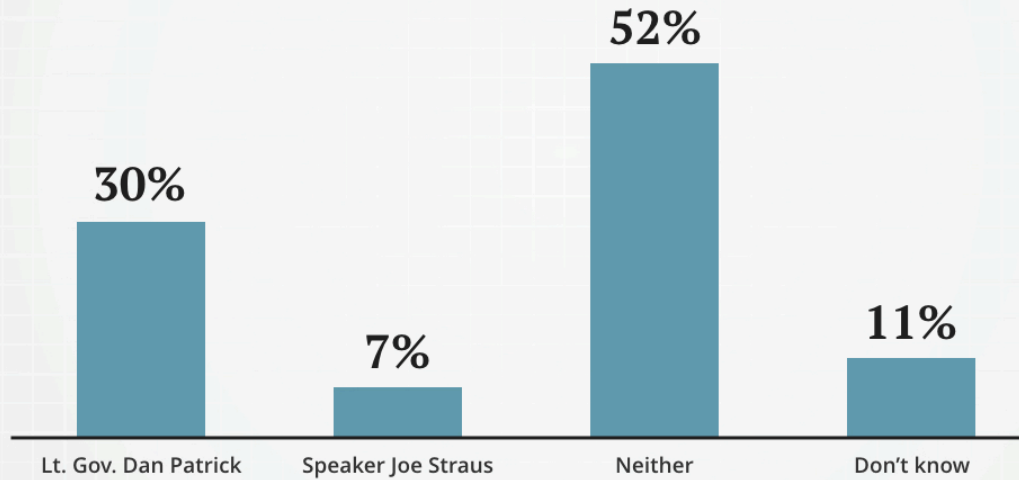


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 3 February 2017*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

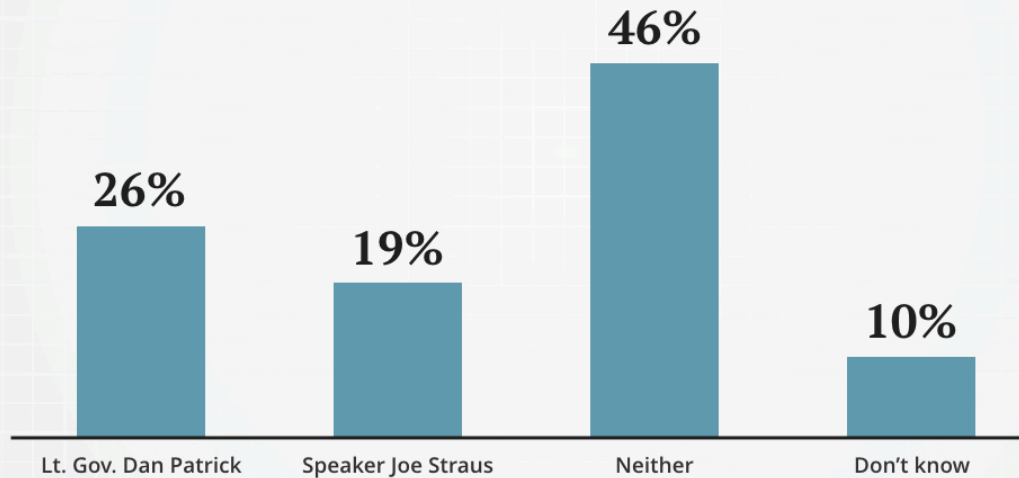
As of right now, on whose side is Gov. Greg Abbott?



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

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

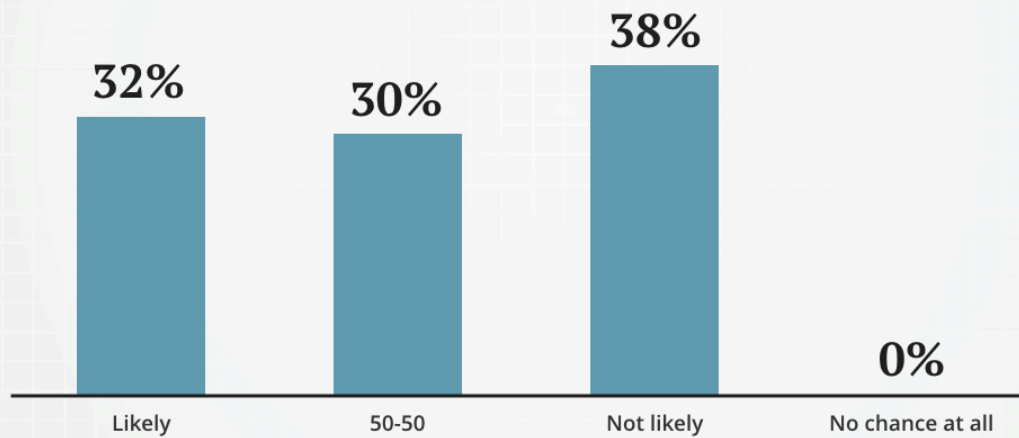
When sine die arrives, on whose side will Gov. Greg Abbott be?



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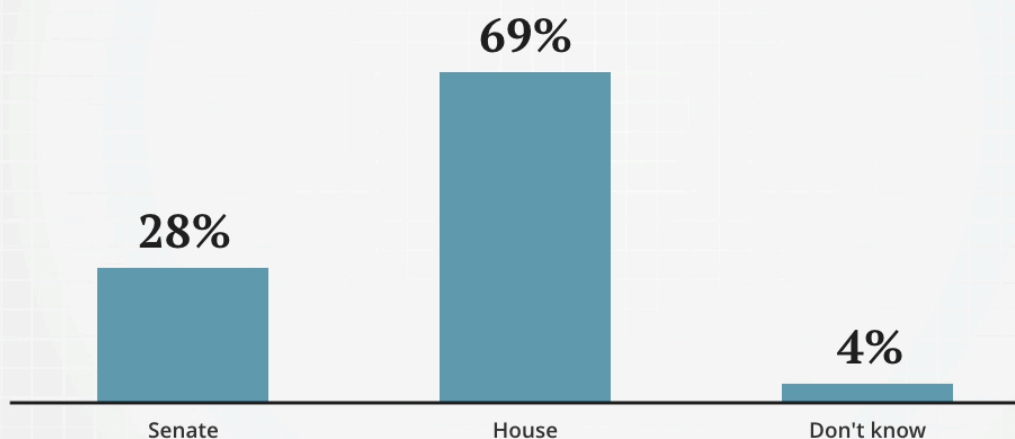
What are the odds that Comptroller Glenn Hegar revises the revenue estimate before sine die?



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The final spending number in the budget ends up closer to the figure proposed by which chamber?



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As of right now, on whose side is Gov. Greg Abbott?

- "Abbott wants no light between himself and the Republican right. Straus appears to care little what the statewide primary voter thinks."
- "Where is the choice for 'both'?"
- "His own — trying to strengthen the executive role in Texas government."
- "He doesn't want the Tea Party mad at him, so he'll continue to push convention of the states. He's concerned about bathroom bill and will pray the House waters it down or kills it. That means he's not really on either side. With \$35m in the bank, he should be more confident and bolder. He isn't either."
- "Bathroom bill is the line in the sand between actual Republicans and showboats."
- "He's looking out for Numero Uno — himself! If that means he has to cozy up to Patrick on certain issues, so be it. If it means he has to play nice with Straus, then so be it. He has no special affinity for either. As a wise man once said, 'Keep your friends close but your enemies closer.'"

- "A more correct question might be Hotze (anti-LGBT) or Dunn (vouchers)."

- "There's only one side. Patrick is the only game in town."

- "He plays on the fence better than anyone I seen in a while."

- "He is trying to dance in the middle."

- "Barely"

- "It's early in this poker game. He's not showing his hand."

- "I checked Don't Know, because Abbott don't know. He's not very good at the financial side of governing. Lawyering, yes. Not budgeting."

- "Are you kidding me? He is on Greg Abbott's side. Like Patrick is on

Patrick's side and Straus is on Straus' side."

- "He's leaning politically with Patrick, but only because he may be worried about his running against him."

- "Maybe more Straus than Patrick? Will have some additional insights on Tuesday..."

- "Governor Greg Abbott is on Team Governor Greg Abbott."

- "He is not being vocal on many issues."

- "I believe this is what he would say."

- "Paranoids don't have sides."

- "His staff won't let him be on a side..."

When sine die arrives, on whose side will Gov. Greg Abbott be?

- "Abbott will be on Abbott's side."

- "Kent Hance used to say, 'Who is the most powerful vote in the Railroad Commission?' 'The third vote.' Abbott would be wise to choose sides between the House and Senate as he sees fit and always be the third vote. This is also consistent with him not wanting to be out front. Rank and file House Republican lawmakers are still upset he didn't come campaign for them. We now know where Abbott is on Rainy Day Fund so that appears to be a victory for the Senate view. The press will likely cover him as closer to the Senate, but we still don't know that yet."

- "Raise your hand if you think Gov. Abbott will somehow come out against Patrick when the Senate fails to fully fund pre-K."

- "Straus' approach will win."

- "Whatever side Daniel tells him to be on."

- "See Texas Monthly..."

- "Crazy attracts crazy. He has to be 'crazier' than Patrick to keep him from running against him."

- "Abbott will always be looking in his rearview mirror for Patrick."

- "Abbott will ultimately get led around by the nose by Patrick. Almost everyone else has. Other than Straus."
- "Hello, Abbott is for team Abbott."
- "The Speaker will save him from himself."
- "Senate/House tightrope?"
- "They will all be on the same side of a three-sided coin."
- "He has to be his own man."
- "Depends on the issues individually. I think he will be a little bit Straus, a little bit Patrick and a little bit what is best for Texas."
- "Who's going to tell him it's over?"

What are the odds that Comptroller Glenn Hegar revises the revenue estimate before sine die?

- "If he does, it may be a downward revision. Depends on if sales tax revenues start growing more, compared to last year; also on franchise tax."
- "I would give it a 30 percent chance."
- "Aren't there always tweaks?"
- "Always"
- "The oil patch is coming back."
- "Hegar will postpone and delay, and then revise it in August."
- "Highly unlikely. So my sources tell me."
- "It's never as bad in April as it is in May."
- "He might, depending upon state's revenues increasing if oil prices escalate significantly."

The final spending number in the budget ends up closer to the figure proposed by which chamber?

- "Tell me whether there will be a successful vote to take money out of the Rainy Day Fund and then I will answer your question."
- "If appropriations are closer to the Senate's starting point, that just means the Legislature will have created a very, very large supplemental spending bill for 2019. (The difference between 'appropriated' up front in 2018-19, and ultimately spent by the end of fiscal 2019.)"
- "The 104.9bn is still kinda a misleading number because it does not include the \$5bn for roads. We spent \$113bn last session. We can have some

garden-variety delays and underfunding Medicaid and get out of Dodge without cuts. At the end of the day, there is nothing inherently 'conservative' about a \$10bn rainy day fund. Both House and Senate budgets are fake at this point, the Senate budget is particularly fake."

- "Senate will cave when the true costs of their draconian budget become more clear."
- "The Comptroller's number will grow as the economy improves under Trump. That will give the Comptroller the confidence to increase the number."

- "Wiggle room"
- "The final budget will actually be higher than both the initial chambers' budgets. It will be closer to the House's initial offering, but they're both too low right now."
- "Expect program changes adopted in the budget that will allow budget to balance and remain on the low end, but that will negatively impact consumers of services and providers in Art II; and public schools in Art III."
- "They will split the baby."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Kevin Cooper, Randy Cubriel, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Eva De Luna-Castro, June Dadrack, Ted Delisi, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Tom Forbes, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Mike McKinney, Vinny Minchillo, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Todd Olsen, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Grant Ruckel, Tyler Ruud, Jason Sabo, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Sherry Sylvester, Vicki Truitt, Chris Wallace, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Williams, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.