

**“INSIDE”**

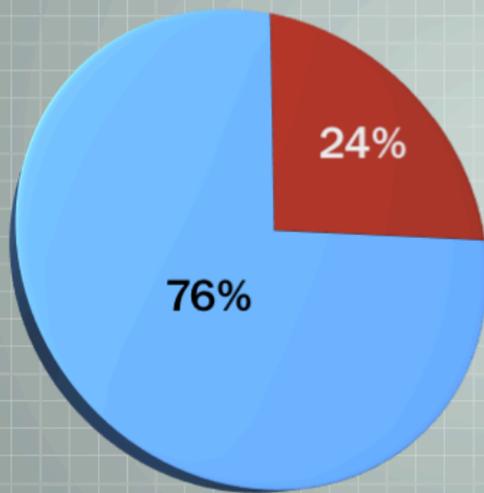
**INTELLIGENCE**

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**THE TEXAS TRIBUNE**  
**TEXAS  WEEKLY**

**The insider's poll for the week of March 14.**

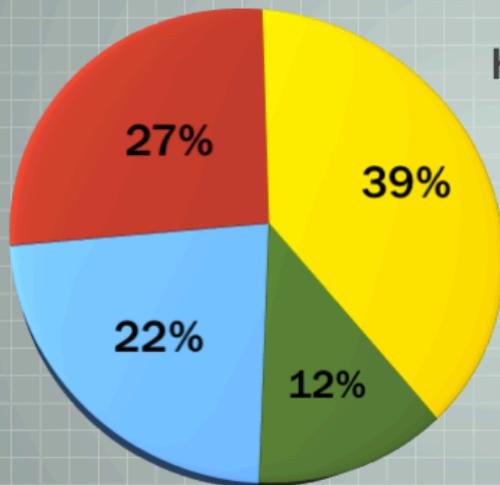
# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE



Will lawmakers need a special summer session to finish their work?

● Yes ● No

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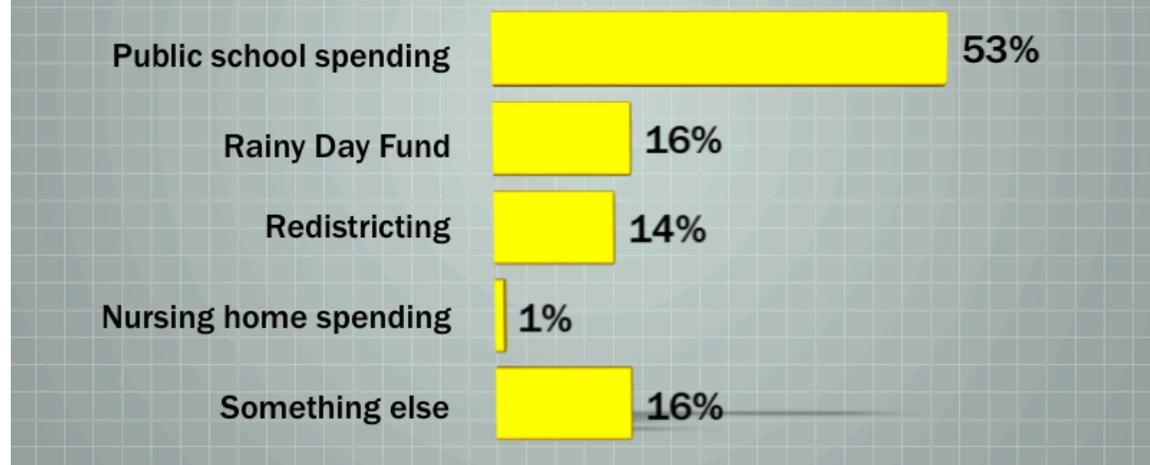


How many special sessions?

● 0  
● 1  
● 2  
● 2+

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

## Disagreement over what issue is most likely to cause a special session?



*As we approach the halfway point of the legislative session, with most issues, redistricting and much of the budget still ahead, do you think the Legislature will finish its work during the regular session, or will they need a special session this summer?*

- "They'll pass a budget and will at least pass a sunset safety net. Everything else is surplus."
- "I don't think you GET a special session for legislative redistricting - doesn't it go directly to the LRB if you don't do it during a regular session? Regardless, I think the budget might be enough of a mess that they go into (a?) specials(s?)."
- "I think they can finish on time, but acknowledge that is my heart talking, not my head"
- "They'll finish what they have to finish--and then Gov. Perry will veto the budget."
- "Redistricting will take care of itself with or without legislation. The budget is problematic but the R's have to pass the bill or explain why they can't govern. It will be interesting to see if the hard liners will be able to get away with saying that there hasn't been enough fat cut out of the budget to justify their vote against."
- "Probably too many moving parts to finance a workable two-year budget to get done in the Regular."
- "The Lege needs more time to work on the budget; give another quarter to collect more sales tax receipts and wait on the margins tax report in May to get a better picture of the budget."
- "No way they will finish all their work: Not enough revenue, too many cuts - both of money and people, member pairings and the fights that ensue over territory and certain voters, and way too many Sunset bills to finish. Time to consider an annual session, alternating between a budget only session and a session for everything else."

- "There will have to be at least 1 special session to pass a Congressional Redistricting plan."
- "I don't see the desire among the Republicans to continue working together into the summer. There is too much fighting amongst themselves."
- "How could it be otherwise?"
- "The senate may not be able to pass a budget bill without additional revenue. The house is not completely on board yet with significant new revenue. The stars could align in the next few weeks to make the deal during session, but odds are still against that right now."
- "They will undoubtedly need one or more, maybe 4 special sessions"
- "The re-districting monster has yet to rest its head. When it does, the session de facto ends."
- "Budget"
- "Legislators will disagree to the point nothing passes."
- "I realize the odds of 'finishing on time' without a special(s) are beyond astronomical. Since my prognosis costs me little or nothing, I'm betting on the Ruthless Rs to sine die timely - with one special for Redistricting."
- "A special session tends to focus everyone's attention on the topic at hand. Maybe by then our governor will have a clearer view of the realities of the situation."
- "The Republicans are in control of the process so it is in their interest to finish on time."
- "They will need a special session for the current budget and the FY 12-13 budget. Redistricting will dominate the conversations among members very soon (if it already has not happened) and all other issues, including the budget, will be left to linger."
- "The session is being driven by consultants that run campaigns... Dew for the Senate and Perry for whatever....consider our state being run by a fat man from New Hampshire - Dave Carney!!!"
- "Legislators will not be able to craft a 2012-13 budget and bills making corresponding statutory changes--particularly a school (un)funding measure--during the regular session. There's been no leadership on this critical issue from statewide officials--other than a tentative effort by the comptroller. Nor has the business community weighed in beyond making calls to fund a few programs--such as pre-K programs and TEXAS higher education tuition assistance grants--without any suggestion as to how to pay for those items. Bill Hammond is a surprising and notable outlier within the business community. However, even he is not addressing our ongoing and growing structural budget gap. There is also a strong possibility that dealing with budget issues for the current and upcoming biennia and with redistricting will push aside some other important issues--sunset bills come to mind--as happened last session."
- "The budget will NOT get passed by the end of the regular."

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*How many special sessions will it take?*

- "Perry will continue to demagogue by threatening to veto a budget that uses the rainy day fund, but the legislature will not be able to close the current year deficit without using it."
- "They will either pass a one year budget, and have to come back next year to do the second year, or will fail to pass a budget at all until after September 1."
- "Please don't let it be more than one special. I'm going to Disneyland!"
- "Seems to me that Perry would want the legislature to get out of dodge so he can crisscross the United States telling anyone

who will listen that he shrunk the size of state government and balanced a \$27 billion deficit with no new taxes. Calling a special session can be tricky. It doesn't always work out, and you might end up with two, three, four or more before you get the job done and that would look bad for a presidential wannabe."

- "Bill Clements just kept calling them back until a deal was made. Perry might be more inclined to get a deal and then call them back."

- "I suspect the legislature will punt redistricting to the LRB, but there is a chance a special session will also be held. But all together, this special session's thematic coverage will be very restrictive and actual length of the session very short. It is in the best interests of Perry, Dewhurst, and to a

lesser extent Straus to avoid the more public arena of a legislative session to every extent possible. But I doubt they'll be able to get away with no special session, so the result will be a very short one scheduled during the summer vacation period."

- "4"
- "Possibly more than 2"
- "Democrats will leave town again."
- "The first one will end in failure as our governor makes his points with the more conservative elements of his party. We will get down to business in the second one."
- "One for the budget, one for redistricting."

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*Who stands to win or lose if lawmakers come back for a special session this summer? Is it particularly good for someone or some group? Particularly bad?*

- "Republicans lose. Democrats win."

- "Bad for Perry."

- "It's gotta make Perry nervous. Might put a crimp in his Vice Presidential campaign..."

- "It's bad for Republicans. If they can't pass a budget and go home with a supermajority, then they are in negotiations with the minority party and against themselves for as long as it takes."

- "Depends on what they need to fix. If they have to push the sunset agencies into a safety net again, the Rs will take the hit because it'll be 2 sessions in a row without action, and sunset bills are supposed to be about efficient government."

- "Bad for the people of Texas."

- "There will be no winners."

- "Republicans lose for every extra day in which the budget is a mess."

- "Taxpayers-citizens of TX all win if the issues are fully vetted."

- "It will be bad for Rick Perry."

- "Perry's lack of leadership will again be on display."

- "Good for hotels/restaurants and bars in Austin"

- "Bad for Perry and Republican legislators."

- "Bad for the Governor"

- "Not good for anyone--except Perry's ego (assuming he forces the special(s))."

- "Not sure."

- "Eventually it will get the Governor, since it is his fault."

- "Dem's win... R's lose."

- "Very bad for the Tea Party. They will be SPENDING taxpayer dollars."

- "Bad for R's as they control it all now."

- "Republicans stand to lose."

- "If the Republicans have total control of the state machinery but can't get the budget handled without a special session they look incompetent to lead."
- "It plays to the Governor's advantage"
- "Every day the Legislature is here represents one more opportunity for them to realize what a disaster this budget is and finally grow up and deal with the structural deficit."
- "It's bad for all Repubs if they can't get a real, biennial budget before August 31st."
- "Governor's power to set the agenda in a special puts him on center stage-- to win or lose."
- "Bad for public schools, college students, the elderly, disabled, sick children, and poor people, but good for Republicans as they can promote themselves as fiscally conservative."
- "Bad for schools"
- "It's very good for political journalists and for the bottom line of the lobby. It \*might\* be good for the public if it's a sign that legislators are coming around to the reality that they can't let the Tea Party & TPPF hold education and social services hostage. It's bad for everyone else"
- "The people will lose. The longer they are in session, the more damage they can do."
- "In a strange turn of event this redistricting cycle, Instead of the Legislators exiting the state for vacation to protest and leaving the rest of us here, We are all going to leave the state for vacation and make the Legislators stay."
- "Not sure that a particular groups will lose out or win this summer. They all seem to be getting kicked around enough this spring."
- "Bad for Republicans. If you have almost complete power, why can't you get your business done in time?"
- "Losers: Legislators who hold jobs."
- "No opinion"
- "It depends on what causes the special. If it is public ed, then that may benefit from public pressure not to foul up the schools."
- "Depends on the issue and resolution."
- "Tea party-bad Democrats-good"
- "Perry will look bad."
- "All bad"
- "Perry stands to win because he can grandstand, veto spending on public schools, veto anything that increases revenue for the state and possibly push us into a special session--no matter how much it hurts Texas."
- "Republicans win and Dems lose."
- "The winners if we have a special session are the people of Texas who will get a better budget."
- "Exxon et. al. always win in tax bills."
- "Perry should want to be free of tending to 'Texas' issues so he can be free to campaign nationally. Wait, that's what he's doing now. Never mind."
- "Republicans will lose. They quicker they get out of here, the better they will be."
- "It's good for Perry, he sets the agenda and he has demonstrated his willingness to take a firm stand during regular sessions to be able to get to the special where his powers are stronger."
- "Public Schools"
- "Schools ISD"
- "Hopefully good for public education"
- "Educational special interest"
- "All suffer equally"
- "The taxpayers of Texas lose!"

- "If school funding is the issue that forces the special, it will likely find a compromise that suits school allies more than anything that will be produced in the regular session."
  - "It's an opportunity for the Democrats to identify themselves as a party willing to stand up for their constituents. No guarantee they will"
  - "Everyone loses!"
  - "It will be bad for gov, Lt gov and speaker because they will have been unable to get their votes in regular. Bad for tea party because they'll have failed to sustain momentum."
  - "Rural legislators"
  - "It is basically good for the republicans because it will look like they held the line on spending. In the bigger picture however the democrats will win because everyone will ultimately be mad at them either for raising revenue or for not spending enough. No win situation for the republicans."
  - "Lt. Governor"
  - "Greater media coverage of the budget cuts and related topics is better for Democrats than Republicans. A special session is also a complication for any Perry presidential or vice-presidential aspirations, and also would not seem to provide any benefits for Dewhurst while simultaneously exposing him to potential risks."
  - "The party in control has more to lose. It will show the state whether or not they can govern."
  - "Good for Governor, Grover, Peggy Venable, Koch Brothers, and Michael Quinn (which, by the way, are all one in the same person)"
  - "Republicans... the more they debate... look at the sonogram issue... the worse it gets."
  - "If Specials are fought over the budget and possibly redistricting, those in charge (Republicans) stand to lose the most. Redistricting could be particularly nasty,
- given that most of the fighting will be among members of the GOP Caucus. A fight over the budget may well pit leaders in the Lege against the Guv."
  - "Governor"
  - "It could possibly help the D's if there is significant dysfunction leading to the special. Of course, given their current position, anything helps the D's as it is hard to imagine them falling any further."
  - "I think the republicans are going to look increasingly bad as the implications of the budget cuts become obvious to the state"
  - "Democrats win."
  - "The GOP stands to loose if a reasonable resolution to the budget issue cannot be achieved. If the Legislature has to come back the winners will be the Democrats since it will make the GOP leadership look weak and unable to deal with the one issue the Legislature is charged with resolving, the budget."
  - "Perry and Dewhurst lose if there is a special session. Both want to start campaigning and both have downplayed the significance of the budget problem."
  - "Republicans will lose. Voters hate special sessions and the D's will tag the R's for the costs of these extra innings."
  - "Special sessions are bad for the Tea Party's momentum. Special sessions will prove that, even if most voters in Texas are sympathetic with the ideas of the Tea Party, the sympathy is not more important than many other priorities facing cuts."
  - "Good for contract lobbyists"
  - "Bad for Republicans"
  - "It will be bad for all of them."
  - "Paired and redistricted, tea party morons lose ground as insider nature of budget gets exposure, as well as extremist views"

- "In the people of Texas will be winners but in particular, public education and healthcare organizations will be winners."
- "The w is a big winner."
- "Perry"
- "Governor wins, unless his own party rebels"
- "Bad for Governor."
- "Good for public education and expensive for business."
- "Bad for the people of Texas"
- "Those who want to spend more money will win the most."
- "It's not good for anybody except maybe a small faction of the R majority who will rail against the budget, rail against spending rainy day funds all the while knowing that their colleagues will make tough choices. Win win?"
- "No one wins. Taxpayers lose."
- "Governor wins."
- "No one really gets hurt politically. That's why it's inevitable."
- "Gov Perry Loses in a significant way"
- "Its bad for Texas."
- "If lawmakers want to take a dig back at the Governor, why not make him look ineffectual with a necessary (and costly) special session or three?"
- "Toss up"
- "During the slow summer months, the media wins!"
- "Governor Perry will look good 'calling them back until they do the job right.'"
- "Good for incumbents who need to show they are not making cuts without debating them."
- "If they fail to cut the budget during the regular session - they will feed the Tea Party fires. Everyone loses."
- "Everyone loses."
- "Depends on the next 70+ days."
- "I don't think there are winners and losses in this."
- "Gambling stands to gain"
- "Depends on the outcome and how it is viewed too early to know winners or loser"
- "Particularly bad for Republicans. If you have a large majority in both houses and can't reach consensus on tough issues, it is a loss for your team."
- "Taxpayers lose either way."
- "I don't think anyone really wins in this situation. Our governor will win some points with his base but that could be fleeting."
- "N/a"
- "Will hurt incumbents of both parties most likely."
- "The Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Republicans lose if there is a special session. They are in control of the process. Democrats get a boost if there is a special."
- "Perry will be able to spin any special session in his favor... stating he was not willing to let the tax and spend liberal republicans win by not cutting the budget enough."
- "Senate Candidates"
- "Bad for Rs"
- "Democrats"
- "Lt. Gov and Gov"

- "If the inability to pass a budget results in a delay in school starting, it will hurt republicans since they have the majority"
  - "The special session itself is not good or bad for anyone -- other than the members' families. The winner/losers will be determined by the outcome of the special session."
  - "Unless he demonstrates some engaged and effective leadership, Perry will be damaged-- at least among Texans. If Democrats can avoid being labeled obstructionists, they stand to make considerable electoral gains--which, of course, could be largely washed away by adept Republican legislative redistricting."
  - "The Gov doesn't want the budget to spill over, but as long as he can appear to control things, he'll be ok."
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***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Reggie Bashur, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Mark Bell, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, Lydia Camarillo, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Tris Castaneda, William Chapman, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Hector Deleon, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Robert Floyd, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Marta Greytok, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Adam Haynes, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Carl Isett, Richie Jackson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Tim Lambert, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Scott McCown, Mike McKinney, Kurt Meacham, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Todd Olsen, Lee Parsley, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Wayne Pierce, John Pitts, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Jeff Rotkoff, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Stan Schlueter, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Patricia Shipton, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Terral Smith, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bill Stevens, Keith Strama, Bob Strauser, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Chad Wilbanks, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.