

Legislative Priorities

*Background information supported by TASA update

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Texas Primary Results

- Voter Turnout: As we discussed in the Fall of 2011 the primary results did set the stage for the 2013 session.
- There are fewer registered voters in Texas today than there were at the time of the gubernatorial primary in 2010.
- Republicans outvoted democrats
- 1.4 million (11.56%) registered voters voted in the Republican primary and 587,000 (4.5%) voted in the Democratic primary.
- 13 million registered voters

Texas Primary Results cont.

- State Board of Education (15 members)
 - 3 members did not seek re-election: Craig, Berlanga, and Farney
 - 3 incumbents lost their bid for re-election: Soto, Clayton, and Lowe.
- SBOE Runoff Battles
 - District 2 (D): Cortez upset Sanchez
 - District 10 (R): Maynard upset Osborne
 - District 13 (R): Miller upset Spurlock

Texas House Turnover-Primary

- Turnover from last session plus 20% new members this election cycle could mean as many as 50% of house members will be freshmen or sophomores in 2013.
- 91 seats have no general election contest or a third party challenge
- 30 members did not seek re-election (7 D/23 R)
- 13 Chairmanship vacancies
- 40 members not returning-this number may increase after the general election.

Texas Senate-Primary

- 4 senators did not seek re-election, which includes chair of Senate Education and Senate Finance (Shapiro and Ogden)
- Big surprise in District 25, where Senator Wentworth lost to Donna Campbell
- 4 chairmanship vacancies (Senate Education, Jurisprudence, Economic Development, and Transportation & Homeland Security).

U.S. Senate-Runoff

A closer look at the turnout for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

Republican

Dewhurst

44.5%

Cruz

Primary

34.2%

Runoff

43.17%

56.82%

Democrat

Sadler

35.1%

Yarbrough

25.8%

63.02%

36.97%

Important Election Information

Dates of Interest

- October 9- voter registration deadline for November/Presidential Election.
- October 22- early voting begins
- November 6- November/Presidential election

82nd Session: Looking back

Priorities of Governor and most legislators

- Balance budget
- Protect the Rainy Day Fund
- Shrink government
- Don't raise taxes

83rd Session: Looking ahead

Priorities of lawmakers and various groups

- Balance budget
- Protect the Rainy Day Fund
- Shrink government
- Don't raise taxes
- School choice

Where are they now?

- House Public Education Committee

At least five out of the eleven will not be returning next session

- Eisler Chair- lost primary election bid
- Hochberg- Vice Chair- Retired
- Shelton- Retired- (R) for Senate District (SD) 10, General Election Opp.
- Smith- Retired- lost (R) nomination to SD 9
- Weber-Retired- U.S. House District 14
- Allen- unopposed in general election
- Aycock-has an opponent
- Dutton- unopposed in general election
- Guillen- has an opponent
- Huberty- has an opponent
- Strama- unopposed in general election

Where are they now?

- Senate Education Committee

At least 2 of the 9 will not be returning

- Shapiro, Chair-Retired
- Ogden- Retired
- Patrick, Vice Chair-has an opponent
- Carona- unopposed
- Davis- has an opponent
- Gallegos-has an opponent
- Sellger- unopposed
- Van De Putte-unopposed
- West- has an opponent

Key Leadership Positions in Education

- What is ahead for newly appointed Commissioner Michael Williams?
 - TEA Sunset **from last session**
 - LBB Budget request (10% Cut) Departmental
 - \$5.4 billion cuts to k-12 **from last session**
 - Agency and ESC cuts **from 2011**
 - New Accountability Systems **from last session**
 - Senate Confirmation
 - School Finance Litigation
- K-12 Leadership positions open & filled
 - New Senate Education Committee Chair: **OPEN**
 - New Senate Finance Committee Chair: Sen. Tommy Williams
 - New House Public Education Committee Chair: **OPEN**
 - New Pensions and Investments Chair: **OPEN**

State Budget Outlook: thus far...

- Sunny forecast for the Rainy Day Fund (to be used???)
 - aka: Texas Economic Stabilization Fund
 - Current estimate at \$7.3 billions by the end of 2013- up from \$6.5 billion estimate during the last session
 - Increase in oil and gas productions is the main reason for the increase
 - BUT remember it takes 3/5 vote to close prior previous gaps and 2/3 vote to spend for other reasons
 - State sales tax continues to increase (almost 10% over last year)

State Budget Outlook: thus far...

- Leadership asks agencies to find 10% cuts 2014-15
- LBB asks agencies to find 10% cuts in 5% increments in drafting 2014-15 budget requests
 - Exceptions to the request : PSF, debt service for bond authorizations, Medicaid, contribution requirements for pensions.
 - **REMINDER: PSF was NOT spared last session**
- LBB also told agencies their baseline budgets can't exceed current appropriations. Agencies can request exceptional items.
 - (TEA could request SSI funding)
- In addition, the LBB letter also noted additional cuts may be necessary during the second year of the biennium
- Sales tax up, job growth up, but still uncertainty

83rd Session

Key Education Issues

- School Choice/Vouchers
- Charter School Expansion
- Virtual Schools
- Assessment and Accountability
- TRS Pensions and TRS Care
- Spending limits (state and local)
- K-12 Appropriations
- Rainy Day Fund
- Statewide Property Tax-Sales Tax

Key Non-education Issues

- Transportation
- Water plan
- Medicaid funding
- Economic development
- Redistricting?

DISD 82nd Session Priorities 2010

- Make education funding a priority
- Provide adequate funding for early childhood
- Provide adequate funding for socio-economically disadvantaged children
- Review and upwardly adjust special education funding for inclusion districts
- Amend the “50-cent bond debt test”
- Increase transportation allotment
- Address UIL travel efficiency