



# Monday Memo

Vol. 80, No. 13 April 30, 2007

Jim Dunnam  
Democratic Leader

Texas State Capitol  
Austin, Texas

(512) 463-0508 Vox  
(512) 463-5934 Fax

## So Much for a Kinder and Gentler Speaker

The House Calendar is now in full gear. Despite assurances of a kinder and gentler Tom Craddick as House Speaker, a look at legislation coming to the floor this session reveals that Craddick is still running the House in the same old way.

A recent analysis of bills getting to the House floor on the General Calendar through April 30th reveals that the fuel running the House engine is loyalty to the Speaker.

The 68 House members who voted for a secret ballot as the method for selecting the Speaker of the House, referred to as the "test vote" for the Speaker's race, make up 45% of the total House. However, those 68 House members are responsible for only 20% of the bills getting on the General Calendar. 45% of the House is only getting 20% of the Bills. By contrast, 80% of the bills that have come to the floor from the Calendars Committee so far this session come from the 55% that voted with Craddick.

The extent to which dissent has been punished is further revealed by a look at the numbers of Democrats vs. Republicans who have been allowed virtually no legislation on the House floor from Calendars. Forty-nine percent, nearly half, of all Democrats have had one or no bills come to the floor thru Calendars. By contrast, only 16% of Republicans having had only one or no bills. That is 34 Democrats vs. 13 Republicans being effectively shut out of the calendars process.

Shortly after the race for Speaker of the House, Karen Brooks of the *Dallas Morning News* interviewed Tom Craddick and asked him point blank if there would be retaliation for votes on the secret ballot. Craddick insisted that he "didn't take any of that personally," regarding the challenge. According to her article, he also "promised not to retaliate against members who opposed him."

A kinder and gentler Craddick? A more inclusive Craddick? A Speaker who will not hold the Speaker's vote or partisanship against sitting House members? I think not. The statistics don't lie.

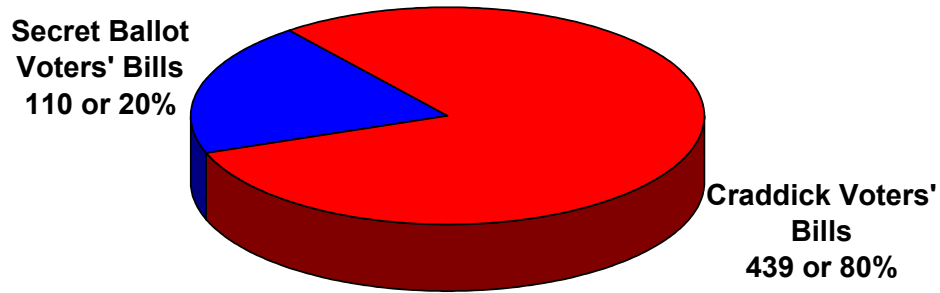
## By the Numbers

Breakdown of the 68 House members who voted for a secret ballot:

Rep.	Party	Bills	Rep.	Party	Bills
Hochberg	(D) 137	8	Vaught	(D) 107	0
Ritter	(D) 21	7	Davis,Y.	(D) 111	0
Naishtat	(D) 49	7	Farias	(D) 118	0
Pickett	(D) 79	6	Castro	(D) 125	0
McReynolds	(D) 12	5	Cohen	(D) 134	0
Cook,R.	(D) 17	4	Thompson	(D) 141	0
Farabee	(D) 69	4	Hernandez	(D) 143	0
Leibowitz	(D) 117	3	Coleman	(D) 147	0
Noriega	(D) 145	3	Farrar	(D) 148	0
Gonzalez Toureilles	(D) 35	3	Vo	(D) 149	0
Martinez	(D) 39	3	Olivo	(D) 27	0
Frost	(D) 1	2	Garcia	(D) 32	0
Anchia	(D) 103	2	Ortiz	(D) 33	0
Villarreal	(D) 123	2	Herrero	(D) 34	0
Menendez	(D) 124	2	Bolton	(D) 47	0
Oliveira	(D) 37	2	Dunnam	(D) 57	0
Gonzales	(D) 41	2	Gallego	(D) 74	0
Strama	(D) 50	2	Quintanilla	(D) 75	0
Heflin	(D) 85	2	Moreno	(D) 77	0
Burnam	(D) 90	2	Veasey	(D) 95	0
Hodge	(D) 100	1	Elkins	(R) 135	3
Alonzo	(D) 104	1	Geren	(R) 99	4
Hopson	(D) 11	1	Haggerty	(R) 78	4
Mallory Caraway	(D) 110	1	Hughes	(R) 5	2
Martinez Fischer	(D) 116	1	Jones	(R) 83	0
Allen	(D) 131	1	Kuempel	(R) 44	1
Miles	(D) 146	1	Latham	(R) 101	0
Eiland	(D) 23	1	McCall	(R) 66	4
Homer	(D) 3	1	Merritt	(R) 7	0
Raymond	(D) 42	1	Pitts	(R) 10	2
Escobar	(D) 43	1	Smith,T.	(R) 92	1
Howard,D.	(D) 48	1	Straus	(R) 121	2
Rodriguez	(D) 51	1	Talton	(R) 144	0
Pierson	(D) 93	1	West.	(R) 81	2

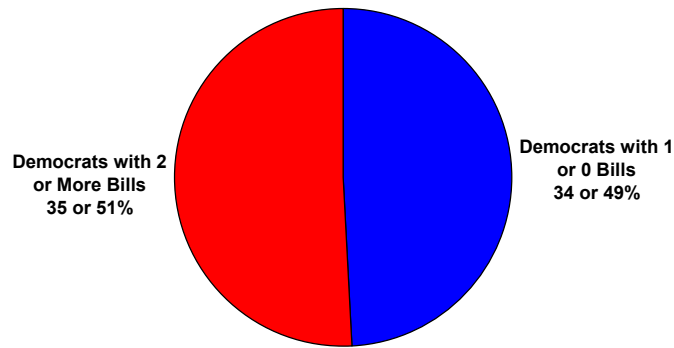
All bills above add up to 110, 85 from the 54 Democrats and 25 from the 14 Republicans. The total number of bills in this analysis is 549. Those 110 bills represent just 20% of the bills in the analysis. By contrast, those 68 members are fully 45% of the House.

As a percentage, the number looks like this:



In addition, 49% of Democrats vs. only 13% of Republicans have had 1 or no bills placed on the calendar:

### DEMOCRATS



### REPUBLICANS

