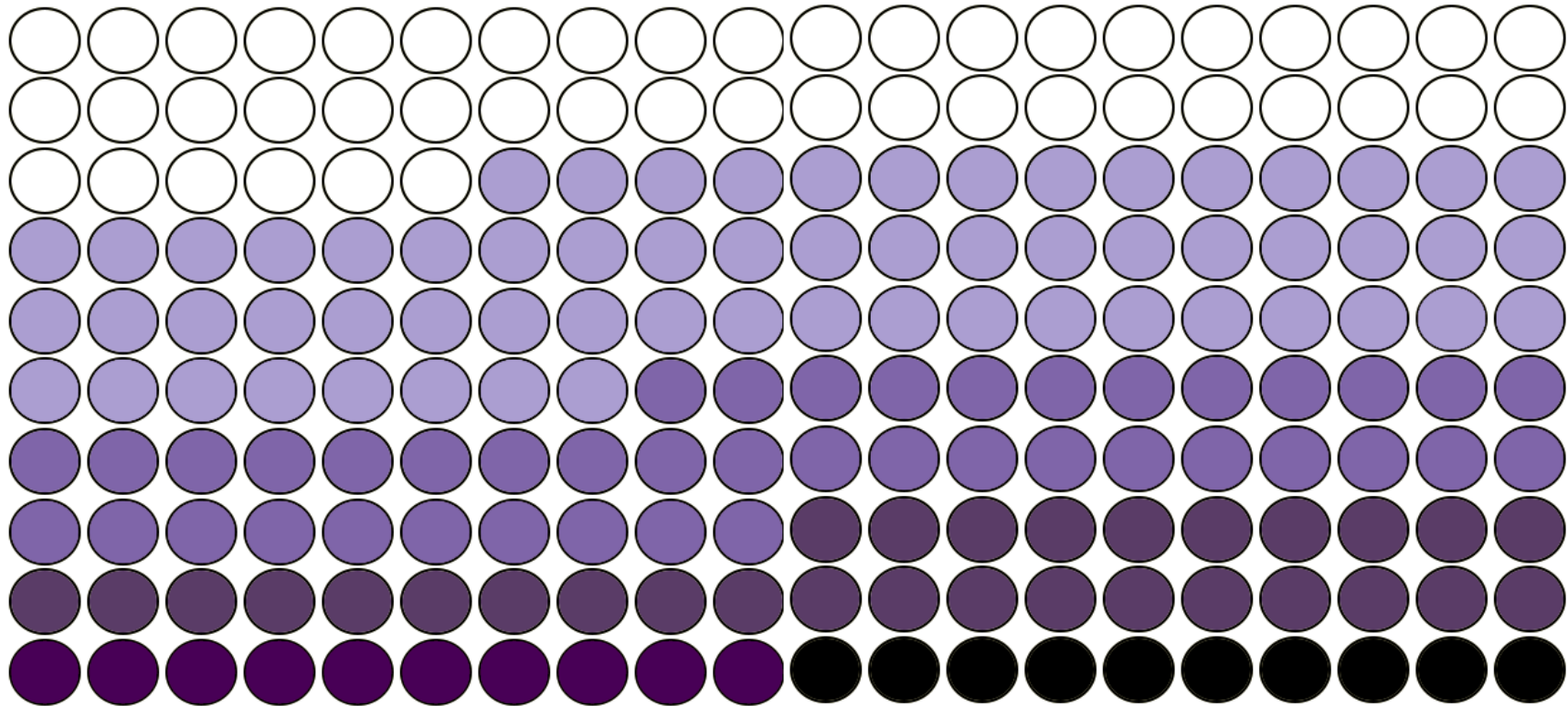
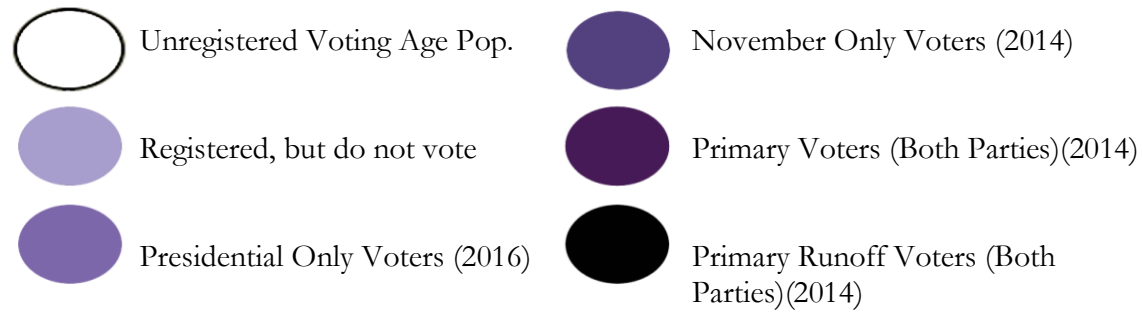


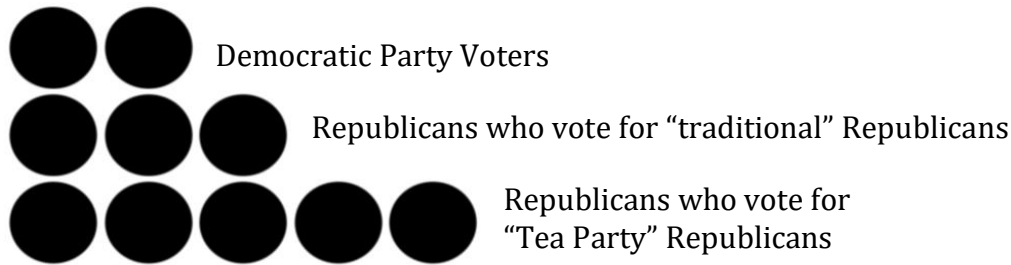
Who Drives The Texas Legislature?



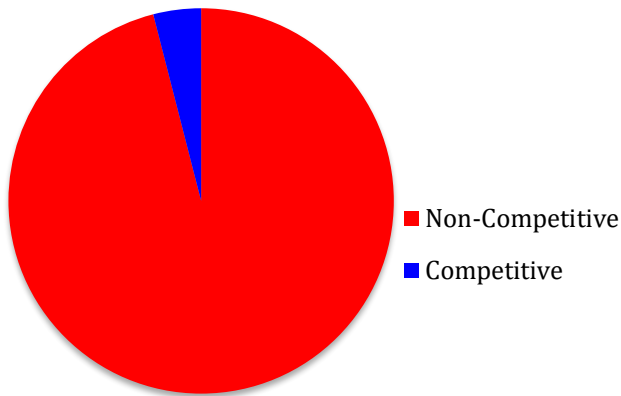
*Source: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/historical/70-92.shtml>



Primary Runoff Voter Breakdown (2014)



Distribution of Competitive v. Non-Competitive Legislative races in Texas in 2014



“Competitive” is defined as a race where the winner is elected with less than 55% of the vote. Using such a definition, more than 95% of Texas Legislators are effectively elected in their party’s primary.

Elections Determine Policy Direction

Elections send empirical data to elected officials about the desires of the electorate. If you do not vote, your prayers may influence God, but you do not influence the Texas Legislature.

The 200 circles in the chart on the other side of the page represent the 19.5 million Texans who could vote—also known as the “voting age population” (VAP). As of 2017, 46 of 200 (23%) are not registered to vote.

Presidential elections produce the highest voter turnout. In 2016, 92 of 200 (46%) voted. More Texans did not vote at all than voted for all the presidential candidates combined.

In a gubernatorial election, 50 of 200 (25%) are likely to vote. However, the November General Election historically has not been the most important election for persuading Texas legislators about the desires of their electorate.

Since the last redistricting cycle (2011), 95% of the Texas Legislature was effectively decided in the party primaries because they were drawn into “safe” districts for their political party. In 2014, 20 of 200 (10%) participated in the primaries of these 7% participated in the Republican and 3% in the Democratic primaries.

Turnout is lowest in primary runoffs. For instance, both U.S. Senator Ted Cruz and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick were elected in the subsequent Republican Primary Runoff. In the 2014 Runoff, 8 of 200 (4%) participated. Of those, 5 of 200 voted for now-Lt. Gov. Patrick which makes up 2.5% of Texas’ voting age population.

