

Speaker Joe Straus' Leadership Team

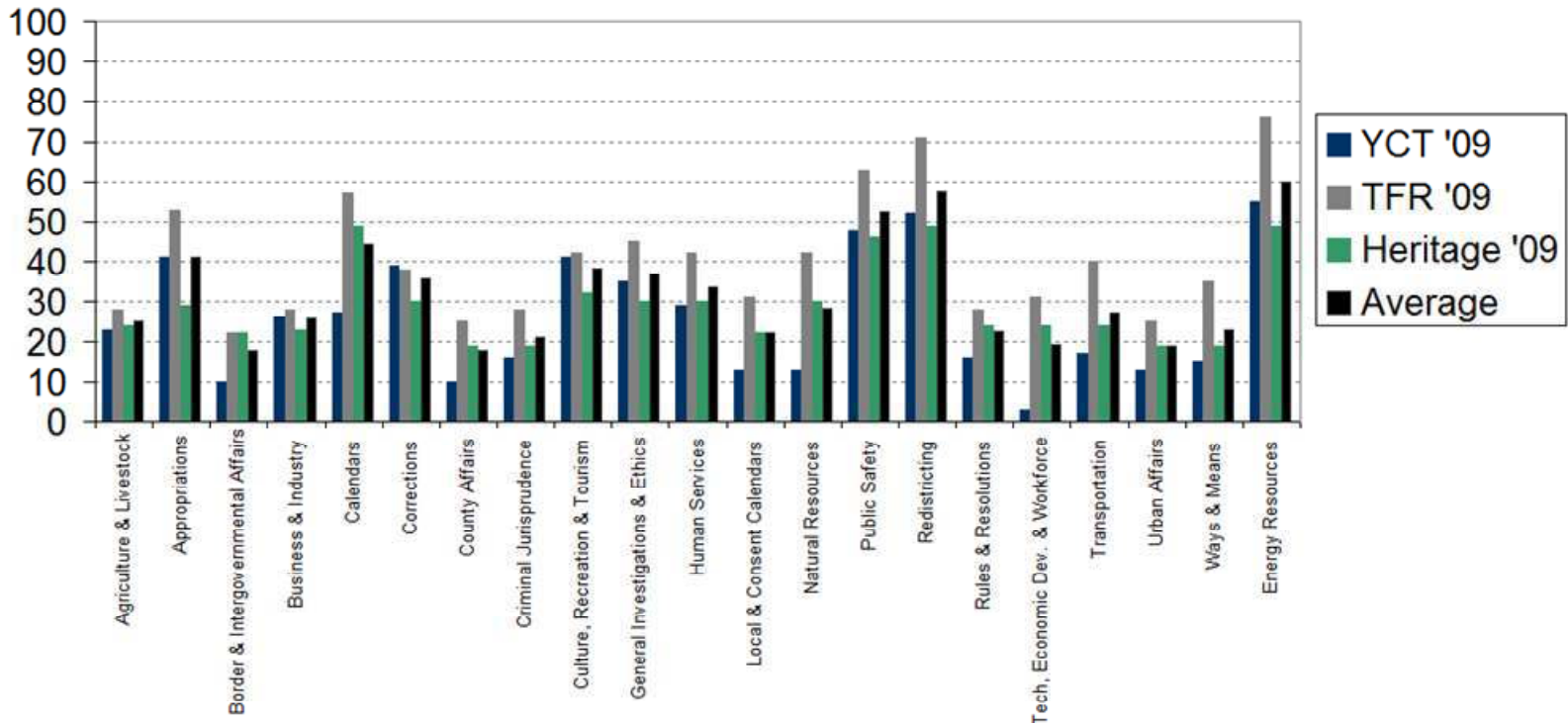
The most important role of the Texas House Speaker is the appointment of House Committee Chairs.

As House Speaker, Joe Straus appointed the Chairs of dozens of Committees in 2009.

Unfortunately, Straus didn't pick many conservatives for his leadership team.

The chart below shows the 2009 ratings (on a 0-to-100 scale) for the chairs of 21 of the most powerful House Committees as rated by **Young Conservatives of Texas, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility and Heritage Alliance**.

Given the makeup of Straus' hand-picked leadership team, it's not hard to figure out why most conservative bills died in committee last session.



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Committee	Chairman	YCT	TFR	Heritage	2009
		'09	'09	'09	AVG.
Agriculture & Livestock	Gonzalez-Tourelles, Yvonn	23	28	24	25
Appropriations	Pitts, Jim (R)	41	53	29	41
Border & Intergovernmental Affairs	Gonzales, Veronica (D)	10	22	22	18
Business & Industry	Deshotel, Joe (D)	26	28	23	26
Calendars	McCall, Brian (R)	27	57	49	44
Corrections	McReynolds, Jim (D)	39	38	30	36
County Affairs	Coleman, Garnet (D)	10	25	19	18
Criminal Jurisprudence	Gallego, Pete (D)	16	28	19	21
Culture, Recreation & Tourism	Homer, Mark (D)	41	42	32	38
Defense & Veterans' Affairs	Corte, Frank (R)	70	85	70	75
Elections	Smith, Todd (R)	58	66	70	65
Energy Resources	Keffer, Jim (R)	55	76	49	60
Environmental Regulations	Cook, Byron (R)	74	75	65	71
General Investigations & Ethics	Hopson, Chuck (D)	35	45	30	37
Higher Education	Branch, Dan (R)	61	85	73	73
House Administration	Geran, Charlie (R)	59	72	76	69
Human Services	Rose, Patrick (D)	29	42	30	34
Insurance	Smithee, John (R)	87	86	62	78
Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	Hunter, Todd (R)	68	71	49	63
Land & Resource Management	Bonnen, Dennis (R)	81	76	76	78
Licensing & Admin Procedures	Kuempel, Edmund (R)	57	75	56	63
Local & Consent Calendars	Thompson, Senfronia (D)	13	31	22	22
Natural Resources	Ritter, Allan (D)	13	42	30	28
Pensions, Investments & Fin. Services	Truitt, Vicki (R)	74	68	65	69
Public Education	Eissler, Rob (R)	61	77	68	69
Public Health	Kolkhorst, Lois (R)	74	85	68	76
Public Safety	Merritt, Tommy (R)	48	63	46	52
Redistricting	Jones, Delwin (R)	52	71	49	57
Rules & Resolutions	McClendon, Ruth (D)	16	28	24	23
State Affairs	Solomons, Burt (R)	70	75	62	69
Tech, Economic Dev. & Workforce	Strama, Mark (D)	3	31	24	19
Transportation	Pickett, Joe (D)	17	40	24	27
Urban Affairs	Davis, Yvonne (D)	13	25	19	19
Ways & Means	Oliveira, Rene (D)	15	35	19	23

The Straus Leadership Team from Left to Right

House Committee Chairs appointed by Joe Straus in 2009, as rated by Young Conservatives of Texas based on 2009 voting record.

