

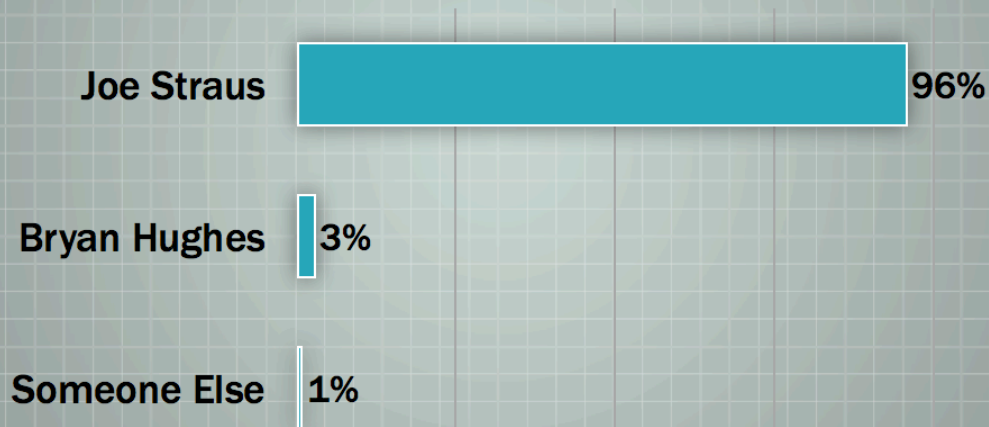
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of October 15*

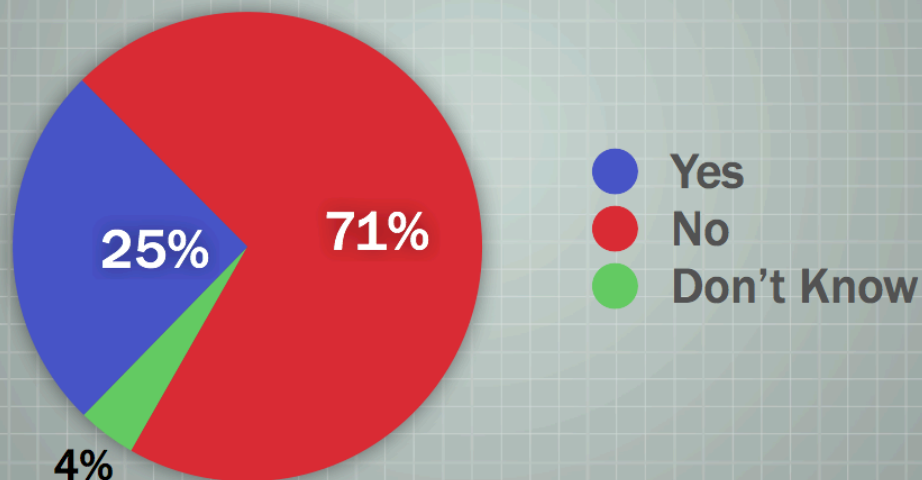
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Who'll win the next race for speaker?



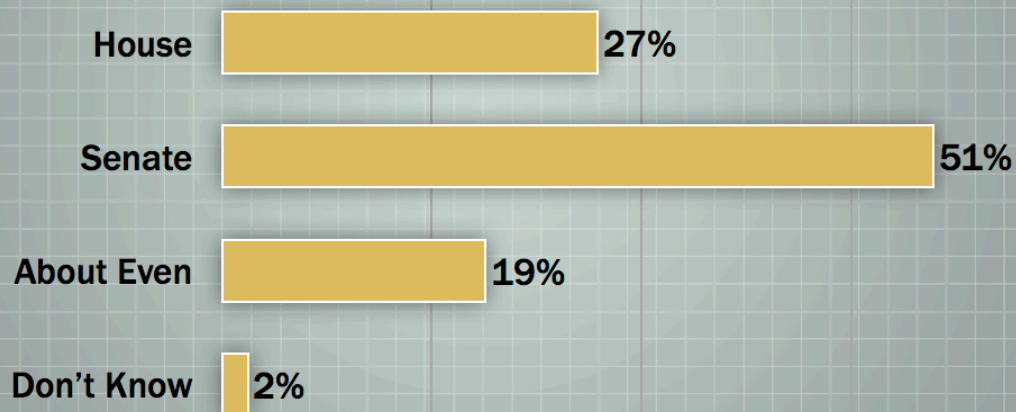
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Will outsiders have any real influence on that speaker race?



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Which chamber will be more likely to pass "hot button" bills next year?



Who will win the race for speaker in January?

- "But it won't be pretty. And before its over there will be others that will be trying to see if they can pull together a deal with the demos."
- "Right wing pressure isn't great enough yet to dislodge a speaker who's done a good job for his members."
- "Joe Straus has the advantage of a district that understands the wisdom of having a hometown Speaker. Let MQS bluster, the Speaker is safe at home and will remain Speaker as long as he so desires."
- "Joe has worked tirelessly this interim to facilitate strong alliances from the newly elected members. Joe's integrity and respectability will prevail."
- "It will be difficult to keep some of his votes together. Dick Armey will mobilize the grassroots and some will jump ship, but in the end the Dems will stick by him ensuring him the victory."
- "Hughes can't win -- TRL won't let him and Dems will elect Straus"
- "Gets criticized by both parties. Common sense guy. If not him, where do the D's go?"
- "Phil King is actively meeting with freshman in the hopes that he can be a fall back candidate after news of

Hughes' trial lawyer proclivities are found out by the radical right."

- "There is no speaker's race. Some people are trying to create the appearance of a speaker's race for their personal benefit and ulterior motives, but that doesn't make it the real deal."
- "Would everyone please stop asking this already?"
- "Really? I've got a better chance of winning the lottery then does Hughes becoming Speaker."
- "I thought this was a done deal until Freedom Works got into the game. They wreaked Dewhurst's US Senate effort and might do the same in a Speaker's race."
- "None of the conservatives want to be seen as Straus supporters to the Tea Party, but all of them say he is a great Speaker and they get a lot done with him in the Chair."
- "Democrats should pick their own Speaker candidate, act like a real opposition party and leave the Republicans to eat their own. But alas, they will get suckered."

• "Sam Texas has a better chance of defeating Dan Patrick than Bryan Hughes has of defeating Joe Straus."

• "How can R members vote for a trial lawyer as Speaker? TLR and business groups will work to oust any R who does."

• "With the predicted D gains, the number of Rs Straus needs will drop to a manageable level."

• "Straus survived in 2011 after a wave election ushered in a large number of new very conservative members. While he lost some lieutenants in this year's primary, some potentially adversarial members also lost. Plus, there will be 6 or 8 new Democrats in the House in 2013. Where else are they going to go?"

• "If 'someone else' was going to enter the race, he/she should have done so before Freedom Works backed Bryan Hughes."

• "Straus, but not without ceding to some conservative demands for more conservative R chairs, letting vouchers through, or similar."

Will outside groups and activists have any real influence on the outcome of the Speakers' race?

- "I think a lot of it will depend on the outcome from the November election and how that defines the make up of the House."
- "But a few members will believe outside groups wave a bigger stick than they actually do."

• "No, but some will sure try."

• "Right wing groups will make life difficult for Republican members.... some won't be able to withstand the pressure"

• "Tread lightly, FreedomWorks. Those eligible to cast a ballot in this

race are not the same as the gullible right-wing base of the GOP. Texas legislators will resent your efforts to pressure them. Well, the reasonable ones will anyway."

- "God help the Texas Republican who questions the GOP street cred of Joci Straus' son."

- "Many consultants and companies are using their personal relationships with candidates and newly elected legislators to actively promote Straus' record and effective leadership."

- "They will try."

- "Outside groups will make the race closer than it should be."

- "They'll try again but fail"

- "Geren runs the house"

- "They will make life miserable for everyone involved, but they will not be successful."

- "Outside groups need to beat on Speaker Strauss as an excuse for raising money and whipping up the fervor of their rank and file supporters, and therefore none of these attacks are really about Strauss or any serious effort to replace him."

- "I think most of the groups who will influence the Speaker's race will have offices within several blocks of the Capital."

- "MQS, et al, will try to meddle, but they won't be successful."

- "The lobby."

- "If by real influence you mean change the result, no way"

- "The threat from the Right will continue to push Straus to the Right, but it will not be enough to unseat him. Simpson in '15, however, is another matter."

- "See above."

- "Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

- "Operative word being 'real'. They will take the uninformed crazies and whip them into a froth like egg whites but to the same end - it's really just a meaningless dollop of crap!"

- "Outside groups will kick up a lot of dust, the long-term interest of the Republican Party is not to be pushed further to the right and members will take that into account even if only quietly."

- "But only marginally."

- "Any outside group / activist who can influence a legislator's constituents can influence a legislator's vote for Speaker."

- "They barely influence each other. Spend and borrow Republicans and tax and spend Democrats. God, please don't elect someone with a brain or an open mind!"

- "It will force people to stand up to extremist groups. Time to decide what kind of Texas you want."

- "Lots of noise; no real influence."

- "Who knows who the members listen to these days and the new ones

may be more prone to listening to outside influencers"

- "A lot of noise, then the final vote will be nearly unanimous for Straus."
- "Their influence is in the actual election of members at the ballot box. I don't think they'll have much impact on Speaker politics."

- "All smoke no fire"
- "The answer is fresh in the mind of the current Speaker, which is that he lost 5 of his lieutenants. The 'people' will have their say."
- "This is between the brothers, Kay."
- "No, not in the end."

Which chamber will be more likely to pass 'hot-button' bills next session?

- "The senate is a forgone conclusion to pass all their anti bills next session; anti-public education, anti-poor, anti-public health, anti-voting rights for minorities..."
- "The amount of crazy coming out of the Senate will be astounding."
- "House is more likely to pass them quicker. And while the new makeup of the Senate will have more empathy for those bills, as long as the 2/3rds Rule is around, those hot button bills will take a little longer."
- "With the new Senate makeup, the R's will become the Texas House Lite. How the mighty Senate has fallen"
- "Here comes the voucher battles and this time it just may prevail."
- "Depends on Wendy Davis and if the 2/3 rule is suspended"
- "2/3rds rule is history."
- "Passing any significant measure requires the help, direct or indirect, of the person in charge. The presiding

officer of the Senate seems to have more incentive to cater to the 'hot button' end of the spectrum, as well as a new-found willingness to do so."

- "Who'd a thunk we'd look to the house for temperance."
- "What was the name of that movie with Jim Carey and Jeff Daniels?"
- "Right wing ends charade! Will move Texas beyond the boundaries of absurdity. Midland Mayor vows to forego city charter, 'Texas is no longer safe for 'W' conservatives.' Michael Quinn Sullivan escapes to Park Slope."
- "Any way you slice it -- Joe Straus is still more conservative than David Dewhurst. He will continue to lead the House more in line with a conservative Texas."
- "For the first time in my political lifetime."
- "Hot potato. Neither side wants to fail to address state's 'emergency' issues TSA Vouchers Sanctuary cities"

- "The Lt. Gov. has something to prove."
- "Thank God for the House. Can you imagine its come to this? Vouchers, er, I mean tax credits die in the House."
- "Even though Dewhurst has much to prove to the Republican primary electorate, the House is just a lot easier to operate and to move to decision."
- "Trick question? Like the senate has killed a bill at any point in living memory?"
- "DD has no reason to hold back on far right craziness. Straus will be the reasonable man he is, except for a few bills."
- "With Davis likely gone and Dewhurst stacking the deck on committees, prepare for some wild bills from the upper chamber."
- "Once that stuff gets to the floor, a majority will be sufficiently afraid of

primary challenges that they won't dare to vote no. And in the Senate, it's possible that a majority might be all that's needed - depending on the future health of the two-thirds rule."

- "They always do but vouchers may come from the senate and that is a hot button issue"
- "Plenty of crazies in both chambers. Finally."
- "Similar to DC, the House is where the firebrand energy is. The Senate still tends to apply the brakes, though Dewhurst's new committee chairs may alter that some."
- "Dewhurst wants to 'right' the ship. That is apparent in his committee appointments."
- "Dew is desperate to be invited to the Tea Party and will greenlight anything he thinks will get him there. The brakes on crazy (no Ogden, etc.) get thinner and thinner."

Be the Pundit: What's your take on the Senate committee assignments announced last week?

- "I don't see anything nefarious in the announcement."
- "Political payback."
- "Poor pitiful pathetic Dewhurst."
- "Dewhurst is sticking with his 'conservative' values espoused during the recent US Senate campaign by naming Patrick to chair Senate Education and Seliger to Higher Education. Eliminating the Senate IRT Committee and removing Sen.

Zaffirini away from Higher Ed is a big blow to the Democrats as whatever 'partisanship' existed in the East Chamber is now gone."

- "Dewhurst for (fill in name of higher office here)"
- "It's an indication that vouchers will pass the Senate and Rick Perry's assault on the University of Texas will receive a thorough hearing in the Senate."

- "The 'Dew' decided to move to the right in hopes that he can somehow still be a statewide factor."
- "Seliger was the victim of the commitment that the Lt. Gov. had to make to get Patrick's endorsement in the runoff. He basically trumped the commitment Seliger had. Fraser gets the credit for busting Zaffirini, saying that she was raising too much money to be used against republicans from the higher ed community. She will knife him sometime in the session."
- "Smart moves. Better fits."
- "Dewhurst trying to convince folks he's Tea Party friendly - good luck!"
- "Dewhurst appears to be running for office again, probably Lt. Gov. He covered the bases well from both the important governance issues, as well as linchpin-party issues."
- "Dewhurst caves yet again to emerging ultra-conservative majority.... he hastened to placate key members before they could organize and strip him of some powers"
- "Dewhurst adapting to the shift of power that is coming with the new Senators. If he is going to be taken seriously as a 2014 re-election contender then he has to make this shift. The committee member assignments in a couple months should be even more evidence of this shift to the right. If he doesn't tilt certain committees to the right then he'll leave his flank wide open to attack from conservative groups."
- "Hell hath no fury like a Zaffirini scorned."
- "Not remarkable, lots of spots to fill"
- "Extra! Extra! Lieutenant Governor caves to far right in desperate attempt to live down his embarrassing defeat."
- "Zaffirini finally reaps what she sows."
- "Dewhurst kept Democrats in leadership positions despite pressure from the far right to bust all chairman. He understands he has to balance committees in order to be effective. He will still feel a ripple effect from dissatisfaction of moderates with the Patrick versus Seliger decision."
- "Dew takes a hard right.... Dem's are angry, but who will notice when the new 19 vote rule takes effect."
- "Tea Party suck-up time."
- "First blush Zaffirini gets popped, deeper analysis, she will be even more involved on higher ed from the floor mucking it up for everyone."
- "Melting toward heat not realizing you can't reason w ideologues and sociopaths"
- "No surprise whatsoever"
- "The Dew made a technical error trying to go to the right. 1) He has already been labeled as a moderate by the Republican base. It doesn't matter what he says or does, he will always be to the left of the base; 2) He has empowered those that will most likely threatened his re-election; and 3) He has relinquished most of his power and won't be able to govern. Has anyone acquired knowledge from studying the ways of Lt Guv Bullock?"

- "The Dew didn't follow the party line except for Patrick and is still smarting from the primary."
- "Not surprising, but timing is lousy. Lots of wasted effort by committee staff who no longer have the same Chairman."
- "Dewhurst made conservative choices -- Patrick at Ed signals a major fight on school choice"
- "DD picks were perfect. He managed to unite the Ds by busting too many and the Tea Party Rs by not busting enough. Dead man walking."
- "Dewhurst's belated attempt to pander to the base."
- "Dew doesn't want to make anyone mad"
- "Unnecessary Roughness"
- "David Dewhurst still thinks he can move up. Like his appointments-a mistake."
- "Dewhurst is deluding himself into thinking he can reinvent himself yet again."
- "Dewhurst desperately trying to regain control."
- "Dewhurst moves to the right"
- "The Dew finally figured out how to unite the Democrats."
- "So happy about it all!!"
- "Ted Cruz campaigned to fundamentally alter the United States Senate, and in so doing, redefined the Texas Senate."
- "It looks like a bad year for teachers and water towers. Who will choose the football mascots for these new private schools?"
- "The Dew finally figured out which way the wind is blowing. The Senate will no longer be the place where good bills go to die."
- "A Zaffirini-ian dilemma! If you are the chancellor or one of the UT presidents you should be worried that Zaffirini is moved off of the Education Committee. Ultimately it doesn't equate to a big policy shift, but the optics of the change suggest a renewed attempt to micromanage the UT system at a minimum or an attempt to lay the groundwork for more changes the Lege wants to impose on higher ed in Texas."
- "Dewhurst is trying to make the far right like him, but they never will. Hence, removing Ds who have worked with him for the likes of Dan Patrick was stupid, plain and simple."
- "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. - David Dewhurst"
- "Death by a thousand cuts!"
- "Bad for Higher Education"
- "Don't think the pendulum can swing any further to the right without gravity starting to its pull. Yes, it will take a while, but this looks like an overreach."
- "Still trying to figure out why Gov. Dewhurst took out his anger on Sen. Lucio."
- "Committee Chair changes accurately and fairly reflect the

changes in the Senate membership and in the Republican Party."

- "Democrats have the same number of chairs as last time."
- "Dewhurst is insecure and really wants to hold onto power. The Senate will become like the House. Texas is about to head off of the cliff. Heads up, Mississippi!"
- "Dewhurst living in delusional, post-election loss, blaming the Democrats for his pathetic performance."
- "After losing so badly in the primary, it appears that Lt. Gov. Dewhurst is covering his right flank to help keep his 2014 options open. That said, it is unlikely to be enough to protect him from the stable of statewide R's gunning for his post."
- "With retirements and running for other offices, it was time to re-shuffle the chairs a bit. All good for the most part. I think the new chairs will do a surprisingly good job."
- "Bipartisanship was delivered a knockout punch. Could be fatal."
- "Dewhurst still wants to be a statewide elected official and plans on moving further to the right and he will do anything in order to have success in the Republican primary. Doesn't matter whether it's the correct thing to do or good for the state."
- "Let the games begin..."
- "Michael Quinn Sullivan escapes New York, releases phony Senate Committee announcement and

returns to lunch at Per Se. Arrest warrant out in Texas for Lt Governor."

- "The work should have been done months ago -- Dewhurst is late as usual."
- "Dewhurst upset the apple cart but he didn't turn it over."
- "Big win for parents and students."
- "Misguided efforts to placate the Far Right"
- "Giving in to Patrick"
- "A reflection of Dewhurst's recent campaign experience- reaction to the extremists who criticized Dewhurst in the primary"
- "School vouchers will be on deck."
- "Political rewards and punishments. And w Education a deliberate move to ignite controversy."
- "Jerk right, reward those who rolled you and dream of Sally Field 'You like me, right now, you like me!'"
- "Confuse the opposition!"
- "Many sops to the right, but wouldn't underestimate the degree to which the organized far right is suspicious of Seliger. Remember, Empower Texans targeted him, albeit VERY unsuccessfully. No doubt we'll be hearing from the morons at AgendaWise soon."
- "Dewhurst is playing to the right for reelection or running for Governor if Perry does not run"

- "Dewhurst attempting to appease the radical right but it won't work."

- "Dewhurst moving to the right while taking care of those Rs who helped most in the U.S. Senate race and at the same time appearing reasonable enough to not dump all Dems"

- "The Dew is running for re-election. And apparently he has to put his manhood in a locker to do it."

- "Dewhurst is in a hurry to show how conservative he really is. Is he running for re-election to be Lite Guv or does he have his eyes on the Guv's Mansion? Some say he still wants to be a U.S. Senator. Hmmmmmm. All I know is that he wants to prove to the base that he is conservative and busting Ds from chairmanships seems to be the way to show them he is one of them. This could get fun! Ah politics is a contact sport. It ain't for the faint of heart. If you are in the game you better have on your gear my friend and be ready to hit and be hit."

- "Sen. Seliger will do an excellent job as Chair of Higher Education."

- "If the Dew had a political motive it is hard to ascertain aside from the caterwauling you hear from Z."

- "A move to the right by Dewhurst due to fear, the pursuit of re-election or at least the desire to be seen as if he is pursuing re-election to avoid lame duck status, or a combination or both."

- "The Senate's consensus norms have been under pressure for several cycles and this is just another turn of the

screw. The Senate will become more like the House over time. The only really worrisome appointment is Dan Patrick to chair the education committee."

- "Ouch!!"

- "Get the ultra conservatives in place!"

- "Perry 1 / UT 0. Sad day for Texas"

- "Fear of Tea Party crazies."

- "A move the right by Lt. Gov. Dewhurst to position himself for re-election."

- "Some great, some pandering. Made Dewhurst look weaker."

- "Move to the right."

- "Fear of the Tea Party."

- "Should unify Democrats."

- "Nuanced move to the right by the Lt. Gov. while maintaining an aura of bi-partisanship."

- "After the Lt Gov finally made an aggressive move against certain Senate Democrats, you can expect a move to eliminate the 2/3 rule in the Senate at the beginning of the session or their could be open warfare on the floor of the Senate for the entire session. The wild card Democratic Senator could be Sen. Watson who could use his vote on key issues to obtain his much coveted medical school for Austin."

- "Dewhurst stacking blinked. Rather than trying to turn the tide of extremism, he grabbed a surfboard.

Major mistake. Tea Partiers will never accept him and he empowered a huge rival in Patrick."

- "A better choice would have been to give Dan Patrick a Special Committee on School Choice, where he could grandstand and get all the attention he wanted, and leave the Education Committee to someone who actually cares about public education - Kel Seliger."

- "Dewhurst is trying to get back in good with the more conservative folks. I like them"

- "Poor old Dewhurst. He's like the last Hittite emperor to declare himself King of the Earth. Just before he disappeared."

- "Near complete capitulation to the fringe."

- "Potentially good for Dewhurst's political prospects in the GOP primary (though I still maintain he's damaged goods), but definitely bad for Texas."

- "2 Democratic chairs lost their committees by elimination of the committees and 2 others were demoted. The most conservative member in the Texas Legislature was named chair of public education, even after espousing that vouchers were his number one priority for this session. The Lt. Governor is feeling immense pressure to show a more conservative side and he is bending."

- "Lt Gov Dewhurst to GOP voters: message received."

- "If he wanted to punish Ellis/Zaffirini he should have busted

them completely. I believe he may have woken a couple of sleeping giants."

- "He wanted the senator with the microphone to like him; no backbone"

- "Dewhurst continues to be 2 steps behind his ambitions."

- "Severe turn to the right."

- "Dewhurst moves right in a futile attempt to regain what he lost in Senate bid. It will not work. There is change in the air. Perry and Dewhurst are on the road to retirement."

- "Nothing too surprising"

- "Dewhurst wants to prove his conservative credentials--once and for all."

- "If Deuell's threats against Kitzman's confirmation were designed to get him a new chairmanship, they worked."

- "Vouchers. And Zaffirini is PISSED!"

- "The Dew's attempt to get back into the good graces of the hyper-partisans in the Republican Caucus will fall short, since he merely demoted Zaffirini and Ellis, instead of outright humiliation of them."

- "Definite shift to the right. Dewhurst is running for reelection."

- "Race to right."

- "Worthless attempt by Dewhurst to appease a group of voters who will never support him for any office in the

future. He's done, and, growing a bit crispy."

- "Senate campaign payback!"
- "Dewhurst unfortunately bowed to outside right-wing pressure,

especially in the case of Patrick chairing Public Education. It is titled Public Education, not Private Education. Vouchers are not the answer."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, David Anthony, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, James Clark, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Rebecca Flores, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, Kathy Grant, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Kathy Hutto, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Carl Isett, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Karen Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Dale Laine, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Elizabeth Lippincott, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Tom Phillips, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Kim Ross, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Dee Simpson, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Jeri Stone, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Corbin Van Arsdale, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.