

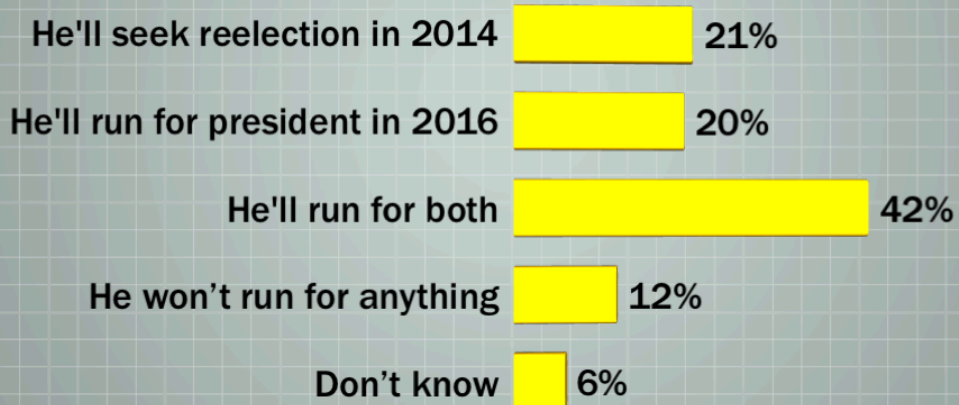
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of November 12*

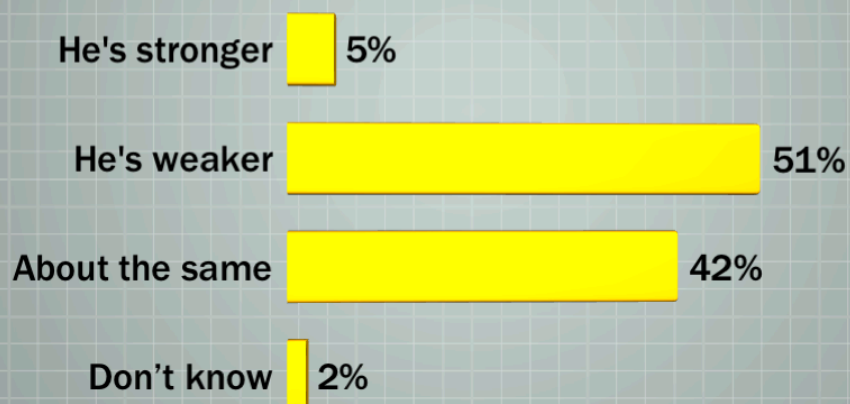
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

What do the results mean for Perry?



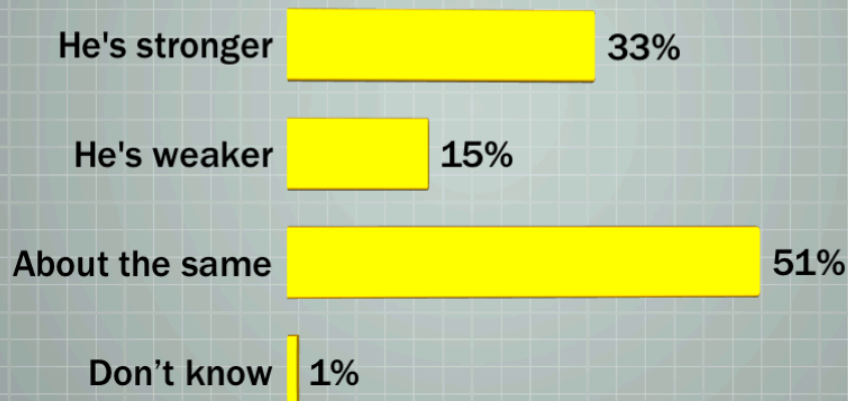
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Dewhurst's post-election clout?



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Straus' post-election clout?



You're the pundit: What was your take on Tuesday's election results, both for Texas and for the country?

- "Social issues must matter more than the economic state of our country! The morals of our society continue to degrade with each election. Other than 7 seat pick up for D's in the House, not much has changed for Texas. The burden of the now the non repeal prospect of Affordable Healthcare Act will create enormous burdens upon the legislature and businesses and could be crippling."
- "Redistricting determines 9 out of 10 races and further polarizes the public policy debate."
- "We are all in trouble."
- "The Republicans nominated a candidate they did not fully embrace and the rest of the country could not embrace him either, even though the country is not completely happy with the President."
- "The republican primary cannot be won by anyone who can win the general election. THANKS TEA!"
- "The Republican Party needs to redouble its efforts to become more inclusive."
- "Nothing surprising."
- "There will be continued gridlock in Washington and lots of deer in the headlights in Austin."

- "Independent and undecided voters in the Presidential/ Senatorial election were women who decided to for the Democrats. As for Texas we continued down a bad partisan road - with a few bright spots! Welcome back Abel, Chris and Joe! Welcome New Democrats!"

- "Not surprising as to either. The make up of Congress is not substantially changed, so more of the same in D.C. The make up of the TX. Legislature also remains substantially the same. So, no real change here, other than, perhaps, a slightly more tilt tot he right."

- "Romney was not the right guy to be the nominee. And Obama didn't win the race.... rather, he didn't lose the race."

- "John Cornyn has egg on his face; in an attempt to appease Tea Partiers and extreme conservative members of the GOP, the party lost a chance to win back the US Senate."

- "Weak rays of sunshine for the future but the present is grim!"

- "Republicans need to move back toward the middle and learn to be more moderate."

- "Texas is on the cusp of beginning the turn to purple. The base democratic vote increased in races where the democratic nominee had no money, no name ID and no qualifications for the office. GOP better do something to catch the Hispanic vote. Nationally, Congress and Obama MUST and will now work together for the grand bargain and it will happen, likely in 2014. There will be major tax and entitlement reform.

Immigration reform will also be accomplished for the same reasons that the National GOP MUST grow its Hispanic support...immigration reform is the vehicle to do it. They cannot afford to be seen as opposing reasonable reform. But the biggest result is that the Obama win will cement another Democratic victory in 2016 as the business cycle primarily, and government action secondarily, will inexorably lead the country to bountiful times by 2016, and continued prosperity for the Democrats."

- "R's have to avoid the circular firing squad and ask themselves how do we change? To lose the White House to this president with a 7.9% unemployment rate?"

- "American voters, while frustrated by gridlock, are unable to decide which fork in the road they want to take. \$2 billion spent on campaigns and we have a divided government like we had before? The responsibility of leadership is daunting and haunting..."

- "Very little for the republicans to be proud of, though they won't really notice."

- "The Obama ground game, use of technology is the gold standard for GOTV. Romney couldn't buy it, and lost. P.S. The Bush take on the big tent and Hispanic support is the ONLY way Republicans regain footing as a national party. As for Texas, saddle up Ricky has a new pony!"

- "Mixed bag for the Tea Party--losses in MO, IN, and ND, but a win in NE. Mixed bag for mainstream Repubs--

loss by Mitt, but a win by...by...huh, how 'bout that?"

- "One step closer to an Idiocracy."
- "Demographics are beginning to catch up with Republicans, but the Democrats in Texas will be behind the bell curve in taking advantage because of their disorganization."
- "In the presidential election I was surprised by the margin and by the number of states the president carried that I had not given him before. No surprises at the state legislative level."
- "Old guard's last hurrah nationally and the beginning of the national pattern of change in parts of Texas"
- "Obama didn't win it Romney lost it. Bad for the country. More division and gridlock. Solid pro-business and low tax policies assure that Texas will continue to prosper while rest of the country slides into despair and default."
- "The country is safe! Texas is screwed!"
- "Romney was better than McCain, but not good enough. Republicans got destroyed on data and the ground game. Obama's coalition (young voters, Hispanics, Asians, African Americans) held and turned out like it did in 2008. McCain lost by 10M votes. Romney lost by 2M votes. Obama won 10M fewer votes in 2012 than he did in 2008. Obama has no mandate and the next two years will have the same political dynamic as the last two with divided government of essentially the same type. Republicans must immediately aim to solve the immigration question with a

comprehensive solution so they can begin honest outreach to Hispanics. Winning 27% of Hispanics, the most rapidly growing demographic in the country, is a recipe for permanent minority status."

- "Not bad, for a change."
- "No change in Texas or nationally."
- "Texas still considers herself ultra-conservative. The country wants compromise."
- "Country remains divided and the Hurricane call it divine intervention bunted the Romney surge. In Texas, still strongly GOP but the major counties are becoming more competitive and can be called not red or blue but purple."
- "Yes, we did!"
- "Texas will be ok in spite of the way it voted. But it will continue to not have much influence in Washington with our new Sen. and having Sen. Cornyn working to promote himself more than Texas. Also looking forward to the fireworks between the two Sens."
- "The GOP's base of support is getting smaller and smaller while the Democratic Party's grows."
- "Nationally, our leaders need to recognize that neither political or policy philosophy has a 'mandate' from the country. So, they should work together and compromise. Won't happen, though."
- "Pretty simple. Texas is a stronghold for Rs for the next couple of cycles-- but that WILL change unless they

figure out a way to attract Latino voters."

- "The inexorable growth of the federal government continues."
- "Texas Legislature will continue to be crazy land. DC will continue to be gridlocked unless Xanax can be added to the water system at the Capitol."
- "Texas, once again, proved to be the nation that it is a solidly Red state and with a hint of crazy and a side of bewilderment."
- "Republican moderates need a game plan to work with Democrats to solve problems and lessen the influence of the ultra conservative members in both the House and Senate."
- "Texas is increasingly out of step with the country, and Wendy Davis will be the one to lead the state out of the wilderness."
- "The President was very strategic in his re-election effort. The results show our country is very divided and the President and Congress have to find policy that helps the broad middle, rebuilds the country's economy and creates jobs. And just like with our state's economy, Texas lags behind the nation in all things political..."
- "Texas still has hope to make progress. The nation is in big trouble. We've always obviously had elections that have had winners and losers. But this continuing bitter division, with fewer in the middle and more on the extreme, makes for unprecedented problems for moving our country forward."

- "Future fights between TX and US USA becoming more like EU; government can address all your ills"

- "Nationally- D's are better at packaging. Period. Texas- R's good. D's bad."
- "Not surprised by most of the results, other than 4th Court of Appeals losses. Rs didn't work hard enough for US Senate. POTUS was expected. Legislative seat gain/loss similar to 2008 cycle with Obama on the ticket."
- "Texas has to find a way back to common sense, moderate governing. If Republicans can't figure out a way to do that and keep Goober on the front porch, Democrats will do it eventually."
- "The Republicans need to rethink their emphasis. Their extremes on social issues and reduced government need to be rethought and recast. Rape should never be justified or prevent the freedom to seek an abortion. We need more efficient government. Government plays a vital role in education, health care, transportation, and national defense."
- "The extreme right wing was repudiated nationally, and to some extent in Texas."
- "The Republican party must change its brand to survive. Tacking too far to the right is a long-term loser for urban and suburban voters."
- "We gonna be real real angry in Texas from January through May."
- "Where Democrats had good candidates with good campaigns, they

usually won. The fact that Ds at all levels except the US House won, lays bare a serious malfunction at the DCCC. It likely means little at the state level. At the national level it means a quick resolution to the fiscal cliff."

- "We are living in 2 countries. The south - south/west and everyone one else. Traditional ideas continue to dominate all sectors of Texas. It goes across racial lines."

- "Ground hog day"

- "Groundhog Day...Obama re-elect means four more years of winter for Texas."

- "Obama was successful in painting Romney as an uncaring rich guy to many and ran more as a challenger instead of on his record. Our country is in trouble."

- "Nationally, the President did exactly what he needed to do: remind those in swing states that the economy is getting better and connect to them in a way Romney couldn't. In Texas, the tea party folks benefited from a July primary and cruised to victory. Wendy Davis win is shocking in Tarrant County where the President lost 57-41 and Straight Ticket Republicans consisted of 38% of the total vote in the county."

- "Of course Obama was going to win!"

- "Two words: Status Quo."

- "Strange electorate"

- "If the Republicans cannot attract Hispanics, they may eventually

resemble the Rotary Club rather than a political party"

- "Texas is politically isolated from the rest of the nation, unfortunately."

- "The people went with the known vs. the unknown."

- "Good for the US. Bad for Texas."

- "Romney was too wishy washy. Republicans are increasingly the party of old white men. Tea party up some places and down others. Offhand remarks about Rape are not smart or appreciated."

- "This was the end of the modern GOP Party/Coalition. It had better start looking a lot more like George P. Bush and Marco Rubio, or it will be irrelevant."

- "No wave this time. At the national level a drift back to the center after the 2010 election. In Texas a bit more conservative Senate and a bit less conservative House."

- "No one is perfect, the American people are suspicious of all elected officials, and every person who was elected last night from the President of the United States down to every local MUD representative should make reconciliation and serious leadership be their top priorities for this term. The voters are going to demand solid results from here forward. We all have to make tough choices that render us unpopular from time to time--get used to it, lawmakers."

- "Texas won, America lost."

- "The nation is split, but demographics matter and demographics are changing. Including in Texas."

- "Same take for both: 'The slumbering Hispanic giant starts to awake.' And, I predict the next GOP presidential candidate's name ends in a vowel."

- "GOP has gone too far to the right and the country has said so...."

- "So many of the things that seem to matter so much to those of us on the 'Inside,' matter very little to the swing voters. I'm very concerned for the future of our country, not because of who won or loss, but because I don't see the political will to address the growing financial catastrophe."

- "Most results in Texas predictable. Little change for the country."

- "Tea Party needs to focus on fiscal issues and reassess their views on social issues. White males will no longer dictate elections."

- "2012 was a status quo election, with a moderate Democratic lean in both the U.S. and Texas."

- "Another marker in the relentless move toward a conservative white minority"

- "The Republicans need to get the message, 'Polarization will cost them; the hard right Tea Party mentality will sink the Republican Party'"

- "No real surprises in Texas races. R's leadership where thinking 95 in the house that's what they got. Senator Davis is a strong candidate with deep

roots in Ft Worth. The R's on the national level are fractured and the pandering to the Tea Party which really has been captured by the far right of the Republican party will set them back even further if they don't move back to the middle."

- "In another 4 years we will be borrowing 50+ % of every \$ spent by the federal government from even additional emerging economies & wondering how it is that the unemployment rate continues to hover in the 8-10% range."

- "No country for angry, old, white men!"

- "In Texas, Brian Eppstein needs to go fishing. His bogus polls have no credibility"

- "Nationally, the new American majority emerged and the constitution will be saved by new Supreme Court Appointments. Texas will go to hell in a hand basket."

- "Republicans have positioned themselves too far to the right."

- "Uber conservative rhetoric is a non-winning strategy. The long term bodes very poorly for the GOP until they become more accepting of women and non-white people."

- "Class warfare, Part two; there is no reason to believe recent events have change minds or attitudes."

- "The country remains divided. The state remains Republican. And candidates should not use Eppstein if they want to win."

- "TX- we remain a strong R state. USA-split right down the middle"
- "Status quo, lets see what happens partisan gridlock"
- "Perry runs for Governor, then for President. Republicans decide whether they want to oppose immigration or to win the Presidency."
- "The country is so evenly split that the democrats & republicans need to stop the partisan bickering and get this country back on solid footing."
- "Texas will have stability at state level but will be completely

marginalized at the Federal level. We are one of the most 'far right' states out there. The country has more gridlock for the next couple of years. Republicans need to realize they have to build a bigger tent. The Hispanic and female voters are not buying what they are selling."

- "Whenever half the country does not pay federal taxes, it should not be a shocker America voted for him again. Sad day"
- "4 more years of the same on the national and the Senate is now less of a 'parental' body!"

What do the results mean for Gov. Rick Perry?

- "Not sure if he will run for both yet. It will depend on the flow of funds and how he is perceived nationally."
- "If you believe the not so hushed rumors, it will be Perry for Governor in 2014 and Perry for President in 2016."
- "He will continue to listen to those folks who tell him 'you were the best guy - see? That is why the republicans lost - they did not pick you'."
- "Presuming he wins re-election."
- "He's too damaged at this point, and those below him on the food chain are getting too restless."
- "He'll run for re-election and then for President. He will be re-elected governor, but not president."

- "He won't stop until the money dries up."
- "One would have to think that this election at least (in his mind) keeps him in play for the GOP nomination in four years. My best guess would be that he would think that just to maximize his options he needs the springboard of the governorship of Texas to take advantage of the situation IF the cards fall right for a candidacy in 2016."
- "Rick Perry's rhetoric has destroyed his brand and damaged the Texas brand. His voice is one of many that convinced the country that Obama wasn't so bad after all if the only alternative was conservatives. He is a good fundraiser. He needs to start a think tank or something and get out of the way of stronger leaders in the party."

- "He should not run for president - the damage was too severe and the bench is far too deep (Jeb, Rubio, Ryan, Christie, Jindal)."
- "The Governor will make noises about a 2014 gubernatorial run, but this will be his last term as he elects to focus solely on a 2016 presidential run."
- "Will practice remembering three things, but will again be stumped when trying to remember four things."
- "One should never underestimate the ego of a Red-Ass Aggie in football or politics."
- "It all depends on what the 83rd Legislative Session has in store for him. A good Session, and he's a new man - ready to run for Governor in 2014 and maybe President (more of a long shot)."
- "The door is now open for Perry to run for President again (and get beat again). Running for governor is logical, since the office brings prestige, an overly large security detail, and state government financing for logistics."
- "What else is he going to do?"
- "I think Perry thinks he has a shot at a wide open field in 2016. (That isn't the same thing as saying he has a shot.) Without Romney's money, Perry will have to be a sitting governor to make a play (see, e.g., Palin and Pawlenty). Abbott then enters the Lt. Gov. race and clears the field except for Jerry Patterson, who is physiologically and constitutionally incapable of blinking. The state will continue to suffer under Governor and Mrs. Perry's delusions of grandeur, falling even further behind the curve."
- "The days of the angry white man GOP are over. A Perry pick is the political equivalent of suicide and victory-starved Republican primary voters will understand that reality in 2016."
- "Ds have lower turnout in mid-term elections, so GRP won't have to be too concerned with a scare from 2012 General Election numbers."
- "Ego, ambition and cluelessness are a potent mixture."
- "He will run for president again, and be embarrassed again."
- "He can't help himself and we will all have to throw good money after bad again."
- "Tanned, rested, and ready. I expect to see Dick Cheney and his binders show back up at the Mansion any day now."
- "If he is fool enough to think he can wage the kind of campaign Romney ran, we should have him committed."
- "Same thing will happen"
- "Were he to run for re-election, someone would tear him up in the primary over having 'retired' while still living on state money, housing, travel, etc. After that, a Democrat could/ would beat him in November. Not worth the risk to his legacy or to the re-building of the party."

- "The question is how he runs. United that can bring Hispanics into the party? Or the 'hard ass' Republican that Lindsey Graham lamented this week?"
- "Not winning this Presidential primary didn't hurt Perry; unfortunately, his performance did. He has three years to reform his image. I don't know if the voters and other candidates are willing to give him 'two more years' for a total of 16."
- "I would not be surprised to see Perry run for governor again, the alternative after all is getting a real job, but he will not run for president again. If he does make another run for president, few outside his donor base will notice."
- "He will run for governor in 2014 and will win. The next four years will all be about his running for president and Lt. Gov. Dewhurst running for governor. God help Texas."
- "Doesn't matter he's yesterdays news."
- "With the encouragement of anyone who stands to make a buck from his candidacy, Perry will continue his quest to keep his taxpayer funded lifestyle."
- "Perry, like others in the GOP, will double down on the uber-conservative rhetoric and try once again to win an election by displaying to the American public (and the Tea Party vote they so desperately but misguidedly want) that they hate gays and Mexicans MORE than any other candidate out there so, 'vote for me.'"
- "Narcissism aside, who would want to catch the presidential car?"
- "He is delusional enough to believe he can/will win both. Especially with Ray telling him how great he is!"

What do the 2012 election results mean for Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst's clout in the Senate?

- "He is always teetering on the brink of losing some of his power and his lousy Senate campaign won't help."
- "No CIA gig for him, oh well."
- "2/3rd Rule remains and that keeps power with the Gavel."
- "Too soon to tell. The Dew has some opportunities now with new members to forge a new vision. Whether he will remain to be seen."
- "He is about the same, but will be flexing his conservative muscles more often in the session to set the stage for his next run for higher office."
- "He's got a new crop of conservatives, ready to shake things up. He must display some real leadership (not his strong suit). But is more than capable of the task at hand."
- "He's unhappy. This emperor isn't wearing any clothes."
- "Unless the moderate Republicans come to their senses, he will be weaker"

- "Dewhurst comes across as a desperate and, frankly, pathetic figure right now. He should use his remaining time in office to recapture his voice as a sensible moderate, acting as a statesman and putting people before his misplaced ambitions. History would smile on him for saving his party in the process."

- "Introducing Majority Leader Patrick and Minority Leader Watson."

- "Showing up to a Cruz election night party is clear resignation. Pathetic."

- "Lets hope his emergency items have more to do with leading than the TEA party"

- "Dewhurst could have clout if he got out of his own way."

- "He controls which bills come to the floor and that is major clout."

- "Senate is more conservative, but Gov. Dewhurst is still not a leader."

- "He's weak, but not because of the elections. He just lacks vision and direction."

What do the election results mean for Speaker Joe Straus' clout in the House?

- "Ah, the strange and mysterious House"

- "Straus is back- he has the votes!!"

- "Having a super majority was not good...Straus can be stronger with 95 R's"

- "He'll return the Republican Party to its historical roots."

- "Thank God MQS has someone to kick around."

- "Straus has not demonstrated that he has a clue how to use the challenges he faces to his advantage."

- "Probably needs to hold off on placing the new order of business cards that say 'Speaker.' They will be coming after him harder than ever."

- "Hard to actually get much stronger than he already is. No real loss of power. He's still firmly in control."

- "Straus could bear the brunt of conservative frustration, but the outcome will likely be the same. He should win another term."

- "If you listen to Ted Cruz types, he will be weaker because Texas Tea Party folks seem to think they RULE"

- "I could make the case he's stronger the smaller (slightly) his caucus is. Easier to manage, although none of the truly crazy crazies lost."

- "More Ds mean less Tea Party influence. Easier re-election. Easier House to run."

- "He has his votes lined up; he's got to lead now"

- "Same old struggle..."
- "He'll win reelection in 2013, mainly because there is not a viable (non-trial lawyer) challenger."
- "Those emails don't help either! There goes Burt again messing screwing someone's future up - this time it's not the citizens of Texas, though."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, David Anthony, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Chris Britton, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, Jim Chapman, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, James Clark, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Norman Garza, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, John Greytok, Michael Grimes, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Billy Howe, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Walt Jordan, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Parker McCollough, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, John Pitts, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jeri Stone, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Angelo Zottarelli.