

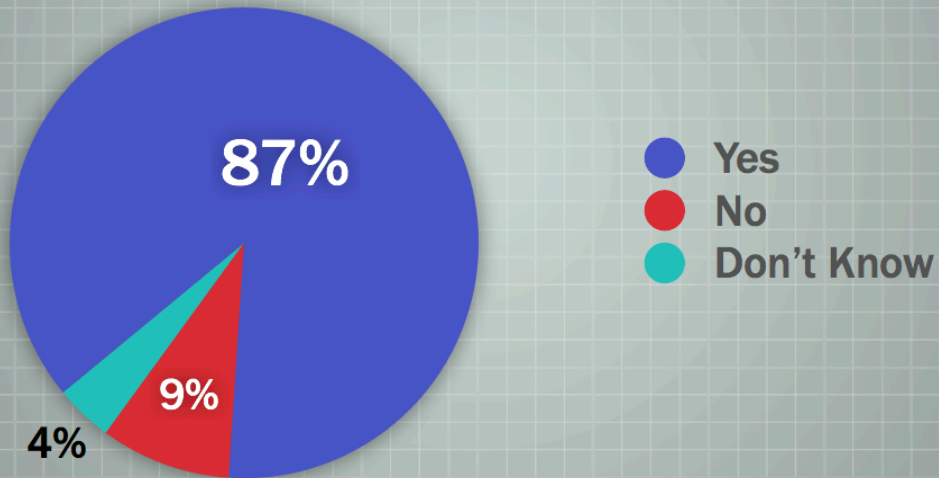
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

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*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of November 19*

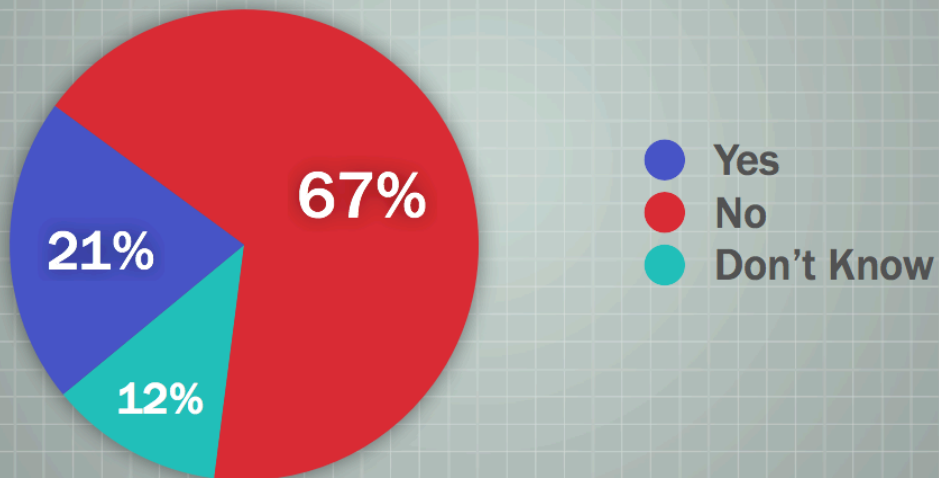
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will lawmakers revive voter ID?



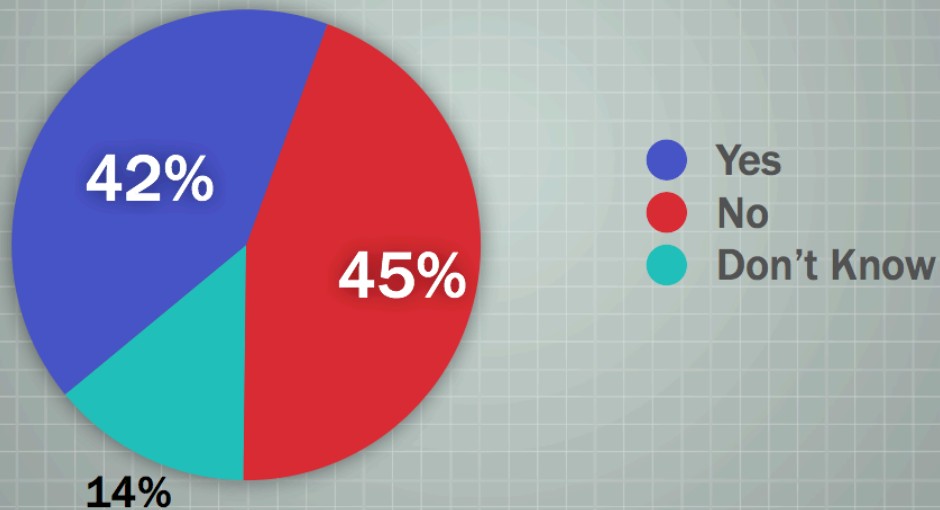
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will lawmakers eliminate in-state tuition for undocumented students?



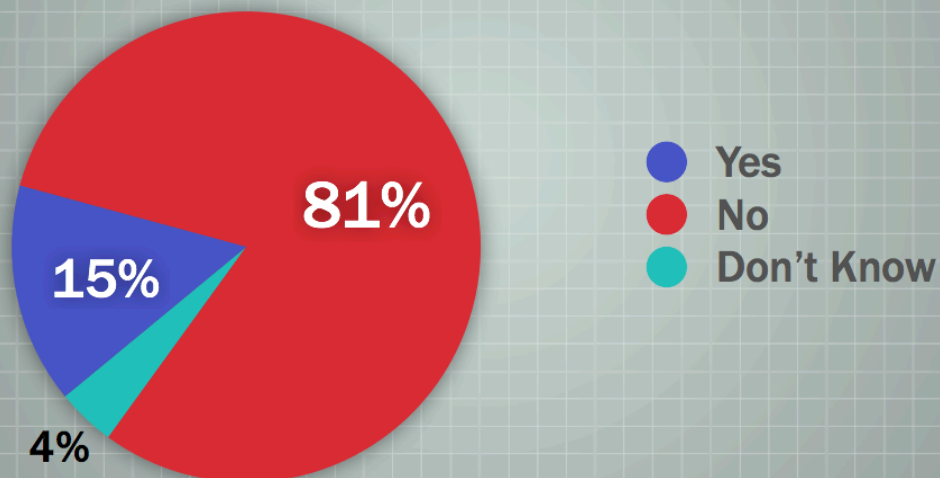
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will lawmakers ban sanctuary cities?



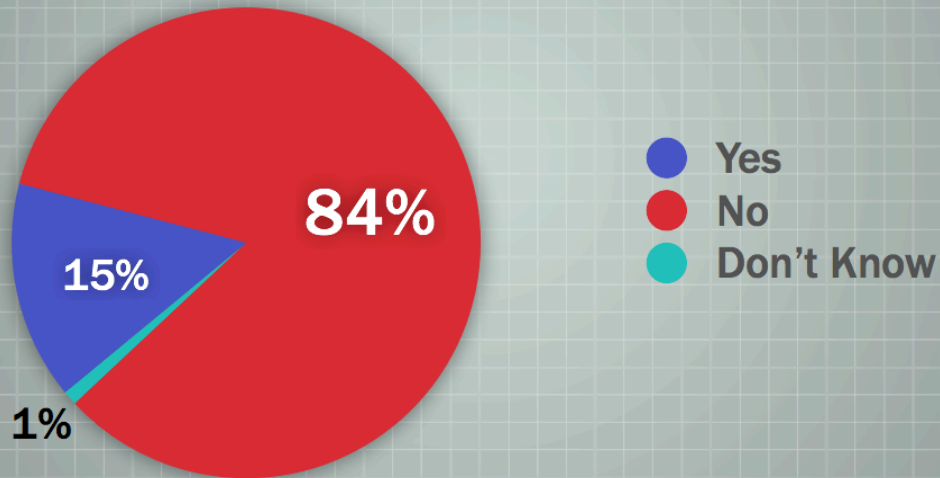
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will state officials play a big role in federal immigration reform?



INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Can Texas Republicans win a majority of Hispanic votes?



Will lawmakers renew efforts to require citizens to carry photo IDs in order to vote?

- "Overt racism is so 2011."
- "I think they'll renew their efforts again pending what the courts have to say about it."
- "After a presidential loss like the one the Republicans just had...most certainly!"
- "If you can't win their hearts, minds, and votes; then, cheat em out of the process."
- "The dumb ones will. Read: white, extremist, wing-nut Republicans."
- "Renew? Yes. Get it right? Doubtful."
- "Most people understand that an ID is required to do just about anything."
- "They passed the law last session. After the lawsuits, they might try to do a few tweaks."
- "Oh yes- first thing out of the Senate this time - well that and vouchers!!"
- "Nobody opposes Voter ID except the Democratic Caucus and the press - - that said, the GOP may be tired of this battle."

- "Yes, because disenfranchisement is so much easier than persuasion."

- "Voter suppression is so last week, but the word hasn't gotten to Texas yet."

- "A make believe solution for a make believe problem."

- "But they should really understand this election before they do."

- "Voter ID is still on appeal in the courts. It makes no sense, not even political posturing sense, to try to pass a new statute until the dust settles on the legal validity of the existing statute. Isn't there a long-standing tradition that the Lege doesn't intervene in pending litigation?"

- "Why should the backlash across the country against voter suppression efforts deter the Texas legislature?"

- "Not all of them, but most certainly some of them."

- "The Texas Ds would do well to make this issue their own, with a good showing in the Congressional races, a reelection of Democrat President and a net increase in both the US House and US Senate, this action could prove to make inroads with moderates and independents."

- "Can't help themselves and need to cover their right flank."

- "And we will posture, fight, demagogue, and waste more time on this than necessary. But tea party

friends think carefully - the Hispanic you alienate at the polls will send you packing eventually."

- "Right idea, wrong message."

- "Nothing about the right wing's status in the Lege has changed after the election, so, of course, they will attempt photo IDs again."

- "A manifestation of their foolish consistency--notwithstanding that they continue to lose ground w/Latinos, and that issue was deployed as a club to the head of their presidential nominee"

- "Of course they will.... but the R's will re-write to ensure clearance from the DOJ."

- "I would think that the enthusiasm around this issue will have died down after half a dozen legislative sessions and numerous court defeats, but who knows? I'm thinking right now that the issue is unlikely to come back THIS session, as the Supreme Court's recent acceptance of the Shelby County challenge to the Voting Rights Act leaves the door open to restoring the previous law. Abbott, who is angling for a gubernatorial run in 2014, would probably prefer to wait and see, potentially claiming a key victory for his own office."

- "There may be efforts, but I don't believe the leadership will let that go through."

- "Hopefully it will be done properly this time."

Will the Legislature eliminate in-state tuition for undocumented students?

- "They're damn sure going to try!"
- "They will modify the program."
- "Over 72% of Latinos voted for President Obama, that's almost double the amount Dubya got in '04, so if the Tea Party faction of the Repubs want to further isolate themselves from the fastest growing minority/majority group in the state, go ahead and try. I dare you!"
- "The extremist will try, but this will be the one thing the other Republicans may fend off to attempt appeal to minority voters."
- "Xenophobes will."
- "No, but they'll try..."
- "Some will try and if it happens, Republicans will speed-up their demise. If the party has any clear thinking minds left, they would look at the vote totals of Latinos between 18-24 years of age. The sleeping giant is awake and they are pissed."
- "What a silly idea. Texas gets its revenue from property and sales taxes, plus oil & gas severance taxes-- none of which require citizenship. Why not let qualified students, whether immigrants or not, take advantage of our state's programs that they're already paying for?"
- "They will certainly try!!"
- "This is one of the few things Rick Perry was right about in his presidential run -- it is heartless not to allow kids who grew up here equal access to state colleges and universities. It will be very unfortunate if Republicans continue to fight this fight, reversing legislation that was passed with only 4 dissenting votes."
- "The TEA is strong is this state."
- "Now that Perry has stuck his neck out on this, he can't afford to let it be reversed. Bet it passes the Senate, since Dewhurst needs to feed the Right, but somehow never gets to the House floor. Perry will owe Straus one."
- "Some will try."
- "Some will try, but it won't succeed."
- "Some will try"
- "Too hard to pass, but I hope they try. It'll make it easier to mobilize Hispanic voters. Do it, goofballs. I double dog dare you."
- "They will try but it will fail."
- "Somebody is bound to bring it up - will they do it? Doubtful. That would paint them as not 'having a heart.' There should be a good discussion about 'documenting.'"
- "It will somehow get a delayed committee hearing, then held in Calendars and likely be set for May 31st."
- "Alienate Hispanics further? Not a good idea."

- "Given the racial nature of this issue -- i.e., unlike voter ID, it's almost entirely aimed at Hispanic immigrants, albeit illegals -- the R's may back off of this one, since it is the Hispanic vote made the difference for Obama's re-election."
- "The new Susan Combs, as if by magic, a fire breathing conservative, after her entire career as a moderate, can make this happen,"
- "Even the Governor has staked out that position in opposition"
- "Of course they will.... but the R's will have a huge debate over this one. The future of the party will be determined on this one issue."
- "All indications so far are that the one area where Republicans are plenty willing to do an about face to save votes is immigration and related issues. It doesn't hurt that business interests are generally okay with immigration reform, particularly if it includes expanded employment-based immigration."
- "Some will try"
- "We can only hope that the Texas leadership can read the writing on the wall as well as the rest of the country's Republican's"
- "The governor's opposition will make the bill a fool's errand"

Will lawmakers ban sanctuary cities by requiring local law enforcement to check the legal status of people they stop or arrest?

- "However, this is a made up issue. Cities don't have policies on the books to provide 'sanctuary' for illegal immigrants."
- "Not if Republicans learned anything this past cycle."
- "Requiring law enforcement to check legal status is not the same as banning sanctuary cities. Banning sanctuary cities, to me, means that a city is not allowed to ban law enforcement from asking those questions or informing ICE of the status of arrestees."
- "Oh, they'll try again but that doesn't mean it'll move further along in the process as compared to 2011. Again, if the Repubs want to further isolate themselves from the rest of society, go ahead and try again. I double dog dare ya!"
- "Isn't that rumored to be on the Emergency Call? Sometimes people just can't help themselves -even when they watch others lose for doing less divisive things."
- "Why not turn crime fighters into immigration workers?"
- "No, but they'll try..."
- "If the right-wingers' brains were taxed, they would be in line for a rebate. As a Republican of Hispanic heritage, I am no longer surprised at how stupid the right-wingers are, but even more so, the people they elect. Go ahead and put Texas on the fast-track for a democratic take-over."

- "Texas: open for business, unless you're not white, in which case we'll hound you for documents."
- "Local control is a bedrock principle of conservatism -- hopefully legislators will resist the urge to micro-manage big city police departments -- if Sanctuary Cities are put in place and people don't like it, they should rally round and get rid of their mayor."
- "Hopefully the negative example of Arizona will be heeded. Unless the Rs really are in a hurry to bring on the future they should be dreading."
- "They'll certainly try."
- "Some will try."
- "This will pass the Senate, but Magic 8 Ball says 'signs are uncertain' in the House."
- "They did it before, so why stop now?"
- "I would think there would be greater interest in hospital districts delivering services voluntarily to the undocumented and than passing on the cost (through the state) to those folks who have no vote in the local hospital district elections."
- "There will be attempts to - it would be a good Democratic strategy to push

the issue and show a burgeoning Hispanic base how the GOP will react. That could be the tipping point for the GOP in Texas when we look back 10 years from now and wonder what happened"

- "Do law enforcement even want this albatross?"
- "Given the racial nature of this issue -- i.e., unlike voter ID, it's almost entirely aimed at Hispanics -- the R's may back off of this one, since it is the Hispanic vote made the difference for Obama's re-election."
- "They will try and push down this unfunded mandate onto cities."
- "But won't keep them from same 'foolish consistency'"
- "Of course they will.... but the R's will have a huge debate over this one. The future of the party will be determined on this one issue."
- "See above."
- "Some will try"
- "See 2 above"
- "The recession, plus the election, is reducing enthusiasm for punitive anti-illegal measures"

Will state officials play any significant role in federal immigration reform efforts?

- "We have pretty much ensured ourselves we will be on a political island for the next 2-4 years."
- "No, they're too busy working to have welfare and unemployment recipients take drug tests before they are given public benefits."

- "Maybe Ag Commissioner Todd Staples, but I don't see the others even getting a seat at the table."

- "No, but that won't stop them from trying."

- "As a border state we should have input into straightening out our chaotic laws in this area"

- "This crowd is not invited to table."

- "It's called preemption."

- "They will act like they are, but that will go the way of term limits and initiative & referendum when it doesn't help in elections."

- "Sort of. People like Gallego and Castro will."

- "As the saying goes: Talking about it and doing it are two very different things. At least our state officials excel at something: talking about it."

- "After the President won, I don't see him looking to Texas Republicans for any help."

- "No they will just complain about the Federal Gov and continue with the stupid fence building!"

- "This is a perfect political pivot for Rick Perry -- he should start an 'I told you so...' tour and go around the country speaking about the importance of in-state tuition, guest worker programs and other reforms that embrace rather than exclude Hispanics. It makes sense for Texas to take the lead on this -- recall that Texas took a much more prudent stance than the Californians of the 1980's who took a hard anti-

immigration position and killed the Republican Party there."

- "Not if they follow the Constitution they profess to adore."

- "State officials don't play a major role in base closings, proposed EPA rules, the national budget or any other federal issues, so why would they have any special role on immigration?"

- "Significant? No."

- "Lamar Smith has not gotten it done yet."

- "Some form of amnesty, or whatever you want to call it, is going to be part of any federal effort. I would think a "permanent resident" status with no path to citizenship would serve the opponents of amnesty better than outright opposition. A "permanent resident" would be defined as someone who gets all the burdens of paying into the system, but will never be eligible for those programs."

- "While they may not directly - they will make it a soapbox item."

- "I am sure Abbott will sue somebody about something. He just can't help himself."

- "Partially depends what you mean by 'significant'"

- "But that won't stop the usual posturing; will be covered, just won't be significant"

- "They will try but to no avail."

- "Since Perry always maintained a more Bush-like stance on this issue, I

could totally see him attempting to retake some political initiative and momentum by being out front on calling for Republicans to come to the table on comprehensive reform. While outside of Texas, Perry may be considered equally a Tea Party guy as Cruz, we know that internal GOP politics in Texas is not so much about ideology but power bases and factions defined by personalities. Perry has lost some of his mojo, and positing himself at the head of a resurgent faction of immigration-friendly Republicans that might include George P. Bush, among others, presents a tempting opportunity for the brilliantly opportunistic Perry. That, in turn, could impact what Jerry

Patterson and Greg Abbott decide to do on the issue as well."

- "They don't like anyone in DC"
- "They don't seem to want to play a significant role in any federal efforts on anything meaningful."
- "Instate opposition by core GOP base will prevent most Republicans from supporting reform, even if they want to."
- "Because they've already made themselves irrelevant to any real compromise by drawing a line in the sand."

Do Texas Republicans have a reasonable chance of winning a majority of Hispanic votes in (near) future elections?

- "LMFAO!"
- "Not just 'no,' but HELL NO!"
- "Although George P Bush will be an interesting candidate to watch."
- "Did you just see your list of questions above? With a policy agenda like that how could they? New analyses show that even the young white Christian voters feel alienated from the hard right Republican Party."
- "But they could get far better percentages, as Bush did."
- "If they follow governor bush's model, they could make major headway."
- "I'm optimistic. Look at how much the dialogue has changed just in the past two years. Republicans open to guest worker? That's great progress but much more work to be done."
- "If we work for it and take a common sense position on immigration"
- "They just need to stop the race baiting. Of course, that might loose them much of their core constituency. Hmmm."
- "Hopefully republicans have gotten the message."
- "Cruz did no better than Romney, meaning no Latino crossover. Keep dreaming, GOP. When it starts to happen in Spanish, you're on to something."
- "After being demonized? Not a chance."

- "No (written in Spanish)."
- "They would like to have their vote but have only a few selected spots at the country club for them"
- "Not a majority. 40% is in reach, however, if Democrats take Latinos for granted."
- "We will continue to lose Hispanic votes as long as the GOP message is dictated by the right-wing primary electorate."
- "The Hispanic ranks of Texas Republican elected officials continue to grow."
- "Absolutely, not only because of the oft-mentioned social values that Hispanics share with Republicans, but because of the obviously out of touch values and back-room power plays of Hispanic Democratic Leaders -- in the Legislature and in too many places around the state, entrenched Hispanic Democrats have come to represent nepotism and corruption. People, including Hispanic majorities, have had enough. Almost nobody predicted that JM Lozano would beat Veronica Gonzales Toureilles even though they'd seen Larry Gonzales beat Diane Maldonado."
- "No. Especially not if they keep antagonizing the state's fastest growing demographic."
- "It's not impossible, if they play their (socially conservative) cards right, but the bigotry of the existing base will repel Hispanics."
- "No, but the GOP doesn't need a majority, it only needs 35-40% to retain its stranglehold on statewide

elections for the foreseeable future. That is within the realm of possibility."

- "See above."
- "All Republicans have to do is make sure that Hispanics are included as leaders and recruited as partners. If they do that, evolution will take things from there."
- "This question is way off the mark. The important question is: Do Texas Republicans have a reasonable chance of winning a slightly larger share of Hispanic votes in large enough numbers to hold onto statewide dominance? The answer to that question is YES. In the near term Texas Republicans only need 4% to 8% more than they are already getting, but they will need an ever-increasing share as time goes on. Considering that Texas Republicans have done almost nothing to seek Hispanic votes in the last 10 years (since W left the state) it seems reasonable that they can increase their share by 4% to 8% if they make a sincere effort. There's the rub: will it be sincere and how much effort will they really make?"
- "Republicans need to articulate their conservative social issues to Hispanics. No backtracking. No more 'me too' politics as usual."
- "Now only are Republicans winning only a shade over a third of Texas Republicans, but that arrow is heading in the wrong direction. Have to stop offending Hispanics first before getting them to listen to your litany of woe of the wealthy and white."

- "They don't want to"
- "No, and not because of immigration. Adopting pro-amnesty position is not a panacea for GOP. Anyone mind looking at '86 mid-terms?"
- "The Texas Republicans could lead the way for the national party when it comes to adjusting and pivoting to and on Hispanic issues. That said they seem to be lost in the echo chamber of nativist sentiment that continues to plague the party as a whole. As long as state leadership continues to follow this path, it is unlikely that Texas Republicans have a chance of winning a majority of Hispanic voters."
- "No, because they will not be able to kick their alcoholic father (the Tea Party) out of their family reunion and their father doesn't like Hispanics unless they are mowing their lawn or bringing them more chips and salsa."
- "Not likely, however, there isn't a lot of support for currying favoring for the Hispanic vote in exchange for more funding for "supposed" issues of importance to the Hispanic community. Promising more than the Ds is not a winning strategy."
- "LOL"
- "Not unless they change their tactics"
- "60% of the uninsured in Texas are of Hispanic origin. Republican intransigence on implementing health care reform and continuing pursuit of immigration wedge issues will hurt Republicans with Hispanics over the long term."
- "Not unless they change their tune. George P will, but he'll head up the other wing of the party - you know the one that can win national elections."
- "Yes but it must be done by embracing the qualities we share in common and not treating any demographic as a block of people who all think the same politically."
- "George P. to the rescue. If he can speak passable Castellan."
- "No chance in hell as long as they keep screwing the public schools and social service programs and pushing voter ID."
- "Those livestock are out of the barn, through the fence, and on the open range. Doesn't imply Ds can round them up but they are not likely to feel safe within the confines of the Republican platform. Nor is there any evidence that rank and file Rs currently 'driving' policy feel any shame in that."
- "Of course they don't.... look at the R's being elected.... they are crazy."
- "But Democrats should not take this for granted. The folks that helped George W. Bush get to almost parity among Hispanics are still around, and the Democrats haven't shown an ability in Texas to effectively organize Latinos statewide."
- "They will try to do just that - especially the 'Little Brown one' will definitely be attractive to Hispanics; and will be more moderate but I just don't think they will be able to do it knowing the hatred that exists on that platform."

- "But Republicans can aim for, and exceed, 40 percent if they work at it."

- "Not as long as they demonize an entire race of human beings."

- "Messaging is the key. The shared values are there."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, David Anthony, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Steve Bresnen, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Rick Cofer, Harold Cook, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, Eva De Luna-Castro, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, John Heasley, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Billy Howe, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Ramey Ko, Sandy Kress, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Homero Lucero, Vilma Luna, Luke Marchant, Matt Matthews, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Pat Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Kim Ross, Jeff Rotkoff, Jason Sabo, Mark Sanders, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Bryan Sperry, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Trent Townsend, Trey Trainor, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.