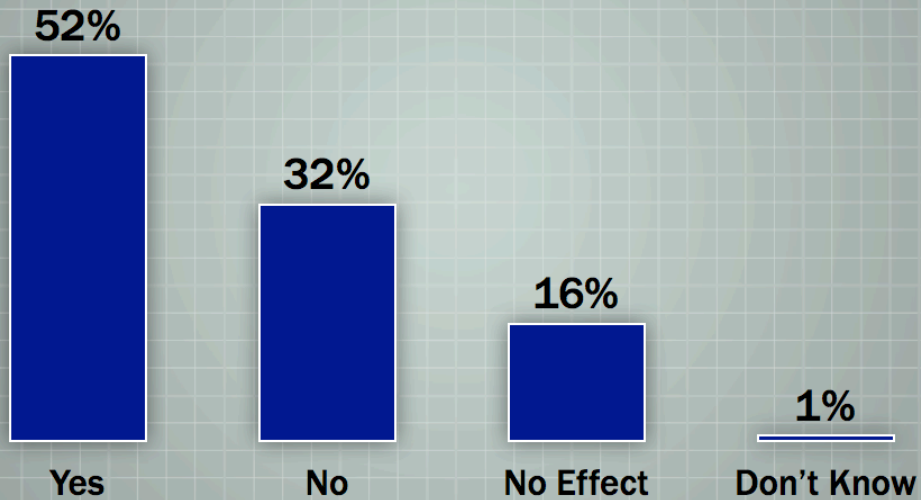


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of November 25*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

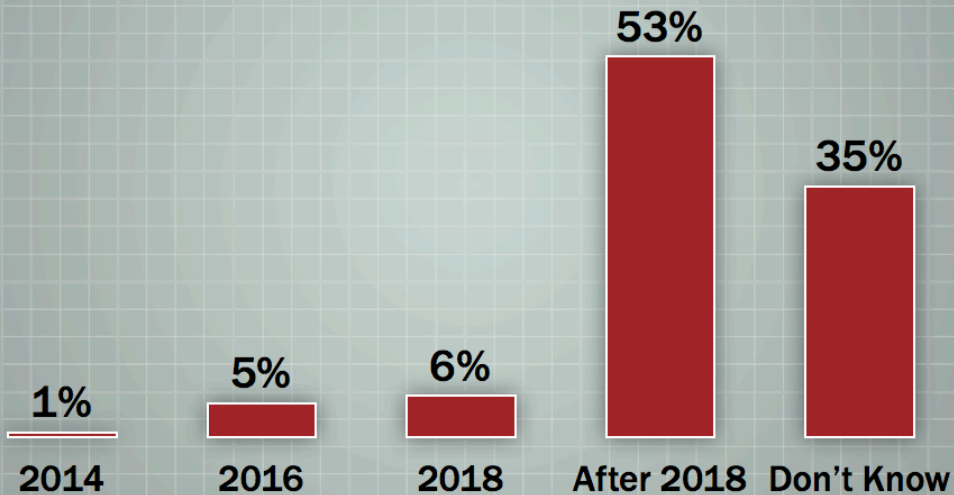
Does Van de Putte's candidacy improve chances for Texas Democrats?



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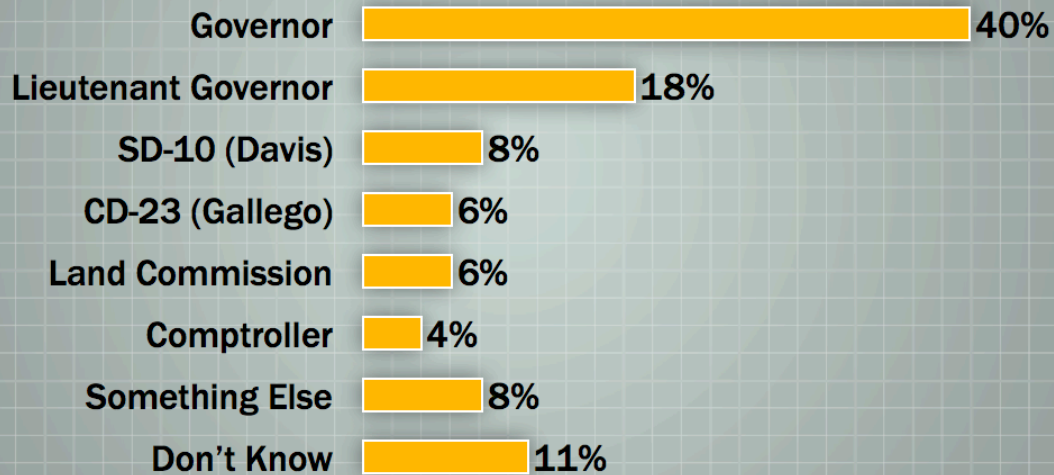
When will Texas Republicans win a Hispanic majority?



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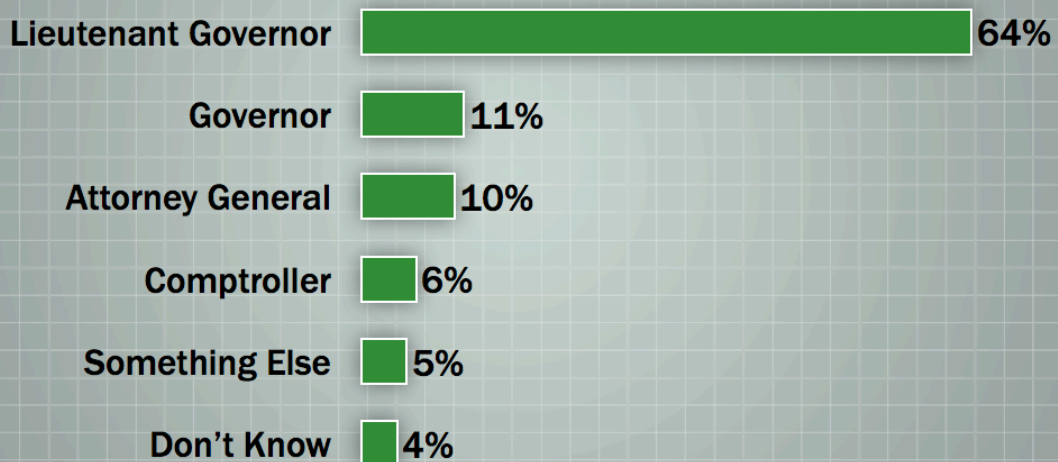
Which primaries show the future of the parties in Texas?



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Which primary best shows the status of the Texas GOP?



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Would San Antonio state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte's candidacy for lieutenant governor improve the electoral odds for Texas Democrats in 2014?

- "Having a recognizable Latino will bolster the vote and she might increase the turnout."
- "A few House Democrats may benefit from increased turnout in their districts, but don't count on statewide success for the D's."
- "I think she can help the Democrats carry Bexar, El Paso Counties and the Valley by a larger margin than Senator Wendy Davis on her own. Additionally, I think Senator Van de Putte can increase voter turnout among Hispanic voters in Harris County and help the Democrats win Harris County. There are more Hispanics residing in Harris County than there are in the Valley. If the Democrats can carry Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris County and the Valley with a strong Hispanic turnout the Democrats have at least a fighting chance to win a couple of statewide offices. But with anything it is about executing a strategic campaign plan that places a premium on a good ground game like the Obama campaign executed in battleground states in 2012."
- "Absolutely. With Dan Patrick as the R nominee...10%-15% of Republican voters would vote for someone else; thus giving LVP a huge chance of winning."
- "If she can raise \$ Flipside is whether it really matters in a very Anglo state – ask John Sharp about his dream team which arguably had plenty of money"
- "While I don't know the difference between 'no' and 'no effect', Sen. Van de Putte--who everyone around the capitol likes--simply can't beat the current electoral trend. Republicans will once again sweep the statewide offices."
- "It may lock the Hispanic vote clearly in the democrats side this election."
- "I do not see how the Democrats would make any progress in statewide elections this time. But, Sen. Van de Putte drew a 4-year term and is probably the most legit candidate the Democrats have run for this office in a while. If you don't run you can't win."
- "Might impact a couple of down-ballot races though"
- "Her candidacy will benefit down ballot Dems who might be considered fringe."
- "In theory, yes--she is generally well liked and respected, and she could point to her long history of working across the party aisle to get things done. Instead, however, she'll take her cues from the D.C./moveon.org/Planned Parenthood wing of her party and eschew that path to success. Ultimately, Texans don't want Austin to be like D.C., especially when it comes to liberals or progressives (or whatever they're calling themselves these days) running the show."

- "On the margins, but only a very strong Davis performance and a very weak and stumbling performance by Abbott, neither of which seems likely, would allow a or some Dems to squeak by."
- "The lite gov's race is a gift-wrapped opportunity and the only shot for a Democrat state wide victory. The republican candidates are racing towards the right-wing cliff and Senator Van de Putte will be riding the perfect wave towards a possible victory."
- "She's a strong leader with a solid voting record. Without a #2 at the top of the ticket the Democrats would be fighting with an arm tied behind their back."
- "She would start with more COH than Chavez-Thompson raised the entire 2010 cycle, pharmacists consistently poll as one of the most trusted professions, and she can go toe-to-toe in a debate with either of the R options."
- "Senator Van de Putte is much scarier to Texas Rs than Wendy Davis will ever be. Attacking Senator Van de Putte is akin to attacking your friend's mom after she baked you cookies."
- "The Ds will lose by at least 10 points with her or without her."
- "But only if they turn her loose and stay the he'll out of the way."
- "What voting block does she move? Who outside of San Antonio knows her? Who talked her into being the Hispanic sacrificial lamb just to help out Wendy D?"
- "In the end, she may be a better overall candidate than Wendy."
- "Depends who GOP nominates."
- "It would take a miracle to improve the statewide electoral odds for Texas Democrats in 2014. Van de Putte isn't even a net plus to the ticket. Zero plus zero equals zero."
- "The Van de Putte family business has taken them statewide for many years cultivating strong local community based relationships. This with her passion for veteran's and being a Hispanic woman could possibly garner more votes than are expected."
- "Dems should be more concerned about down-ballot races to drive D turnout. I guess you'd need statewide infrastructure for that, though, huh? Never mind. Yes. It would improve their odds."
- "It will help mobilize Hispanics and parts of San Antonio, but it wont tip the balance."
- "Sen. Van de Putte will be a great statewide candidate and will increase turnout for the Ds."
- "But not enough to win"
- "Might help Hispanic turnout"
- "She's a respectable candidate. Dems have not put up respectable statewide candidates for ten years."
- "Judith Zaffirini, yes. Van de Putte, not."
- "Once her negatives come out - remember the big lie after the Senate

came back from New Mexico-- she'll be a drag on the ticket or at best a wash."

- "But only very slightly.../"

• "Won't have any money. May slightly help in SA & S TX but that's it"

- "Contrary to the Austin crowd, nobody cares. "

When do you think the Republican Party will win a majority of the Hispanic vote in Texas?

• "You should have offered 'never' as an option. The R's are currently a dying breed. Maybe George P. can breathe new life but otherwise, they are toast. The more urban the state becomes, the more they look like dinosaurs."

• "Another run to the right Republican Primary pushes that possibility further into the future."

• "It will take until 2018 for the R's to figure out that they have no choice but to expand their appeal to the new majority, or else."

• "Who ever said that was a goal of the GOP in Texas!? It certainly doesn't need to be to maintain majority party status in Texas."

• "As soon as they realize that issues of immigration, education, healthcare are important to ALL Texans and that building fences/walls, denying tuition help or access to education for all and continuing to cut health care services for the poor perhaps they will gain support among Hispanic Texans again."

• "Never"

• "Demographic groups are too polarized by national politics (as some

want them to be) for Republicans to win the 'Hispanic vote' in the near future."

• "They never will."

• "When shrimp learn to whistle; or when the mainstream Republicans split from the tea party Republicans On the role of government in public education, healthcare, immigration..."

• "Probably never if Republican Groups like YCT keep up with their inflammatory practices."

• "There is an assumption that the R party will ever win a majority of the Hispanic vote in Texas. I'm not sure it'll happen in my lifetime."

• "The GOP needs a good candidate that will appeal to the voters and not be about sending folks back, but a good immigration position."

• "Never"

• "'Never' should have been an option to select."

• "When Hispanics (finally) realize policies of the Democrats are bad for their families, their communities, and Texas. They keep voting for Democrats and yet no improvements

are made in breaking the cycle of poverty, illegitimate and/or teen pregnancies, high school drop out rate, government dependency, etc. (see e.g., South Texas and our urban areas around the state)."

- "Republicans don't need or expect to win a majority of the Hispanic vote. Only in a blowout, like Bush's 1998 reelection as governor, when all of the marginals elevate, do Republicans even come close to winning a majority of the Hispanic vote. Republicans need to win 35 to 40 percent of the Hispanic vote to remain dominant, though with slowly shrinking margins, for the next couple of decades."

- "None of those years."

- "The Republican Party does not need to win a majority. They need to be playing in the 40% universe to keep control of the state. However, their actions seem to be replicating the California GOP model. At this point we should be asking; 'When do you think Hispanic voters will completely abandon the TX GOP?'"

- "First of all, at this point it doesn't matter. The Hispanic vote isn't turning out. Until meaningful immigration reform happens this will be a disenfranchised group."

- "Whenever the majority wakes up and understands that upward mobility is dependent upon a strong economy as opposed to government handing out someone else's money; thus, not anytime soon."

- "They want the vote but not the association"

- "Is 'Never' not an option?"

- "It depends upon when there's a candidate and a party with a winning position."

- "Hopefully never, but certainly not until they stop the racist crap."

- "The GOP can start to compete with Hispanics in Texas once its primary electorate is willing to nominate them. That may take 'cohort replacement' to put it kindly."

- "Republicans have proven you don't need a majority, just a strong percentage. Strong percentage = GOP Win."

- "For this to happen, R's need to put more Hispanics in the ballot."

- "Never"

- "Never!"

- "In 30 years the racial make up of individual Texans will be so mixed that we will be our own ethnic group. And we will really scare the Hell out of the rest of the world then."

- "Two related answers: First, it depends on Hispanic turnout. The higher the numbers, the longer it will be. Second, it depends on the party coming back to the center. If the Rs keep moving right to appease white evangelicals, nationalists, and xenophobes, they will alienate minorities and women for generations. Then Texas will go blue and stay blue."

- "It'll happen sometime after they stop having racist immigrant hunting games at UT."

- "Never if they keep shooting themselves in the foot with the Hispanic community."
- "Not in the foreseeable future"
- "Huh? Assuming George P. Bush runs for Governor in the future, I don't expect the Republican Party to win a majority of the vote. Even when or if he does, there's no guarantee he will pull that demographic entirely into the party. George P. facing a Mayor Castro would certainly split the sheets for Texas Hispanics."
- "Today's Republican Party will never when a majority of the Hispanic vote in Texas. The party will have to change."
- "On their current trajectory, never."
- "When the right Hispanic Republican candidate is at or near the top of the ticket. It is doable."
- "Never"
- "Not any time soon."
- "You clearly don't mean this Republican Party. You must be referring to some future Republican Party which has a substantially different agenda."
- "Never"
- "Never at the rate they are going"
- "Hispanic vote will almost always go Democratic."
- "You kidding, never!!!!!!"
- "Tea Party screech and Republican opposition to immigration reform will

deny meaningful inroads for a decade and more."

- "But could move faster than we think. Dems are in a nose dive nationally."
- "Never"
- "How about NEVER"
- "Which race? Too broad of a question. Abbott has a chance."
- "Never"
- "Why would they ever? The Rs strength has come crazy white folks, not from Hispanics or other minorities."
- "Never?"
- "This question assumes the GOP will eventually win a majority of the Hispanic vote. Not sure that's a safe assumption."
- "I do not think the Republican Party will ever win a MAJORITY of the Hispanic vote.... I think it will make serious inroads by 2016 or later."
- "A majority? Why isn't 'never' an option?"
- "Never."
- "Single best recruiting tool for Republicans with Hispanic voters: Wendy Davis."
- "Based on Sen. Patrick's comments, never."
- "Never"

What races show the true future of the two parties in Texas

- "Wendy Davis and the Battleground Texas crowd have brought the national Democrat platform to Texas politics. How will the voters respond?"
- "Not necessarily any of the statewide elections. Otherwise, it's hard to say because districts are drawn to elect one party or the other, not to be a reflection of compromise."
- "First shift in campaign and electoral dynamics in over a decade; but still early"
- "Lt. Governor. R party has infighting with a race to the right, which will result in extreme statements by the end of the runoff. And that race will likely be closer than the Governor's race next November, showing how extremism in the primary hurts in the general."
- "Continue along the path of prosperity for Texas or become a liberal leaning state with increased taxes."
- "I think there are three parties in Texas: Dems, Repubs, and now the Tea Party, who fancies itself a major player but in reality doesn't carry a majority in the GOP (Cruz is the exception, not the rule)."
- "The race for governor will provide the best reading of where the two parties stand today. My guess is Davis loses by eight or nine, inside the Democratic margin of the last dozen years, but not close enough to truly threaten."
- "As a Reagan Republican, I am concerned at the rhetoric and just plain stupidity coming out of the Republican candidates for Lite Guv. They are trying to ultra-right-wing each other off the cliff. Their actions are making it very difficult to come back towards the middle. Democrats will make Patrick the face of the TX GOP."
- "Has to be Governor. Wendy Davis has the rock star status to push the #'s as high as they can go for the D's."
- "The Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals races are the best indicators of any underlying electoral shift in Texas."
- "Silly question"
- "A D hold in a 47% minority Romney district without Davis will signal a real shift."
- "But the REAL determining question is not about R vs. D. It's about the R Party - best observed, I think, in the Lt. Gov. race. Who will dominate? Traditional Republicans, or RINO Libertarians (assuming they forgive Patrick for supporting Dewhurst over Cruz)?"
- "Until the Ds get competitive with (and actually win) the governorship, they will not drive the agenda in Texas."
- "Legislative races statewide."
- "The 2014 election is going to mark the beginning of the Democratic

recovery in Texas. The GOP will still sweep statewide, but the margin of victory will start to narrow -- and quicker than expected."

- "If I were the Ds, I'd focus on keeping a victory out of the hands of George P. He's young, Hispanic, has the political name and connections. He wins statewide office and the GOP has a strong candidate for the future."

- "Everyone knows George P is the future for the GOP"

- "While I can't wait for the political theater that will come out of the governor's race, it's the general trend in all primaries: Business Repubs vs. Evangelical/Tea Party. Watch out for Blurred Lines: Blue Dog Dems and Business Repubs coming together?!?!?"

- "And Lt. Governor race."

- "None"

- "Do those Democrats have a primary?"

- "Wendy v Greg will be a very telling race. If she is funded by 1/2 of what Greg has, she will win."

- "We'll be able to tell if Tea Party Republicans are the ones getting out of primaries; then we'll see if a well-funded and strong Democratic candidate, who happens to be Latina, has a chance. Much better litmus test than the gubernatorial race."

- "Short term? Lite Gov. Long term? Gov."

Which Republican primary race offers the best window into the Texas GOP's future?

- "With all of the statewide GOP candidates running against abortion, Obamacare, and the federal government in general, every GOP primary window offers the same view of the future--more of the same. The level of success George P. Bush has, however, might be an indicator of how soon the GOP could win the majority vote of Hispanics."

- "The Lite Gov race has every flavor of Republican candidate that one could want: New Establishment, TEA Party, Individual Freedom, and a Perryista. The only thing missing is enough money to fund them all."

- "The Republicans are all over the immigration issue, which I think will

be an albatross around their necks. I think the Republican nominee for Lt. Gov. facing Sen. Van de Putte will highlight how far behind the times the Republicans are and just how big of a mountain they will need to climb with a 'browning' Texas."

- "Will the wacko's take over or will someone reasonable win? (Well that is not likely since ALL of the candidates are Wacko's or attempting to show they are a wacko."

- "Choose between status quo nothingness, extremist from Houston, go along non dynamic nice guy and someone who isn't afraid to do what makes sense and can lead"

- "The Republican Party doesn't have a bright future if they continue the anti-Hispanic mantra."
- "Lt. Gov. You have four current officeholders running as far right as they can. It's a recipe for long-term disaster for the Rs."
- "This will be interesting to see which way the party wants to go with these four candidates, with the three challengers all being to the right of Dewhurst."
- "Business v. radicals"
- "Lite Guv and AG's race each has multiple candidates that at the same time represent different factions of the party but also largely overlap. Will the Tea Party candidate win or the other more conservative Tea Party candidate win? How will the "established" candidates do--you know, the ones with experience in dealing with and finding solutions to problems? Bravo should do a show on political candidate makeovers and they could base it here in Texas. Steer Eye for the Voter or something like that. I've never seen so much reinventing and me-tooism."
- "This is where the rubber meets the road for the R's. Are we really concerned about expanding business or is it guns and social issues (vouchers.) March primary is definitely a defining moment for the R's."
- "If the tea party (Patrick) beats the chamber of commerce (Dewhurst), it will signal the death of the RPT as a majority party in Texas. They will cede too much of the political spectrum to Ds."
- "None of these races means much."
- "It's the same old race to the right. That isn't going to cut it when the state becomes competitive again. There will be a lot of soul searching in the future for the GOP."
- "Land Commissioner's race could be a game changer. A George P. win opens an avenue for GOP in Texas."
- "Can the GOP run a solution based coming or one that just throws raw meat to the base"
- "Land Commissioner being George P. Bush. Well known, wealthy and Hispanic. The attorney General's race will be interesting with tea party versus moderate. This should give us insight on how strong the tea party is this cycle."
- "SD 10 - Many Hispanics identify with a self-starter mentality. If the Rs can somehow coalesce around Pompa and package that to the average Hispanic voter, it'd be a victory for them."
- "None of these offer a window to the GOP's future. They're reflections of its past."
- "Branch represents the intelligent conservative future of the state."
- "Tea Party vs. Establishment vs. Paid Image, and the promise of outsider spending heavily on attack ads."
- "The only moderate on the ticket is Branch. If he wins, there's been a shift."

- "Governor, because Abbott is going to try to break Perry's record for longest-serving governor. #shudder"

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Chad Crow, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Marti Johnson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Mark Lehman, Leslie Lemon, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Matt Matthews, Bryan Mayes, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Boyd Richie, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.