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## **U.S. SENS. TED CRUZ & JOHN CORNYN TO JOIN CECILE RICHARDS, DAN RATHER AND MORE THAN 250 TOP SPEAKERS AT THE 2017 TEXAS TRIBUNE FESTIVAL**

### **FULL LINEUP AND PROGRAM NOW RELEASED**

*Sept. 22-24 on the University of Texas at Austin campus*

**AUSTIN, TEXAS (August 1, 2017)** – The Texas Tribune is proud to announce the full program and schedule for its seventh-annual Festival, to be held Sept. 22-24 at the University of Texas at Austin. The event will host 250 legislators, thought-leaders and media in discussions tackling the state's and the nation's most pressing political issues.

In a rare joint appearance, U.S. Sens. **John Cornyn** and **Ted Cruz**, both Republicans from Texas, will share the stage. Cornyn, the Senate Majority Whip, is the highest-ranking senator from Texas since Lyndon Johnson served as majority leader more than 50 years ago. Before being elected to the Senate in 2002, he previously served as a Texas Supreme Court justice and Texas attorney general. Cruz was the longest serving Solicitor General of Texas before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 2012 and has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court nine times.

The Festival boasts a roster of more than 250 speakers and prominent figures from the worlds of public policy and politics, including Montana Gov. **Steve Bullock**; U.S. Rep. **Steny Hoyer**, D-Maryland, the House Minority Whip; legendary newsman **Dan Rather**; U.S. Rep. **Joaquin Castro** D-San Antonio; U.S. Rep. **Beto O'Rourke**, D-El Paso; U.S. Rep. **Will Hurd**, R-Helotes; Texas Land Commissioner **George P. Bush**; **Matthew Dowd**, Chief Political Analyst for ABC News; **David Fahrenthold**, Pulitzer Prize-winning Reporter for The Washington Post; **Larry Wilmore**, Comedian and Host of the "Black on the Air" Podcast; Texas House Public Education Committee Chairman **Dan Huberty**; **Wendy Davis**, former State Senator; Texas Agriculture Commissioner **Sid Miller**; **Maggie Haberman**, White House Correspondent for the New York Times; **Ezra Levin**, Co-Founder of the Indivisible Project; Austin Mayor **Steve Adler**; **Kara Swisher**, Co-Founder & Executive Editor of Recode; Texas Education Commissioner **Mike Morath**; Austin ISD Superintendent **Paul Cruz**; **Indira Lakshmanan**, Washington Columnist for The Boston Globe; Texas Comptroller **Glenn Hegar**; Travis County Judge **Sarah Eckhardt**; and more. The speakers are set to take the stage in more than 50 interactive sessions throughout the weekend.

Attendees can expect a combination of one-on-one keynotes and thought-provoking panel debates on everything from President Trump's first year in office; a look ahead at the 2018 elections; Texas cities and local control; the role of the media in 2017; public and higher education; transportation; energy and the environment; health care; and the economy.

Among the panel discussions at the Festival:

- the **grassroots agenda**;
- **U.S.-Mexico relations** under President Trump;
- **climate change** and how Texas mayors are tackling it;
- **access to justice** and how to ensure that everyone has it;
- why **black mothers are dying** at alarming rates;
- what's wrong (and right) with **big-city policing**;
- **the future of Medicaid** with or without Obamacare;
- why **accountability journalism** is more important than ever;
- how to fix the ongoing problem of **school finance**;
- the combustible debate around **sanctuary cities**;
- how superintendents would improve **testing and accountability**;
- and more.

Festival registrants will also enjoy meet-and-greet receptions with panelists, professional networking opportunities, fun receptions and the annual food truck lunch featuring an array of local vendors. Information on and registration for the 2017 Texas Tribune Festival is available at [texastribune.org/festival](http://texastribune.org/festival). Festival badges may be purchased until Sept. 4 for \$250 and provide full access to three days of debate, discussion and dialogue on the UT-Austin campus. The full program and schedule are online at [texastribune.org/festival](http://texastribune.org/festival).

The Festival is now accepting [press credential requests](#). The schedule is subject to change, and additional speakers are likely to be added prior to the Festival.

The presenting sponsors of the 2017 Texas Tribune Festival are Walmart and The University of Texas at Austin.

Major sponsors include:

Accenture, AT&T, The Beer Alliance of Texas, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, The Boeing Company, Centerpoint Energy, Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation, Deloitte, Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance, Google, Gulf States Toyota, Hatton W. Sumners Foundation, HoustonFirst, IBC Bank, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, Lumina Foundation, The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, NRG, Oldcastle Materials, Oncor, Pearson, Quest Diagnostics, Raise Your Hand Texas, South by Southwest, Southwest Airlines, St. David's Foundation, St. David's HealthCare, Teladoc, Texas A&M University System, Texas Central, Toyota North America, UBER, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Valero, Vistra Energy.

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Media partners for the Festival include the Austin American-Statesman, Community Impact, CultureMap, Houston Public Media, KLRU, KXAN, Marfa Public Radio, Slate, Think from KERA, The Monitor, Texas Monthly, Texas Standard, The Austin Chronicle, The Washington Post and Univision 62.

Attendees can customize their schedules with the official Texas Tribune Festival app, now available for download for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) devices. Use the app to customize and save your schedule before you arrive, search for your favorite speakers, navigate maps and venues, and view recent updates.

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**ABOUT THE TEXAS TRIBUNE:**

The Texas Tribune is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public media organization whose mission is to promote civic engagement and discourse on public policy, politics, government and other matters of statewide interest. For more information on The Texas Tribune, please visit [texastribune.org](http://texastribune.org). You can also follow The Texas Tribune on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), SnapChat (username texastribune) and [Instagram](#).