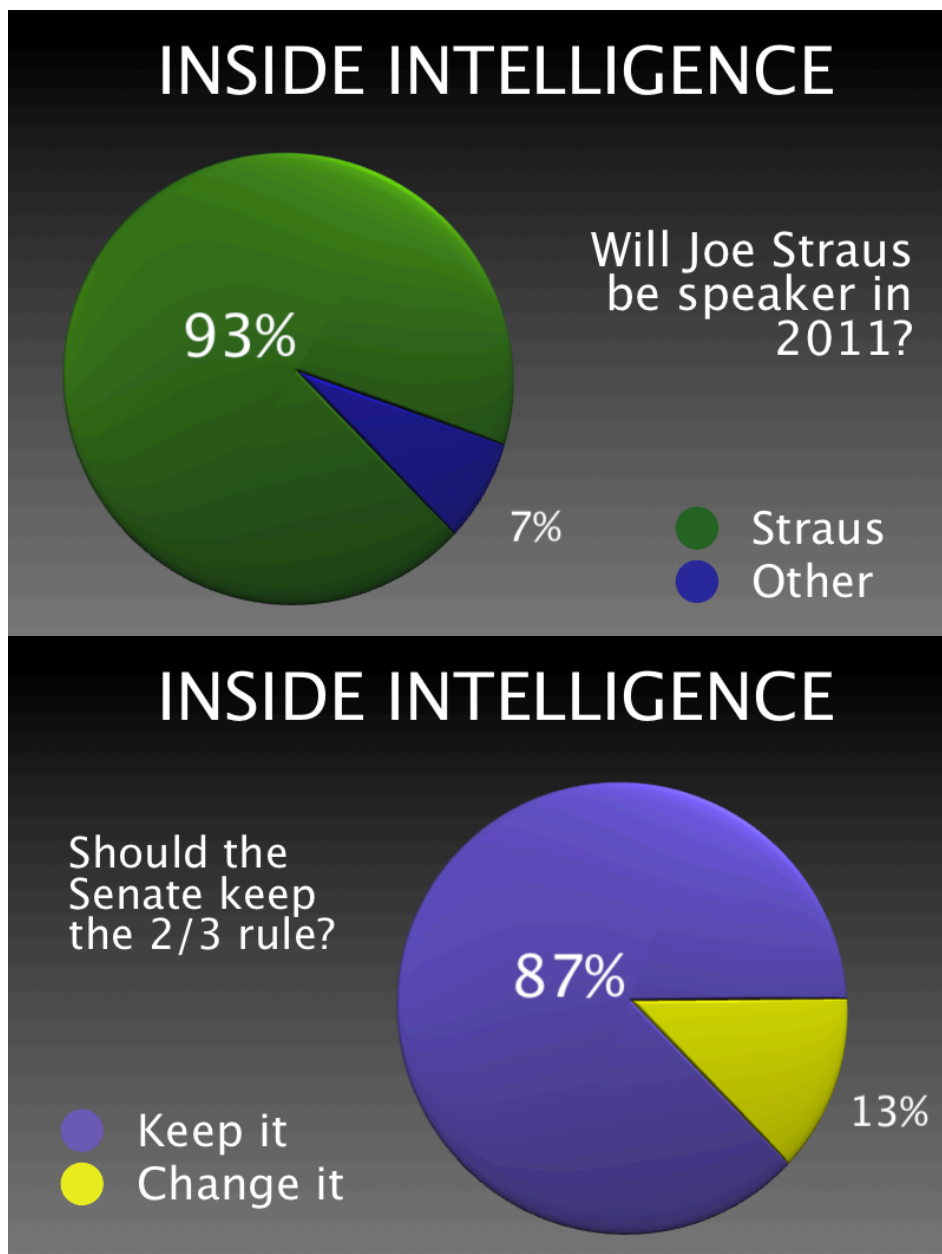


# THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

## TEXAS WEEKLY

**INSIDE INTELLIGENCE:** The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider's poll for the week of November 15.



## Complete verbatim answers to a prompt on how the election results will affect the legislative session ahead:

- "The Senate Dems have a really big challenge facing them to keep their party from becoming totally irrelevant."
- "House will be more partisan and more strident (redundant, huh?) there will be a reduction in all budgets and none to little revenue increases. Redistricting will be done by the Legislature."
- "I think history will show this election to be another historic realignment of party political orientation - Travis County will be next in 2 short years."
- "I think some of the more polarizing issues will get further than they have in the past but not necessarily pass. There will be a huge amount of infighting among Republicans, which we are already seeing in the speaker's race."
- "Be careful what you wish for."
- "Bad policy comes decisions come with budget shortfalls and inexperienced members."
- "It will be more contentious and obstructionary."
- "In recent years, though elections were more partisan, the Texas Legislature still appeared to operate fairly cooperatively on legislation. The past couple of sessions seemed to maintain that perhaps because no party had a commanding number in either chamber. I think we may see a stronger partisan flavor to Texas House activities this session."
- "Republicans will have to produce results."
- "Depending on how the two thirds rule plays out -- some long time issues that social conservatives like which have been penned up in either the House or Senate during past sessions will see floor action and probable passage this session."
- "Open season for loony ideas. Hoping for no permanent damage, but pessimistic. Watch for requirement for 2/3 vote for tax increases, additional Rainy Day Fund for above-average sales-tax-revenue growth."
- "Redistricting will suck. Dramatically."
- "It will make balancing the budget much more difficult."
- "The House will be a hotbed of "conservative" legislation. Big budget cuts. Many don't know what they don't know about state government. Bills will flow quickly from the House. The 12 democrats in the Senate will be very busy blocking legislation."
- "You will think we are in D.C. based on the number of times the federal government will be mentioned during floor speeches."
- "The Republicans will continue to misread the election and allow extremists to set the agenda with divisive social issues"

- "More tort reform, if TLR can decide what they want to pass; the budget will shrink and two agencies will go away. Some Republicans will learn how to play "hardball" but it will be intramural only."
- "Texans clearly want a much more conservative set of policy outcomes. The voters clearly shut off debate on new revenue sources in favor of strict fiscal accountability and responsibility."
- "Republicans will fundamentally transform state government"
- "Crazytalk will be more commonplace"
- "Some sort of voter ID bill and immigration reform bill will pass. And any chance for increasing the gambling footprint went away on election night."
- "Splits/fights within Republican Party will dominate the headlines all session long."
- "More conservative, MQ Sullivan in charge"
- "It will be a re-run of 2007 in that the House will be the scene of bloody floor-fights and runs against the Speaker by the forces not aligned with the chair. The Senate will continue its slide into irrelevance."
- "With almost all of the winners pledging no new taxes, it would appear major cuts to state spending in health care, education and infrastructure development are in the offing. And the Republicans will be able to make the DeLay plan look modest as they claim 75% of the Congressional seats in the delegation."
- "In the Texas House, we might end up seeing Republicans fighting each other on appropriations and redistricting while Democrats watch from the sidelines."
- "The social conservatives will get their wish list -- voter ID, mandatory sonograms prior to abortion, etc."
- "The strong Republican domination ensures special sessions all summer long as the Republicans fight among themselves over the draconian cuts they will be forced to make in the budget to avoid a new tax. The GOP in Texas will be pushed to the right and it will become clear to many moderate Republicans the nation really does need a third party. Too bad for sensible, rational people statewide..."
- "If the past week holds true, we will see more stories about process & politics than policy because Republicans run government like a circus."
- "The budget is going to be a purely GOP product. That's going to cost them a few seats in 2012."
- "I imagine it will be much easier to pass the conservative agenda in the House; it will be a little more difficult in the Senate. Having such a big freshman class, even if they are like-minded, will present problems just because they will not understand the process and the rules. Things may go slowly for that reason. Conflicts between the moderates and

conservatives may be a factor in the pace of things."

- "There will be a new speaker, voter ID & immigration laws will pass the House but not the Senate and redistricting will be decided by the DOJ, not Texas' elected officials."
- "It will profoundly affect the House, creating the potential for a disastrous session."
- "Unsure. It will either make the session run smoother or the Republicans will fracture, causing even more discord and impediments."
- "Rule should follow the vote needed for passage, i.e. if 2/3rds needed to pass, then enforce rule; if not, don't. It is fair game to have bills go to the floor."
- "Conservatives will get everything they want and more: huge budget cuts for social services, illegal immigration legislation, voter identification legislation, more tort reform legislation, and redistricting that cements Republican control of the state for the next decade. Thank you Texas Democratic Party!"
- "Perhaps redistricting more difficult, and in some perverse way, make budget easier."
- "Deeper budget cuts and more issues for conservative grandstanding."
- "Major infighting among Republican members. Democrats will be sent to the bench."

- "Realities of legislative life are at hand. The State will either suffer, or some tough political decisions will be made. Organizationally, we say, you elect leaders, and then see if they can lead. The test will come soon."
- "Seems there's now 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 split which will require even greater efforts to form coalitions — will possibly inspire more substantive debate and hopefully better legislative outcomes."
- "Cuts will be massive, redistricting will take time and not much else will happen except sunset legislation."
- "Totally f--- up Texas for another decade."
- "The D's will be helpless in the House."
- "With a near supermajority in the Texas House, any semblance of "checks and balance" is gone. The Senate still has the ability to enforce it's two-thirds Rule, but all indication is the Republican majority will elect to remove it for certain issues such as Voter ID, Immigration, and a super lean state budget. With these two iconic policies practically being wiped out, a more conservative and right-leaning agenda will get through the process, an agenda that will negatively affect the majority of our population: poor and under-educated."
- "Biggest issue will be the need of the new GOP House class to be at least perceived as doing something to advance a Tea Party-esque agenda."

- "Freshman class in the House will at first be willing to severely cut spending ... whether that will change as they realize the enormity of the deficit, we don't know. Remember that every dollar in the Appropriations bill has a constituency ... particularly in higher education, MHMR, and all HHS agencies."
- "Obviously, less bipartisanship in the House, with some crazy bills going to the Senate. Dewhurst will be under significant pressure from his political ambitions to get rid of the 2/3 rule."
- "The House will swagger and the Senate will fracture."
- "The R's will face being the majority party. The struggles between the conservatives and the far right will be the dominate theme as the D's watch the circus unfold."
- "It will obviously embolden conservative Republicans, so expect a stream of early votes on social issues before reality sinks in and the sober business of budget cutting takes all the fun out of the session."
- "No new taxes, voter id immigration, charters, loser pay"
- "Democrats will be marginalized; budget cuts will be draconian."
- "Makes it harder to get a budget agreement; and it the rest is "poetry" as Hobby said, we can title it Howl"
- "Pass Voter ID"
- "Increased morass and molasses"
- "Obviously, the session will become more contentious, although redistricting may become less so. Leadership, however, have a tougher time holding things together when it comes to some of the more emotional issues, such as immigration or voter id."
- "The Senate will control major issues even more than usually. The House Republican will argue over issue, creating an alliance between the very far right of center R's and the D's."
- "The elections made redistricting even harder. More Rs now will have to be paired. Passing a budget became easier, however. The Rs simply will cut and cut and cut."
- "Choo Choo cha boogie"
- "No tax or fee bills"
- "More pressure on Republicans to deliver on bad legislation desired by no-nothing conservatives"
- "We'll see growing tension within the ranks of Republicans in the House between those who understand the responsibility of governing and those who don't."
- "Much more conservative. Those Rs who think they'll have primary challengers will pounce on others to show their anti-tax/anti-spending bona fides. This will probably magnify once the redistricting maps come out and members (many of them new) find out that they probably won't be around in 2013, so they have nothing to lose."

- "Not as much as some might think. The budget shortfall means fewer options and less flexibility in spending regardless of who is in charge. Tort issues are likely to receive more favorable consideration in the House, as the trial lawyers star is probably lessened, but the Senate may still prevent anything substantial from passing in this area."

- "Long, long hours — Lost summer of 2010"

- "It will be nearly impossible for Democrats to raise taxes but perhaps more important is the reality that a trap awaits so many new Republicans ... will they spend like Democrats or govern responsibly in a way that allows Texas Republicans to govern for years to come? With wave elections sometimes comes unwarranted arrogance. Republicans will have to stay true to their values and their constituents to earn the right to keep their significant majorities for the long haul."

- "little will be passed"

- "No new taxes but a whole lot of new fees because not even 99 Rs can get there with cuts."

- "With an abundance of Republicans in the House, the fight will be on from the first day as to which of the new freshman will get screwed in redistricting."

- "I think many of the newly elected members will make the mistake of thinking they have a mandate. I suspect their votes next session will contribute to making them one-

termers. Redistricting just got much more complicated and difficult for Republicans as they now have no choice but to cut each other up."

- "There will surely be fewer important gains than the new leaders expect, though they will adopt some measures that were not possible earlier. Gridlock is not in the cards, but overpromising certainly is. Thankfully, in redistricting at least, there is not much more they can do; if they Republicans don't already have it the law won't let them take it."

- "Fruitbasket turnover in committee assignments."

- "A new House: will make it even more difficult to solve our budget woes."

- "It will make it more difficult to pass a budget. Once the rural lawmakers understand the social services cuts will impact their respective districts disproportionately I think they put up the same fight as their former opponents."

- "More partisan bickering — more fights over social & symbolic issues at the expense of passing needed substantive legislation"

- "Train wreck. R's want no tax hike. D's don't have the votes or a plan. Let the Special Sessions begin."

- "The right wing of the Republican Party, having gained influence, will see how far to the fringe it can take the state. Moderate Republicans will be afraid to challenge these extreme positions."

- "I suspect a lot of time will be wasted on bills that address hot button issues but fail to solve any of the state's real problems, like a \$24 billion budget shortfall. The first day of early bill filing was once again a time when some lawmakers tried to stake their claim to headline-grabbing issues. What we haven't seen are legislators staking a claim to the biggest issue facing the state of Texas, a budget hole that just seems to keep getting deeper."

- "The 2/3 rule has proven itself as a valuable equalizer in times of Democrat and Republican control."

- "Where before there was an attempt to moderate extreme legislation, much of that type of legislation will find its way to the floor. (Both House and Senate) Then we will find out just how much people really want the budget cut."

- "It makes Democrats almost irrelevant — Straus will have to become more partisan to keep the conservatives happy — the Senate will have to stop some of the crazy stuff from passing — it will be ugly, ugly ugly."

- "The session will be totally partisan and driven by conservative-oriented issues; e.g. voter ID, immigration, etc."

- "More conservative, no new taxes or fees; fight Obama Administration"

- "I will push the Legislature and the resulting bills/policies to the right."

- "No Dems sharing committee chairmanships in the House. More

conservative and principled tenor overall."

- "The Texas House will be much more conservative and Straus will have to go along with ideas that he may not personally support in order to retain power. As a result, Dewhurst will be forced further right."

- "The Republican strength will limit discussion on fee and tax increases, protect from spending of the entire Rainy Day Fund, and produce a budget that slashes programs — including in education — that even Republican voters will have a hard time stomaching. The issue of who is conservative enough will create tension and problems for the legislators throughout the Session. We will see a lot of speeches from the mic (to be reduced to writing) to assure the voters of their district that they are as conservative as the next. But on most issues it will take a mix of R's and D's to get a bill out of the House."

- "Republicans will have to eat their young in redistricting -- can't draw 100 R districts; budget shortfall will eclipse most other issues; how many special sessions?"

- "A hard right agenda will pass the House, and some of those measures will make it through the Senate. Problems will arise when the \$25 billion shortfall forces unpopular cuts to public ed, higher ed, etc."

- "It depends on how well the D's play the game. If the R's have real leadership, they could steamroll the D's with sheer numbers."

- "Increase sales of popcorn and soda water"

- "It will be the wildest in years as the House Republicans try to repeal the 20th Century and close a \$25 billion hole in the budget by only hurting the poor, old, sick and young"

- "Move to the right please! The huge Republican numbers will dictate a number of conservative issues will likely be passed (Voter ID, Immigration, additional tort reforms, etc). Shake-up of key committee leadership will also occur due to the large Republican majority. Finally, cuts in state services will be deep and very little can be done by slim Democrat numbers."

- "a) Increased likelihood of an austere, even severe, state budget leading to tuition increases, local property tax increases, service reductions. But maybe increased chance they can do it without a special session. (b) Increased pressure on Dewhurst, Senate Ds to be the stopper on some social issues (c) Increased chance of passing redistricting bills"

- "House will be more conservative; Senate my block certain bills"

- "Less likely tax bill"

- "Republican legislators will be mindful of 2012 Tea Party, or Tea Party inspired, primary opponents as they consider their position on budget issues. Immigration issues will create divisions between conservative legislators and some of their traditional supporters from the business community. Protecting 99

House incumbents will further complicate redistricting."

- "The makeup of the House may lead to a too Lean budget and too many republican districts that are cut too lean to sustain Republicans next election."

- "Harder to use rainy day fund or raise fees; increases the likelihood of a special session"

- "Too many Republicans will make the same mistake the Democrats in Washington did. They will focus on their conservative pet projects at the expense of focusing on jobs and the economy."

- "Wasteful government spending eliminate useless government programs and agencies"

- "I think regular bills will move through House more smoothly than last session, yet the bills requiring 100 votes i.e. Appro, Rainy Day will be a test for D's to slow down process. I believe policy will trump politics at end of day. The Senate may find some difficult and unexpected bills in their laps."

- "Depends on who is elected Speaker."

- "Results should move the House to the right. Big problems and even bigger opportunities, if we can advance the ball without alot of in fighting."

- "Will create more special sessions!!"



- "Less division among Dems. More division among Reps."
- "With the Republicans in complete control, I believe the legislature can complete its work during the Regular Session."
- "More focus on cuts and innovative means of enhancing revenue. More pressure on the Republicans since they will have complete control of both the House and Senate and all Statewide offices to deliver on promise to not raise taxes and yet bridge a \$18 to \$25 Billion shortfall."
- "There will be two Republican caucuses. Democrats will kill bills but not pass much. It will be a session continuing through Aug. 31."
- "Strong conservative agenda legislation — voter id, immigration — will pop out of the House and the Republicans in the Senate will have a difficult time moderating it at all due to the now proven ability of conservatives to knock off incumbents in primaries. The "back-mike" voices will be louder and more strident than ever -- even with Dunnam gone. Look for Gallego, Coleman, etc at the back mike and all over the press. Redistricting will be tough because the 2010 election numbers are such an aberration. Incumbent protection will be difficult without leaving incumbents in lean districts that will be hard and expensive to keep."
- "Anti-immigrant bills will probably get further in the legislative process; way more of a learning curve on budget and redistricting."
- "More Conservative Legislation"
- "More partisan bickering. Greater likelihood of more special sessions."
- "Likelihood of passage of hot button issues in House (immigration reform/voter id) will put pressure on Senate to eliminate 2/3 rule for some or all issues; infighting among moderate/conservative Republicans; marginalization of Democratic policy initiatives"
- "Passing the redistricting bills: easier. Passing the appropriations bill: harder."
- "Little to no Democratic input"
- "Are we headed toward "DC" style partisanship? In DC, it's not "what's the best for the country", but rather, "what can we do to make the other party look bad?" To the R's . . . don't blow it!"
- "The party affiliation in the legislature is no longer balanced. Really bad decisions and legislation are likely to occur when, in the past, they could be stopped."
- "It will help partisan issues such as Voter ID and Immigration Laws. It won't affect the budget because there was not going to be a tax bill any way."
- "More controversial bills and amendments on the floor. A shift to the right. With 33 freshmen in the House it is hard to predict how they will react to the pressure of voting on controversial legislation."

- "More philosophical debate before doing what has to be done budget wise. More difficult for redistricting."
- "I predict an overwhelming desire to waste a lot of time on issues like voter id and immigration neither of which advance the ball for Texas."
- "Much diminished chance for bi-partisanship on anything because of House results and re-districting"
- "Oh dear baby Jesus save us from your people!"
- "The Rs will now gallop around the House like out-of-control preschoolers, and the Senate Ds will have to play the grown-ups. But, they'll have to pick and choose their battles--what must be killed and what can be tolerated--and at least 2 of them will be bought off through redistricting on yet-to-be-determined "hot button" issues."
- "With a \$25 billion shortfall, the session will be chaotic even with the near super-majority. The Republicans are not going to like some of the votes they will be forced to take."
- "Budget will be adopted sooner some social conservative legislation will pass"
- "Republicans will be forced to own cuts in healthcare, education and other services giving Democrats ammunition for 2012."
- "The elections did not provide a mandate (as some people claim) ... rather the electorate (independents) swung their weight behind candidates

with an R behind their name ... because the I's wanted more fiscal restraint. Taxes and burdensome regulation were the key stories voters were concerned with ... not the social conservative BS the klan of 20 House members like to talk about..."

- "If Republicans are unified (big if), budget and redistricting get done in the regular session. Looks like legislators will have the summer off."
- "Even more difficult on budget front; less policy oriented, more social conservative agenda focused;"
- "More attention on conservative agenda and less on the budget."
- "I expect a far more conservative agenda. It wouldn't shock me to see social conservative issues sail through the chambers, including the voter ID bill at a minimum. Republicans should pick up several more Congressional seats. The budget still looms large, though. Will Republicans have the fortitude to do the heavy lifting on that, or will they be too consumed with passing social legislation and solve the budget in special session(s)?"
- "Democrats will sheepishly walk to the back mic and declare, "thank you sir, may I have another." No, not really. Democrats will rely more upon the press to serve as the voice of the loyal opposition and scream bloody murder over cuts. Republicans will roll a bunch of stuff through the House. The pressure is really now back on Dewhurst."
- "Duh."

- "Senate Democrats will be under pressure to be bill killers."
- "I think it will take awhile to educate the new members about "issues" instead of "rhetoric"."
- "Redistricting becomes much more difficult — drawing this map may be

even more challenging than the budget. Especially if Combs certifies a low budget deficit to help with the next election."

- "Republicans have to deliver for their Party faithful ... governing will be hell..."

This week's participants: Sylvia Acevedo, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, James Aldrete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Matt Angle, Christian Archer, Doc Arnold, Jay Arnold, Jim Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Reggie Bashur, Eric Bearse, Leland Beatty, Dave Beckwith, Tom Blanton, Richard Bluntzer, Hugh Brady, Jay Brown, Blaine Bull, Terri Burke, Jose Camacho, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, Jim Chapman, William Chapman, George Cofer, Lawrence Collins, John Colyandro, Kevin Cooper, Hector Deleon, Dianne Delisi, Kate Doner, Scott Dunaway, David Dunn, Jeff Eller, Craig Enoch, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, Ryan Erwin, John Esparza, John Fainter, Jon Fisher, Tom Forbes, Kyle Frazier, Wil Galloway, Neftali Garcia, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, Marta Greytok, Carl Griffith, Michael Grimes, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Albert Hawkins, Adam Haynes, Talmadge Heflin, Jim Henson, Steve Holzheuser, Michael Hull, Kathy Hutto, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Cliff Johnson, Karen Johnson, Robert Kamm, Robert Kepple, Heidi Kirkpatrick, Thomas Kleinworth, Richard Kouri, Kenneth Kramer, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, EvaDe Luna-Castro, Matt Mackowiak, Phillip Martin, Bryan Mayes, Patricia McCandless, Dan McClung, Scott McCown, Carol McDonald, Mignon McGarry, Mike McKinney, Michael McKinney, Kurt Meacham, Debra Medina, Robert Miller, Michael Moore, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Richard Murray, Mark Nathan, Chris Newton, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Jerry Polinard, Stephen Pringle, Ted Melina Raab, Bill Ratliff, Tim Reeves, Chuck Rice, Jody Richardson, Carl Richie, Jim Rudd, Luis Saenz, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Stephen Scurlock, Terri Seales, Fred Shannon, Brad Shields, Christopher Shields, Patricia Shipton, Bill Siebert, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Terral Smith, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Tom Spilman, Robert Stagner, Jason Stanford, Bob Stein, Keith Strama, Robert Strauser, Colin Strother, Leslie Sullivan, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Lisa Turner, Victoria Waddy, Jill Warren, John Weaver, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Michael Wilt, Eric Wright, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.