

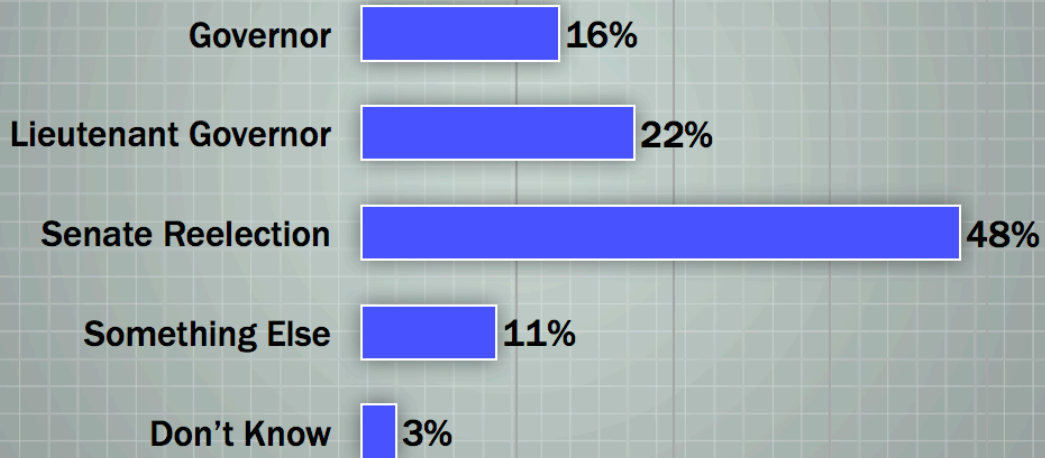
# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

Sponsored by: **Hahn, Texas**

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of August 5*

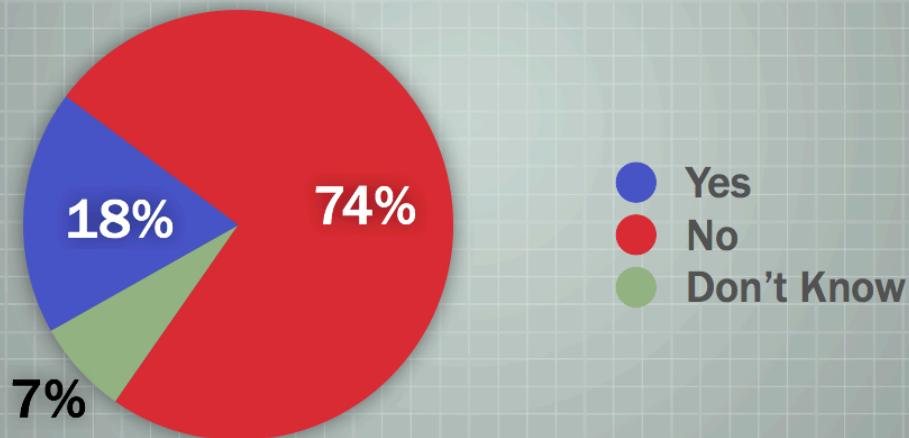
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

What office should Wendy Davis seek in 2014?



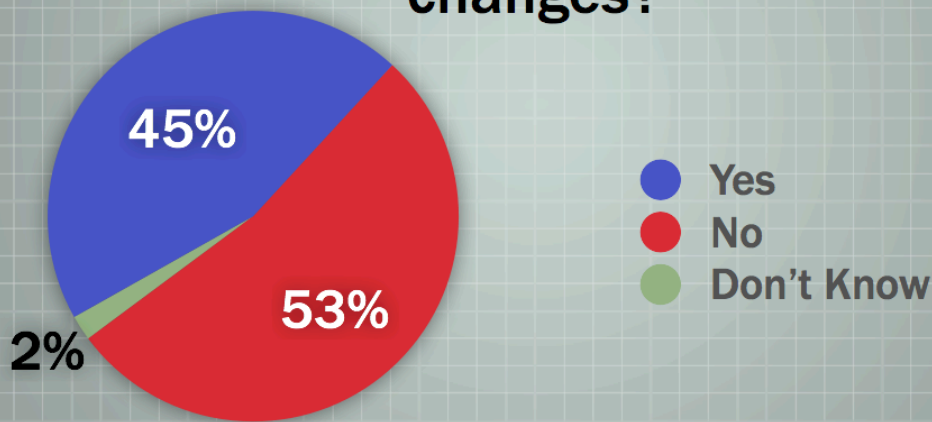
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Do you think Davis (or any Democrat) can win a statewide 2014 race?



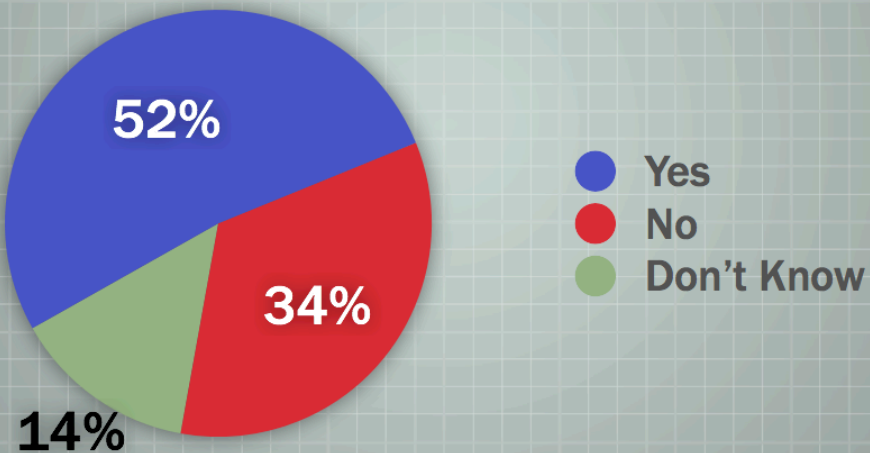
## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Should Texas be required to get federal permission for election law changes?



## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will the courts require Texas to get federal permission for election laws?



*If you were advising Wendy Davis, what office would you advise her to seek in 2014?*

- "Either run for re-election or run for Lt Governor."
- "She is the firewall if Patrick prevails thus maybe Lt. Gov. if as anticipated the Rs run on the flat earth, women baiting tampon ckg corporate welfare issues widen the disenfranchised and de aligned vote"
- "Her best bet at this juncture . . . run for re-election . . . win or lose, take advantage of the opportunities to be front and center on the national stage for Senator Clinton's run at the WH . . . consider a cabinet position . . . see how the tea leaves line up in 2018 and beyond."
- "Since Dan Patrick will be the GOP nominee come March, Sen. Davis will stand a much better chance (and her base will be much more energized) against Patrick as compared to a race vs. Abbott."
- "She's trapped. If she runs for the Senate again it'll be a hard race and even if she wins all her bills will be DOA. So she might as well run for governor, lose, but help build the party and continue to build name recognition for whatever comes next."
- "Defeat would be certain."
- "Could be doable as it is likely the GOP primary will result in the candidate shoved to the far right. Another option is comptroller and Davis starts as the highest profile candidate in the race."
- "While she would be a long shot to win, you have to seize your moments in politics when they occur. Making a strong, if ultimately losing race, I don't think would damage her, and would begin building some momentum for Democrats to become competitive in Texas again."
- "After the circus of the GOP primary, Wendy will look like the only candidate with any common sense."
- "Keep her seat. Don't sacrifice it for failed statewide bid."
- "If Dan Patrick is the Republican nominee, a Democrat could win this race. There is a lot of anti-Dan Goeb votes out there."
- "The voters largely do not know what the Lt. Gov does. This is a perfect chance for a D to lull them into voting for her."
- "Reelection is the only job she has even a slight chance of winning."
- "Better to be a Senator with a platform than an 8 point gubernatorial loser."
- "While it may make certain folks proud to Stand with Wendy and it may generate some good national press, the reality is, the numbers aren't there for her to win a statewide election in 2014, neither in votes nor in dollars."
- "U S senate. Take advantage of national base of small contributors to run a credible but losing race. Then get an appointment from Obama and come home to run in 2018."

- "Go for it!"
- "If she tries to run statewide, she will be like a lamb to the slaughter. That's why she's not definitively stated that she is running for Governor. Best to defend your Senate seat."
- "Something National if she wants to win as opposed to being nominated."
- "The vast majority of Texans do not stand with Wendy."
- "US Senate is the play."
- "Like U.S. Senate. Cornyn is afraid of his own shadow much less Cruz."
- "She's not going to win any statewide office. She should stay put, and continue to rake in dough from gullible Dems."
- "Why Not?"
- "While Wendy Davis is being told how she should run for Governor and it appeals to her ego, that is the same sucker thinking that got Perry into the Presidential race. It is all flattering and emotional, but there are no hard stats that show how she can win. In a Davis run for Governor the Castros win."
- "I can't answer this question; I'd hate for her to read my answer and take the advice. My personal preference is she run for Governor, get beat and ride off into the sunset, allowing R's to pick up SD10."
- "Become active in the Hillary campaign. It's your only future, and it may be a good one."
- "She should also consider getting on board with the Democratic presidential nominee ticket, and jump on as VP running mate."
- "Her seat is WAY TOO IMPORTANT to the Ds, who still lack a viable organization to elect a top statewide official."
- "If she went to November against either the Dew or the Dan, she's got better than a puncher's chance at Lite Guv. Wouldn't it be karma if she was on the dais ruling on points of order in January 2015?"
- "Democrats are a Claytie-Williams-Comment away from winning their first state-wide election in 20 years and Wendy Davis is their ticket. Too bad Matt Angle is only thinking about himself and advising her to stay put. History always repeats itself. Another internal Democratic war; this time it's an Angle vs. Mostyn power struggle."
- "There is a reason W cozied up to Bullock right away: the real power is in the Presidency of the Senate. And, campaigns are all about match-ups. Weak LG field creates an opening."
- "Or the office next to mine..."
- "Strike while the iron is hot and aim higher. Aim for U.S. Senate run. Go big or go home! (Or as I the case of most Texas Democrats seeking statewide office, go big AND then go home.)"
- "None, but if she insists, then let a Republican defeat her for re-election to the Senate."

- "The current list of Comptroller candidates is weak enough that Wendy could win it."
- "Depends - if Kirk Watson was running for Lt. Governor, I might suggest that she run for Governor. Without a STRONG Lt. Gov candidate behind her, I suggest she run for her senate seat. However, if Julian Castro runs for Governor, perhaps she could consider a run for Lt. Governor (but I do hate to lose her Senate seat as I think she can beat Dr. Shelton again!)"
- "That whole 'forest through the trees' analogy..."
- "She can't beat Gen. Abbott. She might lose her Senate seat. So why not try for Lt. Governor, where she has a chance to run against a Dan Patrick, who could very easily make a Clayton Williams-type remark?"
- "Not enough Democrats or angry women yet."
- "Attorney General"
- "OAG: Office of Attorney General. AKA 'Office of Aspiring Governor.' She wouldn't have to face Abbott's war chest, but she could follow in his footsteps."
- "Attorney General. I don't think she has a realistic chance for any of the offices, but a loss as AG would not taint her for the future."
- "If she is smart, and I think she is, she should run for re-election to the Senate. Greg Abbott will get a minimum of 55% of the vote for Governor and if Senator Davis were to run for Governor, the Republicans would pick up another Senate seat in

Ft. Worth. Not necessarily a bad thing by the way. Were she to run for Governor, or any other statewide office, former Senator Davis would be able to return to Ft. Worth and have a lifetime of memories about her brief moment in the limelight."

- "The Stiff Shirt, the Ego"
- "Unless I got the 'right' commitments from Democrats, probably safest just to run for reelection. However, at the top, she could help the Ds prepare for 2016 and ultimate return to competitiveness."
- "Attorney General"
- "She would be in the same position as Obama. She could watch the Republicans beat each other up for months in the primary and then zoom in for the kill. The Lite Guv race is got lots of people in it, but no heavy weights."
- "Chairman of the Board, Planned Parenthood"
- "Despite the media frenzy, a Democrat hanging her hat on abortions will not help her win statewide! A democrat with business strength has a better chance."
- "US. Senate"
- "Pray for a matchup with Dan Patrick."
- "AG"
- "U.S. Senate against Cornyn. It's her best chance to capitalize on national money and attention. Even if she loses, the national media/democratic

party would keep her rich and relevant until she has a chance to run again for state office in 2016 or 2018."

- "Aim high! It will probably be futile, but the Dems have to start somewhere."
- "If she had a safe seat for re-election, that would argue for waiting to run state-wide."
- "She young enough to wait and when she wants it no one can keep her off the ticket in years to come."

• "A glorious loss in the tradition of Tony and Chris."

• "The LG's race is going to divide the Republican base where as Abbott will unite it. Winning's going to take a lot of luck. Might as well take an opening where it's provided."

• "She can't get elected statewide! How much more clear could it be!!"

• "Look statewide next time."

• "If Dan Patrick wins the R nomination, becomes a close race for Wendy."

### ***Do you think Davis (or any Democrat) can win a statewide race in Texas in 2014?***

• "The numbers for rural and suburban Texas bode poorly for a Blue 'revolution' in Texas. Add to that, the failure to have strong candidates for statewide races. The idea that former El Paso mayor John Cook could be even close to competitive in a statewide race is laughable at best. The problem a candidate like Cook holds for the party is he not only loses but potentially has a negative impact on broader Democratic efforts in fundraising."

• "Qualified no -but external factors might shift the alignments"

• "The last d governor won only because the r candidate told bad jokes and used bad manners. That's not a campaign plan."

• "D's are delusional, drunk or both if they think they can win a statewide race in 2014. The pictures would need

to be really good and far worse than anything Anthony Weiner has produced thus far."

• "Davis yes anyone else doubtful is who is stepping up?"

• "It is unlikely, but not impossible."

• "Supreme Court is ripe for a change with a little bit of money. Run an all Hispanic slate for the Supreme Court and the D's may could pick one off."

• "Not without a Obama vs. Clinton type dynamic at the top of the ticket..."

• "See above as the ONLY example."

• "If the job is too high profile or too specialized, an R is going to win. Lt. Gov may be the only office in play because most voters have heard of it but few understand it."

- "Dems are unlikely to win one of the big statewide prizes, but they might pull off an upset and win one of the judicial statewide seats."
- "She is too liberal for the state as a whole."
- "Not anytime soon."
- "Still a few years away."
- "The Democratic resurgence in Texas is always just over the horizon."
- "Not even Matthew McConaghey could win as a Democrat in Texas."
- "At some point all the new people Perry has encouraged to move here may want to see a change."
- "Davis's only chance at a statewide win would be in the Lt. Governors race and then only if Dewhurst wins the primary, and that is a big IF."
- "If the Dems want a realistic shot at statewide office, they need to nominate a Conservative Democrat who can appeal to the now R's who have switched parties within the last decade."
- "But she would be a good person to TRY shifting the needle back toward the Democrat favorable winds, although such a plan would be better had she drawn a four-year straw!"
- "Maybe way down ballot."
- "The possibility is there, but (an it is a big but) the Republican challenger would have had to go so far to the right in the primary, that his/her words can be used against them in the general."
- "Ds need everything to go right...and get a costly gaffe or ethical lapse on the R side to have a fighting chance."
- "She could come close in the Lt. Gov. race if the Texas Monthly cover jinx does not get her. Or is that the Sports Illustrated cover jinx?"
- "Numbers aren't there. Austin media fell all over themselves for Sen. Davis (and will continue to do so), but did her stand change anyone's vote who wasn't already in her corner? Leave Austin, reporters, and go talk to Texans."
- "The current list of Comptroller candidates is weak enough that Wendy could win it."
- "If we could keep our intensity, organize, do some REAL grassroots education of people and raise money like crazy - yes."
- "There will be a time again when Democrats hold statewide office; now is not that time."
- "Can she win? That's like asking if I can date a supermodel. Sure, it's possible, but the odds of it happening are very slim."
- "Probably not. But, if she set her sights on something a little lower profile - like AG - she would have a shot. Definitely think her chances would be good of out-working her likely opponent in this race."
- "If the Republican hold on straight ticket voting"
- "Democrats as a party have no public policy positions that appeal to



a majority of the people of Texas. (See last 20 years of election returns in Texas) The only self admitted hope of the Democrats to have any future electoral success is to await the children of illegal immigrants to grow up and vote for the party that will buy their votes by offering more public spending and entitlement programs. Very sad position for the once proud Democrat Party to be in. (And those Democrats who aren't part of the professional immigration advocacy industry will admit it)."

- "But if Dewhurst wins the nomination, he could be vulnerable. In fact, whoever wins the nomination is likely to be bloodied from the primary, and it would not take more than a mistake or two by the Republican nominee to turn this into a close race."
- "After so long in the ditch, victory can be defined by simply pushing back on the pendulum."

- "The GOP field is weak -- too many white guys saying the same thing."
- "She will a 3% bounce from 42%"
- "Only Wendy Davis in a matchup with Dan Patrick."
- "History says 'no', and I don't see anything that leads me to believe that will change anytime soon. Maybe a down ballot race...way, way down."
- "I would think not, but the prospect of a fractured Lt. Governor's primary with no Republican nominee in a position to solidify the base gives the Ds a glimmer of hope."
- "Too soon. BUT the time is coming"
- "Not in 2014"
- "Not this cycle."
- "Rumor is, if Democrats get more votes, they win. Of course it's possible. It's unlikely, but possible."

### ***Should Texas be required to seek federal preclearance before changing its election laws?***

- "TX has a long history of race baiting dating back to the TX rangers in the days of the republic"
- "The legislative record speaks for itself."
- "Left unchecked, the GOP has every motivation to diminish the voting power of minorities."
- "If the discrimination weren't so blatant the state would have a chance of defending itself against being

brought back under the Voting Rights Act. But it is, so they can't."

- "The complaints are really about politics as both side play. There is no racial discrimination. There is political discrimination."
- "Railroading through redistricting is a time honored tradition used by the party in power starve off the party that's not!"

- "Deja vu! Didn't we already win this lawsuit?"
- "Ezekiel 18:19-20 is clear that the sins of the father shall not be visited on the son. Just because my great-great grandfather owned slaves doesn't make me a racist."
- "Doesn't matter what I think. SCOTUS has spoken: Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional; its formula can no longer be used as a basis for subjecting jurisdictions (including and especially Texas) to preclearance."
- "Non-whites voted in greater numbers than whites in Texas last election cycle."
- "R's can get through another ten years of gerrymandering if the Feds don't step in."
- "This is and has been a racist state so it should be required to seek preclearance from the feds."
- "Texas history if discrimination stems from the Democrats control of the state and they are no longer in charge,"
- "Maybe this question is implying voter ID, but let's stick to the main issue: new maps. People who have never actually drawn maps don't appreciate that every possible map (including maps drawn by MALDEF and NAACP) can legitimately be criticized as either cracking, packing, or based on some improper motive, or usually all 3 simultaneously. Repeat: EVERY map. The gray area in redrawing maps is not 5% or 15%, the gray area is 80% or 85% of the lines you draw - no matter who is doing the

drawing. For example, in 2001 Speaker Pete Laney's plan to redistrict the Texas House deeply cracked urban minority populations to maximize Democrat seats, albeit white Democrats. But somehow that was considered partisan and not racist. In Texas today the VRA has been twisted to serve a purpose never intended, i.e., to attack any and every Republican plan as a racist plan with no room to consider partisanship. For example, there is NO legal authority to compel Texas to draw a brand new Hispanic congressional seat filled with non-citizen non-voters and yet all we hear is how Hispanics in DFW were cheated. Do Texas minorities need and deserve a basis for challenging election law changes? Absolutely YES. Does the current VRA allow an even-handed and principled way to do that? No, it does not."

- "The Feds should make an example of Texas for its voter suppression laws."
- "Yankees keep trying to punish Texas for our success. All one has to do is to look at the ghettos of Democratic states and you will see where the pre-clearance is much needed."
- "Not unless every state is required to seek preclearance"
- "Yes, if recent history instructs, then absolutely."
- "I forgot, the only racism is in the south. Yep, silly me."
- "Despite acting like its the last days in Cape Town and Pretoria circa 1980 with some highly questionable over reaches in redistricting and voter

fraud legislation I think we can do it with out preclearance."

- "Simple fix: Make all states pre-clear."
- "Karl Rove needs to retire."
- "We don't need no stinking federals here."
- "OMG yes! It is CRAZY for republicans to pretend they are only trying to 'insure the integrity' of the ballot box with voter ID - they are legally attempting to disenfranchise minority voters who are most harmed by this."
- "Preclearance is a true attack on state sovereignty. Anyone who thinks Texas is worse than Chicago on racial gerrymandering is a fool, which kind of makes the case against pre-clearance for Texas."
- "I had started to believe Texas had paid for its past sins, then the Legislature drew the latest plans and I changed my mind."
- "Texas has discriminated against someone since Reconstruction"

- "The rationale for Texas being subject would place at least 1/2 of the States under preclearance-- blatant federal misuse of power. Texas was late addition under Second. 5 solely due to ballots not being printed in Spanish, as opposed to rationale for other subjected States."

- "Texas over-reached with its over-the-top voter ID laws. We deserve to get our hands slapped."
- "Only if every other state is required to do so."
- "African Americans vote at a much higher rate in Texas than they do in Massachusetts. Maybe Texas should send election observers up there. Latinos vote at higher percentages here than they do in New York. More observers from Texas needed. Makes no sense to drag Texas into court --"
- "Certainly. There's nothing wrong with having to prove that changes to our voting laws don't discriminate."
- "When all states have the same legal requirements, such a system will be fair. Until then selective enforcement is a bad idea."

***Do you think the federal courts will require preclearance for changes in the state's election laws?***

- "Res ipsa loquitor"
- "They sure seem to be trying to make that happen . . ."
- "If any state deserves federal oversight, its Texas."
- "The Supreme Court just tossed it."
- "Further challenges are certain."
- "Despite Eric Holder's machinations to the contrary, this issue is largely dead as a statewide problem. P.S. Holder should be more worried about Chicago's election practices than those of TX."

- "When Dems ruled Texas, voter discrimination and abuse was rampant (see Duke of Duval, LBJ's '48 race, etc.). We don't have that kind of systematic discrimination and abuse today. It'll be hard to make a compelling case that Texas intentionally discriminates against racial and ethnic minorities when there's overwhelming evidence that's not case--indeed, the State bends over backwards to accommodate its voters (e.g., look at the various languages in which ballots are printed in this state...)"
- "What individual, or what group, was responsible for that disastrous 2011 legislative remap? The news media acts like it simply happened. I've never seen anyone tagged for it. Abbott should have known better and stopped it, but he didn't have the courage. Now there's 'proof' that Texas still practices discrimination. As a rule, it's not true, but some unnamed idiots certainly attempted to prove bias with that law."
- "Everyone talks about protecting our constitutional rights. However, we are at a point in American history where no one knows exactly what those rights are."
- "Doubtful ultimately"
- "If Berry and his band of socialists have their way yes."
- "Because we have acted like the last days in Cape Town and Pretoria circa 1980..."
- "The Obama administration will figure out a way to get the federal court involved in some way. Most Texans won't like that."
- "Yes, but this too shall pass. To the Supreme Court again and thrown out."
- "No way. It's a weak argument by the feds. Plus, let's not forget that the federal courts are probably anxious to be done with all of these lawsuits for the next few years."
- "Hard to say because there are a lot of Republican federal judges who give an enormous amount of deference to Republican legislatures."
- "But it could take awhile for SCOTUS to ultimately rule."
- "Obama and team want to 'Mess with Texas' it's a hobby they laugh about"
- "As long as Obama is in office, they will continue to push for pre clearance. It's part of their overall strategy to turn Texas blue."
- "They will never pass up a change to micromanage Texas."
- "The Supreme Court has already ruled on this as far as Voter ID is concerned."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Jennifer Ahrens, Victor Alcorta, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Chris Britton, Andy Brown, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, James Clark, John Colyandro, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Deadrick, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Kathy Grant, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Adam Haynes, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Jason Johnson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Dan McClung, Scott McCown, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Bill Ratliff, Brian Rawson, Karen Reagan, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Dan Shelley, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Martha Smiley, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Russ Tidwell, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, John Weaver, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.