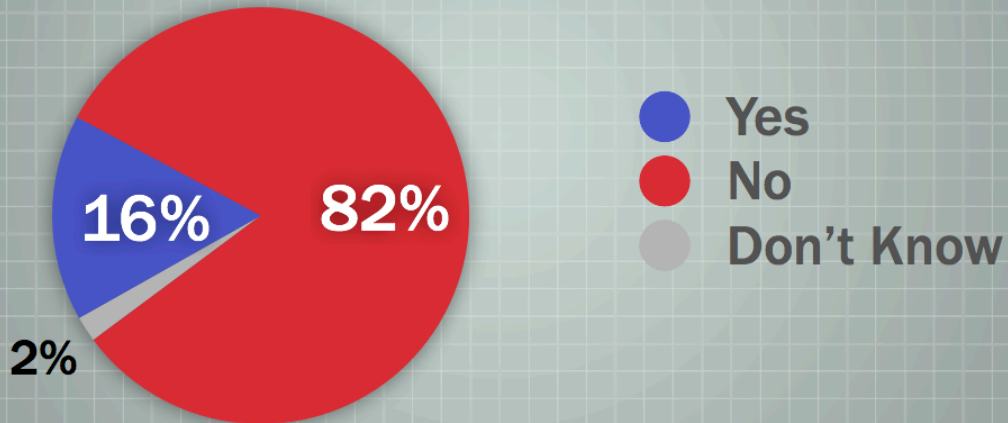


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of December 9*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

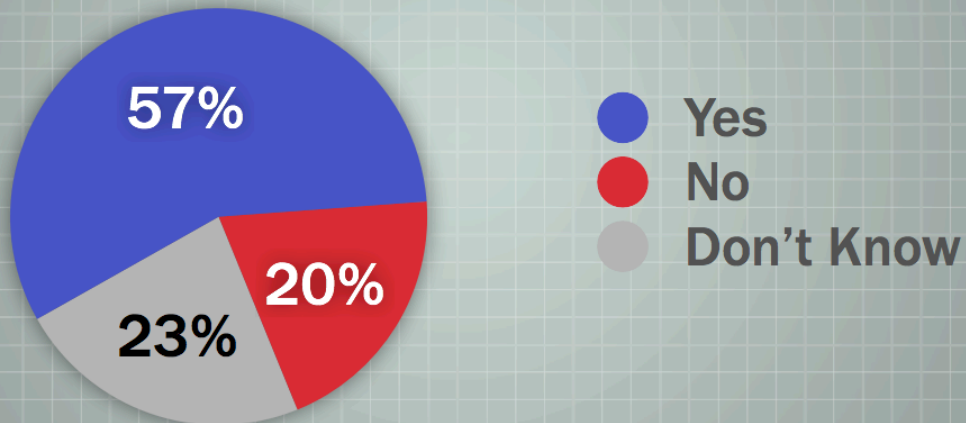
Repeal the 17th amendment and let
legislators select U.S. senators?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

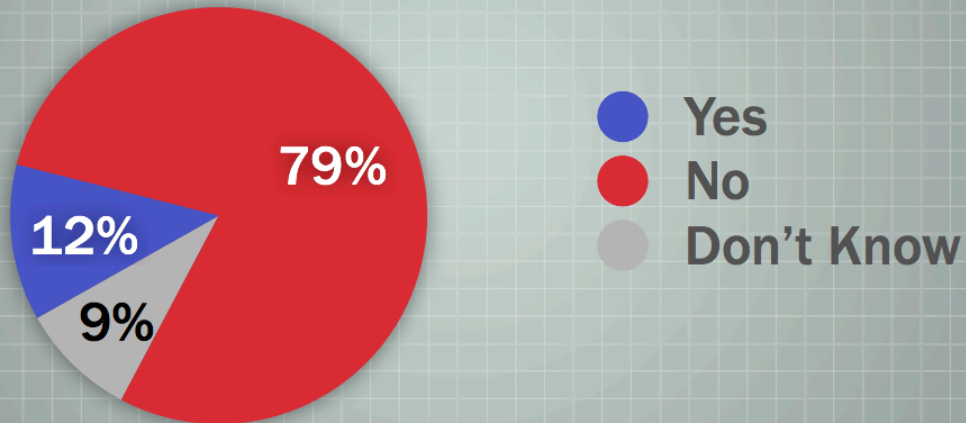
Would Texas lawmakers have chosen John
Cornyn for Senate?



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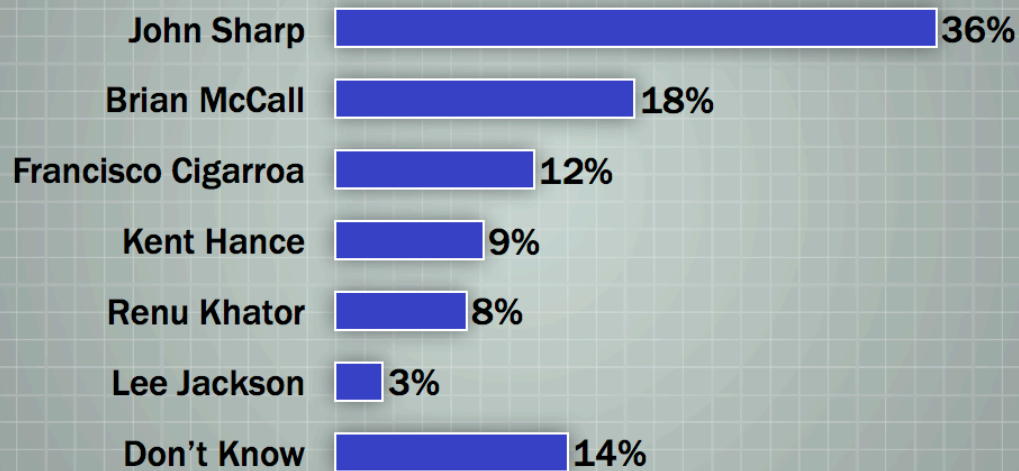
Would Texas lawmakers have chosen Ted Cruz for Senate?



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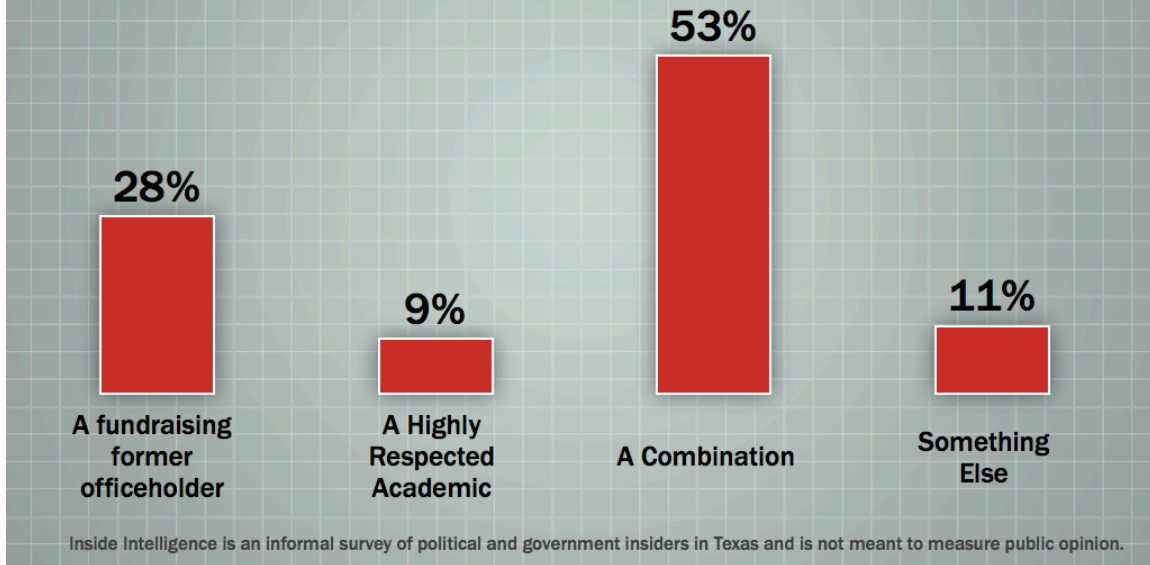
Best public university chancellor in Texas?



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Texas Tech's new chancellor should be...



Some have suggested repealing the 17th Amendment and putting the selection of U.S. Senators in the hands of the state legislators. Do you think that's a good idea?

- "In smaller states this would let a handful of moneyed interests pick the senators."
- "Wow. What a colossally bad idea. 'The U.S. Senate...now brought to you by the people who handle redistricting!'"
- "Texans have historically chosen to elect most everything. Why anyone thinks we would give up the choice to select our own Senators leaves me befuddled. It has been hard to even abolish offices like Hide Inspector. Judicial reform has never occurred because the public wants to keep electing their judges. Crazy idea."
- "I am not really sure how this would play out. I'm also not sure why the 17th was adopted. As with anything of this magnitude, the devil is in the details. IT would depend on how it was implemented."
- "See definition of 'disenfranchisement'"
- "No member of the U.S. Senate has been fully responsive to their State interests in all matters in the past 40 years-- reason enough to go back to the original Constitutional concept!"
- "Legislators would be tempted to vote for other legislators . . . especially

if it opened up opportunities to move up the food chain."

- "Defeats the purpose - doubt very likely that this would be popular among the voting public to relinquish that authority."

- "It would probably be good for federalism but would obviously never happen. One of the great paradoxes of American politics is that the a lazy and ill-informed electorate cherishes its right to vote."

- "A broken system in DC would only be worse by allowing part-time legislators who are scared of their own shadows to appoint US Senators."

- "Seriously, this is an issue now?"

- "The 100-member body is too collegial. Members are more accommodating to one another than they are to their constituents."

- "Damn those Teddy Roosevelt progressives; the very idea of letting common citizens select their senators."

- "State legislative races reflect the local desires of small geographic areas. US Senate races should reflect the will of the statewide electorate."

- "People may think I am crazy for choosing yes, but I think a state should have some representation in the federal government and I believe that is how the founding fathers set it up. Also, I think it would have a moderating effect and Ted Cruz would no longer be one of our US Senators."

- "Nowadays, Senators seem to represent parties. Repealing the 17th amendment would seem to incentivize them to represent their home states."

- "Voters right now disapprove of the actions of nearly every elected body in the US; this would be the icing on an already distasteful cake."

- "When the demographic wave crests the voter suppression dam, you gotta have a back-up plan!"

- "If we are going to go to the trouble of amending the U.S. Constitution, we are not going to do it for THAT reason."

- "Do we want the circus making this decision?"

- "What jackass thought this was a good idea and why does Dan Patrick support it?"

- "I am uncomfortable letting the Texas legislature choose lunch. If the 17th Amendment is repealed, the Texas legislature will devolve into factionalism, emphasize radicalism, and let our state's infrastructure crumble. So no one would notice, but it's still a bad idea."

- "It is a terrible idea..."

- "We used that system once - allowing large land owners or the elite - to select national leaders. The system didn't work any better (read more functional) back then."

- "Perhaps those who have suddenly decided this is a good idea should have polled those whose votes they are going to need."

- "Sure. I mean, it couldn't result in any worse senators than we have in DC now."
- "What would the printers, radio, and TV stations do for heaven's sake?"
- "Politicians electing our politicians doesn't sound like a solution to anything."
- "Once the US House and the US Senate became beholden to the same constituency, it was only a matter of time before the federal government swallowed up the states. Sen. Elihu Root (R-NY): 'The time will come when the Government of the United States will be driven to greater concentration, will be driven to extend its functions into the internal affairs of the States. We shall go through the cycle of concentration of power at the center while the States dwindle into insignificance.' Congressional Record, 61st Cong., 3rd Sess., 2243."
- "Actually yes, it is. It will help restore some balance and return power to the states. It will have an amazing impact on states rights, reduce unfunded mandates on the states, and stop federal government encroachment."
- "To much political pressure on members and the senator would only be as good as the Legislature at the time. Beside it would be way to costly for the lobby."
- "If you favor increasing the power of state legislatures, then you should support repeal. (That may also be the strongest argument against repeal, but I still support it.)"
- "US senators operate in Texas (and most other states) completely independent of the structure of state government and their political parties. They assemble their own funds to run and then operate their own operations. Unlike almost every other elected official, for US senators, it doesn't matter much what they actually do -- all that matters is how they are covered in the media."
- "It will never happen. Nothing is a bigger non-starter than suggesting a move away from allowing people to vote."
- "Republicans pushing this are hypocrites who have more ego than conservative principle."
- "It won't happen. But if it did, the ship would almost immediately stop taking on water and would have some chance of righting itself."
- "This is the dumbest idea I've heard in a long time."
- "Dumb and dumber?"
- "Yes, because you can recall lifetime Senators."

Would the Texas Legislature have chosen John Cornyn for the Senate?

- "Then it would. Probably not now."
- "I think he still has a lot of allies in the Texas Capitol."

- "When he was originally elected yes; today probably not."
- "But I'd love to be involved in the lobby effort on behalf of a potential nominee!"
- "The current Texas Legislature is ruled by the business establishment, and Cornyn is an establishment figure."
- "At the time, sure. Now, with Cornyn on the 'hit list' for whatever lame reasons, who the heck knows?"
- "All senators would probably be chosen from among the Legislature."
- "This past legislature would have chosen Cornyn. Not sure what future legislatures would do."
- "Elected him in the beginning, but doubtful he'd be reelected now."
- "Maybe in 2002 or 2008, but not 2012. Cornyn isn't the desired choice of either party, but inertia is a powerful force in politics."
- "Yes - the tea drinkers are loud, but thankfully not the majority in the Texas House and Senate."
- "Yes, but that was then and this is now."
- "Considering the makeup of the 77th Legislature, we could have just as likely been saddled with Garry Mauro or John Sharp."
- "You misspelled 'Debbie Riddle.'"
- "Would have been close, but I think so."
- "In 2002? Absolutely. In 2008? Probably. In 2014? Maybe."
- "No. The Legislature is almost always going to choose one of its own to 'promote' to Washington."
- "Perhaps. Cornyn had worked his way up from a District Judge spot -- so he had campaigned locally, and he had grassroots support, although he was not the best choice at the time. Our state might have been different if those lobbying Bush to appoint Henry Bonilla to fill Gramm's seat had been successful."
- "Hard to say, because in 2002, when he was first elected, a legislature selection might have attracted additional candidates into the race."
- "Yes, by a super majority. He's conservative, like Texas (haven't you seen the commercials?)"
- "Yes, but some of his votes in DC would have been different (e.g., Prescription Drug Benefit)."
- "Awful idea. Same 'some' who build bunkers for the invasion."
- "Probably, but it would not have chosen the Junior Senator."
- "When bush was gov and rove consultant to both"

Would the Texas Legislature have chosen Ted Cruz for the Senate?

- "Not then. Probably would now."
- "They definitely would have chosen Dewhurst, especially as so many of them were aspiring to his job!"
- "Interesting. Probably not. Not sure the Tea Party has that much sway. Pretty sure it would be a more moderate republican. Plus, the Senate might have pushed for Dewhurst (a) to appear supportive and (b) to promote one of their own to lead the Texas Senate"
- "Would now!"
- "The fact he wouldn't have stood the proverbial snow ball's chance should be enough for tea baggers to reject this idea!"
- "They also would not have sent Dewhurst to D.C.-- even though many would like to see him gone!"
- "Dewhurst skates to victory in this one . . . and opens up opportunities for others who would be voting for him."
- "By the time Ted Cruz ran, the Senate had forgotten how to think."
- "If it's one thing a group of politicians can't stand, its an ego that's bigger than their own. Sorry, Ted."
- "All senators would probably be chosen from among the Legislature."
- "No. They would have chosen someone who would help them and not just help himself."
- "Depends on the crazy quotient."
- "LOL."
- "No - Mr. Cruz may end up being a US Senator for several terms, but his brand of politics does not jive with a majority of the 181 in the Pink Building."
- "Too outsider, too about Ted Cruz for that clubby club."
- "Never. That's why this amendment should not be repealed. Power to the people."
- "Would Dan Patrick have voted for him?"
- "Cruz may be popular with the voting base of the GOP, but to fellow elected officials he is a scenery-chewing ham."
- "Not a snow balls chance in hell which is what is so baffling about the fringe tea baggers support of this lunacy."
- "Humans are incapable of resisting Ted Cruz's persuasive powers. Did I say humans? I mean Republicans."
- "Despite the efforts by many to be more conservative than anyone else in the room, there is still not the same anti-incumbent, anti-moderate sentiment that helped elect Cruz."
- "Paging Senator Dewhurst, paging Senator Dewhurst..."
- "I don't think the Legislature would have passed an opportunity to send Gov. Dewhurst to DC if he wanted it."

- "The thing about Ted Cruz is that he would not have run the race he ran if he had to have the Senators elect him. He did what he had to do to get elected. At any rate the Senators would have probably elected Dewhurst just to get rid of him as Lt. Gov."
- "Lets hope not."
- "No. The Legislature is almost always going to choose one of its own to 'promote' to Washington."
- "Is this a real question?"
- "There were 50 people in line who would have been better choices than Cruz. He would not have made it to the short list. ."
- "Dewhurst would have won, especially since the state senators wanted him in their rear-view mirror."
- "Cruz would have lost on the first vote, just like he did in the primary."
- "Too young. They'd select one of their own - every time."
- "Insider game. Nominee would have been brokered"

Who's the best current chancellor of a public university in Texas?

- "Cigarroa is very good, but Khator is an exceptionally gifted academic leader."
- "Have always admired his down home personal skills. He makes you want to support TTU. He'll be missed. And I have no connection to TTU."
- "It most certainly is not Hance. He bent over for Craig James and fired Mike Leach. That will be his legacy."
- "It depends on what you view as the job of a Chancellor. All have strengths. Some fundraising. Some problem solving. Some academic. But if you are asking who gets in front of a camera more, that goes to John Sharp."
- "I'm an Aggie, but it's almost impossible to ignore what Dr. Khator has done for the U of H. Makes you wonder what she could do at a bigger system with more resources."
- "Khator has put the University of Houston on the map. Her driven commitment to make the school a Tier 1 institution is amazing. She has raised unprecedented amounts of money, created new partnerships with business, particularly energy and is striving diligently to improve the athletic programs. I would put John Sharp at a close second."
- "McCall has worked nothing short of magic in San Marcos--but really, Texas is fortunate that right now we have great top administrators at all our public universities. Higher ed has had a rough time over the past decade, but I have high hopes for our future. You should ask who's the most awesome second-in-command next time...I bet Mr. Hamilton would come out on top."
- "Mr. McCall seems to be just what Higher Ed needs: a visionary, cutting edge attractant to one of our up and

coming institutions. Watch out UT and A&M!"

- "Each of these chancellors would benefit from the state contributing more toward higher education. This is the most important investment we can make for economic development. Cutting financial support while complaining about the high cost of tuition is the height of hypocrisy."

- "Some great names and great folks . . . Brian is moving Texas State to a new level, so he gets the check mark. Sure miss him in the Lege though . . ."

- "Hance - hands down is the great communicator. No one makes each one of their students feel more personally invested, more inspired in their university than Kent Hance. I have to give John Sharp props for his artful skill but the best ROI in the state is Kent Hance. What he has done on the fundraising trail is simply unprecedented in Texas and will pay dividends for Tech for years to come."

- "The job at the top is always the hardest and Cigarroa has managed to delicately keep Perry's regents from turning UT-Austin into the nation's largest endowed community college while also keeping his own job."

- "Sharp's always ahead of everyone else in the vision thing."

- "Sharp. Hands down thanks in part to Johnny Football and Coach Sumlin."

- "It is hard to argue with the success John Sharp is realizing for the A&M System."

- "Even as a Longhorn, I think he has done a tremendous job. Texas could use his leadership."

- "If this question were a wager, it would be Kent Hance vs. the field."

- "Robert Duncan, DUH"

- "It's as if his whole career truly prepared Dr. McCall for this position. Some folks kind of fall into these jobs. McCall aimed for this one."

- "Most of these people operate behind the scenes in ways the public do not see or appreciate. I am not sure that some of the recent issues that have brought them more in the public eye are adequate measures of who of these is the 'best.'"

- "If you look at rise in prominence and fundraising abilities (which I think is all a Chancellor does), Sharp runs laps around everyone else."

- "Hands down the most innovative, aggressive policy wonk to take the helm of a university system. All the others are trying to figure how to catch up or how to protect their backsides for their lack of progress."

- "So insider that it does not matter"

- "Chancellor McCall runs a very lean and efficient operation. He deserves a medal."

- "Sharp is most effective because he doesn't have to worry about attacks from the rear -- from Austin."

- "If measured by most impact on an institution, Hance has transformed Tech. Sharp is walking on egg shells."

- "Viewed from within the pink building, Sharp edges out Hance for first place. Not sure of the view from academia, but having seen her speak I am wondering if they wouldn't choose Renu Khator?"

- "Based on what: athletics, research grants, enrollment growth, endowments, happy regents?"

- "This a very deep pool of talent and much smarter and capable than those who selected them ironically"

- "TIE - Hance and Sharp"

What should Texas Tech look for in its new chancellor now that Kent Hance is resigning — a highly respected academic administrator or a former officeholder with great fundraising skills?

- "Something else...a highly respected recent member of the Texas Senate"

- "Tech ought to look for someone capable of putting their system in the limelight. They have the ability to steal more kids that are leaving Texas to go to OU, OSU and Arkansas. Fundraising is important but a Brian McCall-type thinker and provocateur is what is needed for this system."

- "I believe a good Chancellor is someone who can manage the delicate relationship between the Board of Regents, University Presidents, former students, students, politicians and the press. The search for the person who can successfully pull off that mission on a regular basis should not be limited to academia or politics. I would recommend looking in business, medicine, law and other interests to find the person who can accomplish this balance."

- "One need not be a former officeholder to have fundraising skills."

- "Sure would miss Bob Duncan in the upper chamber..."

- "Being way out west, Tech is too often forgotten by the folks back east. They need someone who can bring back the bacon."

- "It's all about the money."

- "Hance is retaining fundraising responsibilities as chancellor emeritus"

- "The idea of chancellor has changed from an academician to a fund raising, cheerleading former office holder. Pete Laney would be perfect for Tech but for his political party, so they may go with technocrat Duncan."

- "If you have enough money you can hire any talent you need to augment your academic profile."

- "A diplomatic person who knows the capital and who can raise cotton trailers full of funds each and every year."

- "Some say they should look for a current Senator representing their region."

- "Hance got the dollars - the new person should build upon that but also flex some academic muscle."
- "Texas Tech must defy expectations and do the unexpected. Don't hire local, bring in an academic rock star."
- "Major university systems are now like big corporations and need a variety of talents and skills to run well. You're unlikely to find these skills in an academic."
- "Tech won't attain Tier 1 status without an academic figurehead."
- "This is like asking if you want a quarterback who is smart or athletic. You always want both."
- "I guess when you say 'former,' your excluding Bobby Duncan since he is 'current'?"
- "Why would anyone think Texas Tech cares about academics? I mean...it's Tech..."
- "Go after the politician who has shown the ability to learn and adapt; he/she can learn the academics."
- "That ship has sailed. Actually, multiple ships have sailed, and their names are: John Montford, Mike McKinney, Lee Jackson, Kent Hance, Brian McCall, John Sharp...."
- "A person who can maneuver within government circles and recruit academics to help Tech reach Tier 1 research status."
- "Tech needs Robert Duncan as its chancellor. Duncan is the rare individual who is highly respected by

his fellow officeholders as well as the Tech faculty, and the faculty are the heart and soul of any academic institution."

- "Good relationships with leadership and an understanding of the changing face of Texas."
- "Someone that can pick a football coach that can beat a horrible UT team."
- "We should care for what reason, exactly?"
- "That's why they picked Montford and Hance. Not that you ask but uncertain Duncan feels that skill set but I bet he's ready to leave the Senate."
- "Tech's greatest need is improving its academics. Hance did a good job with fundraising, but money will follow improved academic credibility."
- "A leader with a proven track record of getting a huge institution to work together to reach aspirational goals."
- "Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls) and UT Permian Basin (Odessa) both have relatively strong academics. Unless Tech wants to join that group, they need a fundraiser who can continue building Tech's brand among people all across Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma."
- "Jeff Wentworth is available."
- "Can't forgo academic credentials but those systems are increasingly politicized."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Blaine Bull, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Rick Cofer, Chad Crow, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Neftali Garcia, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, John Heasley, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Matt Matthews, Bryan Mayes, Dan McClung, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Royce Poinsett, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Bill Ratliff, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, John Weaver, Ware Wendell, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Alex Winslow, Lee Woods, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.