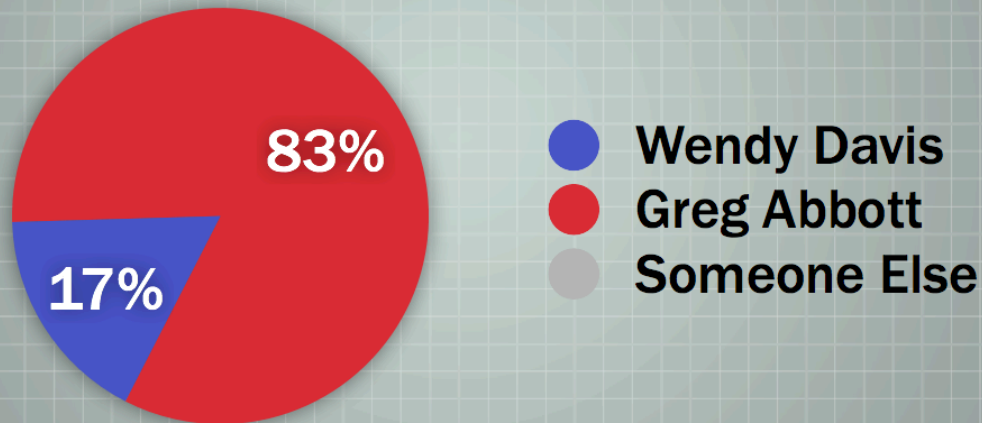


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of December 23*

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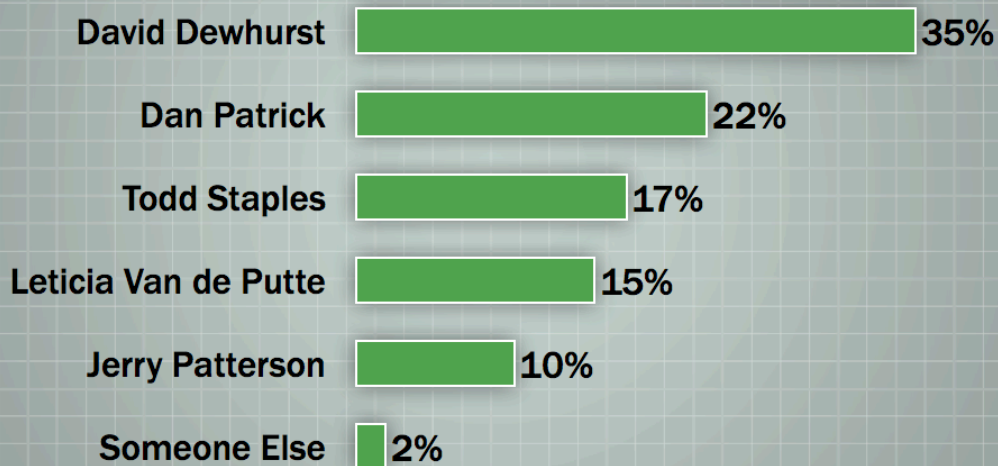
The next governor?



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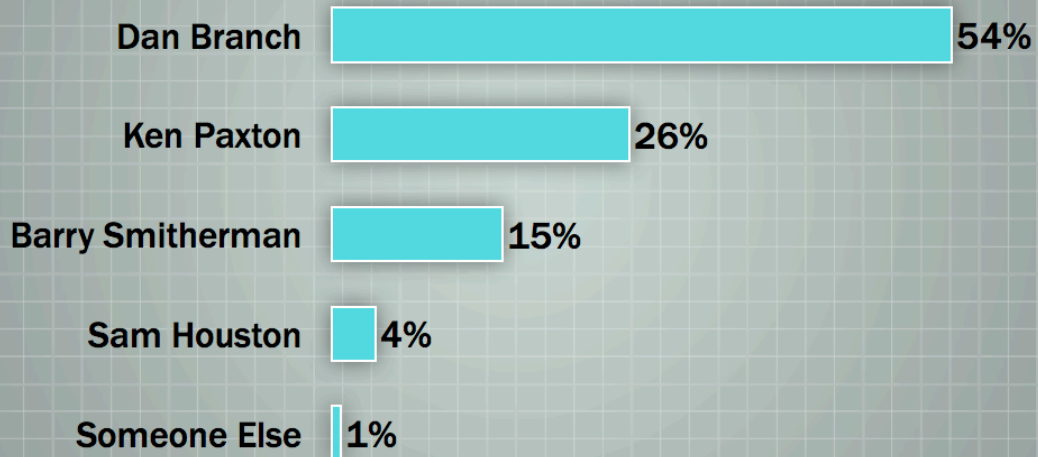
The next lieutenant governor?



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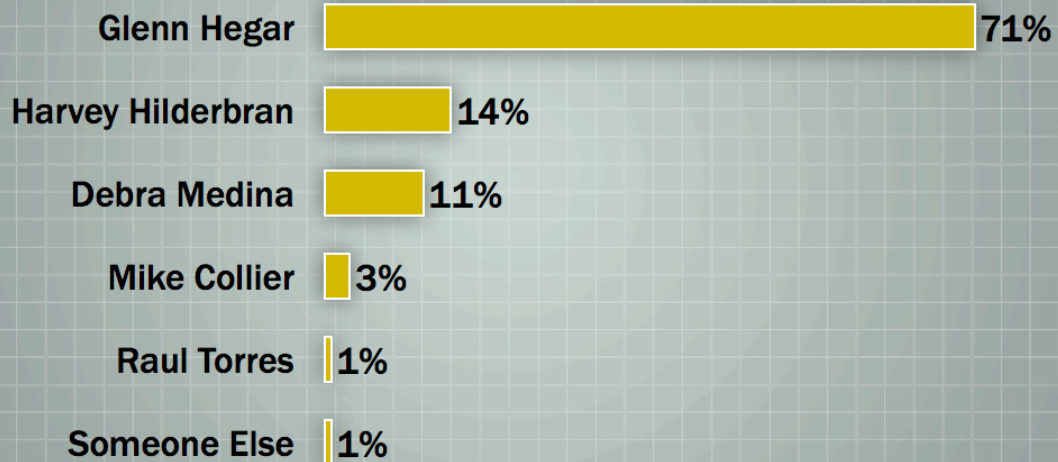
The next attorney general?



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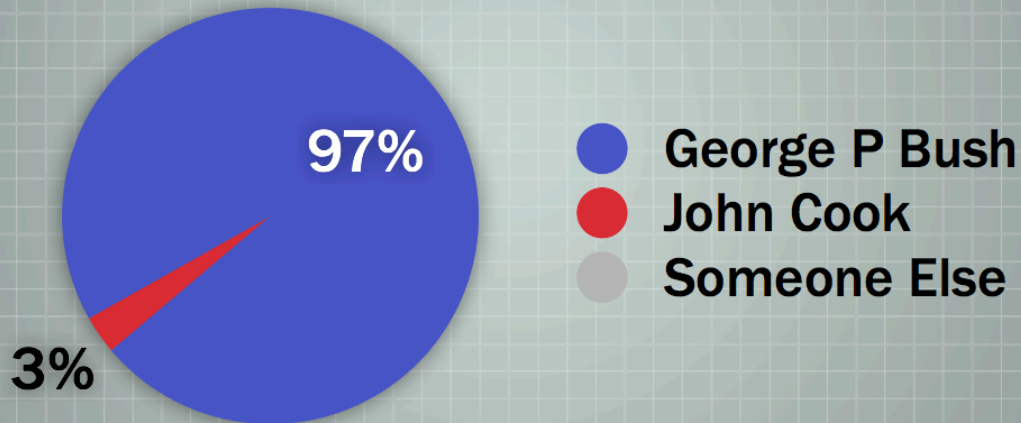
The next comptroller?



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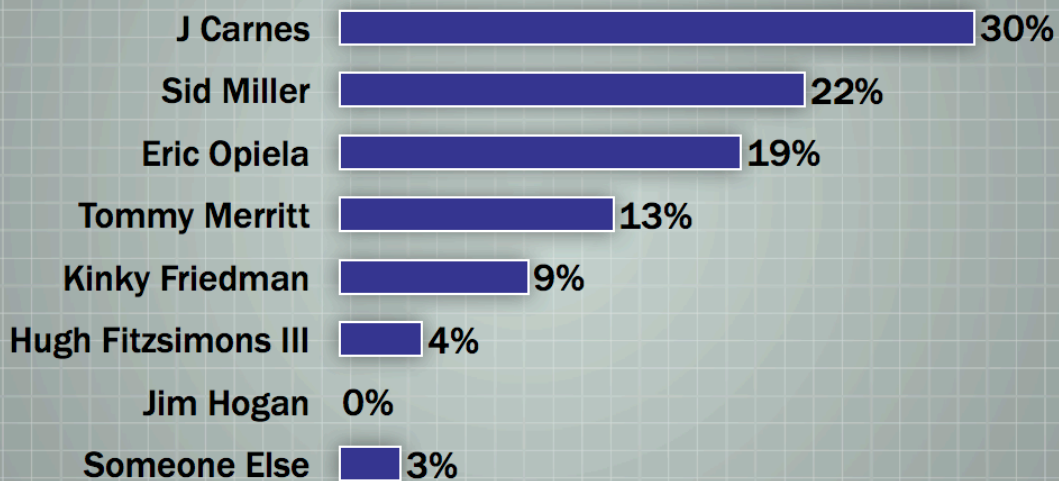
The next land commissioner?



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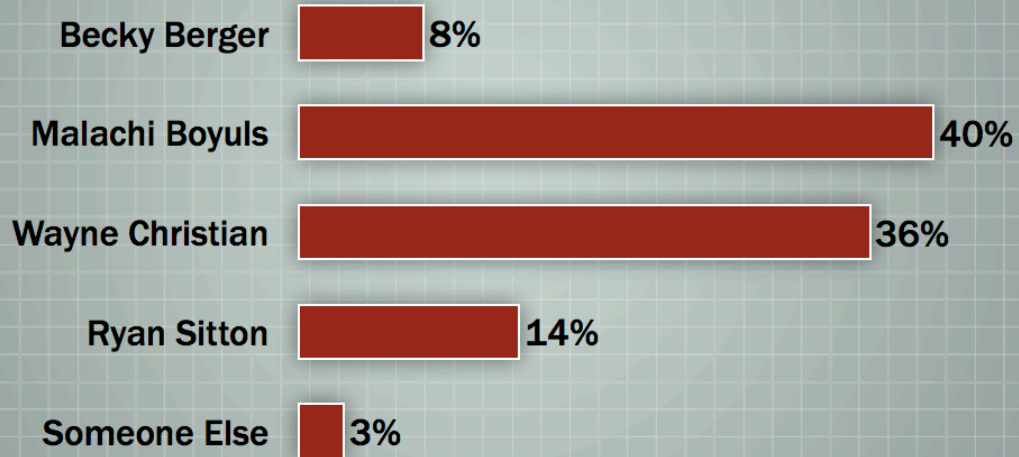
The next agriculture commissioner?



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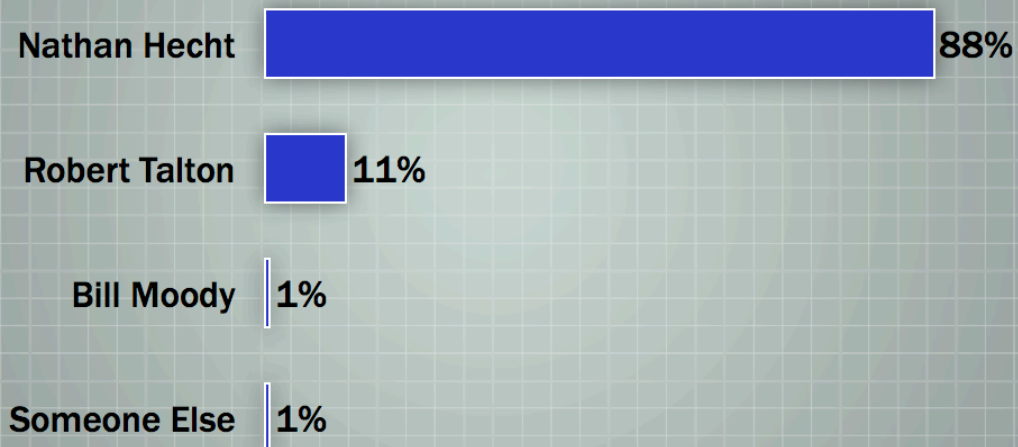
The next railroad commissioner?



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The next chief justice?



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Who will be the governor-elect at this time next year?

- "Abbott will surely beat media darling, Davis but he will have to move beyond Rick Perry's Fed Up! Talking points to govern past one term."
- "Don't kid yourselves, Greg Abbott is governor-elect right now."
- "Texas is still strongly Red and everybody knows that."
- "It is going to be Abbott, but every politico will be evaluating whether or not the DeMostynocrat machine was able to move the state closer to purple."
- "Making predictions in the form of absolutes and not probabilities is the surest way to get them wrong. This business of soliciting predictions from pundits misinforms the public and discourages them from participating and thus runs counter to the Texas Tribune's mission. However, there is no 'This question is antithetical to democracy' option in your question, so I'll go pout over in the corner now."
- "This is a lot closer than most people think. A slip by Abbott can easily turn it. e.g. lay back and enjoy it, or there isn't a housewife qualified to be on the PUC, or a John Hill over confidence and entitlement"
- "And suddenly it feels a lot like 1990...everyone remembers the Clayton Williams inauguration right!!!!!"
- "A guy can hope, can't he??"
- "I know, I know, but the some one else category is the probable winner, and should read 'Koch Brothers'"
- "Is Wendy still running? Other than e mails you really don't see her."
- "Abbott will make liberals wish they had Rick Perry back."
- "Not even close."
- "He will have so much money from the evil Koch brothers that even Jesus couldn't beat him, much less a Democrat."
- "Too much money, too much momentum and too many Republicans."
- "Abbott will win, but Republicans will lose rural areas and suburban ticket-splitters."
- "Republicans are going to push themselves so far to the right they will scare every normal person away!"
- "Abbott is respected by most all Texans."
- "But it's not a slam dunk."
- "Abbott is going to run a bad campaign. His rush to the right is too extreme for suburban moms, who I think will play a part in this election. I also think you can count on a few gaffes from his staff ... a la 'she's too stupid to be governor' and 'retard barbie' ... I feel that the Abbott campaign is not taking her seriously."
- "Anyone who seriously thinks Senator Davis can overcome the built-

in Republican advantage is either a fool or smoking crack."

- "It will be much closer than past elections, but straight party pulls will give Abbott the win."

- "DUH!!!"

- "Why not?"

- "Wendy can't get above 45 or 46 percent and every rational adult in Texas knows it."

Who'll be the lieutenant governor-elect?

- "Patterson is the underdog who always wins because he's genuine. Staples is the 'new' establishment candidate who will take votes from Dewhurst of the 'old' establishment. Patrick has yet to mend fences with the TEA Party over Cruz."

- "The big I is strong to overcome."

- "It's going to be Patrick, but boy am I wishing I am wrong."

- "First time there has been a conservative that the Tea party faction is ok with, and that can appeal to real voters who are tired of rhetoric politics."

- "Money conquers ALL!!!!"

- "All those women who just can't bring themselves to vote for Wendy Davis will feel redeemed by their vote for Van de Putte. THIS is the race to watch."

- "Like Beyoncé sez, 'ladies rule the world!'"

- "More of a wish list choice to go w/Jerry, who as an ex marine jet pilot/former artillery officer has only two speeds, strafe and stand down, which voters will either love or disregard. Given the futility of

Leticia's run, notwithstanding the gender-centric opportunity and good intentions, I think he deserves to be Lt Gov if for no other reason than the civilized magnanimity he showed his ostensible rival last time, Hector Uribe. He was an approachable if at times intractable Senator, and as a lobbyist aggressive while utterly professional, unlike many of his peers. . If there are enough R primary voters who can read w/out moving their lips and understand we didn't coexist w/dinosaurs, there may be enough to recognize his independence and decency even if they can't sign off on his ideology."

- "...Unfortunately. However, his power could be short lived."

- "I can't believe the guy who pissed everybody in the Senate off within two minutes of stepping foot in the Chamber is likely to be its next president..."

- "Who knows, maybe knowledge of Civil War history will be the deciding factor in this race."

- "Dan Patrick wins; the Senate strips him of his powers."

- "In a cakewalk."

- "The lack of outside money makes this a different race from Dewhurst v. Cruz. Dewhurst is running his second incompetent campaign in a row so he may get forced into a runoff, but his money advantage will ultimately win the day."
- "Ticket-splitter populists turned off by the Republican nominee will vote for divided government and buy a Van de Putte insurance policy."
- "Van De Putte has a better chance than Davis of winning statewide -- not because she is a Latina, but because the boys running for Lite Gov have behaved like such dolts and even conservative Texans can only take so much hooey. Still Van De Putte and none of the guys on the GOP ticket are Ted Cruz -- ultimately Dewhurst will return."
- "LVP will upset DP."
- "If it isn't broken, don't fix it."
- "Dan Patrick will emerge from a primary against Dewhurst and the business community will revolt. LVP has a lot of allies..."
- "If Dan Patrick wins the R nomination, van de Putte has a chance"
- "Too early to call the Republican Primary election."
- "Double Duh!!!!"
- "I know only one thing about this race. At this time David Dewhurst will still be the Lt. Gov."
- "He's taller"
- "The Republican nominee. As of now, I'd say that person will be: 35% David Dewhurst... 35% Dan Patrick... 20% Todd Staples... 10% Jerry Patterson"

Who'll be the attorney general-elect?

- "Does Branch's Dallas money and network of state legislators win the day, or does the Austin crowd get Smitherman across the finish line? Stay tuned..."
- "Houston will carry Barry over the top."
- "Dan Branch will have the money to compete state wide and he has been doing all the right things. His machine - and hair - is well-oiled."
- "Barry Smitherman is an entertaining, unkempt version of Greg Abbott. Gimme."
- "Even the media is catching on to Branch's phony conservative act. When the Houston Chronicle mocks your campaign on their editorial pages, you know people aren't buying what you're selling"
- "Branch wins!!!! The 'establishment' reassertion itself again!!!"
- "I'm hoping for a really good write-in candidate to cast a ballot."
- "No idea but a lot of the conventional wisdom crowd is betting the farm that the lunatic fringe won't dominate the primaries. Jump ball,

that. Branch will likely have the most professionally run operation."

- "Every conservative group in Texas has endorsed him. He has surprised everyone."
- "I'm hoping..."
- "Anyone's guess."
- "Thankfully, the State of Texas is not Collin County writ large. Ken Paxton is about to learn that lesson."

Who'll be the comptroller-elect?

- "Hegar is the most organized, most polished, and most visible candidate."
- "In a very close race."
- "I am just saying Glenn because all the insiders are telling me his going to win. But, really, no one knows on this one."
- "This is going to be one interesting primary. Tea Party versus anti-abortion jihadists versus Brint Ryan's guy versus a Hispanic."
- "Whoever isn't on the establishment party ticket."
- "Ugh"
- "Can any of these candidates do advanced accounting without a calculator or using their fingers and toes?"

Who'll be the land commissioner-elect?

- "Branch, if he doesn't talk himself out of it."
- "Texans want a proven conservative and Paxton's perfect conservative voting record in the House and Senate is most convincing."
- "We can hope the other two don't get elected"
- "Barry beats Dan in runoff."

- "He's the serious grown-up in the race."
- "I didn't realize anyone but Hegar is running!"
- "Hegar wins this but probably in a runoff. Why did Harvey build up a \$1M+ war chest to blow it on this race, again?"
- "Medina puts Hilderbran and Hegar in a run-off, but she doesn't win it, or make the run-off herself. Hilderbran and Hegar are the only folks who have the money to win it. It's a toss-up between them."
- "The one with the whole brain...."
- "Glenn Hegar has lots and lots of problems and Harvey will have the money to expose them."

- "Didn't we already have this election?"
- "Another bush on the move."
- "I hear the Bush name is pretty well known in Texas."
- "He's still a Bush and that has cache in Texas!!!!"
- "Isn't it obvious?"
- "Because that brand still sells here."
- "Surprised this question was asked...."
- "John who??"
- "Wow this is tough to call. Hmmmmmm let me think."
- "David Watts"
- "The George Bush name is not positive right now."
- "Another duh!"
- "What - David Watts is not an option?"
- "Bush will be the top vote getter in a contested statewide race."

Who'll be the agriculture commissioner-elect?

- "Most voters don't care what the Ag Commissioner does and no voters know who any of these guys are so I surmise the answer is whoever has the most mellifluous name."
- "I wish I could say who, but this is a crap shoot. None have any statewide name recognition, but an R should win it."
- "Outside of those taking this survey, no one knows who the hell any of these guys are. We are just guessing at this point."
- "At long last, the question is apt: Why not Kinky?"
- "No matter the outcome, it's the livestock, fruits and vegetables that will be hurt by this election."
- "He has worn the hat the longest"
- "Although it is only Ag Commissioner, this one scares me."
- "This far down the ballot I have pretty much given up and turned it in already. Do we really need an ag commissioner?"
- "But I'm voting for a run off between Merritt and Friedman for the sheer entertainment value. I want to see how Merritt works 'purple paint' into his campaign theme and Kinky avoids sheep jokes."
- "A real rancher will win..."
- "Who the heck knows?"
- "Sid Miller has a good ballot name but his shady past will catch up with him just enough to keep him out of statewide office. Carnes has the Farm Bureau behind him and that can turn into a decent amount of money if he plays his cards right. Opiela is by far

the most qualified but has a bad ballot name."

- "Don't have a clue. What a wide-open race. I guess I could narrow it down to Opiela, Sid Miller or Tommy Merritt"

- "Kinky is the only name that most people will recognize. No one who goes by 'III' can be a real ag commissioner."

- "I could also see Opiela winning ... and I'd be ok with that. I like that guy."

Who'll be the railroad commissioner-elect?

- "Boyuls has the right experience, the right message, and lots of big-name support."

- "How could you not vote for a Christian!!!"

- "Please use my same response to the Agg Comm question. (Outside of those taking this survey, no one knows who the hell any of these guys are. We are just guessing at this point.)"

- "Don't have an opinion."

- "Deliver this state from ALL THINGS Wayne Christian! Should you really run statewide if you can't win a state house district primary??"

- "Hey Wayne, when did the railroad start running to your beach house?"

- "No idea, nor do the voters"

- "The only one who can rival Sitton's money has the worse ballot name of

- "Don't know on this one."

- "Best known name."

- "Why the hell not?"

- "Who cares!"

- "This should be fun."

- "Nobody knows, nobody cares"

the year. The legislature needs to address this commission. This is a laughably unqualified slate of candidates for a commission with such important duties. Either appoint the commissioners or break it into multiple regional districts. Either would be better than this."

- "Steve Brown"

- "The only truly qualified candidate."

- "This one either..."

- "Whoever the industry needs to have a 3-0 vote"

- "Going out on a limb to predict Becky for an upset is the GOP primary."

- "Then we can final change the commissioner to one appointed member."

- "Malachi is running the most impressive GOP statewide campaign of the cycle."

Who'll be the chief justice-elect of the Texas Supreme Court?

- "Who is going to spend any real money trying to unseat the best Chief in an era of really good Chief Justices?"
- "See #2 above, the big I will prevail."
- "Moody because he has a great last name to run for office. Again, everyone will be giving you a guess on this question."
- "No opinion."
- "Another trial lawyer R infiltration plot revealed"
- "God, I hope so...."
- "A disproportionate share of the Houston vote will give Talton the edge in the primary."
- "Unfortunately!"
- "You forgot Larry Meyers. Not that it matters."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Jennifer Ahrens, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, John Colyandro, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Dadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Mike McKinney, Robert Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Tim Reeves, 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, Christopher Shields, Nancy Sims, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Bryan Sperry, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.