

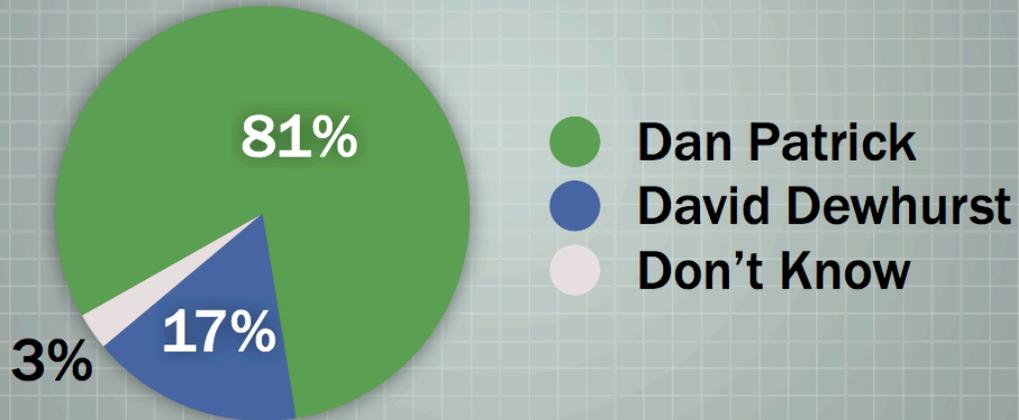
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll

for the week of 7 March 2014

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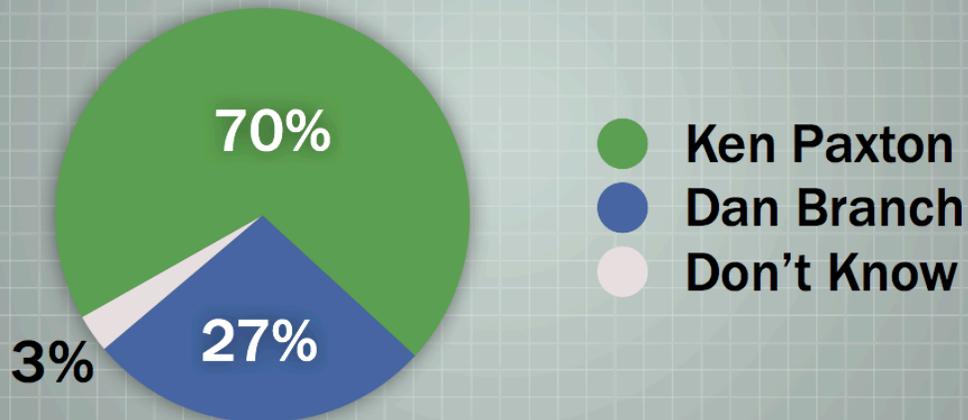
Who will win the GOP race for lieutenant governor?



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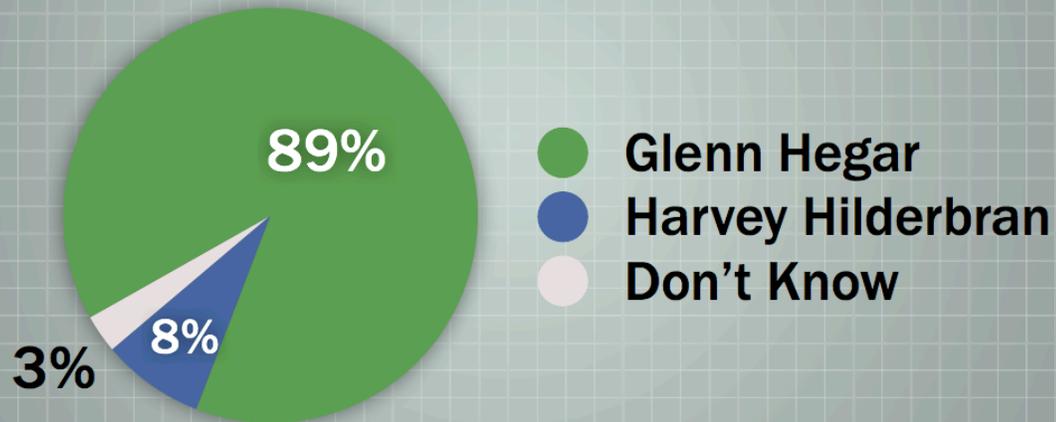
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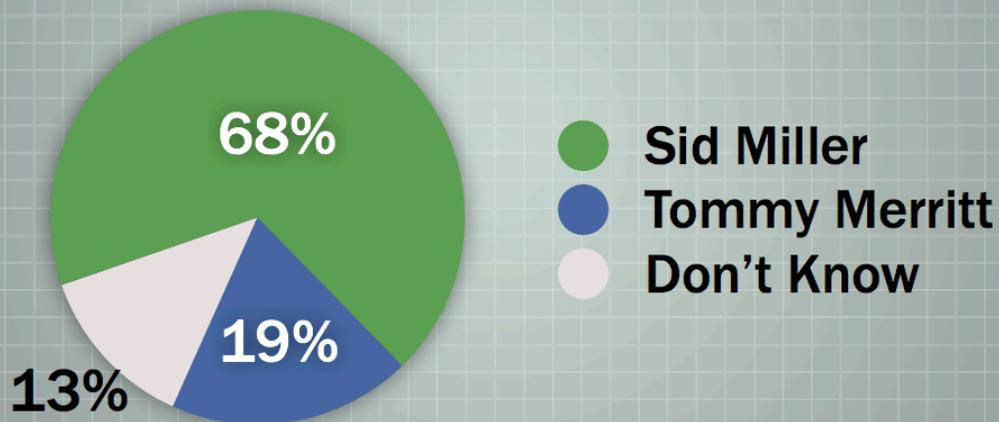
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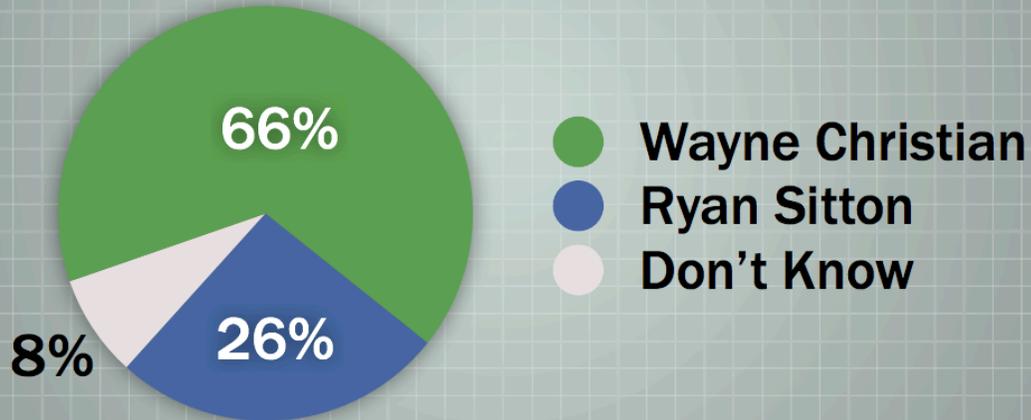
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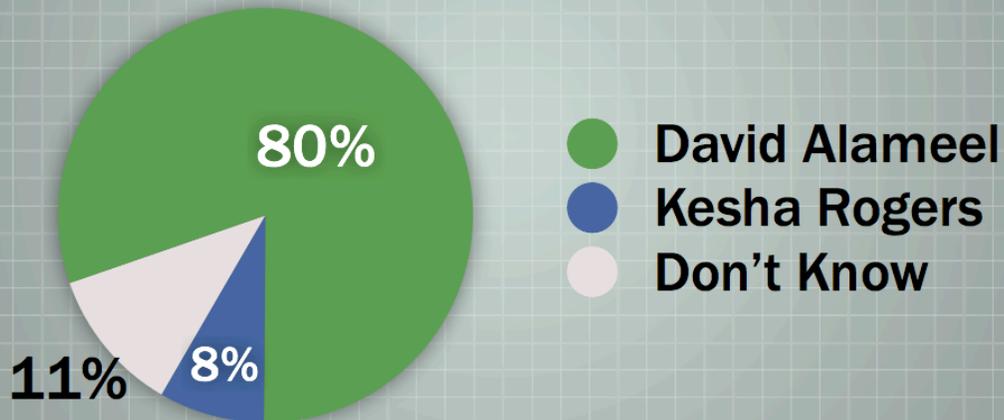
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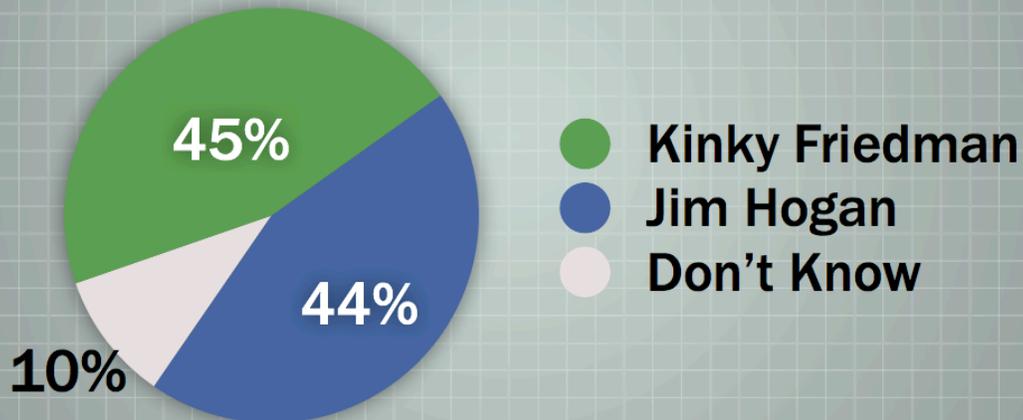
Who will win the Democratic race for
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Who will win the Democratic race for agriculture commissioner?



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Who will win the GOP runoff for lieutenant governor?

- "Patterson and Staples did not run on the idea that Dewhurst was not enough of a conservative. Therefore those candidates (and their supporters) should fall in line with Dewhurst."
- "Dewhurst set this in motion the day he filed. Thanks, Jerk."
- "Dewhurst, if he will put on his big boy pants."
- "Lt. Gov. Dewhurst - c'mon folks, the power of positive thinking..."
- "Patrick will win, but it will be much closer than it now appears it will be."
- "I clearly don't know anything about Republican politics after Tuesday night. Sure hope it isn't Patrick."
- "All of us are waiting to see if the Cruz missile strikes Patrick. Cruz cannot afford a Patrick win. If Dan Patrick becomes Lt Guv, he will become the Tea Party king maker and Cruz will be delegated to the court jester."
- "Voters have said they don't do the Dew!"
- "I will never underestimate the power of the Tea Party ever again."
- "The Seahawks vs. the Broncos, but campaign edition."

- "Won't be close"
- "Dew can't finish. A smaller electorate means a more extreme electorate."
- "Just wishing and hoping and thinking and praying..."
- "I think that the republican electorate saw through Dewhurst's 'Johnny come lately' Tea party credentials and will loose again."
- "The Dew should do the smart thing and walk away."
- "Unless all of the registered Dems vote for Dewhurst plus his moderates"
- "I'm thinking it's time to cut your personal and financial losses and wish Senator Patrick well."
- "God Help Texas"
- "It continues to be the vocal far right who drives the Republican Party of Texas. Their candidates will be the ones who lead in each runoff race. I look forward to the day when civility, moderation and common ground again become the rule of the game...and of our government."
- "The Republican primary is quite interesting this year. For the most part, establishment candidates have prevailed in both parties although as you see here, they tend to be in runoffs. The Dewhurst race is different, nobody in Texas knows who he is and the ones who do know him either seem to not have much of an opinion or not like him much. Dan Patrick was just the squeaker wheel of the three other candidates. Both Staples and Patterson are far more in touch with the average Texan and much more like them."
- "You're kidding, right? Dewhurst has humiliated himself one more time. The next loss will leave him several million dollars poorer and publicly ostracized."
- "It's no fun being an illegal alien."
- "God help us all, but Dewhurst's campaigns have been unmitigated disasters and, barring a change, it will be Lt. Gov. Patrick."
- "I've seen this movie once before!"
- "I just don't see the Dew getting three of every four Staples/Patterson votes, which he would need to win 51 percent."
- "Save yourself the money, David. It's over."
- "Depends on how much enthusiasm Dewhurst can generate and the level of disdain for Patrick."
- "Take Note: The biggest step to turning Texas blue will be (God help us!) The election of Dan Patrick as Lt. Guv."
- "Patrick will lead a conservative slate that will sweep the runoffs."
- "Our state is headed to hell in a hand basket!"
- "Almost 60% of primary voters didn't pick Patrick."
- "Patrick wins, and it's 'Welcome to the Thunderdome!'"

- "Can't believe anyone ever thought he wouldn't"

- "Might be wishful thinking, but I think Gov. Dewhurst can pull this one out."

Who will win the GOP runoff for attorney general?

- "Absent intervention by Abbott, the Ted Cruz 'non-endorsement' endorsement of Paxton may be enough to tip the scale, especially since Cruz once aspired to this job."

- "Paxton will run a disciplined race."

- "Sure hope it isn't Paxton."

- "Branch just doesn't look comfortable going to the right. He is country club pedigree and has a hard time connecting to the plebeian voter."

- "The tea party is saying: 'Neidermeyer, dead, Branch, dead.'"

- "Won't be close"

- "The Tea Party Conservatives will make it out to the polls for this run-off. Branch just needs to make sure others do too."

- "When one puts Branch in a corner, he'll bite back!"

- "Or should I say Ted Cruz."

- "This race is sorta interesting because it appears Ted Cruz had some influence although not quite enough. Underdogs like Cruz want a primary runoff with low turnout because it's their opportunity to win. The big question is will the Republicans let that happen again or will they go with an extreme conservative rather than an 'over the top' one."

- "With the Cruz 'endorsements' it was inevitable."

- "I'm pretty sure Ken Paxton doesn't have the legal experience necessary to be on a court appointment list, so we should definitely elect him AG. That sounds like a great idea."

- "Branch did not take aim at Paxton until a few days before the primary election. I suspect a steady stream of real damaging information to target Paxton. Candidly voters don't know much about him other than he can get Ted Cruz to say nice things about him in a TV ad. I wonder if Cruz will actually endorse him in the run-off or just give him another 'faux-endorsement' for a TV ad."

- "Dan Branch made a big mistake: If you're gonna go crazy, you gotta go REALLY crazy."

- "I think the entire statewide run off ballot will be determined by the Lt. Governor's race. If Dewhurst can win, so can Branch."

- "Paxton has been blessed by Cruz.... game over"

- "Branch would have to pull off a miracle. He has the money to do it, and the law enforcement support. But he needs to make better inroads in Harris."

- "Ted Cruz factor puts Paxton over Branch. Sigh."

Who will win the GOP runoff for comptroller (if there is one; votes are still out)?

- "Assuming that little to none of Hegar's support erodes, he does not need to pick up many new voters to land this one."
- "Hegar will trip and fall on his face publicly, yet pro-life will carry him across the finish line."
- "Glenn should win this one."
- "Hegar will prevail. No runoff!"
- "Easily...."
- "Hegar has advantage, but this one could very competitive"
- "If Hilderbran sticks to what he can bring to the office and what he plans to do while in office (sans his umpteenth point plan), the electorate will see he can fulfill this role. He really needs to utilize his chairmanship of Ways and Means as he experience in working with dollars and cents."
- "Obviously Hegar is awfully close and in most cases, as I expect is happening today, there's some serious conversations about the future."

Personally I hope Hildebrand stays in there. Like Staples and Patterson, he is far more in touch with the average Texan. The shoot 'me up image Hegar presents for a job collecting taxes is kinda frightening. And I'm a sixth generation Texan with my own guns!!"

- "Totally ill-equipped for the job -- but, looks like he's a winner."
- "In Republican primaries, always go with the abortion guy."
- "There will be no run-off."
- "Note to All Consultants: Use the children. Shamelessly."
- "People will vote for him just to make his kids stop pleading with us to vote for their dad."
- "Toomey and Ryan will have Hilderbran withdraw"
- "Hilderbran ran a good race, but Hegar had the finances"
- "C'mon Hegar!"

Who will win the GOP runoff for agriculture commissioner?

- "Since Miller seems to think traditional marriage is key platform point to run on for Ag Commissioner, there's no telling how this one turns out."

• "Merritt comes from a vote rich base of East Texas. Miller lives in a sparsely populated area of the state."

- "But wouldn't it be fun to have Tommy Merritt as a statewide elected official representing Texas?"
- "Wish J. Allen Carnes made it. Urban voters shouldn't get a vote in this one."
- "Honestly, watching these two names on the ballot make me sick. We should be moving forward and not backwards. Who cares."
- "Please please please let it be Sid. It has to be Sid."
- "Really? Is this what it comes down too? Good for Texas Weekly - bad for Texas."
- "Depends how much Tommy spends"
- "I think Sid will win the election unless Tommy gets fired up and dumps a lot of personal money into the campaign."
- "I'm not a fan of the man with the big brim hat, but he at least looks like a rancher and one that could do a decent job at it. However, I think politically speaking Merritt is the better person for the job."
- "Miller, as much it pains me to say it, and I truly hope I am wrong."
- "Didn't these guys get voted out of their House districts and they're competing a statewide seat?"
- "Once again, an interesting Republican runoff. Miller was always extreme, Merritt was always more like your every day Texan. The fact that

Ted Nugent is Miller's treasurer should really turn people off. Let's face it, the guy's from Detroit, had one hit in the 70s (that I didn't buy!), has very questionable values and ethics and no one wears a damn camouflage cowboy hat! What's up with that!!"

- "In Republican primaries, always go with the abortion guy."
- "How did we end up with such a weak field of candidates that two old, deposed state reps with no money are vying for statewide office? Unfortunately, Miller probably wins this, but he has so many ethical problems that Tommy is still in the game."
- "Tea Party groups owned the Republican Primary Election last night and it is only likely to become more pronounced in lower turnout run-off elections."
- "Sid Miller has a bigger hat."
- "Kinky anyone? Anyone?"
- "There's only one thing scarier than Tommie Merritt in an elected office. That would be Tommie Merritt in a STATEWIDE elected office."
- "Once MQS and company go to town on Merritt, this one won't be close."
- "We all win, because either one will immediately become the most quotable and ridiculous statewide officeholder."
- "Ted Nugent wasn't an option for some reason. So I picked Sid."

Who will win the GOP runoff for railroad commissioner?

- "Sitton has to decide if he wants to be a RR Commissioner or CEO."
- "I hope Wayne Christian gets a beat down."
- "Conservatives need fresh blood to lead us into the next chapter. No more 'has-been' on the ballots, por favor."
- "Who will vote against a Christian?"
- "Ryan will raise real oil and gas money"
- "It's Wayne's to lose at this point."
- "At this point down the ballot I really don't care. This is a worthless state agency that should be wrapped up into the comptroller's office and maybe the governor's office."
- "One is well-qualified and the other is literally a Christian...I'm guessing the Christian guy gets the support of the educated voters/end sarcasm."
- "These tend to be sorta boring stepping stone offices. Everyone is going somewhere else (except for Jim Nugent) or is trying. Wayne Christian has a record and a lot of negatives and the other guy is an unknown but kinda refreshing with no record."
- "A great opportunity for Sitton to showcase his industry knowledge and experience."
- "In Republican primaries, if there's no abortion guy, go with the guy who said oil is God's gift."
- "Hopefully industry money can carry Sitton. Christian would be par for the course, though... Christian, Miller, Paxton, Patrick all in statewide office. This doesn't bode well for the state or the state GOP."
- "Don't frac MY beach!"
- "My mind can't go there."
- "Christian got to this point because voters remembered the name. He won't go further because they will figure why they remembered his name."
- "Ideology trumps competence every time"
- "Please let it be Ryan Sitton!!"

Who will win the Democratic runoff for U.S. Senate?

- "Is there any way to simply cancel this runoff?"
- "Does anyone care?"
- "Democrats aren't as crazy as Kesha."
- "Impeach Obama will only get you so far..."
- "I am rooting for Kesha."
- "Please let it be Rogers. That would be awesome!"

- "Dr. Alameel almost had it, but this actually gives me time to keep hammering away his message and get his name and face out there for the state to see who he is."
- "The democratic party will be humiliated by a Rogers victory. They will do whatever it takes to pull Alameel across the line."
- "Alameel has the money and should win it. A positive is that he gets a couple of months to get himself out there. Runoffs are never good and are always unpredictable but this one could help him a little by getting more name ID for November."
- "I've never heard of either one of the people"
- "Doesn't she have a pop recording deal??"
- "Kesha Rogers is an absolute crazy person!"
- "The Texas Democratic Party deserves Kesha Rogers."
- "Question to Ds: Why is your hand-picked candidate for Senate in a run-off?"
- "Dems should be embarrassed at the quality of their statewide candidates"
- "Repubs hope is Alameel. Lot of garbage"
- "Please let him win! Please let him win! Ms. Rogers is a certified LUNATIC! If only there was a way to BAN her from ever running for office again! Why can't the crazy LaRoucher's run as third party candidates - must they always cause us Democrats the heartache! (Certain some republican group is going to give her money to espouse or idiotic views against the President!)"
- "I think her name is spelled Ke\$ha"

Who will win the Democratic runoff for agriculture commissioner?

- "Name recognition and the marijuana issue should put Kinky over the top."
- "Democrats aren't as crazy as Sid Miller and Tommy Merritt."
- "Kinky Friedman. Really? The Republican put forward their fair-share of blowhards, but it seems that the Dems hit the grand slam of dumb-assery"
- "Let's win one for the Kinkster."
- "Let's get Kinky, y'all!"
- "The Kinkster!"
- "It's obvious Kinky is looking for a job and I don't know why he just won't go and write another book or something else."
- "Aren't there any other options?"
- "See above."
- "Weirdest race ever."
- "Why the hell not?"

- "Kinky wins, people know him. Then we can find out just how much Texas wants to legalize marijuana. My prediction is. They vote to legalize!"
- "How strange is it that Kinky Friedman is the mainstream candidate in this runoff?"
- "It's a good year when I vote against Kinky Friedman twice."
- "Kinky get in... and the fun begins!"
- "Who cares?"
- "This one is a puzzler to me. Demo establishment will try to stop Kinky, but voters don't always respond to top-down pressure"
- "Because voters are NOT educated and believe whatever crazy Kinky says! HEAVENS!!!!!"

***Our thanks to this week's participants:** Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Tom Banning, Dave Beckwith, Amy Beneski, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Fred Bosse, Chris Britton, Terri Burke, David Cabrales, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Billy Howe, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Jason Johnson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Tim Lambert, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Mark Lehman, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Phillip Martin, Robert Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Keir Murray, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Steve Scurlock, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Charles Stuart, Sherry Sylvester, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Woody Widrow, Christopher Williston, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.*