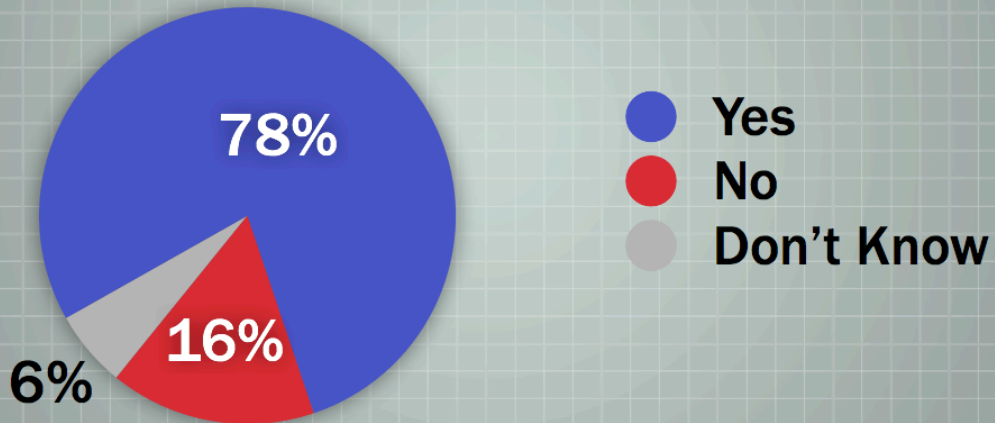


# “INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll  
for the week of 11 April 2014*

## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

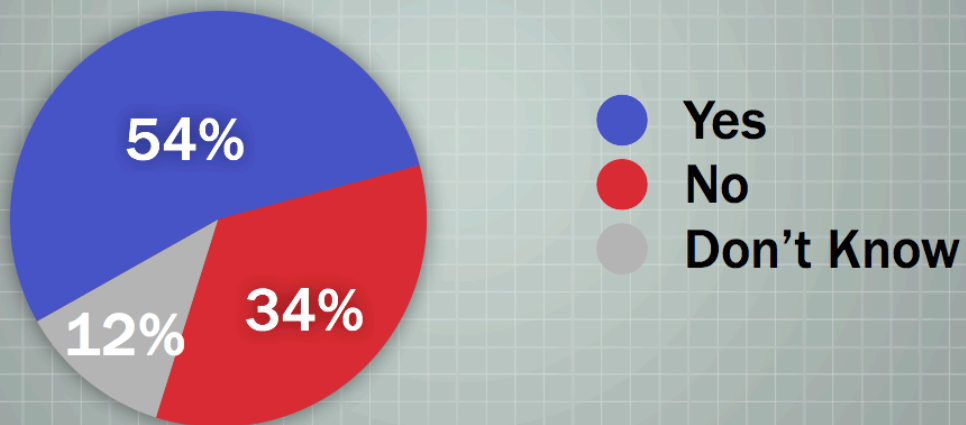
Should Wallace Hall leave the University of Texas Board of Regents?



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

## INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

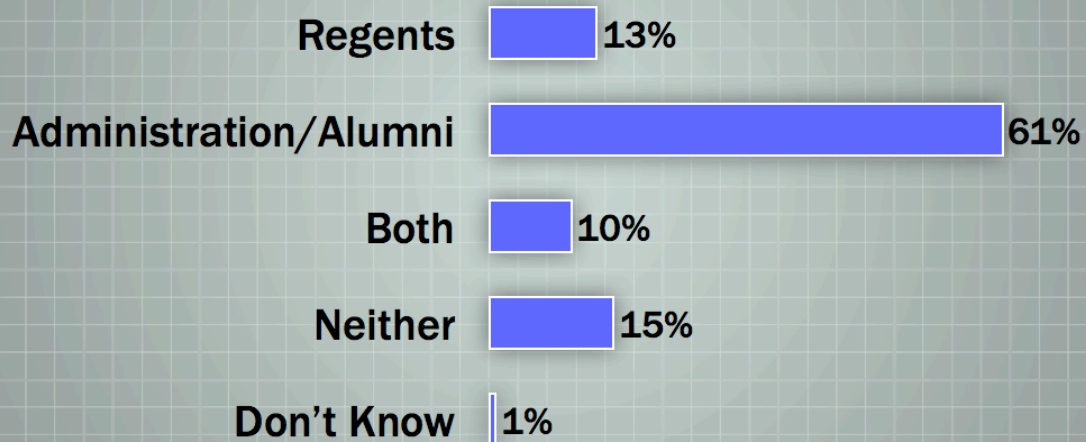
Should the Texas House impeach Hall?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

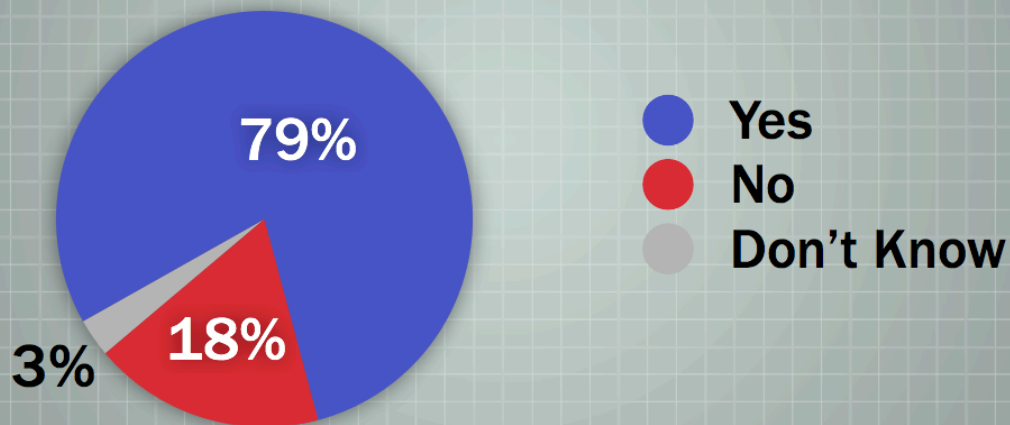
Where are your sympathies in this?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

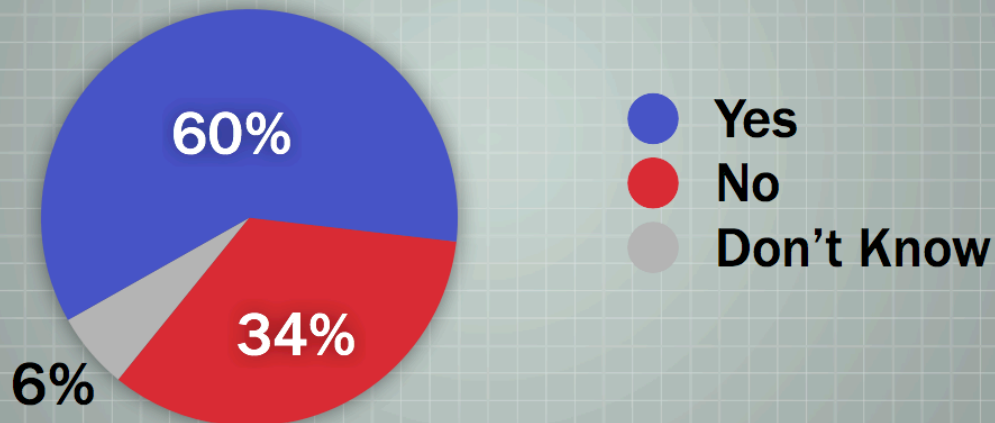
Is the squabbling affecting UT's reputation?



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

# INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

## Will it repel candidates for UT chancellor?



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

## *Should Wallace Hall leave the University of Texas Board of Regents?*

- "He should, but he won't. His ego won't allow him to do the right thing."
- "Unless he chooses to leave."
- "He has disgraced The University, the system, and himself; of course he should leave. But he won't."
- "He's a destructive nut."
- "His reputation is not rehabilitatable."
- "One should not come to conclusions without knowing all the details. However, his mere presence has become toxic and that is something UT cannot have hanging over its head."
- "If he has any respect for the institution, he should do what the old Bill Anderson song says....'walk out backwards'"
- "Simply to end the bloodshed."
- "He is nuts"
- "If he has not been found guilty of a crime he should stay"
- "He's a rabble rouser and needs to go to the aTm board to fit it."
- "Enough already! His intentions are clear and it's apparent he's there to simply try and oust Powers!"

- "When the topic of UT is anything other than educating kids, something is very wrong."
- "Only when and if all the facts are in and they support the action."
- "If our state government is truly set up so that Board Members and Commissioners oversee state agencies and not the Legislature, then Hall needs to stand his ground."
- "I am not even a huge UT fan, and neither is Hall. Board should be composed of members that want to improve the system."
- "Mr. Hall's only purpose for being on the Board of Regents was to disrupt, damage and destroy the University of Texas at Austin. His desire to have President Powers removed, fired or dismissed was fueled by his hatred of UT and is place of prominence in the state."
- "There is no justification for Hall's behavior. He should have resigned before now."
- "So we can replace him with somebody who will buy into the party line and do what he is told?"
- "Wallace's destructive and highly disruptive witch hunt does not make him a good candidate for overseeing a premier university... Unless we want McCarthyism type tactics in our government."
- "He has a political agenda foremost, not the best interests of the university."
- "Why? Asking questions that UT did not want to answer or that certain member of the legislature found uncomfortable is not grounds for impeachment."
- "It seems apparent to me that Perry sent him there with an agenda, since that's going to happen there's no need for him."
- "He should leave before he's indicted."
- "Wallace Hall has become a distraction to the important business of the University."
- "Does the Pope wear a funny hat?"
- "What a waste of time and resources. I'd never heard of this regent prior to this parlor game, and I'm anxious not to hear of him again. Shame on all parties for furthering this vapid inquiry."
- "Hall has acted like a thug and should leave the board and he should be impeached if he does not leave voluntarily."
- "He clearly had a personal agenda that was not in the best interest of the UT System."
- "He should resign, except that now that the legislature has forced his hand, resignation is a sign of defeat."
- "He has done an outstanding job exposing waste and corruption at a school that thinks it is above the law. Wallace Hall should be commended for his hard work and dedication."

## *Should the Texas House of Representatives impeach Hall?*

- "They first need to hear his side of the story and then weigh the facts and evidence before them. They should absolutely hold impeachment hearing--too many unanswered questions exist for this to go away on its own--but whether they vote to impeach him depends on the whole, complete picture of what happened. The logical progression is to carry this forward to the next step."
- "Being a destructive nut is not cause for impeachment."
- "Yes, because it will be good for higher education to litigate this in the open."
- "If it is determine he violated the law he should be."
- "Yes, if he won't step down."
- "The language of the Constitution and the relevant statutes relating to impeachment of state officers is so general, that once the Legislature starts down this path, there may be many more such inquiries for much less reason."
- "Only if they can prove definitively that he took advantage of his official capacity as a regent and used state funds for a personal witch hunt."
- "Not unless he has been found guilty of a criminal act"
- "It will cost too much to do it and constituents will not like it. It would seem congressional."
- "If he won't resign, then they may not have a choice."
- "If he isn't man enough to get out, throw him out."
- "Of all the issues state legislators should be tackling, this ain't one of them. This is truly a House committee looking for a reason to exist. I mean, come on...after this, what meaty topic does the House Select Committee in State Agency Operations have on the agenda?"
- "Maybe. If he won't resign."
- "As last resort. Cut a deal for him to resign."
- "This has a 'fox guarding the hen house' feel, when their primary gripe is that Hall was trying to reveal possible favors granted by UT's president to relatives of state legislators."
- "He should resign immediately."
- "He is indeed guilty of criminal activity and therefore should be impeach and removed from his position - and sentenced to time in a state prison facility."
- "Even if the Senate won't convict, or even if Hall ends up resigning before trial, a vote to impeach is an important political repudiation of Hall (which begins the process of repairing the damage)."
- "Texas House should be working on things that matter to real people -- this does not."
- "They shouldn't have to. He should step down."

- "If they impeach him, it gives a new definition to the word 'misdemeanors' within the phrase 'high crimes and misdemeanors.' I mean really, excessive public information requests?"
- "The pressure should be kept on this foul ball until he leaves."
- "They should now review Hall's allegations of improper influence by certain members of the legislature."
- "If only as a lesson to future Governors."
- "No, that will have a disastrous effect on every future state board or commission appointee in the future. Bad idea."
- "Seriously? Can we get back to work?"
- "The findings show a pattern where Mr. Hall decides for himself which laws and rules he will follow, while attacking others for not following the rules or law."
- "It's a really bad precedent to impeach someone who has broken no laws. All due respect to Mr. Hardin, but I don't think any laws were really broken here."
- "Good luck with that. It would be a nightmare scenario for the House leadership to have that fight on the floor."

***Are your sympathies more with the regents who say they want to reform and modernize UT or with the administrators and alumni who say they are trying to fend off political interference from the regents?***

- "This isn't about reform and modernity. This is about a bruised ego and retribution. That said, these two options aren't mutually exclusive--as an alumnus and tax payer, I loathe political interference from regents, especially from Inspector Clouseau, but I realize some reform and modernity is likely a good thing; but it's all in how it's pursued and explained."
- "Time to modernize in an artful way."
- "In the real world, politics would be out of higher learning institutes. However, we know that is not the case. The reality is that personal politics corrupt everything from hiring, to who gets to be a regent, to what is taught in the classroom."
- "Bill Powers' personality isn't all that congenial, but frankly it's refreshing to see a university president who isn't afraid to buck the rich, politically connected, (mostly) white men who think they are qualified to run our universities because they managed to get Perry to appoint them to the coveted board of regents. Statutory qualifications for being a regent? You must be a qualified voter. Seriously. That's it."
- "There is plenty of room to reform, update and modernize any higher ed

institution, including UT-Austin. However, blind allegiance to seven Sandefer ideas should not be the only acceptable changes at UT."

- "A plague on both their houses. This is politics 101 between an Aggie governor and the UT alums."

- "The regents at universities have a responsibility to lead and take action that will help sustain and grow the organization, think corporate board. If they deem it necessary to make changes to the administration and how the school operates then that is their job. If the administration and students do not like change or modernization maybe they should leave and find some place that wants to be static and whither."

- "But at the same time, I think the universities should become more financially independent."

- "Is this where I disclose I have a skin from that university?"

- "Inertia is a powerful force in an institution that needs outside influence to spur reform and innovation."

- "Insulated academics need to answer to somebody. But then regents need to know some bounds on how far they can or should go."

- "This is a battle between those who think they know it all and those who know they know it all. The only people more arrogant than political regents who want to 'help' their institution of higher education are the people in academia who never believe anyone outside of higher ed has a good idea."

- "Regents have become like the keystone cops and squandered any credible attempt to discuss modernization and/or reform."

- "The administration should not be so hostile to greater efficiency and accountability. The Regents aren't on the right path, but the administrators keep the war going by being flat out nonresponsive, even passive aggressive."

- "I am pro-reform and anti-dysfunction."

- "Board Members/Commissioners/Regents set policy at state agencies. If staff (even someone as entitled as Bill Powers) doesn't want to get on board then they need to get out of the way."

- "Regents have legitimate concerns about affordability and accessibility, but their tactics lack sophistication or persuasion, which reflects negatively on the governor."

- "EVERYONE wants to modernize UT - but you cannot do that by micromanaging the University administration - especially when they ARE moving the university forward with reforms and modernization!"

- "If you want to experiment with 'teacher productivity' and \$10,000 degrees that is fine, so long as you are doing it at Sam Houston State or UT Permian Basin. Leave the Tier 1 campuses alone!"

- "A university of the first class does not need to be run like a community college."



- "Is that what this whole thing is about? I thought it was about Perry trying to knock off a President so he could put one in at UT before leaving office...last big feather in his cap. Huh, who knew? Not a sympathizer, but hate scummy, belly crawling tactics."
- "The university could always use some belt-tightening, but this ham-handed interference is over the top."
- "The good old boy system at UT and every other institution has got to go."
- "My only sympathy is with the students."
- "Like nearly everything else, this is really all Rick Perry's fault. I can't wait for Rick to exit stage right."
- "Don't we have real problems to solve? Poor regents! Poor UT Austin! I'm going to tell my Mommy!"
- "Businessmen/entrepreneurs who know and care little about the colleges and universities they are appointed to oversee often do more damage than good."
- "UT regents have an exaggerated sense of value, as do their alumni, just like A&M."
- "Alumni (and I am one) are generally uninformed except by the headlines."

### ***Is the squabbling among regents, administrators and others affecting UT's reputation?***

- "Yes, UT's reputation is affected both short term and long term and both in-state and out-of-state. But what's hurting UT's reputation even more was Mack Brown's dismissal and departure."
- "Hall, Sandefer and Cranberg set out to hurt UT to prove their point."
- "It is affecting the reputation it has with the legislative body."
- "Homer Rainey, anyone?"
- "Hopefully, the next chancellor will possess the people and political skill to navigate among any conflicting parties and unite them toward common goals that benefit the flagship institution of this state. It is obvious, the previous chancellor was unable to do so."
- "UT's reputation ain't that great."
- "I think it's affecting UT's reputation within in the state and among alums but no one outside of Texas really cares."
- "And ain't it fun to watch! Hubris has a way of bringing about change. The 'mighty orange and white' so bold and brave and confident bringing its own house down. I need a drink and some snacks. This is made for TV fun that I enjoy."
- "Only when the press covers it. Otherwise, no one is paying attention."

- "Isn't this what the guy wants"
- "It is too 'inside baseball' for the vast majority of Texans to care."
- "In some circles...but would argue that UT's mediocre football teams in recent years have had a bigger impact on reputation."
- "It's very harmful, hurts UT's reputation and will make recruiting a new chancellor, our next President and outstanding faculty unnecessarily more challenging."
- "The push-back by staff and alumni is making them look petulant and above scrutiny."
- "Research dollars, private contributions, donations of collections etc. all slow down. Why give something to a university which is having 'stability' issues. When your regents and chancellor are having issues - it affects all of your universities, but most especially the flagship university!"
- "Even if you give the 'reformers' every possible benefit of the doubt, the State of Texas still comes off as schizophrenic at best. Don't we have an incentive fund to move other Universities into Tier 1? Don't we crow about fracking and other tech innovations driving economic development (the lion's share of which come out of Tier 1 campuses)? Then why is a regent doing everything in his power to disrupt and derail our top Tier 1 Texas university?"
- "Maybe for their ability to recruit. Who wants to work in an environment where the Regents are set free to conduct grand inquisitions on the basis of little fact and little finding."
- "Any time a university becomes embroiled in political turmoil, its reputation suffers"
- "Of course it is negatively affecting UT's reputation. Isn't that Perry's goal? (Whoop!)"
- "If Powers is concerned about the reputation then he should resign just as Mack Brown quit to better the football program."
- "The vast majority of people don't even know what a regent is, what Rick Perry is doing, or that there is even an agenda for change."
- "The legislature already has a poor reputation. UT System and the flagship campus, well who outside of Austin really cares? Not counting alumni, and former regents, and current and former staff - does anyone really give a damn about this?"
- "The reputation is sorry already."
- "Absolutely it is. Combine that with Baylor getting a real athletic program and A&M's (temporary) rise in prominence, and it's definitely hurting UT."

## *Will the turmoil keep qualified candidates for chancellor away from the University of Texas?*

- "Who would accept the challenge to lead this outstanding system when the governing body can't get along? It's a recipe for disaster."
- "Who would want to walk into this lava pit?"
- "All chancellors believe they are academic gods. They will avoid political zest pools."
- "Heck no....job pays WAY too much"
- "I think this is a rough patch but the truth is the chancellor of the UT system is still the brass ring in terms of academic posts."
- "The turmoil probably will keep some highly qualified candidates away from UT, but these regents aren't likely to select the next chancellor based on who's the best qualified candidate to lead the university anyway."
- "It is Texas, isn't it?"
- "Probably not. Texas will receive interest from plenty of qualified candidates. Look at the recent hire for the medical school. He had a great gig in California. He jumped at the chance to come to UT in spite of any turmoil."
- "The money and power will attract plenty of candidates."
- "Why would a new chancellor want to walk in to the hornet's nest while overseeing the largest flagship university in the state?"
- "There is always someone who likes a challenge and excels at turnarounds. Alabama football was in the tank at one time and then came along the turn around guy."
- "It's a really big carrot."
- "Chancellor candidates for UT would be able to pick their institution. They will not want to come a place where they are not able to lead without undue interference."
- "Who the hell would want to step into that mess?"
- "Absolutely!"
- "The UT System is among the top university systems in the country. None of that changes simply because TMF is on a witch-hunt."
- "Someone will always want that position. The question is whether or not it will be a bright leader or a political appointee in search of a new office."
- "LOTS of people want the opportunity to be the next Chancellor - the one that 'brings it back to its mission' and works WITH the administration for the good of the school and the state! The next Chancellor should NOT be a political appointee of Perry's - someone who like Perry simply wants to destroy UT! WHY would you allow Kyle Janek - an AGGIE to come in as Chancellor? (And please don't say that he went to UT for med school, he is a DIEHARD aggie and would do the bidding of Perry to continue to due

harm to UT. BTW - I think Wallace Jefferson should be the next Chancellor of UT!"

- "The 'turmoil' is virulent anti-intellectualism. Academics (including Chancellors) are intellectuals. Why would you take a job at a place that hates you?"

- "Would you walk into this mess?"

- "There will be plenty of candidates, but some highly qualified possibilities will wisely stay away from a toxic political environment."

- "It will attract more candidates. The Pay. The Prestige. And they can only do better than Powers."

- "Yes, that's why it needs to stop. Perry leaving will certainly be a plus in the search for a new Chancellor."

- "Yes, until Abbott takes office."

- "We need a chancellor who can act as a calming influence and get back to the job at hand."

- "Even though it is a highly respected university, why would any quality candidate for Chancellor want to submit themselves to that chaos of leadership?"

- "Pay me the Chancellor's or President's salary. I'll get over the turmoil."

- "No qualified chancellor candidates would seek the position."

- "It is actually likely to attract the right type of candidates."

***Our thanks to this week's participants:*** Gene Acuna, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Jay Brown, David Cabrales, Kerry Cammack, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Jon Fisher, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Daniel Gonzalez, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Steve Holzheuser, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Dan McClung, Steve Minick, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Jerry Philips, Tom Phillips, Richard Pineda, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Bradford Shields, Christopher Shields, Julie Shields, Nancy Sims, Ed Small, Martha Smiley,

Mark Smith, Larry Soward, Leonard Spearman, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Gerard Torres, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.