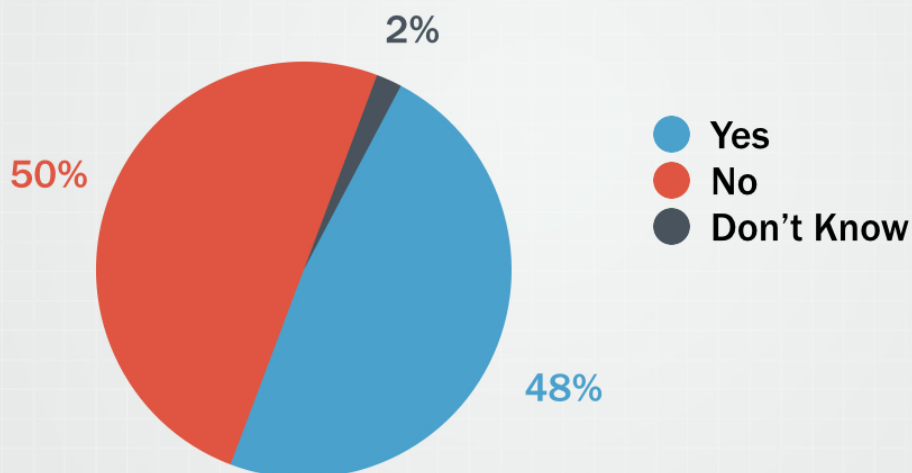


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 25 April 2014*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

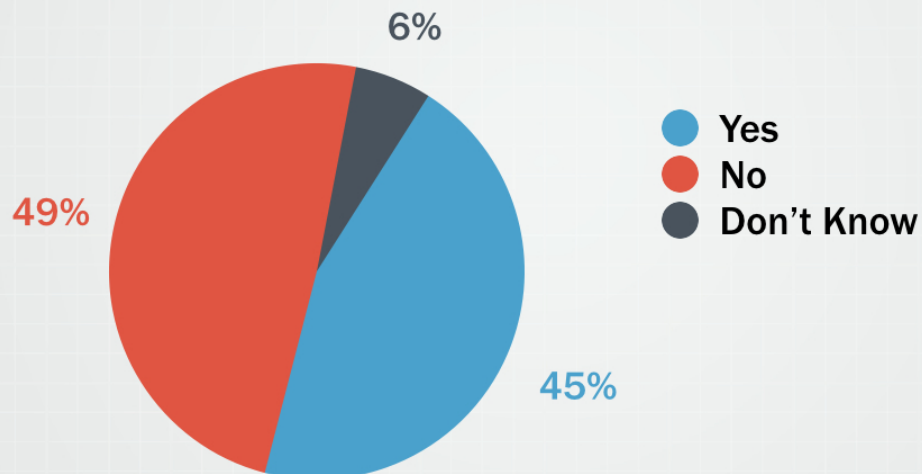
WAS GOV. PERRY WRONG TO THREATEN
A LOCAL PROSECUTOR'S FUNDING?



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

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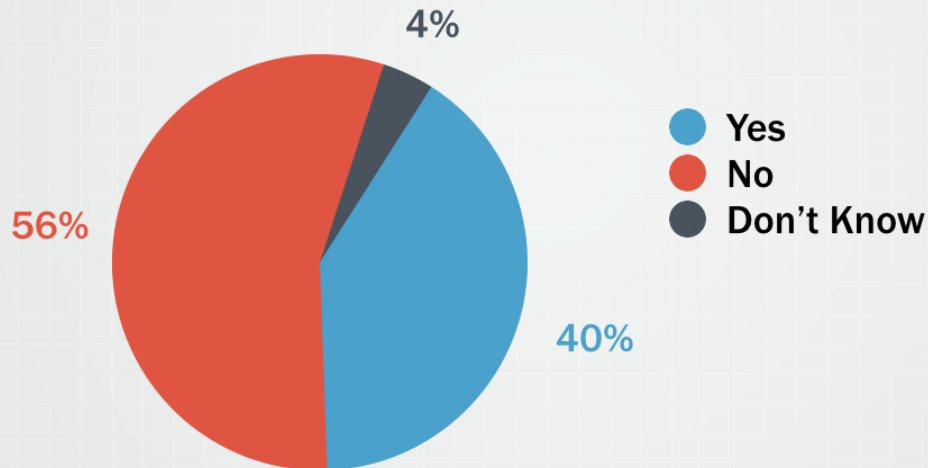
SHOULD LEHMBERG HAVE RESIGNED TO SAVE THE FUNDING?



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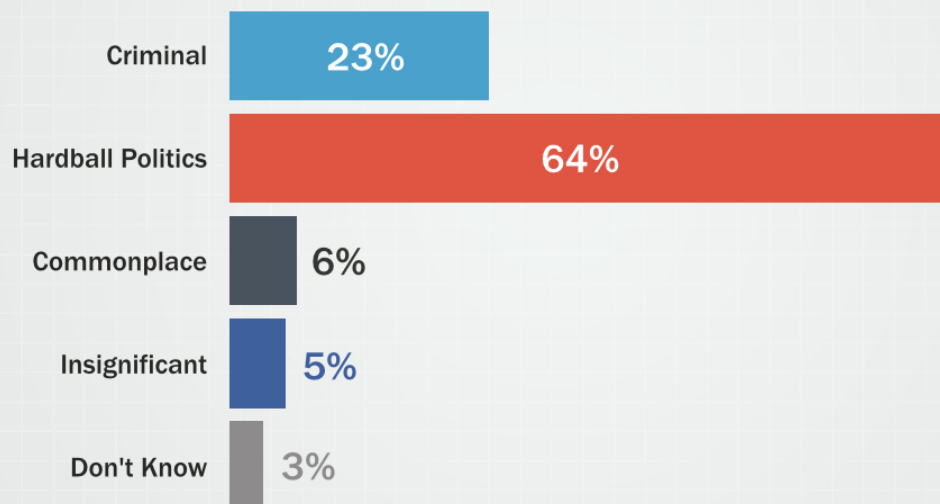
WAS PERRY RIGHT TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE VETO?



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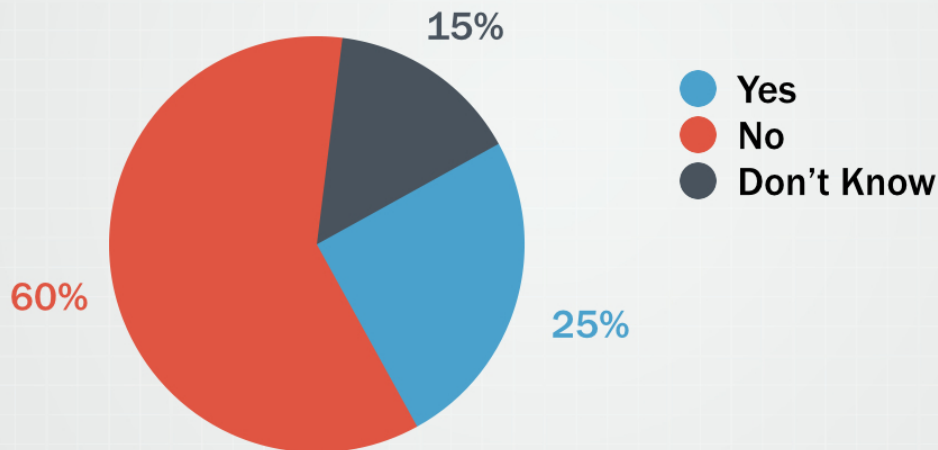
HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS?



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WILL THIS AFFECT PERRY'S POLITICAL FUTURE?



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Was Gov. Rick Perry out of line when he threatened to veto funding for Travis County's public integrity unit if District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg didn't resign?

- "It diminishes public confidence and is a disservice to our taxpayers to use state funds on an organization led by someone who is both a prosecutor and a convicted criminal."
- "It wasn't the action of the veto that was problematic as much as the 'threat' of resign or else that was the problem."
- "Perry can veto for any reason or no reason. Besides weren't Republicans interested in getting the Travis County DA out of state wide public integrity?"
- "Did you not see the video footage? Or the mugs hot bumper stickers on Mopac?"
- "It's called balance of power: a funding dispute between executive and legislative branches."
- "Perry wasn't out of line, but Lehmberg was out of line when she verbally abused and attempted to intimidate the law enforcement officers."

- "He was out of line in the same way Ronnie Earls was out of line on going after Tom Delay."
- "I doubt there was anyone within a thousand miles of Travis County who did not get the political motive"
- "Proof his power has gone straight to his head. Not the Perry all of us use to know."
- "If his actions were criminal then dozens of crimes are committed every legislative session. Although this issue has become a politically partisan one, there is sufficient basis for reasonable people to argue that Lehmberg should have been forced out of office by any leverage available. There is also sufficient basis for reasonable people to argue against the existence of the public integrity unit itself being housed in the Travis County DA's office. Perry will win in the court of public opinion on this one, everywhere except maybe Travis County."
- "He knew she wouldn't resign, and she knew he would veto the funding - two wrongs don't make a right, and in this instance, somebody has gone some 'splainin' to do."
- "Lehmberg was abusing her office of trust and threatening people in an alcoholic rage."
- "'Out of line' doesn't really mean anything, does it. Certainly one would hope for better judgment in one's chief executive, but who's surprised. In any case, this is kind of what governors DO."
- "She's in charge of enforcing ethical behavior for state politicians and should lead by example."
- "If the person who is supposed to uphold the laws is caught breaking the laws then any Governor would have and should have vetoed the funding for that unit if that person did not resign."
- "It was a political move, typically ham-handed by Perry, but well within ethical and legal boundaries."
- "He can veto appropriations for any reason he so chooses. Lehmberg is out of line for not resigning for all the right reasons."
- "Isn't he the same guy that says government should not interfere in 'local' issues?"
- "Maybe not legal in what he did, but politically it fit."
- "Out of line yes...but probably nothing illegal!"
- "It's nuanced; but if he is found to have used his official capacity and powers to threaten another against use of valid powers, he could be found to have abused his office"
- "Drunk driving is often deadly."
- "The loser in all this is us. We have to pay for everyone to settle their political scores. Millions of dollars, several grand juries, and Tom Delay is found not guilty. Do we really think there is a crime here?"
- "REALLY? This is an issue? This is a waste of time and money. And the press does not dig deeper to see if

Wendy Davis has a conflict of interest in her legal work with governmental entities while she is a sitting Texas State Senator? Talk about corruption!!!! Please people."

- "If you run with a sharp stick, you might just poke your own eye out."
- "Its hard to figure out where the line is with Perry."

• "Absolutely not. It is an outrage that she is still in office."

• "Ms. Lehmberg is a poster child for a politician devoid of morals, ethics, courage, and basic common decency. She remains a stain on the Office she holds."

• "He gets to make policy choices, too."

Should Lehmberg have resigned to preserve the funding?

• "Lehmberg's lack of personal integrity, her disrespect for the law, the fact that she threatened to fire the officers involved in her arrest and her conviction are just a few of the reasons she should have resigned."

• "It is pretty clear though that this unit needs to be transferred out of the control of Travis County Democrats."

• "She should have resigned to preserve the integrity of the office. Pathetic."

• "Did she need another reason to resign?"

• "She should have resigned for violating the public trust and losing its confidence."

• "Anyone who believes they are above the should not hold public office."

• "Should have played the hobby rule card, but could not submit to such blatant extortion"

• "She should have resigned, though."

• "No, Lehmberg should have resigned because it would have been the honorable thing to do. And Perry should have been willing to do the honorable thing and appoint one of Lehmberg's assistants to finish out her term."

• "Funding and politics aside, she acted inappropriately and treated law enforcement with gross disrespect. Yeah, she should have resigned..."

• "She should have resigned because she failed the Mayor Rob Ford test of public integrity."

• "Funding aside, she should have resigned to preserve the integrity of the office. The only reason she did not resign and there was not uproar is because a Republican Governor would have had to name her replacement."

• "She should have resigned because she had a serious screw-up that would have resulted in the firing of her employees if they had done it."

• "She should have resigned, but not in response to Perry."

- "She should have resigned to protect integrity of the office. How can you, in good conscience, prosecute drunk drivers when the prosecutor sets an example like that?"

- "I chose no because the d.a. should have resigned as a result of her loss of moral authority."

- "Lehmberg should have resigned because it was the right thing for her to do - not because of a veto threat."

- "She should have resigned because it was the right thing to do."

- "And allow Rick Perry yet ANOTHER appointment. I understand why she did not resign (right or wrong!)."

- "And other reasons"

- "Hard to say. She couldn't be shown as being scared by the threat, but I think she may have stayed for principal as opposed to what made sense. Would a republican in that job have necessarily been bad for democrats for 2 years? Probably not. I like her a lot personally, but the lack of funding has cut the ability of that office to do the scope of work that has to be done, producing a bad result. Resigning might have been a show of not being bullied, but in terms of the public integrity unit's work, it seems to have been a mild disaster. So what's the greater good?"

- "Lehmberg should have resigned, but not to preserve the funding. She should have resigned immediately, before Perry made the threat."

- "No she should have resigned because she betrayed the trust of

Travis County voters and law enforcement officers."

- "She should have resigned, not to preserve the funding, but because of her utter disgrace of the office to which she was elected. Her behavior was revolting and infantile."

- "Maybe should have resigned for other reasons but not this one--bad precedent for the office."

- "She should have resigned to retain some integrity for her office, and herself."

- "She should have resigned for failing to adhere to the standard of conduct for a public official responsible for enforcing laws."

- "Her lack of good character was first indicated by drunk driving, then by selfishly hanging onto an office that she's proven to be unworthy of."

- "She should have resigned to save her office and her constituents embarrassment."

- "Lehmberg is one of the poster children for what is wrong in Austin"

- "She should have resigned because she made bad choices that impacted and will continue to impact that office. Quit go find a new job and move on lady."

- "Absolutely not. She should have resigned because of her loathsome behavior not because of political pressure."

- "No, she should have resigned to preserve the integrity of the Travis County's DA office."

- "She sacrificed others jobs to save her own. She should have resigned because of the arrest."

- "Actually, she should have resigned because driving drunk and being belligerent with law enforcement is not appropriate for the county's chief law enforcement official."

- "She should have resigned for her conviction and her treatment of law enforcement professionals, much less this."

- "No, Ms. Lehmberg should have been resigned in shame for her behavior, not to preserve the funding."

- "She should have resigned in light of her actions but not due to political pressure."

- "Lehmberg showed poor form in both being arrested and her behavior that night. But everyone makes mistakes. Whether she should have resigned is really up to her."

Was Perry right to follow through with the veto after she didn't resign?

- "As the Governor explained when he took this action, the Public Integrity Unit is in no other way held accountable to state taxpayers, except through the State budgetary process."

- "It was within his constitutional rights to do so."

- "If your question is a legal one, I don't know. But politically the veto didn't accomplish anything (except to hurt motor fuels tax collections) so I'd bet the Governor would like to have that one back - especially with the bigger goals he is trying to focus on now."

- "He would've looked weak if he had not followed through; all bark and no bite does not make someone tough."

- "Say what you mean and mean what you say. If he didn't follow through with his threat, his integrity would have been tarnished."

- "In the 2001 session, Perry had no friends presiding over the House and Senate. He threatened to veto bills he didn't like and the Lege passed them anyway. If I recall correctly, resulted in over 80 vetoes. Here, same song different verse. It's his prerogative and he used it."

- "He has the right, but that doesn't make it right."

- "No one who drinks a bottle of Vodka a day should have the keys to the Public Integrity Unit."

- "'Right?' Who writes this stuff anyway? HE thinks he was right. I don't agree with his decision as a matter of policy, but I can't say it was 'wrong.'"

- "But what option did he have?"

- "Can't make a veto threat and not follow through."

- "She was caught breaking the law and lawmakers are supposed to fund"

- "I guess he wasn't lying."

- "This controversy is yet another attempt by Democrats -- who cannot win at the ballot box -- to criminalize political activity by their opponents. It has a rich history in Travis County. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Tom DeLay and now Perry spring immediately to mind."

- "Once he staked his position, he had to follow through."

- "He had too - she called his bluff"

- "But I assume he got advised as to the possible consequences before he did it"

- "'Right' or not, he didn't have any choice but to follow through"

- "If there is an offense, he probably committed it with the threat"

- "What good is your word if you're afraid to stand by it?"

- "Not really a question of right. He had the political authority to veto the

funding for the public integrity section Lehmberg's office and her behavior provided him the political opening to do so."

- "The flushing sound you here is more of our money going down the toilet."

- "Hell yes! People's choices and actions have consequences. Lehmberg needs to know that. It appears that Austin/Travis County political leaders are cowards at the least or they are so arrogant that they don't think she should be held accountable. Simple analogy: if the DOJ is investigating 'Bridgagate' in NJ as it relates to Gov. Christie you don't think a sitting Gov in Texas should take action in a case like this?"

- "Rick Perry doesn't make idle threats."

- "Make a promise and then back it up. Mr. Perry knows how to do both."

- "She has no public integrity."

- "Yes, but don't let the Lehmberg incident fool you. Rs have been looking to defund that group for years; this was a very convenient excuse."

How would you characterize the threat and the veto?

- "Your survey omits the correct choice: Leadership and stewardship!"

- "Since it was all about trying to put a Republican in to the position it was more than hardball politics it was ugly politics. But the law says his act was criminal and somebody should have advised him accordingly."

- "I assume Perry or his advisers thought this was a free shot to attack a the most prominent elected Democrat in the state (Travis County DA). If so, they were very wrong about it not having any downside."

- "Hardball politicking is part of our Texas DNA."

- "Interfering with a law-enforcement unit that could very well prosecute him"
- "How about 'constitutional'?"
- "How about criminal hardball politics? In this circumstance, the elected official's conduct warranted her resignation. But if there are no repercussions for the governor, what is to keep a future governor from threatening to veto funding for a university, or for public safety, or for public education simply because he/she wants an executive director or an appointee from the previous administration to step down?"
- "Depending on the lawyer, one may say criminal while the other says insignificant; most dome-watchers shrug it off to hardball politics; and the voters - this is what they expect - it's just commonplace."
- "Loaded question. Characterize the veto as hardball reform."
- "If a person offered the guy big \$\$\$\$\$ to veto a bill is that criminal?"
- "Threat was criminal; veto was not. He should have just done it without mouthing off ahead of time."
- "And unfortunately, commonplace"
- "Legislators and business are told every session to change language in a bill or get it vetoed. That is not coercion or blackmail. The person with the veto pen does have the power at the end of the session. She should have got drunk and yelled at the cameras after session."
- "Stupid."
- "This episode underscores the utter stupidity of having voters in one unrepresentative county -- and a highly partisan one -- control election of the individual responsible for ethics enforcement for the entire state."
- "The governor's threat was hardball politics. The Travis County District Attorney's Office is now playing hardball politics. But please explain: They can't convict their own self-admitted, all-on-video drunk boss...but can get an indictment against the governor for a veto threat? That's politics...not an impartial legal process...and proof of what Travis County is really all about."
- "No mention is ever made of the effect on all the cases that were pending against his 'friends'. That is the criminal act in my opinion. His actions had the direct effect of helping his 'friends' get out of possible criminal charges."
- "Somewhere between the first two options."
- "It's on the border between hardball and criminal--enough so that it may well end in an indictment not no conviction."
- "Only those blinded by partisanship could actually believe this was a criminal act."
- "In the worst, most cynical sense."
- "The right thing to do."
- "Perry's only potential misstep is the 'if' in, paraphrasing, 'I will veto the appropriation if Lehmberg does not resign.'"

- "I would label the Guv's actions as a public integrity unit in and of itself. The Guv was simply acting as a leader and check on the bad behavior of the public integrity unit since there was no one in Austin/Travis County with the courage or willingness to do it."
- "Poor insight to defund the public integrity unit. For political purposes, I think that he could have gained more by continuing to keep the heat on Lehmberg to step down because she is a public disgrace to that office. It's inappropriate to have the head of the Public Integrity Unit facing criminal charges for her very public criminal behavior."
- "Depends on the Grand Jury first and the courts second if it gets that far."
- "The one person who put Ms. Lehmberg in the difficult position she was in was Ms. Lehmberg. She had every good reason to resign. She decided it was more important to keep her job than to preserve the function of the organization."
- "It's too early to state exactly, but there's a lot of smoke."
- "Necessary"
- "Ms. Lehmberg should be ashamed of her behavior and had the moral fortitude to do the right thing and resign. Lacking that courage, she alone faces the blame for the consequences."
- "The chief law enforcement officer of the county was driving drunk! The hardball politics was demonstrated by the Democrats who refused to push her out."
- "People trade votes all the time. This should be no surprise. To any who say it was criminal, I say you're a fool and don't understand the law."
- "Y'all need a multiple choice option, here! The threat and the veto were simultaneously commonplace, and hardball politics. As to whether or not the threat constituted bribery - and therefore criminal actions - anyone who claims to know the answer with certainty is fooling themselves. It's impossible to say for sure, given the limited public information which exists. And for the same reason, it's impossible to rule it out."
- "Hardball politics squared...jeopardizing the investigation of CPRIT is what pushes it into the criminal arena."

Will this affect Perry's political future?

- "The Left is attempting to portray what the Governor did as criminal. The problem with their narrative is that there is only one criminal in this matter and it's Rosemary Lehmberg."
- "Not in any future Republican primaries he might or might not run."
- "No one cares except bored flacks and hacks."
- "In modern presidential politics 'under investigation' seems to be a standard entry on many candidates' resumes. So, no, no effect."

- "He's running in a Republican primary. It will be easy to message the situation against the immoral democrats."

- "What is left of it – not like the presidential gesture could be much more than an exit strategy"

- "Probably - why else would a special prosecutor raise the issue eight months later, post-Primary election, with a lame duck governor, who has Presidential aspirations?"

- "Too soon to guess. Certainly an indictment would not be a positive thing for a presidential campaign."

- "Positively"

- "It's hard to imagine a Travis County Grand Jury NOT indicting a REPUBLICAN. He'll use it as a badge for fighting liberals. His opponents will use it to say he's mean and corrupt. It will keep Rosemary in the news for quite a while either way."

- "It will cast a cloud over his national plans until the matter is resolved, which could be a long time."

- "Depends on whether he is indicted."

- "No. Just keep showing the Lehmborg video over and over and over and over..."

- "What political future?"

- "He is crazy; crazies are the 'in' thing now; Rick Perry will remain popular."

- "Not sure this would hurt him in the republican primary: i.e. this was the same office that prosecuted Delay for

years until he was cleared on appeal; most people think that being hard on crime should include extra responsibility on those in the top prosecution job, etc."

- "This could be bad."

- "It could; but an indictment with no conviction probably will not."

- "Positively."

- "Probably not, but any indictment would do harm in that it would divert him from his preferred talking points."

- "Of course it can hurt him if he is indicted. But hell a ham sand which can be indicted. I am not some Perry lackey just someone who believes people need to be help accountable for their actions and choices. I hope he beats this and beats it handily."

- "No impact as this kerfuffle too shall pass. Are you going to defend the raving drunk DA kicking the jail door?"

- "The persecution of elected officials by officeholders from one of 254 counties has to stop. The bias of Travis County democrats is appalling. It is more than obvious that the democrats are trying to use this issue to derail Governor Perry's political aspirations. It is high time the republicans stopped this farce and put a statewide elected official in charge of investigating state elected officials."

- "If he runs for President, this will be used against him. Chris Christi is being bashed for actions of is staff.... this is Perry personally making these statements."

- "He is bullet proof"
- "Ask Chris Christie if bully tactics can impact your political future on a national stage."
- "This is on of those outrages that the press will go nuts about -- but the public gets it. The DA was driving drunk. She should have been forced out."
- "All they have to do is show the video of her being processed and that will take care of it."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Jenny Aghamalian, Victor Alcorta, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, David Cabrales, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Thure Cannon, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Harold Cook, 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, Jim Grace, John Greytok, Jack Gullahorn, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, John Heasley, Ken Hodges, Steve Holzheuser, Billy Howe, Laura Huffman, Deborah Ingersoll, Richie Jackson, Cal Jillson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Dale Laine, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Myra Leo, Richard Levy, Ruben Longoria, Vilma Luna, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Mike McKinney, Kathy Miller, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Steve Murdock, Nelson Nease, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Jerod Patterson, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Kraege Polan, Gary Polland, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Karen Reagan, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Luis Saenz, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Robert Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Jason Skaggs, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Tom Spilman, Jason Stanford, Bill Stevens, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Michael Quinn Sullivan, Sherry Sylvester, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, John Weaver, Ware Wendell, Ken Whalen, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.