

The Center for Politics and Governance presents

WHAT'S

WHO'S RIGHT?

WHO'S LEFT?

NEXT?

Texas Politics and Policy Beyond 2008
Thursday, November 6, 2008





WELCOME



The Center for Politics and Governance at the LBJ School of Public Affairs is committed to improving the institutions of our political system. Our mission is to be the nexus of the theoretical and practical in the teaching of politics and political leadership – not simply how to master the existing system, but how to make it function more effectively to achieve better results.

On the heels of an historic election season and on the eve of the state legislative session, we turn our attention to the implications of the election results for Texas politics and policy. We do so not only because we are fortunate to be housed at the flagship university in the capital city, but because in the politics and governance of the United States today, Texas matters. The latest Census results are just a reminder that Texas and the Southwest region is where the country is going. It is where people and business are moving. And the state is diverse. It combines huge spaces with the second-largest state population that includes three of the country's ten largest cities. It has a conservative white electorate in a state that is rapidly moving toward being majority Hispanic. This state has produced three of the last nine presidents. It has produced a disproportionate number of modern Congressional leaders, Democratic and Republican. If Texas is the future of the country, what works here then, in politics and in governance, becomes a model for the country at large.

As the Center enters its second year, we are thrilled to announce that the Honorable Sherri Greenberg, former member of the Texas House of representatives, will lead our state politics and policy initiatives. Under Professor Greenberg's guidance, the Center will study, conduct analysis, and facilitate the success of Texas state policy and politics through a broad range of state-specific programs. We launch our effort with today's conference to examine the implications of the 2008 election for Texas.

We are very grateful to the elected officials, political observers, and experts who will lead our forum. It is our hope that you will actively participate in this discussion and that the Center for Politics and Governance will help bridge ideas and actions to arrive at solutions for the way forward.

Best wishes,

Veronica Vargas Stidvent
Director



AGENDA

Thursday, November 6, 2008 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center

10:05 - 10:20 AMPHITHEATRE 204

OPENING KEYNOTE

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

10:30 - 11:45 AMPHITHEATRE 204

PANEL DISCUSSION

The 08 Consequences for the 09 Session

INTRODUCTION: the Honorable Sherri Greenberg, CPG Fellow

MODERATOR: Evan Smith, *Texas Monthly*

PANEL:

Senator John Carona Representative Scott Hochberg
Representative Jerry Madden Senator Florence Shapiro
Representative Sylvester Turner Senator Kirk Watson

12:00 - 1:15 SALON C

LUNCH KEYNOTE

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

1:30 - 2:45 AMPHITHEATRE 204

PANEL DISCUSSION

Forecast for the 2010 Elections

MODERATOR: Paul Stekler, CPG Director of Research Studies

PANEL:

James Aldrete, Message Audience & Presentation
Paul Burka, *Texas Monthly* Kelly Fero, Fero Hewitt Global
Bryan Eppstein, The Eppstein Group Christy Hoppe, *Dallas Morning News*
Dr. Sean Theriault, Associate Professor, UT Austin

3:00 - 3:20 AMPHITHEATRE 204

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Mayor Bill White



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DAVID H. DEWHURST

Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst is a native Texan, proud veteran, successful businessman and rancher. As President of the Senate, he has presided over three Regular Sessions and seven Special Sessions, working to pass legislation to create new jobs and economic opportunity, improve schools and protect public safety.

Lt. Governor Dewhurst has worked to balance three budgets, cut property taxes, and turn a \$10 billion deficit into a multi-billion dollar budget surplus. Since he was elected, Texas has added more than one-million new jobs and the state's economy has continued to outpace the nation's economy.

In the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, Governor Perry appointed Dewhurst as Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security. After completing public hearings around the state, the Task Force prepared one of the most comprehensive reports in the nation — focusing on detecting, deterring and responding to terrorist attacks.

Dewhurst began his business career in the mid-1970s after serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. State Department.



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

In 1993, Texans elected Kay Bailey Hutchison to the United States Senate in a special election, making her the first—and, to date, the only—woman elected to represent the state in the Senate. One year later, she was re-elected to a full six-year term. And in 2000, more than four million Texans voted for her re-election to a second full term—no other Texas candidate has ever captured more votes. In 2006, she was again re-elected by an overwhelming margin. She serves in the Senate leadership, having been elected by her colleagues to be chairman of the Republican Policy Committee in the 110th Congress, making her the fourth-highest ranking Republican senator.

Senator Hutchison has played a vital role in shaping America's defense policy and fulfilling our nation's promises to our veterans as chairman of the Appropriation Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and as a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense during the 109th Congress. She has worked to secure funding for additional border patrol agents and strengthen homeland security. Senator Hutchison has championed tax relief for working families, leading the fight to provide relief from the marriage income tax penalty and to reestablish the deduction of state and local sales taxes for Texans. During her tenure in the U.S. Senate, Texas has moved to third in the nation in receipt of federal research and development expenditures.

The Senator's Texas roots run deep. Thomas Rusk of Nacogdoches was the first Texan to hold the U.S. Senate seat she currently occupies. He and Senator Hutchison's great-great-grandfather, Charles S. Taylor, were friends and both signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. Senator Hutchison grew up in La Marque, Texas and graduated from the University of Texas and UT Law School. She was twice elected to the Texas House of Representatives. In 1990, she was elected Texas State Treasurer. In June 2000, she and several colleagues coauthored *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate*, and in 2004, she released her second book, *American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country*. Sen. Hutchison published her most recent bestseller, *Leading Ladies: American Trailblazers*, in October 2007.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the The University of Texas Outstanding Alumna Award; Association of United States Army Outstanding Legislator Award; and Forbes Magazine's 2005 World's 100 Most Powerful Women.



MAYOR BILL WHITE

Mayor White's leadership has brought Houston together, as shown by his overwhelming re-election to a third term. He uses business practices every day at City Hall to improve service and get things done.

He has aggressively attacked our community's most difficult challenges, such as investment in neighborhood drainage, reform of municipal pensions, holding the line on property taxes with rate cuts and increased senior exemptions, attacking crime hot spots and even faster removal of stalled vehicles to reduce wrecks and traffic congestion.



Americans witnessed Mayor White's hands-on management style when he helped lead Houston's competent, compassionate response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Now in his third term, Mayor White is accelerating work to revitalize our City's most neglected neighborhoods, with foreclosure and hundreds of new housing starts on thousands of abandoned properties. He also initiated a program to weatherize thousands of homes in older neighborhoods, saving homeowners an average of 20 percent on their electricity bills.

In addition, Mayor White has aggressive programs to enforce pollution laws, reduce the flooding impact of new developments, raise high school graduation rates, and encourage more flexible working hours.

Before serving as mayor, White built one of the region's most successful businesses. Previously he served as Deputy Secretary of Energy of the United States, where he helped diversify national energy supplies and saved taxpayers billions of dollars with management reforms. Earlier in his career, he helped build and manage one of the nation's most successful law firms.

For decades Mayor White and his wife Andrea have helped lead numerous charitable and civic organizations. The Whites are parents of three students and attend St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

CPG SUPPORTERS



The Center for Politics and Governance would like to thank ViaNovo for its generous support of this event.



at&t

The Center for Politics and Governance's founding was made possible by a generous grant from our friends at the AT&T Foundation.



PARTICIPANTS



JAMES ALDRETE

James Aldrete is President and Creative Director of Message Audience & Presentation (MAP), a political communications company that serves Democratic, progressive and social causes across the country. The driving force behind MAP is the belief that we can expand the appeal of progressive messages, and give them more power to shape the larger political dialogue, by integrating communication theory with higher level creative.

Today Aldrete serves as the lead Hispanic media partner to the Obama for America presidential campaign, and has advised clients ranging from the National Education Association to Planned Parenthood Federation of America on communicating with and mobilizing the Hispanic electorate.

Campaigns & Elections Magazine recently named Aldrete a “Rising Star,” and his firm’s work has been recognized in previous issues, as well as the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, and Slate Magazine.

Prior to founding MAP, Aldrete served as Deputy Press Secretary to the Ann Richards for Governor Campaign, and as Creative Director for Gold Communications, an Affiliate of Public Strategies, Inc. Aldrete currently serves as the Board Chair for Planned Parenthood of Austin, and on the Board of Directors of the Texas Freedom Network and the Texas ACLU.



PAUL BURKA

Paul Burka is a native Texan who grew up in Galveston. He graduated from Rice University with a B.A. in history and earned a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law. As an attorney, he worked in the Texas Legislative Council and served as a committee counsel in the Texas Senate. Mr. Burka joined the editorial staff of *Texas Monthly* in 1974, in the magazine’s second year of publication and has covered Texas politics for more than three decades. He has the National Magazine award for reporting excellence, the American Bar Association’s Silver Gavel Award for writing about the impact of the law upon society, and the Texas Institute of Letters’ journalism award. He has served as an adjunct professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and currently teaches in the Plan II undergraduate honors program. He is also a frequent guest discussing politics on national

news programs on MSNBC, Fox News, and CNN. His articles on politics have appeared in many newspapers, including the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Washington Post*.



JOHN J. CARONA

First elected to the Texas Legislature in 1990, Senator John Carona is now in his fourth term in the Texas Senate, representing District 16 in Dallas County. Previously, Senator Carona was elected to three terms in the Texas House of Representatives.

Senator Carona has distinguished himself in the Texas Legislature as an effective leader. Following the 2007 legislative session, The Dallas Morning News named him to their Legislative Leaderboard. Capitol Inside selected him as Most Valuable Player. Texas Senate, and Texas Monthly recognized him as one of the Ten Best Legislators.

Senator Carona serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security and as a member of the Senate Criminal Justice, Jurisprudence, and State Affairs committees. In addition, he currently serves as President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate and Chairman of the Joint Legislative Study Committee on Private Participation in Toll Projects.

Senator Carona has been a resident of Dallas since early childhood. He was educated in the Dallas Independent School District, graduating from Bryan Adams High School. He received bachelors of business administration degrees in insurance and real estate from The University of Texas at Austin in 1978, currently serves as president of a national realty management firm, and is married and the proud father of five children.



BRYAN EPPSTEIN

Bryan Eppstein is a Texas based Republican political consultant and pollster.

He is president and founder of The Eppstein Group, a 25 year-old public affairs firm with offices in Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth. His company has 15 employees and specializes in political campaign consulting, advocacy/grassroots communications, government relations, opinion polling and corporate public affairs strategies.

This November, Bryan surpassed his 1,000th campaign milestone. During the past eight years, he has been named by the Austin based “Capitol Inside” newsletter as the top Republican political consultant in Texas winning 93% of his elections.



In the Texas legislature, Bryan has elected over one half of the Republicans currently serving in the Texas House of Representatives and State Senate. Four of his clients currently serve in the US House of Representatives; and Bryan was pollster/general consultant for both US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples in their 2006 statewide elections.

Bryan is also a recipient of international, national and local awards for print and broadcast political advertising including five national 2007 POLLIE AWARDS from the American Association of Political Consultants; and three national 2008 TELLY AWARDS for excellence in television advertising.

Bryan is a graduate of Rice University and a former adjunct instructor of journalism at TCU.

KELLY FERRO

Named top Texas Democratic strategist by the influential Capitol Inside political newsletter for three years running (2004, 2005, 2006), Kelly Ferro has been called the “go-to guy” for a long list of political candidates and public policy leaders.

An award-winning journalist and author who covered politics and civil wars from Central America to California, Ferro has three decades of experience in developing political and public policy strategy at the state, national and international levels. He is a recognized expert on how to create messages that communicate complex programs to the broadest possible audiences.

Formerly a director at Public Strategies, Inc., the Austin-based public affairs firm, Ferro served as policy adviser and political strategist for the Mexican Ambassador and the government of Mexico in the U.S. He helped the head of Mexico’s PRI party organize the first-ever open presidential primary in that nation’s history (November 1999) and served as a communications strategist for both Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and presidential candidate Francisco Labastida.

Helping oversee the groundbreaking Texas Performance Review for then-State Comptroller John Sharp, Ferro was one of the creators of that project’s successful communications strategy and wrote the final reports, which laid the groundwork for the language of the reinventing government movement in the 1990s. He also helped Sharp set up Vice President Al Gore’s 1993 National Performance Review, patterned on the Texas model, and co-authored the report, “Creating a Government That Works Better and Costs Less.” In addition, Ferro has written a series of influential studies on public education, criminal justice, welfare reform, the Texas-Mexico border, and 1994’s far-reaching “Forces of Change” project, which continues to influence public debate in Texas today.

Ferro has been a top strategist and communications advisor for governors and other elected officials in Texas, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Michigan, and California. He has written speeches for candidates from the White House to the courthouse, developed winning campaign strategies for dozens of political candidates, and served as press spokesman and speechwriter for presidents and presidential candidates in the U.S. and Mexico.

In addition, Ferro has directed crisis management efforts for corporate clients from Venezuela to Argentina to Mexico, worked for Mexican Governors from Tamaulipas to Chihuahua to Nuevo Leon, and helped create successful communications plans for the North American Development Bank and other groups with international interests.

Raised in Argentina, Ferro is fluent in Spanish and has a bachelor’s degree in economics from UNAM, the national university in Mexico City. He and his family live in Austin.

SHERRI GREENBERG

Sherrri Greenberg served for 10 years as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, completing her final term in January 2001. In 1999, she was appointed by the Speaker of the House to chair the House Pensions and Investments Committee and to chair the Select Committee on Teacher Health Insurance. She served two terms on the House Appropriations Committee, and served on the Appropriations Committee’s Education, and Major Information Systems Subcommittees. Other committee assignments included the House Economic Development Committee, Elections Committee, and Science and Technology Committee.

Greenberg’s professional background is in public finance. She served as the Manager of Capital Finance for the City of Austin from 1985 to 1989, overseeing the City’s debt management, capital budgeting, and capital improvement programs. Prior to that she worked as a Public Finance Officer for Standard & Poor’s Corporation in New York, where she analyzed and assigned bond ratings to public projects across the country.

Greenberg has a B.A. in Government from UT Austin and an M.S. in Public Administration and Policy from the London School of Economics. Her teaching and research interests include public finance and budgeting, Texas state government, local government, education, housing, technology, and campaigns and elections. Her recent publications include *State E-Government Strategies: Identifying Best Practices and Applications*, and *Beyond the Bid: An Evaluation of State and Local Government Procurement Practices*.

Currently, Greenberg serves as a board member and treasurer of Austin Voices for Education and Youth, and she is an appointed member of the City of Austin General Obligation Housing Bond Review Committee.





SCOTT HOCHBERG

Scott Hochberg has represented southwest Houston in the Texas House of Representatives since 1993. In 2007, Mr. Hochberg was again recognized as one of the Texas' "Ten Best Legislators" by Texas Monthly magazine. He was named 2007 Legislative Hero by the Texas Freedom Network, and honored by Children at Risk for his work on children's issues.

Mr. Hochberg serves on the House Committee on Public Education and as the vice-chair of the House Committee on Corrections. He also serves as vice-chair of the special Select Committee on Higher and Public Education Finance. In past sessions, he has chaired the Education Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations.

His work on the education committee has included passage of a parents' bill of rights, funding for second-chance high school classes during evenings and weekends, additional school district performance audits, the state's first program to fund school building construction and renovation, and the creation of a medical safety board for student athletics. His many awards from education groups include being honored as the Texas PTA's Legislator of the Year and as the Equity Center's Champion for Children. He has represented Texas on education panels of the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Southern Legislative Conference.

He has worked successfully to strengthen prosecution of skinhead groups and others who commit hate crimes. He has passed legislation strengthening consumer rights against rebate rip-offs, protecting patients from late billing by hospitals, and providing fair workers' compensation payments for Texans injured while working second jobs.

As an advocate of open government, he led in the effort to post all legislative actions and state agency rules on the internet. Mr. Hochberg has been appointed by Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson to serve on the Judicial Committee on Information Technology, and was appointed by former House Speaker Pete Laney to chair the Workers' Compensation Research and Oversight Council and to serve on the University Interscholastic League Advisory Council.

Mr. Hochberg is a Houston native. After earning his Masters in Electrical Engineering degree from Rice University, he cofounded an electronic manufacturing firm that he headed for 12 years before selling his interest. He currently operates a software development company.



CHRISTY HOPPE

Christy Hoppe is the Austin Bureau Chief of *The Dallas Morning News*. During her 19 years in Austin, she has covered the administration of four governors, five lieutenant governors and 10 regular legislative sessions. In national politics, she has been part of the Morning News' coverage team on presidential elections and attended nine national political conventions. She still believes Texas politics is the most entertaining reality show on TV.

Christy began her reporting career while attending the University of Texas, where minor contributions to *The New York Times* and *Time* magazine helped purchase textbooks and defray tuition. After graduating with a degree in government, she worked two years at the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, covering the police beat, courts, county government and the beach. She moved to The News, working as government reporter and later as an editor before

joining the Austin Bureau in 1989. Her work has been recognized with awards from the Associated Press Managing Editors, Texas Headliners and Dallas Press Club.



JERRY MADDEN

Rep. Madden, first elected in 1992, presently serves as chairman of the House Committee on Corrections, is Co-Chair of the Joint Select Committee on the Operation and Management of the Texas Youth Commission, and Co-Presiding Officer of the Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee. He actively is engaged in the work of the Texas Criminal Justice Integrity Unit which is exploring ways to prevent wrongful convictions, is a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council Taskforce on Criminal Justice and Homeland Security, and is Vice Chair of the Law and Criminal Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. His 67th district includes portions of southwest Collin County, including Plano, Dallas and Richardson. In 2007, Texas Monthly named him one of its "Ten Best" legislators, primarily for his leadership in overhauling the

Texas Youth Commission, but also for his bi-partisan, consensus-building capabilities which prompted the 80th Legislature to adopt a "smart" as well as "tough on crime" posture toward reducing criminal justice system costs while promoting public safety, improving the efficiency of community supervision and increasing the capacity of treatment and diversion programs – rather than just building more prisons.



FLORENCE SHAPIRO

Florence Shapiro is known as a deeply committed legislator who gives voice to the values of those she serves. From education to transportation, homeland security to our children's safety, she always maintains the values of the constituents and families she serves.

As a first generation American, the daughter of Holocaust survivors and the first in her family to attend college, Shapiro's journey into Texas politics began years prior to her election to the Texas Senate in 1993, and miles away from the State Capitol. Her life of service began as a public school teacher, where she established her foremost premise that the focus should always be on children. She has carried this vision and determination throughout her service. As a champion of children, she passed landmark legislation to protect them against sexual predators.

While serving as Chair of the Senate State Affairs Committee, beginning in 1999, Senator Shapiro committed herself to the issue of transportation, creating the first Texas Mobility Fund so Texas could bond for road building. Since becoming Chair of the Senate Education Committee, she has brought the focus of public education back to the student. Her work has led to legislation to curb dropouts, improve college readiness, and increase public school accountability. As Education Chair, she has also passed legislation to overhaul the state's school finance system, significantly lowering property taxes, providing more money for schools, along with a teacher pay raise and the first ever incentive pay program.

Her leadership has earned her many honors over the years, including the recent 2008 Legislator of the Year Award by The Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas; 2008 Jack Lowe Award for Community Leadership in Education by The Dallas Bar Association; Government Technology Conference Bob Bullock Award for Public Stewardship; Girl Scouts USA Tejas Council Real Women Award; the 2007 Outstanding Legislator Award by the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas; and the Woman of Excellence Award by Women's Enterprise Magazine.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Shapiro holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education. In addition to chairing the Senate Education Committee, she currently serves on the Senate Committee on Finance, as well as the Transportation and Homeland and Security Committee, and Senate Administration Committee.



EVAN SMITH

Evan Smith joined the staff of TEXAS MONTHLY as a senior editor in January 1992. In February 1993, he was promoted to deputy editor, and in July 2000 he was promoted to editor. In May 2002, he added the title of executive vice president. In September 2008, he was promoted to president and editor in chief.

Since Smith took over as editor, TEXAS MONTHLY has been nominated for fourteen National Magazine Awards, the magazine industry's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. In April 2003, TEXAS MONTHLY was awarded the National Magazine Award for General Excellence for the third time in its history.

A New York native, Smith has a bachelor's degree in public policy from Hamilton College (Clinton, New York) and a master's degree in journalism from the Medill School at Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois). He previously held editorial positions at a number of national magazines; most recently at *The New Republic*, where he was deputy editor. He has written for *GQ*, *O*, *The Oprah Magazine*, and other national magazines. He hosts a weekly interview program, TEXAS MONTHLY TALKS, that airs on PBS stations all across Texas, and he is an occasional guest on numerous other TV and radio shows.

Smith is currently president of the board of the Austin Film Society and sits on the boards of the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin, Trinity Episcopal School, the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, the Headliners Club, and Matinee Media. He is also the founding co-chair of the Texas Film Hall of Fame. He served for five years on the board of the American Society of Magazine Editors, most recently as its vice president, and for six years on the board of Austin public television station KLRU.

In 2005, in recognition of his contributions to Austin and Texas, Smith was named Austinite of the Year Under 40 by the Young Men's Business League and Young Women's Business League. In 2006, he was inducted into the Medill School of Journalism Hall of Achievement.



PAUL STEKLER

Paul Stekler's documentaries about American politics have won numerous national awards. His films include *Last Man Standing: Politics Texas Style*, *George Wallace: Settin' the Woods on Fire*, *Vote for Me: Politics in America*, and two segments of the *Eyes on the Prize* civil rights series. His latest project, Frontline's *The Choice 2008*, which he co-produced and wrote, aired this October. Dr. Stekler is the Director of Research for the LBJ School's Center for Politics and Governance and the George Christian Centennial Professor in Communication in the Radio-Television-Film Dept. at the University of Texas.





SEAN THERIAULT, PH.D.

Professor Theriault, who has been at the University of Texas for 8 years, researches the U.S. Congress and congressional elections. His most recent book, *Party Polarization in Congress*, came out in September. He continues to research how polarization has affected policy making in Congress. Professor Theriault is also an acclaimed teacher, winning numerous campus-wide awards.



SYLVESTER TURNER

Sylvester Turner was raised in Acres Homes and attended the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before founding The Law Office of Barnes and Turner in 1983.

Rep. Turner was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1988 and has since earned the respect of his colleagues from every corner of the state and across the political spectrum. In the last legislative session, he authored and passed the bill which added 127,000 previously uninsured children to the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). He was awarded the 2007 Child Advocacy Award by the Texas Pediatric Society and the Presidential Award of Merit from the Texas Association of Family Physicians for his role in protecting the health of Texas children.

In 2003, Rep. Turner was awarded the Helen Farabee Community Leadership Award by the Houston Mental Health Association. He has twice been honored by the Texas Classroom Teachers as a Legislative Star for leading the fight for students and educators. He was named one of "The Best of the 77th Legislature" by *Hispanic Journal* for his work on education and consumer rights. For his efforts to ensure open and accessible government, Turner was awarded the "Star of Texas Award" by Common Cause of Texas and the "Open Government Award" by the Texas Daily Newspaper Association. Rep. Turner was also named one of the Ten Best Legislators of the "75th" and the "80th" Legislative Sessions by *Texas Monthly Magazine*.

In November 2006, Representative Turner was appointed as one of three house members to the Legislative Budget Board which oversees the State's \$150 billion dollar budget.



KIRK P. WATSON

Kirk Watson is State Senator for District 14. He is a partner with the law firm, Hughes & Luce, L.L.P. He is a lawyer, mediator, public affairs consultant, and former Austin Mayor. In addition, he is former Chair of both the Texas Advisory Board for Environmental Defense and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.

Senator Watson has earned numerous endorsements, awards and recognitions, including "Austinite of the Year" by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, *Austin Family Magazine's* "Favorite Local Hero" and the "Best of Austin – Best Citizen" Reader's Choice Award from the *Austin Chronicle*.

In 1991, Watson was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to Chair the Texas Air Control Board. He was Vice-Chair of the committee that oversaw the consolidation of the Texas Air Control Board with the Texas Water Commission creating the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, now known as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Watson graduated first in his law school class at Baylor University Law School in 1981. He served as Editor-In-Chief of the *Baylor Law Review* and clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He was elected President of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and was named Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas in 1994. He was named Young Baylor Lawyer of the Year in 1996 and was selected by his peers to be listed in the publication *Best Lawyers in America* since 1997. Watson is a partner in the Austin office of K&L Gates, LLP.

Watson served on the original Board of Directors for the Lance Armstrong Foundation and is a former member of the Board of Directors for the American Cancer Society, local chapter. He is active with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He has served on several boards, including KLRU, Ballet Austin, El Buen Samaritano health clinic and the Community Partnership for the Homeless.



CENTER FOR POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

MISSION

The Center, in a nonpartisan fashion, is the nexus of the theoretical and practical in the teaching of politics and political leadership — not simply how to master the existing system, but how to make it function more effectively to achieve better results.

COURSES

To fully address the complex political issues of the 21st century, the Center takes an interdisciplinary approach to developing courses by collaborating with faculty at the LBJ School and across the University of Texas campus to develop a range of courses that include rigorous academic analysis and real-world experience.

Modern American Political Campaign

Taught by the Center's Director of Research Studies Paul Stekler and former Texas State Representative Sherri Greenberg, this course is designed to help students, interested in policymaking, better understand how policymakers get elected. Presentations by national and state practitioners augment lectures and practical project exercises focused on designing campaign plans. Past speakers have included Democratic strategists David Axelrod and Mandy Grunwald as well as Republican strategists Mark McKinnon, David Weeks, and Matthew Dowd.



Election Law and Applications

Taught by former commissioner and vice chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Ray Martinez, this course provides students with an understanding of traditional election law, including the laws and policies which govern the administration of elections, and challenges students to think critically about issues in election administration.

Latino Influence on Policy Issues

Taught by Ray Martinez and the School of Journalism's Professor Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, this course examines the current state of the Hispanic community both nationally and in key states, concentrating on key policy areas, such as politics, education, immigration, culture and voting.

Inside the Texas Legislature and State Agencies

Taught by Sherri Greenberg, this course explores policymaking through legislation and important legislative and administrative issues in the State of Texas, focusing on inner workings of the Texas Legislature both on a formal and an informal basis.

Public Affairs Communications

Taught by former counselor to President George W. Bush Dan Bartlett and LBJ School of Public Affairs Assistant Dean Jeff Patterson, this course enhances students' understanding of the influences of modern mass media on the dynamics of politics and policymaking in the public sphere.



CONFERENCES

In support of the LBJ School's public service commitment, the Center's Conferences and Symposia facilitate active engagement in public policy debates. The Center hosts timely and topical discussions and conferences that bring together practitioners and academics.

Voting System Integrity: Can We Be Confident in the Accuracy of the Results?

This panel discussed the rapid change of the administration of voting and elections at the state and local level since the 2000 presidential election. The Honorable Ray Martinez, CPG Fellow and former vice chair of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, moderated a panel of experts to discuss the integrity of the voting administration systems. The panel Rosemary Rodriguez, commissioner and current chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission; Doug Chapin, director, electionline.org; Dan Wallach, computer science professor at Rice University; David Beirne, executive director, Election Technology Council; Ann McGeehan, director, Elections Division, Texas Secretary of State; and Dana DeBeauvoir, Travis County Clerk and LBJ School alumna.



Clockwise from right: David Beirne, Ann McGeehan, Doug Chapin, Dana DeBeauvoir.



Texas Solicitor General Ted Cruz and David Frum.

The Future of the Republican Party

This panel, featuring former Congressman Mickey Edwards, Texas Supreme Court Justice Dale Wainwright, Texas Solicitor General Ted Cruz, conservative columnist David Frum, and Travis County Republican Party Chair Rosemary Edwards, focused on what is next for the Republican Party after the Bush administration.

Election 2008: Outcomes and Implications

This panel examined the Presidential race on both sides – Democratic and Republican – in terms of its successes and failures, and how it would impact government moving forward.



Paul Stekler and Dan Bartlett.

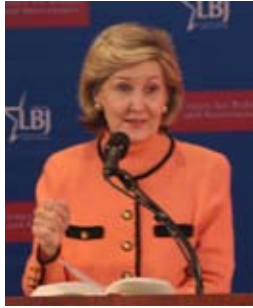


Matthew Dowd, Tom Mann and Wayne Slater.



PAGE TURNERS SERIES

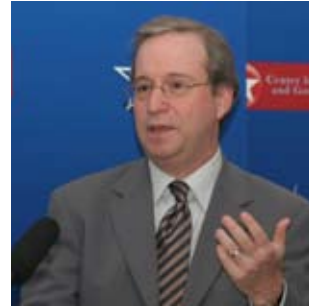
The Center's Page Turners Series highlights notable books that address political issues, government realities, and insightful policy ideas and critiques. Authors discuss their work and engage in a discussion with the LBJ School and University community.



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, *Leading Ladies*.



Bill Bishop, *The Big Sort*.



Ron Brownstein, *The Second Civil War*.



Ted Van Dyk, *Heroes, Hacks, and Fools*.



Mickey Edwards, *Reclaiming Conservatism*.

PERSPECTIVES SERIES

The Center's Perspectives Series invites national, state and local leaders to discuss important policy issues and their experiences in developing and implementing those policies. The series provides opportunities for government officials, policymakers, and community leaders to engage students and faculty on pressing civic issues.



Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary, Tevi Troy.



Senator Tom Harkin.



Allyson Ho, former Special Assistant to the President.



Senator Tom Daschle.



INITIATIVES

Through focused initiatives, the Center will lead national debates on issues of public importance and shape the next generation of leaders who will address these issues. The Center's initiatives are enhanced by the vibrant University community and its location in the capital city of a populous, diverse and politically important state.

Understanding the Changing Role of Hispanic Americans

As the number of Hispanic Americans in the United States grows, so too does its potential for the group to have commensurate growth in political power. The Center examines this trend and its implications from both academic and practical perspectives.

Texas Representative Richard Raymond.



The Center hosted a panel discussion, "Understanding the Hispanic Vote in 2008."

CPG partners with Las Comadres for Texas Public Policy and Campaign Training.



The Center launched with its inaugural conference, "The Future is Now: The Hispanic Impact on American Politics and Government."

State Politics and Policy

With a host of resources, including research tools and state politics and policy experts, the Center is a vital source of information for policymakers in Texas. The Center studies, conducts analysis and facilitates the success of Texas state policy and politics through a broad range of state-specific programs.

The Honorable Sherri Greenberg, who served for more than ten years in the Texas House of Representatives, leads the Center's state politics and policy initiatives.

CPG Internship Program

The Center sponsors a number of interns in the Texas State Legislature and state agencies. The Center mentors students through a conference course supervised by Sherri Greenberg to supplement their practical experience.

