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**TEXAS TRIBUNE, NBC NEWS AND MSNBC PARTNER FOR 2018  
TEXAS TRIBUNE FESTIVAL**

***NBC News and MSNBC to host South Tent stage on Congress Avenue***

***SEPT. 27-29 IN AUSTIN, TEXAS***

**AUSTIN, TEXAS (AUG. 28, 2018)** – The Texas Tribune, NBC News and MSNBC announce today a media partnership that will bring national political correspondents and analysts from NBC News and MSNBC to a signature stage on Saturday, Sept. 29, at the 2018 Texas Tribune Festival. NBC News and MSNBC will showcase high-profile talent and exclusive experiences that will be open to the public, as well as provide select live television coverage of the festival throughout the weekend.

“We’re so happy to welcome our longtime friends at NBC News and MSNBC to the biggest stage in Texas,” said Texas Tribune CEO and co-founder Evan Smith. “They’ll be great partners because they employ best-in-the-business journalists. All across the Texas Tribune Festival we’ll work together in making news, breaking news and providing insight and context on the fast-moving politics and issues of the moment.”

The Texas Tribune Festival, slated for Sept. 27-29 in downtown Austin, will showcase three days of groundbreaking discussion, dialogue and debate on the biggest challenges and potential solutions in politics, public policy, government and current events. The recently announced program, which features more than 300 speakers, will touch on Texas politics and policy along with national and global matters. Registration information is available at [festival.texastribune.org](http://festival.texastribune.org).

A new and exciting addition to the Texas Tribune Festival this year is “Open Congress,” a free and open-to-the-public street festival taking place Saturday, Sept. 29, along Austin’s iconic Congress Avenue. In the shadow of the Texas Capitol, Open Congress will feature three official Festival tents hosting premier programming with mass appeal, sponsor and community partner activations.

The crown jewel of Open Congress at The Texas Tribune Festival is the NBC News and MSNBC stage located in the South Tent, where programming will kick off at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, with a one-on-one conversation about the intersection of sports and politics between former U.S. senator and NBA Hall of Famer **Bill Bradley** and MSNBC national political correspondent **Steve Kornacki**.

At 11 a.m., the tables will be turned, and attendees can expect a lively one-on-one conversation between Kornacki and Texas Tribune co-founder and CEO **Evan Smith** on the roots of political polarization and Kornacki's take on the 2018 elections. Following this conversation, Kornacki will sign copies of his new book, “The Red and the Blue: The 1990s and the Birth of Political Tribalism,” from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

From 1:30-2:30 p.m., NBC News Capitol Hill Correspondent **Kasie Hunt** will moderate “Will Congress Ever Come Together on Immigration?” featuring U.S. Reps. **Will Hurd**, R-Texas, and **Pete Aguilar**, D-California.

At 3 p.m., the “Is There Nothing We Should Do About Gun Policy?” panel will host lawmakers whose districts have been impacted by mass shootings; Democratic U.S. Rep. **Ted Deutch**, who represents Parkland, Florida, and Republican U.S. Rep. **Randy Weber**, representing Santa Fe, Texas. The conversation will be moderated by MSNBC Washington Correspondent **Garrett Haake**.

The NBC News and MSNBC stage's final panel will be “Is Justice Done?”, a conversation on federal law enforcement under fire. Panelists are former U.S. Attorney General **Alberto Gonzales**, former acting U.S. Solicitor General **Neal Katyal**, former U.S. Attorney for the North District of Alabama and former acting U.S. Attorney General **Sally Yates**. The moderator is **Lawrence O'Donnell**, host of MSNBC’s “The Last Word.”

Additionally, NBC News will bring back its “Election Confessions” franchise. Attendees to the NBC News and MSNBC tent will be able to anonymously “confess” their thoughts and wishes about the 2018 midterm elections. The “confessions” will be curated for an interactive digital special on NBCNews.com throughout the fall.

Elsewhere on the Festival program, O'Donnell and “Hardball” host **Chris Matthews** will join a conversation on the tumultuous politics of 1968 alongside iconic broadcast journalist **Dan Rather**. **Hendrik Hertzberg**, staff writer and senior editor of The New Yorker, will moderate.

On Friday, Sept. 29, at 8:30 a.m. at the historic Paramount Theatre, NBC News Chief Foreign Correspondent **Richard Engel** will participate in a conversation about national security titled "The Threat Assessment." He joins former CIA Director **John Brennan**, former Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command **William McRaven** and former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center **Nick Rasmussen**. This conversation will be moderated **William Inboden**, executive director of the Clements Center for National Security at The University of Texas at Austin.

Other NBC News and MSNBC contributors participating at the 2018 Texas Tribune Festival include Charlie Sykes, Nick Rasmussen, John Brennan, Victoria Defrancesco Soto, Maria Teresa Kumar, Wendy Sherman, John Heilemann, Kimberly Atkins, Yamiche Alcindor, Bret Stephens, Ashley Parker, Philip Rucker, Michael Schmidt and Joyce Vance White.

Texas Tribune Festival programming will also be nationally syndicated through an exclusive livestream arrangement and available for viewing at [nbcnews.com](http://nbcnews.com), [msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com), and [texastribune.org](http://texastribune.org).

More information about the Festival is available online at [texastribune.org/festival](http://texastribune.org/festival), on Facebook at [facebook.com/texastribune](https://facebook.com/texastribune) and on Twitter at [@TexasTribune](https://twitter.com/TexasTribune).

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#### **ABOUT THE TEXAS TRIBUNE:**

The Texas Tribune is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public media organization whose mission is to promote civic engagement and discourse on public policy, politics, government and other matters of statewide interest. For more information on The Texas Tribune and the Texas Tribune Festival, visit [texastribune.org](http://texastribune.org). You can also follow The Texas Tribune on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/texastribune), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/texastribune), SnapChat (username texastribune) and [Instagram](https://instagram.com/texastribune). The official Festival hashtag is #TribFest18.

#### **ABOUT NBC NEWS and MSNBC:**

More Americans watch NBC News and MSNBC than any news organization in the world. NBC News is a global leader in news across all broadcast and digital platforms. Its leading and award-winning television news broadcasts include "NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt," "TODAY," "Meet the Press with Chuck Todd," "Dateline NBC" and "Megyn Kelly TODAY," as well as primetime specials and breaking news reports. For the 2016-2017 season, all four NBC News broadcasts were #1 in the key news demo for the second year in a row, and are also #1 for the current season to date.

MSNBC is the premier cable destination for breaking and live news coverage, in-depth

analysis, and influential voices — 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The rapidly growing NBC News Digital Group, along with the SiriusXM TODAY Show and MSNBC radio channels and NBC News Radio on the iHeartMedia 24/7 News Network, provide continuous content to consumers wherever they are, whenever they want it. NBC News is part of the NBCUniversal News Group, a division of NBCUniversal, which is owned by Comcast Corporation. For more information about NBCUniversal, please visit [www.NBCUniversal.com](http://www.NBCUniversal.com).