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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JOHN KERRY, NANCY PELOSI, JEFF FLAKE, WILL HURD,
CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN, KARL ROVE, BETO O'ROURKE,
ERIC HOLDER, EVA GUZMAN AND MORE THAN 300 TOP
SPEAKERS TO APPEAR AT 2018 TEXAS TRIBUNE FESTIVAL**

FULL LINEUP AND PROGRAM RELEASED

Sept. 27-29, 2018, in Downtown Austin, Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS (AUG. 1, 2018) — Among the more than 300 speakers announced to take the stage at the 2018 Texas Tribune Festival, running Sept. 27-29 in downtown Austin, are former U.S. Secretary of State **John Kerry** (D), U.S. House Democratic Leader **Nancy Pelosi**, U.S. Senator **Jeff Flake** (R-AZ), former New Jersey Gov. **Christine Todd Whitman** (R), U.S. Rep. **Will Hurd** (R-Helotes), Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate **Beto O'Rourke**, co-hosts of Showtime's "The Circus" **Alex Wagner** and **John Heilemann**, former acting U.S. Attorney General **Sally Yates**, author and civil rights activist **DeRay Mckesson**, Republican congressional candidate for Texas' 21st congressional district **Chip Roy**, former White House deputy chief of staff for George W. Bush **Karl Rove**, Houston Mayor **Sylvester Turner**, comedian and host of the "Black on the Air" podcast **Larry Wilmore**, author and former head of Planned Parenthood **Cecile Richards**, Fort Worth Mayor **Betsy Price**, Texas Comptroller **Glenn Hegar**, former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development **Julián Castro**, White House correspondent for the PBS NewsHour **Yamiche Alcindor**, Texas Education Commissioner **Mike Morath**, Texas Supreme Court Justice **Eva Guzman**, former U.S. Attorney General **Eric Holder**, New York City Mayor **Bill De Blasio** and Democratic candidate for Texas Governor **Lupe Valdez**.

The speakers will participate in more than 100 interactive sessions throughout the eighth-annual Festival, which will also feature a fresh new layout near the Texas Capitol this year. The new downtown Festival footprint will allow for expanded programming — from one full day to two — and an open-to-the-public experience that'll be larger than ever, crafted to bring more locals, business leaders and tourists into the conversation.

Attendees can expect a combination of one-on-one keynotes and thought-provoking panels on everything from Texas politics and policy to national and global matters. Together, attendees — along with more than 300 groundbreaking thinkers, lawmakers, community leaders and industry experts from across Texas and beyond — will explore the biggest issues of President Donald Trump's second year in office; what Texas' changing demographics mean for everyday Texans; the 2018 — and even 2020 — elections; and the most pressing topics facing our state in public and higher education, criminal justice, immigration, health care, energy, the environment and transportation.

Among the panel discussions at the Festival:

- Former U.S. Secretary of State **John Kerry**, in conversation with Tribune CEO and Co-founder **Evan Smith**, as the official Festival kickoff.
- “The Way Forward is Urban,” featuring big-city mayors **Steve Adler** of Austin, **Ron Nirenberg** of San Antonio and **Dee Margo** of El Paso, as well as former Irving mayor and current U.S. Housing and Urban Development Regional Administrator **Beth Van Duyne**.
- “The Consequences of Gun Violence,” featuring survivors of three mass-casualty shootings: Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student **Chris Grady**, former state Rep. **Suzanna Gratia Hupp** and Sutherland Springs pastor **Frank Pomeroy**.
- A one-on-one conversation with Houston Mayor **Sylvester Turner** one year after Hurricane Harvey devastated the city.
- “A White House Briefing” featuring the PBS NewsHour's **Yamiche Alcindor**, the Boston Herald's **Kimberly Atkins**, the Wall Street Journal's **Michael Bender** and the LA Times' **Eli Stokols**, in conversation with VICE News' **Shawna Thomas**.
- “Will We Ever Get School Finance Right?” with members of the Commission on Public School Finance, including state Rep. **Diego Bernal**, commission chairman **Scott Brister**, State Board of Education member **Keven Ellis** and Austin ISD CFO **Nicole Conley Johnson**.
- “**The Red Team**” and “**The Blue Team**,” featuring high-profile candidates on both sides of the aisle vying for a congressional seat in November.

- “The Reunited States of America,” featuring leading experts on the crisis at the Texas-Mexico border, including The Libre Foundation’s **Daniel Garza**, state Rep. **Jeff Leach**, MALDEF’s **Celina Moreno**, the National Immigration Forum’s **Ali Noorani** and U.S. Rep. **Filemon Vela**.

Several podcasts will also record episodes in front of live audiences at The Texas Tribune Festival. Featured podcasts include **Larry Wilmore**’s "Black on the Air"; Slate’s "Amicus," "The Gist," "El GabFest," "Political GabFest," and "TrumpCast"; Vox’s "The Weeds"; Kaiser Health News’ "What the Health?"; "The Daily Standard" from The Weekly Standard; "Matt Lewis and the News," KUT-Austin’s "Texas Standard," and The Texas Tribune’s own TribCast.

For the first time, attendees will also enjoy “Open Congress” at the Texas Tribune Festival, a free street festival held on Austin’s historic Congress Avenue. Open Congress will feature three tents chock-full of free and open-to-the-community original programming from The Texas Tribune and Festival media partners. The Texas Tribune looks forward to welcoming badgeholders and unpaid festival attendees alike to this new Festival feature.

Conference passes include access to three days of programming, unparalleled networking opportunities and special receptions. They are available for \$250 until Labor Day, when the price will go up to \$300. Special discounts are available for Texas Tribune members, students and educators. Registration and discount information are available at festival.texastribune.org.

The 2018 Texas Tribune Festival is sponsored by Walmart, AARP, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Anheuser-Busch, The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, AT&T, Austin Community College, The Beer Alliance of Texas, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, BP, Boeing, CenterPoint Energy, Comcast, Deloitte, Educate Texas, Entergy, Google, Greater Texas Water, Gulf States Toyota, H-E-B, Hatton W. Sumners Foundation, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, Houston First, Huston-Tillotson University, IBC Bank, JPMorgan Chase, Laura and John Arnold, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Lobby Days, Lumina Foundation, The Meadows Foundation, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Messina Hof Winery and Resort, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, The Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, NRG Energy, Oncor, Panacea Collection, Pearson, Quest Diagnostics, Raise Your Hand Texas, Seton, Silicon Labs, Southwest Airlines, Spurs Sports and Entertainment, St. David’s Foundation, St. David’s HealthCare, Texas A&M University, The Texas A&M University System, Texas Association of Community Colleges, Texas Association of Realtors, Texas Central, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium, Texas Exes, Texas Secretary of State, Toyota North America, UBER, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas Press, Upbring, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Valero, Walton Family Foundation, Zachry Group.

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

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