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**DATES AND EXCITING CHANGES ANNOUNCED FOR
THE EIGHTH ANNUAL TEXAS TRIBUNE FESTIVAL**

Sept. 27-28, 2018, in Austin, Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS (FEB. 1, 2018) – The Texas Tribune announced the dates of the 2018 Texas Tribune Festival today, along with a series of exciting changes to the nonprofit's signature event.

More than 250 groundbreaking thinkers, lawmakers, community leaders and industry experts from across Texas and beyond will participate in the eighth annual Texas Tribune Festival Sept. 27-29, 2018, in Austin, Texas. In order to accommodate the overwhelming public interest in the Festival, which attracted nearly 5,000 attendees in 2017, the event is relocating to the heart of downtown Austin.

The Texas Tribune Festival and the city share the same values: healthy civil discourse, innovation, tolerance, justice, curiosity and empowerment. The event will expand from one full day to two, and diverse perspectives, inspiring conversations and civil discussions will flow up and down Austin's iconic Congress Avenue right up to the steps of the Texas Capitol. The move also will support an expanded free program aimed to bring more locals, business leaders and tourists into the conversation.

The Festival expansion comes as a response to attendees' requests for more time with the program. The Fest will kick off Wednesday, Sept. 26, with the popular conversation and dinner event at Franklin BBQ. The official program will begin Thursday, Sept. 27, with a much-anticipated evening keynote address. Full days on Friday, Sept. 28, and Saturday, Sept. 29, will offer inspiring ideas, big-thinking civil debates, dynamic networking opportunities, student programming, podcast recordings and more. This will be punctuated with Friday night's TribFeast, the formal fundraising dinner to support nonprofit journalism that brings together thought leaders, philanthropists from across the state, elected officials, policymakers and big-brand journalists to support The Texas Tribune's ambitious, award-winning work. The Festival will come to a close the evening of Saturday, Sept. 29, with a lively closing keynote address and fun party.

The programmatic focus of the Festival will range from Texas politics and issues to national and global matters. Attendees can expect a mix of the biggest-name state and national leaders, as well as a healthy component of programming devoted to the intersection of press and politics. The 2018 election cycle, which culminates only six weeks after the Festival, will flow through programming, and leading candidates up and down the ballot will take the stage. Attendees will look ahead to the already-in-progress 2020 presidential cycle, while the second year of the Trump presidency will receive the same longform treatment as it did at 2017's Festival.

The 2017 Festival shattered previous records, attracting nearly 113,000 combined in-person attendees and livestream viewers throughout the weekend. High-profile speakers from the event included U.S. Sens. **John Cornyn** and **Ted Cruz**, R-Texas; **Cecile Richards**, outgoing president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund; former U.S. Sen. **Al Franken**, D-Minnesota; **Beto O'Rourke**, Texas congressman and candidate for U.S. Senate; Texas Land Commissioner **George P. Bush**; Texas Education Commissioner **Mike Morath**; **Susan Rice**, former national security advisor to President Barack Obama; the mayors of **Austin, Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio** and **Fort Worth**; civil rights activist and organizer **DeRay Mckesson**; the New York Times' **Maggie Haberman**; NPR and Fox News' **Mara Liasson**; MSNBC's **Katy Tur**; Houston Police Chief **Art Acevedo**; U.S. Reps. **Will Hurd**, R-Helotes, and **Joaquin Castro**, D-San Antonio; State Rep. **Dan Huberty**, R-Houston; and **Larry Wilmore**, comedian and host of the "Black on the Air" podcast.

Tickets will go on sale May 7, and the full program will be released Aug. 1. Receive Festival updates, including advance notice of registration and speakers, at texastribune.org/festival.

The 2018 Texas Tribune Festival is sponsored by AARP, Anheuser-Busch, the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, AT&T, Austin Community College District, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, CenterPoint Energy, Comcast, Communities Foundation of Texas, Educate Texas, Google, Greater Texas Water, H-E-B, the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation, Houstonfirst, Huston-Tillotson University, IBC Bank, JPMorgan Chase, LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, Lumina Foundation, Meadows Foundation, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (Texas State of Mind), Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, NRG Energy, Oncor, Pearson, Quest Diagnostics, Raise Your Hand Texas, St. David's Foundation, St. David's Healthcare, Texas A&M University System, Texas Association of Community Colleges, Texas Association of Realtors, Texas Central, The Beer Alliance of Texas, The Boeing Company, University of Texas Press, Upbring, UT Southwestern Medical Center and Valero. Media support is provided by Community Impact Newspapers and GateHouse Media.

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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