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## **TEXAS CONGRESSMAN WILL HURD TO OPEN THE 2019 TEXAS TRIBUNE FESTIVAL**

**IDEAS WEEKEND TAPS MORE TOP SPEAKERS, INCLUDING  
NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES OF THE NEW YORK TIMES,  
DAYTON MAYOR NAN WHALEY, CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF  
STATE ALEX PADILLA, AND SHANNON WATTS OF MOMS DEMAND  
ACTION**

**SESSIONS ADDED ON DOMESTIC TERRORISM, GUN POLICY, THE LEGACY OF  
SLAVERY, THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. SPACE PROGRAM AND MORE**

*Sept. 26-28th in downtown Austin, Texas*

**AUSTIN, TEXAS (EMBARGOED UNTIL 6 AM CST AUG. 26 2019)** – U.S. Rep. **Will Hurd**, R-Helotes, who rocked the political world this summer when he announced he'll retire from Congress, will kick off the [2019 Texas Tribune Festival](#) in conversation with **Evan Smith**, CEO of The Texas Tribune, the event's organizers announced today. The opening session of the ninth annual Texas Tribune Festival begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, at the historic Paramount Theatre in downtown Austin.

Hurd has represented Texas' 23rd Congressional District, which has the most miles contiguous with the Mexican border of any in the country, since 2015. He's a member of the House Appropriations Committee and sits on the Military Construction & Veterans Affairs and Transportation, Housing & Urban Development subcommittees. He's also on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, where he serves as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence Modernization and Readiness. Previously, Hurd spent nine years

working for the CIA and served as a senior adviser with a cybersecurity firm. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he was president of the student body.

The Festival, which runs through Saturday, Sept. 28, has also added an array of speakers to a lineup that is already more than 400 strong, including **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, staff writer for The New York Times Magazine and the architect of the groundbreaking 1619 Project; Mayor **Nan Whatley** of Dayton, Ohio; California Secretary of State **Alex Padilla**; **Wesley Lowery**, national correspondent for The Washington Post; **Jonathan Martin**, national politics correspondent for The New York Times; and **Shannon Watts**, founder of Moms Demand Action.

Other newly confirmed speakers to participate in #TribFest19 are ...

- **John Amble**, editorial director at the Modern War Institute at West Point
- **Peter Ambler**, executive director and co-founder of Giffords
- **Rachel Dry**, deputy editor for enterprise at The New York Times
- **Matt Flegenheimer**, reporter at The New York Times
- **Jorge Guajardo**, former Mexican ambassador to China
- **Mary Harris**, host and managing editor of Slate's "What Next" podcast
- **Peter Kafka**, senior correspondent at Recode and host of the "Recode Media" podcast
- **Maria Teresa Kumar**, president and CEO of Voto Latino
- **Jerry Morales**, mayor of Midland
- **TreShaun Pate**, conference coordinator for the Black Trans Advocacy Coalition and ACLU of Texas Dallas volunteer coordinator
- **Thomas Zurbuchen**, associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA

These additions, and others still to be announced, expand what is already the largest speaker roster in Texas Tribune Festival history. The full list can be found at [festival.texastribune.org/speakers](https://festival.texastribune.org/speakers).

Additions to the programming lineup — now with more than 125 hour-long sessions — include:

- A conversation with the mayors of El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio — **Dee Margo** and **Nan Whatley** — about the horrific shootings that took place the first weekend of August and the resilience of those communities in the weeks since
- **Peter Ambler**, co-founder of Giffords, and **Shannon Watts**, founder of Moms Demand Action, join a discussion about what it will take to change how we talk and think about gun policy at a time when we're averaging more than one mass shooting per day

- **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, staff writer for The New York Times Magazine, in conversation with **Errin Haines**, national writer on race and ethnicity for the Associated Press, about her groundbreaking 1619 Project and the legacy of slavery in America
- Four experts on domestic terrorism talk about how to combat it in a country on edge. **Nick Rasmussen**, former director of the National Counterterrorism Center; **Robert Chesney**, associate dean at the University of Texas School of Law; **Mary McCord**, former acting assistant attorney general for the National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; and **Lisa Monaco**, former White House homeland security and counterterrorism adviser, sit down with **David Priess**, chief operating officer at the Lawfare Institute
- **Dana Canedy**, administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, talks about what it's like to be a journalist of color in the age of Trump with **Nikole Hannah-Jones** and **Astead Herndon** of The New York Times, **Wesley Lowery** of the Washington Post, and **Errin Haines**, national writer on race and ethnicity for the Associated Press.

#TribFest19 will also feature a one-on-one with **General John Murray**, commanding general of the United States Army Futures Command; a live recording of the “Politics with **Amy Walter**” podcast with New York Times journalists who cover politics in this extraordinary moment for their industry and our democracy; and a conversation about the trajectory of the U.S. space program 50 years after Apollo 11, with panelists including the best-selling author and historian **Douglas Brinkley** and former NASA deputy administrator **Lori Garver**.

Attendees can look forward to hearing from hundreds of speakers who bring perspectives that span the political spectrum. They will also hear from people based at the U.S.-Mexico border, inside public school classrooms and on the ground in some of the United States' fastest-growing cities. The Festival's lineup will also tackle issues of national security, technology and innovation, international trade, the 2020 elections, urban and rural challenges, solution seeking, public and higher education, criminal justice, immigration, health care, energy, the environment, transportation and more.

Full access to the 2019 Texas Tribune Festival, including three full days of programming, exclusive networking opportunities and special receptions, is just \$250. Special discounts are available for Texas Tribune members, students and educators. Registration and discount information are available at [festival.texastribune.org](https://festival.texastribune.org).

The Texas Tribune Festival is presented by Walmart and supported by Arnold Ventures, Ascension Seton, PepsiCo, Raise Your Hand Texas, TEXAS 2036, The University of Texas at Austin, AARP, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Aura Rainwater, Austin Community College, The Beer Alliance of Texas, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, BookPeople, BP, The British Embassy, Burnt Nopal Creative Studio, Capital Metro, CenterPoint Energy, The Commit Partnership, Comcast, Cynthia and

George Mitchell Foundation, Dell Technologies, DHR Health, Educate Texas, Entergy, Executive Master in Public Leadership (EMPL) at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, Greater Texas Foundation, Greater Texas Water Company, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Gulf States Toyota, H-E-B, IBC Bank, Imperfect Produce, JPMorgan Chase, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Lyft, Meadows Foundation, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute and The Hackett Center, Messina Hof Winery and Resort, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, MOVE Texas, The Nature Conservancy, NRG Energy, Oncor, One World Strategy Group, Panacea Collective, Pastors for Texas Children, Pearson, Reissa Foundation, Silicon Labs, Spurs Sports and Entertainment, Still Water Foundation, SXSW, St. David's Foundation, St. David's HealthCare, Stratfor, Sumners Foundation, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Texas A&M University, The Texas A&M University System, Texas Association of Community Colleges, Texas Charter Schools Association, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, Texas Cultural Trust, Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium, Texas Exes, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Municipal League, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Texas REALTORS®, Texas Southern University, Tito's Homemade Vodka, TLL Temple Foundation, Toyota North America, Trellis Foundation, Uber, University of Texas Press, Upbring, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Walton Family Foundation, and Zachry Group.

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For festival details and updates, visit [festival.texastribune.org](http://festival.texastribune.org) or follow the Tribune on Facebook at [facebook.com/texastribune](https://facebook.com/texastribune) or on Twitter at [@TexasTribune](https://twitter.com/TexasTribune) and hashtag #TribFest19.

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