



TEXAS LOBBY POWER RANKINGS 2011

★ Corporate In-House

- 1 [AT&T](#)
Leslie Ward, Mike Peterson, Kelly Curbow
- 2 [Verizon](#)
Charles Carrathers, Carl Erhart, James Hines, Helen Soto Knaggs, Richard Lawson
- 3 [CenterPoint Energy](#)
Jeff Bonham, Elizabeth Brock, June Deadrick, Rina Hartline
- 4 [TXU Energy](#)
Carl Richie
- 5 [Hewlett Packard](#)
Fred Shannon
- 6 [American Electric Power](#)
Robert Black, Robert Tarlton, Gary Gibbs, Gilbert Hughes, Ray Covey, Julio Reyes
- 7 [Reliant Energy](#)
Rick Bluntzer
- 8 [Oncor](#)
Mindy Carr, Walt Jordan, Raul Liendo
- 9 [Energy Future Holdings](#)
Lisa Sano Blocker, Dianne Yanaway, John Young
- 10 [Ryan & Company](#)
Karey Barton, Susan Bittick, James Eads, Bruce Gibson
- 11 [Zachry Group](#)
Victoria Waddy
- 12 [Farmers Insurance](#)
Frank Galitski
- 13 [Entergy/Gulf States](#)
Parker McCullough
- 14 [Landry's Restaurants](#)
Stephen Greenberg
- 15 [Global Gaming](#)
Carley Butler, Blanton Moore, Jim Shearer
- 16 [Marathon Oil](#)
Hugo Gutierrez
- 17 [Gulf States Toyota](#)
Ken Roche
- 18 [Koch Industries](#)
Bill Oswald

- 19 [Texas Instruments](#)
Gray Mayes
- 20 [Continental Airlines](#)
Nene Foxhall, Michelle Baden
- 21 [Exxon Mobil](#)
Sara K. Tays
- 22 [Lenders & Members Group](#)
Tom Duffy
- 23 [Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad](#)
Dennis Kearns
- 24 [Exelon Power Texas](#)
Bill Scott
- 25 [Amerigroup Corporation](#)
Meredith Delk
- 26 [LyondellBasell Industries](#)
David Roznowski
- 27 [Xcel Energy](#)
Damon Withrow
- 28 [Merck](#)
Holly Jacques
- 29 [Chevron](#)
Linda Koenig
- 30 [ConocoPhillips](#)
Thomas Sellers

[HOME](#)[SUBSCRIBE](#)[SEARCH](#)[LINKS](#)[ABOUT US](#)[CONTACT US](#)

TOP HIRED GUN LOBBYISTS

Rusty Kelley

- 1 Blackridge, Former Executive Assistant to Speaker Billy Clayton

Neal T. "Buddy" Jones

- 2 HillCo Partners, Former State Representative, Former Executive Assistant to Speaker Gib Lewis

Mike Toomey

- 3 Texas Capitol Group, Former State Representative, Ex-Chief of Staff to Govs. Rick Perry and Bill Clements

Bill Messer

- 4 Texas Capitol Group, Former State Representative, Speaker Tom Craddick Transition Team

Gordon & Rob Johnson

- 5 Johnson & Johnson Law Firm, Sons of legendary parliamentarian Bob Johnson

Demetrius McDaniel

- 6 Greenberg Traurig, Former Special Assistant to Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower

Walter Fisher

- 7 Texas Capitol Group, Former Parliamentarian in Senate, Ex-Legislative Director for Texas Municipal League

Randy Erben

- 8 Former Office of State-Federal Relations Director, Former Assistant Secretary of State

Clint Hackney

- 9 Clint Hackney & Company, Former State Representative

Steve Bresnen

- 10 Former General Counsel to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock

Ron Lewis

- 11 Ron Lewis & Associates, Former State Representative

Robert Miller

- 12 Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell Law Firm Partner, Former Houston METRO Chairman, Former State Senate Aide

Gib Lewis

- 13 Business Partners LTD, Former House Speaker, Ex-City Council Member

Frank Santos

- 14 Santos Alliances, Former National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators Consultant, Former State House Aide

TEXAS LOBBY POWER RANKINGS 2009

[▶ Rising Lobby Stars](#)[▶ Consultants Who Lobby](#)[▶ Ex-State Agency Heads](#)[▶ Texas Lobby Teams](#)[▶ Lobbyists for Causes](#)[▶ Lobby Law Firm Practices](#)[▶ Private Sector Associations](#)[▶ Public Sector Associations](#)[▶ Corporate In-House Lobby](#)[▶ Non-Profit Organizations](#)

Dedicated to the Memory of Butch Sparks, Bill Stinson and Jim Warren

January 23, 2009

[Professional Advocacy Association of Texas](#)

Lobbyists with Strong Connections to Dems Could See Stock Rise in New Bipartisan Age

With the election of Joe Straus as House speaker on the strength of his support from Democrats, Austin lobbyists Jody Richardson, Chris Hughes and Patrick Reinhart may feel like trendsetters as members of the legislative affairs team at the Brown McCarroll law firm where State Senator Kirk Watson and State Reps. Pete Gallego and Eddie Rodriguez have all gone to work.

In the dawn of a new era of bipartisan camaraderie in the west wing of the Capitol, the lobbyists who are associated more with Democrats than the GOP have ample cause to be brimming with glee about the prospects of their stock rising significantly during the regular session that's finally under way. It should come as no surprise that a host of public affairs consultants who are perceived to have strong ties to Democrats have made significant moves in a positive direction on *Capitol Inside's* Texas Lobby Power Rankings for 2009.

The fairly long list of lobbyists who seem to fit that description includes Steve Bresnen, Yuniedth Midence, Clint Hackney, James Mathis, Louis Bacarisse, Gaylord Armstrong and Curtis Fuelberg - all former aides or campaign managers for Democratic legislators, congressional members or statewide officeholders in Texas. And if that group has a reason to be a little giddy, the aforementioned Brown McCarroll lobbyist Reinhart might be feeling like he hit the daily double as a new member of a law firm that's loaded up with Democratic legislators and a former legislative aide to none other than the new Speaker of the Texas House as well.

With the speaker being a loyal San Antonio native who's family has been at the forefront of the pari-mutuel wagering business in Texas, the biggest stereotypical winner in the lobby in the wake of Straus' meteoric rise to the helm of the House would ostensibly be the lobbyist with Democratic credentials, gambling clients and Bexar County or the Alamo City as clients if they didn't grow up in that particular urban community or call it home now.

The Austin brother team of Gordon Johnson and Robert Johnson - the sons of a legendary parliamentarian who worked in the Texas House and the Senate when Democrats still ruled the land - hit on two of those three cylinders as two of the most prominent racetrack lobbyists in the state. So does Mario Martinez - a former aide to Democratic House member Tom Uher whose clients include the Johnsons' law firm and a leading manufacturer of video lottery gaming machines.

While Chris Shields has more of a Republican background as a former aide to Bill Clements and Jack Rains when they served as governor and secretary of state respectively, he also qualifies on two of those three key criteria as a San Antonio native who knows Straus well and as a lobbyist for clients who want to compliment horse and dog racing in Texas by bringing casinos to the state as well. Shields - a former Fulbright & Jaworski lawyer who's played a key role in the crafting of major economic development legislation in recent years - is an example of how some lobbyists with GOP credentials have been able to make big moves up the lobby power ladder as well in the Straus era.

- Galt Graydon**
15 Graydon Group, Former Texas Senate Aide
- Chris Shields**
16 Christopher S. Shields P.C., Former Aide to Governor Bill Clements and Secretary of State Jack Rains
- Stan Schlueter**
17 The Schlueter Group, Former State Representative
- Nora Del Bosque**
Former State House Aide and
- 18 Appropriations Committee Clerk, Sister is Speaker Tom Craddick's Chief of Staff Nancy Fisher
- Marc Rodriguez**
Former City of San Antonio Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Ex-San Antonio Chamber of Commerce VP for Government Affairs, Ex-Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Chair
- 19
- David Sibley**
20 Former State Senator, Former Waco Mayor
- Louis Bacarisse**
21 Former Aide to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and House Speaker Pete Laney
- Gaylord Armstrong**
22 McGinnis Lochridge & Kilgore, Former Aide to U.S. Rep. Bob Poague and U.S. Rep. Ray Roberts
- James Mathis**
23 Former John Sharp Campaign Manager
- Mario Martinez**
24 Mario Martinez & Associates, Former Aide to State Rep. Tom Uher
- Kathy Hutto**
25 Jackson Walker, Former Sunset Advisory Commission Staff
- Billy Phenix**
26 Texas Capitol Group, Former Aide to Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and State Senator Buster Brown
- Jody Richardson**
27 Brown McCarroll, Former Television Reporter, Longtime Akin Gump Member
- Yuniedth Midence**
28 Locke Lord, Former State Senate Aide
- Dean & Andrea McWilliams**
29 Former Legislative Aides to Democratic and Republican Members
- Bill Pewitt**
30 Bill Pewitt & Associates, Technology and Health Care
- Keith Strama**
31 Beatty Bangle Strama, Former Texas House Aide

While all of the aforementioned lobbyists may be getting more calls from prospective new clients than they would have experienced had the status quo survived in the lower chamber, the Mount Rushmore of the hired gun lobby list still looks the same despite the shakeup in the House and the addition of one more Democrat to the state Senate.

Texas Capitol Group co-leader Bill Messer, who's arguably been more closely associated with recently-deposed Republican Speaker Tom Craddick than any other lobby member in town, is still ranked among the top four contract lobbyists in the state as a former Democratic House member who's been one of the best in the advocacy business for the past two decades or more. While Messer and Craddick are close friends, the partisan line for all practical purposes hardly exists as far as the Belton native is concerned. Messer, in fact, was sighted on a bird hunting trip just last month with none other than former Democratic state Comptroller John Sharp, who's running for the U.S. Senate the next time an election for that post is held here.

Mike Toomey - a former state House Republican who's Messer's partner at the Texas Capitol Group - is generally perceived in a more partisan light than the other lobbyists who've been fixtures in the top spots on the power ranking's hired gun list for the past four years or more. Toomey - in fact - may be the epitome of the partisan lobbyist in an Austin lobby that's become increasingly party-driven in nature since the GOP took control of the House six years ago. Toomey was instrumental in that landmark achievement as a behind-the-scenes player before he signed on as Republican Governor Rick Perry's chief of staff for a two-year stint that ended when he returned to the lobby in late 2004. But Toomey, who represented the Houston area when he served in the House, has been playing his cards proactively since teaming up with Messer, contributing to Democrats as well as Republicans while their clients give generously to candidates on both sides of the partisan divide. While Toomey and Perry remain tight, he can expect to be in good shape with Straus as a lobbyist who's donated to him individually while the clients that he and Messer represent have contributed substantial sums to the new speaker as well. Toomey and Messer, who've both been rated as the lobby's number one hired gun at various times in the past several years, are listed third and fourth respectively on the new contract lobbyist ladder in early 2009. Despite Craddick's exit from the speaker's office and the Democrats new power status there, the case can be made that Toomey and Messer will continue to wield as much clout in the lobby as any of their peers in the business here, even though some lobbyists predict that Messer will take a hit to some degree with the changing of the guard in the Capitol's west wing.

The top-ranked hired gun lobbyist nonetheless this time around is the same former House Speaker Billy Clayton aide who crowned the list when the power rankings made their debut in 2003. That's Rusty Kelley, who left Public Strategies last year and teamed up with longtime associate Carol McGarah and several others at a new firm they founded called Blackridge. Kelley has arguably been the most popular lobby member in Austin for years and second to none when it comes to effectiveness. Neal T. "Buddy" Jones - a former House Democrat who co-founded HillCo Partners with Bill Miller - is a very close second on the contract lobbyist list in 2009 after being ranked first at times in years past and rarely much lower than that.

While the Big Four hasn't changed, the rest of the top ten on the hired gun list reflects some of the shuffling in the Capitol's west wing as Democrats tend to move up at the same time the jury is still out on how lobbyists who had close ties to Craddick will fare.

The Johnson brothers have made the biggest leap on the hired gun list - vaulting from the 13th position at the start of the 2007 session to spot number five on the new power rankings for contract lobbyists with multiple clients. While the Johnsons and others with ties to Democrats, Straus and gambling interests climb up the ladder, Nora Del Bosque is an example of a lobbyist whose status may be somewhat uncertain now that Craddick is no longer running the show in the House. Del Bosque is still ranked relatively high because she's very good at what she does. But Del Bosque had soared into the top ten on the contract lobbyist list when her sister, Nancy Fisher, was the chief of staff in the speaker's office. With the changing of the guard in the lower chamber, it might be safe to assume that she no longer will enjoy that kind of inherent presumed access.

The rankings rely on an unscientific formula that takes into account general criteria such as reputation, credentials, connections, respect, visibility, the quantity and quality of clients, contract values, work ethics, persuasive ability and likeability. The rankings are based on multiple information sources including the Texas Ethics Commission web site, the Internet in general and first and foremost from conversations with legislators and many key lobbyists themselves.

Some of the lobby's brightest young members like Sabrina Thomas Brown, Robert Howden, Lara Keel and Yuniedth Midence have graduated from the rising stars list in 2007. As a former chief of staff to State Senator John Whitmire, Midence has strong relationships on both sides of the aisle as a key member of Robert Miller's team at the law firm of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell. She's one of a number of reasons why Locke Lord ranks first again on the list of major law firm lobby practices just as it has for the past three years as a group that's consistently been the most innovative and aggressive in this particular category. Locke Lord has been a key player on the campaign trail as well, having contributed to a long list of

- Jack Erskine**
32 K&L Gates, Former Corporate Lawyer for Amoco and Dupont, Oil Field Clean-up Fund Architect
- Jay Propes**
33 Graydon Group, Former Congressional Aide, Ex-Trade Association Executive
- Sabrina Thomas Brown**
34 Former Texas House aide and Appropriations Committee Clerk
- Eric Wright**
35 Former Chief of Staff to State Senator Bill Ratliff, Ex-Senate Finance Committee Director
- Joe Garcia**
36 Garcia Group, Former State Senate Aide
- J.E. "Buster" Brown**
37 Former State Senator, Former Senate Natural Resources Chair, Former Assistant District Attorney
- Mignon McGarry**
38 Former State Senate Aide
- W. James Jonas III**
39 Holland & Knight, St. Mary's Hall Board of Trustees
- Lara Keel**
40 Texas Capitol Group, Former State Senate Aide, Married to State Auditor John Keel
- Carol McGarah**
41 Blackridge, Former State Senate Aide
- Jay Howard**
42 HillCo Partners, Son of Former State Senator
- Robert Howden**
43 Former Texas Tax Reform Commission Staff Director, Ex-Communications Director for Gov. Rick Perry, Ex-National Federation of Independent Business Executive Director in Texas
- Jaime Capelo**
44 Former State Representative
- Curtis Fuelberg**
45 Former Texas Association of Realtors Official, Ex-Aide to House Speaker Gus Mutscher
- Nick Kralj**
46 Former Aide to Ben Barnes as Speaker and Lt. Gov., Ex-Quorum Club Owner
- Deborah Ingersoll**
47 Legislative Solutions, Key Fundraiser for Campaigns
- Brad Shields**
48 Shields Legislative Associates, Former Eanes School Board President, Voice of Westlake Chapparals Football

incumbent lawmakers and some candidates for open seats as well. Miller in particular was part of the campaign think tank that helped propel former Harris County jurist Joan Huffman to victory in a special state Senate election that was arguably the hottest legislative race in Texas last year.

The law firm list has a new look this time around in the wake of the dismantling of the Akin Gump team and the subsequent development of new Austin shops at Greenberg Traurig and the aforementioned Brown McCarroll. Greenberg Traurig has moved into the Texas lobby game with the addition of former Akin Gump lawyers Demetrius McDaniel and ex-insurance commissioner Tom Bond to its team here. McDaniel has been ranked in the top ten on the contract lobbyist list since the day it was born in early 2003. Brown McCarroll's new lobby team has moved into the number two position on the law firm lobby shop list in 2009 in light of its ties to Straus and the Democratic legislators who work at the Austin office now as well. The third spot in this particular department belongs to the team at McGinnis Lochridge & Kilgore, which is led by veteran Gaylord Armstrong and stronger than ever with Jennifer Patterson working on tax issues and newest member Royce Poinsett, who gives this group the dual dimension of bipartisan credentials as a former general counsel to Tom Craddick in the speaker's office and ex-member of Governor Rick Perry's staff as well.

Keel, who's married to State Auditor John Keel, is surrounded by stars as a charter member of the Texas Capitol Group whose roster includes highly-ranked hired gun lobbyists Walter Fisher, Billy Phenix and Joe Garcia in addition to Messer and Toomey along with communication consulting professionals like Ray Sullivan and Rossanna Salazar. Fisher - a former Texas Senate parliamentarian under Democrat Bob Bullock and the three Republicans who preceded him as lieutenant governor - is rated once again in the top 10 on the contract lobbyist list. Phenix, a former policy analyst on Bullock's staff and ex-state Senate aid, has been getting better every session and could be top 10 material before long as well.

The star-studded lineup at the Texas Capitol Group explains why this shop is tied for first in the lobby team category with HillCo Partners. While HillCo's member directory features a long list of prominent names in the Austin lobby as well, the firm that Jones and Miller lead co-crowns the lobby team list as a result of reasons that are truly unique to it. In a lobby that's become increasingly specialized, HillCo has prepared for that era as well if not better than any other full-time lobby shop with lobbyists on its roster who focus on individual issues such as Marsha Jones in the health care field and local government experts Brandon Aghamalian and Snapper Carr, who used to work for the city of Fort Worth and the Texas Municipal League respectively. While the Texas Capitol Group's clients may donate as much or more to candidates across the state on a cumulative basis, HillCo has maintained strong ties on both sides of the aisle with its own political action committee that has given generously to incumbents and some contenders for open seats as well.

While the lobbyists who rank high on the hired gun list tend to have substantial experience, longevity in the lobby and ties to Democrats aren't prerequisites for spots on the list of the rising stars of the lobby in early 2009. The rising stars list is crowned by two former Straus aides - Joe Valenzuela and Patrick Reinhart. It also features Gavin Massengale, a former aide to Republican State Rep. Charlie Geren, one of the 11 anti-Craddick Republicans who nominated Straus as their choice for speaker and can expect to wield substantial sway in the lower chamber as a result this year. Five ex-Republican state legislators - retired Senate member Kyle Janek and former representatives Dianne Delisi, Mike Krusee, Corbin Van Arsdale and Tony Goolsby - are ranked in the next four slots on the new rising stars list as lobby rookies who seem to be naturals in their new occupations.

While AT&T continues to crown the corporate lobby list as a result of the massive team that it hires to compliment its in-house lobbyists, the big news in this particular category is arguably the addition of Carl Richie to the lobby team at TXU Energy in the wake of the sale to private investors and division of operations into new groups such as Energy Future Holdings and Oncor.

The list of political consultants remains a mostly Republican club - thanks to an influx of campaign strategists into the lobby business after the GOP claimed control of the state House earlier this decade. But there are some new additions with a couple of Perry alumni - Robert Black and Eric Bearse - expecting to mix some lobbying with private communications ventures they've initiated. And veteran consultant Bryan Eppstein had vaulted from the third spot on the consultants who lobby list two years ago to the number one position this time around now that several of the Texas House Republicans who he advises were instrumental in the overthrow of Craddick and subsequent election of Straus as speaker.

With Democrats exerting more influence in the Texas House and Senate this year, the liberal think tank known as the Center for Public Policy Priorities has moved up a few notches on the list of non-profit organization lobby teams that features the shops for the United Ways of Texas, Baylor College of Medicine, the American Heart Association and American Cancer Association in the top four spots. But the Democratic resurgence hasn't pushed Texas Eagle Forum President Cathie Adams out of the number one spot on the list of people who lobby for causes. Adams, a veteran activist who was elected to the Republican National Committee last summer, commands the immediate attention of GOP lawmakers whenever her organization decides to turn up the grassroots pressure on conservative issues dear to its heart.

- Jerry Valdez**
49 Former Texas Department of Economic Development Official
- Ray Allen**
50 Former State Representative
- Joey Bennett**
50 Former Public Strategies Inc. Lobbyist
- Mark Borskey**
50 Ex-Deputy Legislative Director for Gov. Rick Perry, Ex-Chief of Staff to State Rep. Mike Krusee
- James Clark**
50 Former Campaign Manager for John Sharp, Ex-Aide to Jim Mattox Campaign, Ex-UTS In-House
- Robert Culley**
50 Former Legislative Aide
- Mindy Ellmer**
50 Former Bracewell & Giuliani Consultant, Ex-State House Aide, Ex-Aide to Governor Bill Clements
- Toby Goodman**
50 Former State Representative, Former Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committee Chairman, Ex-Republican Precinct Chair
- Mark Harkrider**
50 Former Aide to Dallas Mayor Annette Strauss
- Ron Hinkle**
50 Former State House Sergeant at Arms, Former Texas Department of Commerce Official
- Wade Long**
50 Former Texas Senate Aide
- John Pitts**
50 Arnold & Porter Law Firm Consultant, Ex-General Counsel to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, Twin Brother to House Appropriations Chairman Jim Pitts
- Kraege Polan**
50 Former Legislative Aide
- Chuck Rice**
50 Chuck Rice Group, Ex-State Senate Aide, Former Texas Hospital Association Legislative Director
- Jack Roberts**
50 Former Deputy Comptroller
- Dan Shelley**
50 Former State Senator, Former State House, Ex-Legislative Director for Gov. Rick Perry
- Patricia Shipton**
50 Former Legislative Director for Gov. Rick Perry
- Bill Siebert**
50 Former State Representative
- Bob Turner**
50 Former State Representative, Ex-Public Safety Committee chair

While the lobby teams for the Texas Trial Lawyers Association and the Texas Medical Association are a close second and third respectively on the private sector association list in 2009, the Texans for Lawsuit Reform remains at the top of this particular category after donating a record amount of money to candidates for the Legislature last year. The Texas Association of Business has strengthened its position on the private sector group after adding former Bush administration education adviser Sandy Kress to its lobby team along with ex-Texas House aide Kandace Sinai and Enrique Marquez, a former staff member at Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst's campaign committee.

The local government lobbyists for the Texas Municipal League and the Texas Association of Counties are ranked first and second respectively on the public sector association list even though the lobby teams for several education groups that are rated just below them could be stronger than they've been in years in the Straus era in light of his support from so many Democrats and moderate Republicans.

The power rankings in 2009 have an exciting new feature: less long-winded text. The lists say it all. The lobby rankings - to put it mildly - are a massive undertaking that will have inevitable mistakes and omissions. Please let us know if you see anything we should correct, add or delete from the list.

RISING LOBBY STARS TO WATCH

- Joe Valenzuela**
1 Former Chief of Staff to Speaker Joe Straus, Ex-Mexican American Legislative Caucus Adviser
- Patrick Reinhart**
2 Brown McCarroll, Former Aide to Speaker Joe Straus
- Kyle Janek**
3 Former State Senator, Former State Representative
- Dianne Delisi**
4 Former State Representative, Delisi Communications
- Pat Haggerty**
5 Former State Representative
- Fred Hill**
5 Former State Representative
- Mike Krusee**
5 Former State Representative
- Corbin Van Arsdale**
5 Former State Representative
- Tony Goolsby**
6 Former State Representative
- Will Yarnell**
7 Democratic Consultant, Former Texas House Aide to Patrick Rose
- Gavin Massengale**
8 Former Texas House Aide to Charlie Geren
- Nancy Fisher**
9 Former Chief of Staff to Ex-Speaker Tom Craddick, Former Texas Racing Commission Executive Director

FORMER STATE AGENCY HEADS WHO LOBBY

- Don Gilbert**
1 Former Health & Human Services Commissioner, Ex-MHMR Commissioner
- Dan Pearson**
2 HillCo Partners, Ex-Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission Executive Director, Ex-Aide to Bob Bullock
- Al Erwin**
3 Ex-PUC Commissioner, Ex-Advisor to Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst
- Jim Hine**
4 Former Department of Aging and Disability Services Commissioner
- Mary Scott Nabers**
5 Strategic Partnerships Inc., Ex-Texas Railroad Commissioner, Ex-Texas Employment Commission Member
- Marta Greytok**
6 Greytok Consulting Group, Ex-PUC Commissioner
- Glenn Shankle**
7 Ex-Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Executive Director
- Barry Williamson**
8 Ex-Texas Railroad Commissioner, Ex-Interior Department Official
- Tom Bond**
9 Akin Gump, Ex-Texas Insurance Commissioner, Ex-Legislative Aide
- Dennis Thomas**
10 Ex-PUC Commissioner, Ex-Executive Assistant for Governor Mark White

Gilbert Turrieta

Former Houston Chamber of Commerce and Texas Medical Association Official, Former LBB Examiner

50

Arlene Wohlgenuth

Former State Representative, Ex-Johnson County Republican Party Chair

50

TOP POLITICAL CONSULTANTS WHO LOBBY

Bryan Eppstein

Bryan Eppstein & Company, Former Texas House Aide, Consultant for Republican Legislators and Candidates

1

Reggie Bashur

Former Aide to Govs. George W. Bush and Bill Clements, Consultant for Comptroller Susan Combs and other Republicans

2

Ray Sullivan

Texas Capitol Group, Former Aide to Govs. George W. Bush and Rick Perry, Republican Consultant

3

Luis Saenz

Campaign Manager for Gov. Rick Perry in 2006, Former Asst. Secretary of State; Ex-Aide to Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm and U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

4

Todd Smith

IMPACT Texas, Former SREC Member, Ex-House Republican Caucus Executive Director, Consultant for Republican legislators and candidates

5

Matt Welch

The Patriot Group, Former Texans for Lawsuit Reform Political Director, Ex-Aide to U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, Consultant for Republican Candidates

6

Michelle Wittenburg

Former General Counsel to Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick; Ex-State Senate Aide, Ex-Aide to Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Republican Consultant

7

Jason Johnson

J2 Strategies, Texans for School Choice Executive Director, Campaign Consultant for Attorney General Greg Abbott and other Republicans

8

Lee Woods

Republican Consultant, Trial Lawyer Representative

9

Kevin Brannon

Brannon & Associates, Republican Consultant

10

Ryan Poinsett

10 McGinnis Lochridge & Kilgore, Ex-Aide to Gov. Rick Perry and Speaker Tom Craddick

TOP LOBBY TEAMS

HillCo Partners

Neal T. "Buddy" Jones, Bill Miller, Brandon Aghamalian, David Anderson, Snapper Carr, Jay Howard, Marsha Jones, Vilma Luna, J. McCart, Dan Pearson, Clint Smith, Tanya Vazquez

1

Texas Capitol Group

Bill Messer, Mike Toomey, Walter Fisher, Joe Garcia, Wayne Fleenor, Lara Keel, Billy Phenix, Rossanna Salazar, Ray Sullivan

1

Blackridge

Rusty Kelley, Carol McGarah, Michael Johnson, Sara Kemptner

3

Graydon Group

Galt Graydon, Jay Brown, Machree Gibson, Jay Propes, Shannon Swan

4

Santos Alliances

Frank Santos, Laura Matz, Gregg Knaupe, Luis Gonzalez

5

The Eppstein Group

Bryan Eppstein, John Michael Grimes, David Marwitz, Tim Reeves, John Shults

6

The Schlueter Group

Stan Schlueter, Eric Glenn, Gwyn Shea, Cissy Ellis

7

The Patriot Group

Kevin Brannon, Jill Warren, Matt Welch

8

Business Partners LTD

Gib Lewis, Mike Millsap, Tom Treadway, Wayne Franke, James Hinds

9

The Ratliff Company

Bill Ratliff, Thomas Ratliff, Ron Hinkle, Kevin Cooper

10

Strategic Partnerships Inc.

Mary Scott Nabers, Gay Erwin, Lynn Nabers

11

Texas Stakeholders

Phil Cates, Anastasia K. Semos, David Romo

12

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

United Ways of Texas

1 Karen R. Johnson, Melody Chatelle, Jason Sabo

1

Baylor College of Medicine

Tom Kleinworth

2

American Heart Association

Joel Romo, Douglas Dunsavage

3

American Cancer Society

Rodney Ahart, James Gray

4

Center for Public Policy Priorities

Anne Dunkelberg, Dick Lavine, Scott McCown

5

TOP LAW FIRM LOBBY PRACTICES

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell

Brian Cassidy, Bruce LaBoon, Amy Hunt, Yuniedth Midence, Robert Miller, Gardner Pate

1

Brown McCarroll

Chris Hughes, Patrick Reinhart, Jody Richardson

2

McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore

Gaylord Armstrong, Carl Galant, Campbell McGinnis, Jennifer Patterson, Royce Poinsett

3

Greenberg Traurig

Tom Bond, Pati McCandless, Demetrius McDaniel

4

Vinson & Elkins

Darrick Eugene, Bill Jones, Elizabeth Rogers, Glen Rosenbaum, Barron Wallace

5

K&L Gates

Jack Erskine, Victoria Ford, Myra Leo, Larry McGinnis, Marc Shivers

6

Jackson Walker

Geoff Connor, Kathy Hutto, Michael Nasi, Ed Small

7

Baker Botts

Tristan Castaneda, James Grace, Pamela Giblin

8

Gardere Wynne Sewell

Nanette Beard, Dewey Brackin, A.W. (Woody) Pogue, Mark Vane, David Weber, Kimberly Yelkin

9

Winstead, Sechrist & Minick

Robert Bass, Gary Compton, Janis Carter, Pete Winstead

10

Hance, Scarborough, Wright, Ginsberg

Robert Floyd

11

Bracewell & Giuliani

Jim Chapman, Shannon Ratliff II, David Thompson

12

Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein Sandoloski

Allen Beinke, Meredyth Fowler, Wallace Henderson, Jennifer Windscheffel

13

The Loeffler Group

Robert Finney, Lane Luskey

14

Kemp Smith

Thomas Forbes, Veronica Vargas Stidvent

15

Allen Boone Humphries Robinson

Joe B. Allen, Nancy Kwon, Trey Lary

16

Lloyd Gosselink Blevins Rochelle &

Brian Sledge, Ty Embrey

17

Potts & Reilly

Marc Levin, Susan Potts, Frank Reilly

18

- Allen Blakemore**
Blakemore & Associates; Former Aide to U.S. Senators John Tower and Phil Gramm, Consultant for Republican Legislators and Candidates
- Craig Murphy**
Murphy Turner, San Jacinto Public Affairs Partner, Consultant for U.S. Rep. Joe Barton and Republican Legislators and Candidates
- Eric Bearse**
Republican Consultant, Former Speechwriter and Deputy Communications Director for Governor Rick Perry
- Robert Black**
Republican Consultant, Former Press Secretary for Governor Rick Perry, Ex-Texas Republican Party Communications Director
- Scott Gilmore**
Republican Consultant, Former Texas House Aide
- Richard McBride**
Former General Land Office Spokesman, Ex-Aide to Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst
- Jill Warren**
The Patriot Group, Former Asst. Attorney General, Ex-State House and Senate Aide
- Chuck McDonald**
McDonald & Associates, Former Press Secretary for Gov. Ann Richards
- Wayne Hamilton**
Murphy Turner, Former Texas GOP Executive Director, San Jacinto Public Affairs Partner
- Dave Walden**
Greater Houston Partnership Public Policy Vice-President; Former Chief of Staff to Houston Mayor Bob Lanier, Ex-State Director for U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ex-Aide to County Judge Jon Lindsay, Republican Consultant
- Sue Walden**
Fundraiser for Houston Mayors Bob Lanier and Lee Brown and George W. Bush Adviser to Mayoral Candidate Orlando Sanchez

TOP LOBBYISTS FOR CAUSES

- 1 Cathie Adams**
[Texas Eagle Forum](#)
- 2 Suzii Paynter**
[Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission](#)
- 3 Alice Tripp**
[Texas State Rifle Association](#)
- Tara Mica**
[National Rifle Association](#)

- Texas Public Policy Foundation**
- 6 Talmadge Heflin, David Guenther, Justin Keener, William Peacock, James Quintero, Brocke Terry**
- Texas Taxpayers and Research Association**
- 7 Bill Allaway, Dale Craymer**
- Equity Center**
- 8 Wayne Pierce, John Hubbard**
- Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas**
- 9 Carol McDonald**

PUBLIC SECTOR ASSOCIATIONS

- 1 Texas Municipal League**
Shanna Igo, Frank Sturzl, Monty Wynn
- 2 Texas Association of Counties**
Carey Boethel
- Texas Classroom Teachers Association**
- 3 Jeri Stone, Ann Fickel, Lindsay Gustafson, Lonnie Hollingsworth Jr., Dohn Larson, Jan Pate, Holly Eaton Tabel, Paige Williams**
- Texas Association of School Boards**
- 4 Jacqueline Lain, Catherine Clark, Ruben Longoria, Paul Sadler, Julie Shields**
- Texas Association of School Administrators**
- 5 Amy Beneski, Ramiro Canales, Johnny Veselka**
- Texas State Teachers Association**
- 6 Joe Patrick Bean, Portia Bosse, John Grey, Rita Haecker, Paul Henley, Jason Hillman, Richard Kouri**
- Texas Federation of Teachers**
- 7 Eric Hartman, Ted Melina Raab, Patricia Quinzi, Jennifer Rodriguez**
- Texas Conference of Urban Counties**
- 8 Don Lee**
- Association of Texas Professional Educators**
- 9 Jennifer Canaday, Brock Gregg, Patty Quinzi, Jenny Simpson**
- Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas**
- 10 Charles Wilkison**
- Texas Municipal Police Association**
- 11 Tom Gaylor**
- Texas District and County Attorneys Association**
- 12 Shannon Edmonds**

CORPORATE IN-HOUSE

- 1 AT&T**
Jeff Blaylock, Shane Cordova, Leslie Ward
- 2 TXU Energy**
Carl Richie

- Booth Ahrens Werkenthin**
- 19 Michael Booth, Wil Galloway, Fred Werkenthin**
- Thompson & Knight**
- 20 Victor Alcorta, Angela Christian**
- Bickerstaff Heath Pollan & Caroom**
- 20 Claudia Russell, Patty Akers, Myra McDaniel, David Mendez**

PRIVATE SECTOR ASSOCIATIONS

- Business & Insurance**
- 1 Texans for Lawsuit Reform**
Leo Linbeck, Richard Trabulsi, Richard Weekley
- Lawyers**
- Texas Trial Lawyers Association**
- 2 Tommy Townsend, James Fields, Nick Kralj, James Pecora, Carol Taylor, Zoe Taylor, Russ Tidwell**
- Doctors**
- Texas Medical Association**
- 3 Dan Finch, Greg Herzog, Patricia Kolodzey, David Reynolds, Michelle Romero, Darren Whitehurst**
- Real Estate**
- 4 Texas Association of Realtors**
Daniel Gonzalez, Mark Lehman
- General Business**
- Texas Association of Business**
- 5 Bill Hammond, Cathy Dewitt, Sandy Kress, Enrique Marquez, Steve Minick, Kandace Sinai**
- Telecommunications**
- Texas Cable & Telecommunications Association**
- 6 Todd Baxter, Jeff Burdett**
- Utilities**
- 7 Association of Electric Companies**
John Fainter, Walt Baum
- Alcohol**
- Wholesale Beer**
- Distributors of Texas**
- 8 Mike McKinney, Tom Spillman**
- Beer Alliance of Texas**
- Rick Donley**
- Licensed Beverage Distributors**
- Alan Gray**
- Texas Package Stores Association**
- Fred Marosko**
- Energy**
- Texas Oil & Gas Association**
- Rob Looney, Ben Sebree**
- Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association**
- 9 Adam Haynes, Donna Warndof**
- Texas Alliance of Energy Producers**
- William Stevens, Gloria Leal, Alex Mills**

- 4 **Tom "Smitty" Smith**
[Public Citizen](#)
- 5 **Alex Winslow**
[Texas Watch](#)
- 6 **Suzi Woodford**
[Common Cause](#)
- 7 **Luke Metzger**
[Environment Texas](#)
- 8 **Colin Leyden**
[Texas League of Conservation Voters](#)
- 9 **Joe Pojman**
[Texas Alliance for Life](#)
- 10 **Sarah Wheat**
[NARAL Pro-Choice Texas](#)

- 3 **Verizon**
Charles Carrathers, Carl Erhart, James Hines, Helen Soto Knaggs, Richard Lawson
- 4 **CenterPoint Energy**
Jeff Bonham, June Deadrick, Rina Hartline, John Urrabazo
- 5 **Ryan & Company**
Karey Barton, Susan Bittick, James Eads, Bruce Gibson
- 6 **Oncor**
Mindy Carr, Walt Jordan, Raul Liendo
- 7 **Reliant Energy**
Elizabeth Brock, Michael Jewell, Eric Woomer
- 8 **American Electric Power**
Jack Ballard, James Dodson, Gary Gibbs, Gilbert Hughes, Judith Talavera
- 9 **Energy Future Holdings**
Andrew Keever, Curt Seidlits
- 10 **Zachry Group**
Victoria Waddy
- 11 **Farmers Insurance**
Frank Galitski
- 12 **Entergy/Gulf States**
Parker McCullough
- 13 **Hewlett Packard**
Fred Shannon
- 14 **Exxon Mobil**
Sara K. Tays
- 15 **Landry's Restaurants**
Stephen Greenberg
- 16 **Marathon Oil**
Hugo Gutierrez
- 17 **Gulf States Toyota**
Ken Roche
- 18 **Koch Industries**
Bill Oswald
- 19 **Texas Instruments**
Elizabeth Mayes
- 20 **Continental Airlines**
Nene Foxhall, Michelle Baden
- 21 **Chevron**
Stephen Perry
- 22 **Exelon Power Texas**
Bill Scott
- 23 **Amerigroup Corporation**
Meredith Delk
- 24 **Lyondell**
Cindy McCauley
- 25 **Huntsman Corporation**
Mike Meroney
- 26 **Lenders & Members Group**
Tom Duffy
- 27 **ConocoPhillips**
Thomas Sellers
- 28 **Union Pacific Railroad**
Joe Adams

- Highway Contractors**
10 **Associated General Contractors of Texas**
Thomas Johnson
- Property Management**
11 **Texas Apartment Association**
George Allen, David Mintz
- Engineers**
12 **Texas Council of Engineering Companies**
Lisa Anderson, Peyton McKnight, Robert Stagner
- Business**
13 **Texas Civil Justice League**
Carter Casteel, George Christian, Cary Roberts, Carol Sims
- Dental**
14 **Texas Dental Association**
Susan Ross
- Transportation**
15 **Texas Automobile Dealers Association**
Tom Blanton
- Health Facilities**
16 **Texas Hospital Association**
Charles Bailey, John Hawkins, Dan Stultz
- Financial**
17 **Texas Credit Union League**
Buddy Gill, Jeff Huffman, Carolyn Merchan Saeger
- Agriculture**
18 **Texas Farm Bureau**
Billy Howe, Ken Hodges, Warren Mayberry
- Health Care**
19 **Private Providers Association of Texas**
Carole Smith
- Manufacturing**
20 **Texas Association of Manufacturers**
Luke Bellsnyder
- Electronics**
21 **American Electronics Association**
Jeff Clark
- Chemical**
22 **Texas Chemical Council**
Hector Rivero
- Small Business**
23 **National Federation of Independent Business**
Will Newton, Lance Lively
- Health Care**
24 **Texas Health Care Association**
Leticia Caballero, Dorothy Crawford, Tim Graves, Tim Plowman
- Builders**
25 **Texas Association of Builders**
Ned Munoz, Scott Norman
- Construction**
26 **Texas Construction Association**
Alan Burrows, William Freeman, Raymond Risk
- Television and Radio**
27 **Texas Association of Broadcasters**
Ann Arnold

29 [Merck](#)
Holly Jacques

30 [Lennox International](#)
Lisa Mayes

Transportation
28 [Texas Good Roads/Transportation Association](#)

Lawrence Olsen

Trucking
29 [Texas Motor Transportation Association](#)
Les Findeisen, John Esparza

Copyright 2003-2009 Capitol Inside

Photocopying, printing, or reproducing in any other form in whole or in part is a violation of federal copyright law and is strictly prohibited without the publisher's consent. Phone: (512) 917-1697