

A New Prescription for Better Health Outcomes

Speaker Bios



Evan Smith
Texas Tribune
(Moderator)

Evan Smith is the CEO and co-founder of The Texas Tribune, a pioneering nonprofit, nonpartisan digital news organization whose deep coverage of Texas politics and public policy can be found at its website, texastribune.org, in newspapers and on TV and radio stations across the state, and in the print and online editions of the Washington Post.

Since its launch in 2009, the Tribune has won international acclaim and numerous honors, including a Peabody Award, twenty-two national Edward R. Murrow Awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association and three general excellence awards from the Online News Association. Evan is also the host of “Overheard with Evan Smith,” a weekly half-hour interview program that airs on PBS stations around the country.

Previously he spent nearly 18 years at Texas Monthly, including eight years as the magazine's editor and a year as its president and editor in chief.

Jaime Wesolowski is the President and Chief Executive Officer at Methodist Healthcare Ministries. A healthcare executive with three decades of leadership experience, Jaime is responsible for the overall governance and direction of Methodist Healthcare Ministries.

Jaime earned his Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from Xavier University, and his Bachelor's of Science from Indiana University in Healthcare Administration. As a cancer survivor, Jaime is a staunch supporter of the American Cancer Society. He serves as Chair of the American Cancer Society's South Texas Area board of directors and he most recently was appointed as Chair to the newly created South Region Advisory Cabinet, covering eight states from Arizona through Alabama.

Jaime believes his personal experience as a cancer survivor has given him more defined insight and compassion to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients and their families.



Jaime Wesolowski
Methodist Healthcare Ministries



Tom Luce
Texas 2036

Tom Luce founded Texas 2036 amid growing concern that without careful consideration, planning and decision-making for the next generation, the tremendous opportunities Texas offers may not exist for future generations. He began his career as the founding and managing partner of the Hughes and Luce law firm. His public service includes Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court pro tempore, Texas Sunset Commission Member, and Assistant Secretary of Education by President George W. Bush. Tom has founded and led numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Texas Business and Education Coalition, Just for the Kids, Data Quality Campaign, the National Center for Educational Accountability, the National Math and Science Initiative and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. He has authored two books on improving public education and has taught at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs, Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas at Dallas. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Southern Methodist University.

Charles Miller joined Texas 2036 after serving as a Budget & Policy Advisor for Governor Greg Abbott. During his two legislative sessions, Charles advised on a broad range of issues, including health care, insurance, workforce development, elections, information resources, cybersecurity, and first amendment issues and civil law. He served as the primary liaison to a number of state agencies, including the Texas Department of Insurance, Texas Workforce Commission, Department of Information Resources, Secretary of State, and Office of the Attorney General, among others. Charles worked on developing, implementing, and reforming long-term strategies, with a focus on structural incentives. Previously, Charles practiced law, with a focus on insurance defense litigation. He received his J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, and his B.A. in History from the University of Notre Dame.



Charles Miller
Texas 2036

Vivian Ho, Ph.D., is the James A. Baker III Institute Chair in Health Economics, director of the Center for Health and Biosciences, a professor in the Department of Economics at Rice University, and a professor in the Department of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. Ho's research examines the effects of economic incentives and regulations on the quality and costs of health care. Her research is widely published in economics, medical and health services research journals. Ho's research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the American Cancer Society. In 2020, Ho was elected as a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Health Statistics, as well as on the NIH Health Services, Outcomes and Delivery study section. She is also a founding board member of the American Society for Health Economists and a board member for Community Health Choice. Ho received her A.B. in economics from Harvard University, a graduate diploma in economics from The Australian National University and a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University.



Vivian Ho, Ph.D.
Rice University



Sen. Nathan Johnson
Texas Senate

Elected with strong bipartisan support in 2018, Senator Nathan Johnson represents the economically and demographically diverse Senate District 16, which comprises the northern part of Dallas County. Johnson graduated magna cum laude with a degree in physics from the University of Arizona, and earned his law degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

He practices law in the Trial Practice Group at the law firm of Thompson & Knight. He has also composed music for the classical concert stage and scored the hit television series Dragon Ball Z. Johnson passed 22 bills into law during his first legislative session, all with bipartisan support. He earned a reputation for being a quick study who convenes and considers the views of diverse constituencies, and pursues creative public policy solutions. His emphasis on improving the health of

Texans prompted him to author and support a number of healthcare initiatives, ranging from medical coding to Medicaid expansion, with much in between. Over the past few years, Johnson and his team have devoted many hours to developing legislative strategies to foster sustainable, economic growth and broaden opportunity.

State Representative James Frank is a longtime resident of Wichita Falls, where he owns Sharp Iron Group and Transland, two manufacturing companies which have over 100 employees. James and his wife of 30 years, Alisha, have six sons ages 14 to 28.

Recently elected to his fifth term in the Texas House of Representatives, Frank serves as Chairman of the Human Services Committee as well as a member of the Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committee.

State Representative Frank is passionate about improving the child welfare system, limited government that serves constituents rather than bureaucracy, common sense local control, increased personal freedom and responsibility, and will continue to focus on health care access and affordability.



Rep. James Frank
Texas House of Representatives



Dr. M. Ray Perryman
The Perryman Group

Dr. Ray Perryman is President and CEO of The Perryman Group, an economic research and analysis firm based in Waco, Texas. His firm has served the needs of more than 2,500 clients, including two-thirds of the Global 25, over half of the Fortune 100, the 12 largest technology firms in the world, 10 US Cabinet Departments, the 9 largest firms in the US, the 6 largest energy companies operating in the US, and the 5 largest US banking institutions.

Dr. Perryman holds a BS in Mathematics from Baylor University and a PhD in Economics from Rice University, as well as an honorary doctorate from the International Institute for Advanced Studies. He has held numerous academic positions throughout his career (Herman Brown Professor of Economics and University Professor at Baylor University and Economist-in-Residence at Southern Methodist University) and is currently a Senior Research Fellow of the IC2 Institute at the University of Texas and Institute Distinguished

Professor of Economic Theory and Method at the International Institute for Advanced Studies. He has authored several books, over 400 academic papers, and more than 2,500 trade articles. He publishes an annual subscription forecasting service and monthly newsletter, writes a weekly syndicated column, and hosts a daily radio commentary with frequent appearances on National Public Radio.