

Future Research Agenda 2002

The Texas Public Policy Foundation has mapped out an aggressive research agenda for 2002. Here is an advance look at just some of what you can expect to see TPPF publish this year.

On Taxes and the State Budget

- ★ A multi-state comparison of taxes, revenues and expenditures with the Texas tax system conducted by a former economist with the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.
- ★ Development of a Computable General Equilibrium computer model that will enable TPPF to forecast the economic implications of any proposed change in the state tax code. Our model will make it possible to determine the effects of changes in state and local sales, property, and business taxes; a hypothetical statewide personal income tax; other broad-based tax changes proposed in future years; and changes in various fees, excise taxes, and other revenue sources. It would measure the impact of tax changes in 11 sectors, consisting of Texas households, Texas government, a rest-of-the world (ROW) sector and eight Texas business sectors: agriculture, mining (including oil and gas), construction, FIRE (finance, insurance and real estate), manufacturing, services, trade, and TPU (transportation and public utilities). Effects will be measured in terms of job creation, capital formation, and government revenues among others.
- ★ An analysis of the “Robin Hood” school finance equalization system; cost pressures within the current finance system; opportunities for cost savings; suggested productivity metrics; and, ways to incentivize efficiency.

On Health Care

- ★ An analysis of the health care crisis in Texas, the uninsured population, the costs and benefits of taxpayer-funded, health care programs, and



“I work with think tanks across the country, and TPPF stands out for its commitment to vigorous research. TPPF demands researchers to find innovative solutions facing Texas, not simply the fads or easy answers.”
Wendell Cox, national transportation expert

“TPPF will be aggressively meeting head-on the important issues facing Texas: from school finance to taxes, from transportation to textbook adoption. When Texans are talking about it, and decisions are being made, TPPF will be there with the intellectual materials to build a better Texas.”

Vance Miller of Dallas, TPPF Board of Directors Executive Committee



- the status of Texas community hospitals.
- ★ An analysis of government obstacles to consumer-driven health care, including regulations, mandates, and health care taxes.
- ★ An analysis of public and private-sector solutions that put patients first, including medical savings accounts, sliding scale payments for government health programs and prescription drugs; defined contribution plans, regulatory and liability reform, waiver demonstrations, and removal of the barriers to charitable care.

On Education

- ★ An analysis of the Texas school accountability system, the conversion of TAAS to a new state test (TAKS), and improvement needed in the test.
- ★ An accurate assessment of academic progress in Texas.
- ★ An analysis of teacher preparation and certification in Texas, with an emphasis on ways to reduce the teacher shortage without resulting in academically unqualified teachers.
- ★ An analysis of the social studies textbooks proposed for adoption in Texas. Each book will be analyzed to measure academic content, accuracy, lack of bias, and freedom from political advocacy.

On General Governance

- ★ An analysis of the expansion of state and local governments into areas of commerce which directly and unfairly compete with the private sector at below-market rates subsidized by the taxpayer.

Our Staff



Jeff M. Judson

President and Chief Executive Officer

The Texas Public Policy Foundation is directed by Jeff Judson, a seventh-generation Texan who holds a degree in philosophy from the University of Texas. Well-grounded in public policy and uniquely qualified to lead the Foundation, Jeff served as Special Assistant to the late U.S. Senator John Tower, Legislative Assistant to former U.S. Congressman Tom Loeffler, and Chief Legislative Assistant to U.S. Congressman Tom DeLay, House Majority Whip. In 1989, he was appointed by President George H. W. Bush to the U.S. Department of Energy to serve in the area of Congressional and Public Affairs.

Jeff also worked for the San Antonio-based insurance and financial services company, USAA, as Industry Affairs Director for the property and casualty insurance division. He then became Special Assistant to Chairman Emeritus Robert F. McDermott working on numerous civic, state, and national issues.

In addition to his Foundation work, Jeff served on the Board of Managers of the Bexar County Hospital District.



Tim Turner

Executive Vice President

Tim joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation in the fall of 2000 as Chief Operating Officer. A year later, he was named Executive Vice President. His focus is in the areas of development management, policy events, and

scholar relations.

Tim holds an MBA from the University of Texas at San Antonio, a Certificate of Individual Theological Study from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest (Austin), an MDiv from the Oblate School of Theology (San Antonio) and a BA in economics from the University of Houston. His prior work experience is far-ranging: Oblate missionary priest in the extremely rural areas of Oaxaca, Mexico and in the densely populated colonias of Mexico City; South Texas oil and gas landman and investor; financial advisor; and Episcopal rector and author.



Paul M. Fullem

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Paul M. Fullem joined TPPF in August 2001 and serves as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. In this position, he is responsible for all administrative, financial, systems, and human resource functions of the organization.

Paul majored in Business Administration at Utica College of Syracuse University.

Prior to joining TPPF, Paul held Budget Analyst positions in Phoenix, AZ, San Antonio, TX, and Des Moines, IA. From 1981 to 1998, he held several manufacturing management positions with United Technologies Carrier in Syracuse, NY. Prior to that, Paul held management and operations positions in the transportation industry.

Paul resides in San Antonio with his wife Carey.



Rita Thompson

Director of Development

Rita joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation in October 2000 as Director of Development. She is responsible for special fundraising programs and executing strategies and plans to obtain funds from charitable foundations, businesses, individuals, and other donors.

Rita received her Bachelor's of Science Degree from Oklahoma State University. She is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute and the Institute for Organization Management where she obtained her C.C.E. (Certified Chamber Executive).

Rita served as the Area Director for the Arthritis Foundation from 1998 until October 2000. From 1992 until 1996 she was the Executive Director of Medical Destination: San Antonio, a non-profit organization. Prior to that, she served for 11 years as Vice President for Small Business and Economic Development for the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

Rita is married to an attorney and has three children.



Chris Patterson

Director of Education Research

Chris Patterson joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation in March 2001 as Director of Education Research. She is responsible for developing reports on public education in Texas, coordinating research by independent education experts, and participating in conferences and talk radio to disseminate information about education reform.

Chris was previously the Director of Education Policy for The Lone Star Foundation in Austin and Executive Director of Education Connection of Texas in San Antonio. She has published several reports on textbooks, curricula, instructional practices, student performance, and school governing.

Chris holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Labor Relations Certification from the Cornell University School of Management Studies. She and her husband have two sons who attend public school in San Antonio.



Michael Quinn Sullivan
Director of Media and Government Relations

Michael Quinn Sullivan is Director of Media and Government Relations for the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

A graduate of Texas A&M University, Michael began his career as a reporter for two daily Texas newspapers and a monthly magazine before leaving journalism to serve in the campaign and offices of U.S. Rep. Ron Paul. He left government service when he joined the staff of the Media Research Center, as Director of Communications for the Conservative Communications Center and the Cybercast News Service. There, he developed and refined communications training programs while overseeing the organization's public relations activities.

An accomplished columnist, Michael's commentaries have appeared in numerous publications around the state and nation.

An accomplished columnist, Michael's commentaries have appeared in such publications around the state and nation as the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Houston Chronicle*, the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, the *Augusta (GA) Chronicle*, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, the *Raleigh (NC) News & Observer*, the *Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch*, *DoubleThink magazine*, the *Daily Oklahoman*, and others.

Michael and his wife have two young daughters, and reside in Austin, Texas.



Kathleen Lowe
Director of Publications and Special Events

Kathleen Lowe is TPPF's Director of Publications and Special Events. In this position, she edits and designs all documents published by TPPF and maintains the TPPF website. She is also responsible for organizing

policy briefings, conferences, and other special activities for TPPF members, Texas legislators and elected statewide officials.

Prior to moving to San Antonio and joining TPPF in April 2001, Kathleen handled daily press activities for several Republican/Conservative members of the New York State Legislature for more than 12 years.



Jennifer Zellner
Manager of Administration

In September 1998, the Foundation added a valuable asset to its team with the arrival of Jennifer Zellner. Jennifer provides the TPPF team an organized, professional, team-oriented environment, ensuring the Foundation operates smoothly on a daily basis.

Jennifer has been in Administrative Management since her enlistment in the United States Air Force in 1992. Jennifer is a veteran and served overseas during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

She lives in San Antonio with her husband, Brett and two children, Brian and Katherine.



Tim Weste
Research Assistant

Tim Weste joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation as an intern in August 1999 and is currently a Research Assistant responsible for assisting the TPPF team with any research or administrative tasks.

Tim graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Political Science in 2001. He is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society. Tim is currently pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science, with an emphasis on campaign communication and behavior.



Jody Turner
Accountant

Jody Turner joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation in March 2001 and performs accounting services. She is responsible for preparing and maintaining financial statements.

Jody holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. She has passed the C.P.A. exam. Prior to her relationship with TPPF, Jody provided financial services to small businesses and was a comptroller for a corporation.

Jody and her husband Darin of 15 years have two sons, ages five and three.