



8th Annual Policy Orientation Agenda

(agenda is subject to change)

Thursday, January 14th

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Temperature Rising: A Heated Global Warming Debate and Breakfast

Moderated by Dr. Bryan Shaw, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

- Dr. Jerry North, Climate Scientist, Texas A&M University
- Dr. Roy Spencer, Climate Scientist, University of Alabama, Lead, NASA Satellite Study

9:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS I

Taxing Texas: Is There a Better Way?

Moderated by The Honorable Talmadge Heflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy

- The Honorable Rene Oliveira, Chairman, Texas House Committee on Ways and Means
- The Honorable Ken Paxton, Member, Texas House Committee on Ways and Means
- Donna Arduin, partner at Arduin, Laffer & Moore Econometrics, LLC

Western Civilization: Dead or Alive in Academia?

Moderated by Elizabeth Young, Policy Analyst, Center for Higher Education

- The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst, Member, Texas House of Representatives
- Steve Balch, National Association of Scholars
- Dr. Richard Brake, Director of University Stewardship & the Culture of Enterprise Initiative at the Intercollegiate Studies Institute
- Professor Lorraine Pangle, Co-director, Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of Core Texts & Ideas, University of Texas

10:55 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS II

There's No Such Thing as a Free Road

Moderated by Justin Keener, Vice President of Policy and Communications

- The Honorable Talmadge Heflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy, Texas Public Policy Foundation
- The Honorable Robert Nichols, Texas Senate Committee on Transportation & Homeland Security and former TxDOT Commissioner
- The Honorable Joe Pickett, Chairman, Texas House Committee on Transportation

Corrections Solutions for a Tight Budget

Moderated by Marc Levin, Director, Center for Effective Justice

- The Honorable Jim McReynolds, Chairman, Texas House Committee on Corrections
- The Honorable John Whitmire, Chairman, Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice
- Dr. Tony Fabelo, Council of State Governments
- Adam Gelb, Pew Center on the States, Public Safety Performance Project

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Opening luncheon featuring a congressional update from U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and keynote remarks from successful entrepreneur and ABC/ESPN college football analyst Craig James.

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS III

The Overcriminalization of Business: More Laws, Less Freedom?

Moderated by Marc Levin, Director, Center for Effective Justice

- The Honorable Bill Callegari, Member, Texas House of Representatives
- The Honorable Richard Thornburgh, former U.S. Attorney General and former Governor of Pennsylvania
- Shannon Edmonds, Director of Government Relations, Texas District and County Attorneys Association
- Timothy Lynch, Director, Project on Criminal Justice, Cato Institute

Going Out of Business? The Future of the Texas Public Utility Commission

Moderated by Bill Peacock, Director, Center for Economic Freedom

- The Honorable Sylvester Turner, Member, Texas House Committee on State Affairs
- The Honorable Kirk Watson, Member, Texas Senate Committee on Business and Commerce
- The Honorable Barry Smitherman, Chairman, Public Utility Commission
- Dr. Jerry Ellig, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center at George Mason University

3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS IV

Regulatory Takings: A Bigger Problem than *Kelo*?

Moderated by Bill Peacock, Director, Center for Economic Freedom

- The Honorable Bryan Hughes, Vice Chairman, Texas House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence
- Matthew Festa, Assistant Professor, South Texas College of Law
- Kendall Miller, President, Tanglewood Corporation

Ensuring Quality: Balancing Charter School Growth with Accountability

Moderated by Brooke Terry, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Education Policy

- The Honorable Florence Shapiro, Chairman, Texas Senate Committee on Education
- David Dunn, Executive Director, Texas Charter School Association
- Richard Kouri, Public Affairs Director, Texas State Teachers Association
- Soner Tarim, Superintendent of Schools, Harmony Public Schools

5:00 p.m. Reception

Discussion with economist and *New York Times* bestselling author Thomas E. Woods

6:15 p.m. Movie Screening of *The Cartel* and Q&A with Director Bob Bowdon

(movie munchies will be provided)

The Cartel exposes our educational system like we've never seen it before and explores what dedicated parents, committed teachers, officials, and tireless reformers are doing to improve it.

Friday, January 15th

8:15 a.m. VIP Breakfast with Guest Speaker The Honorable Richard Thornburgh, former Governor of Pennsylvania and former U.S. Attorney General. This event is exclusive to legislators, sponsors, and their guests.

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS V

Don't Mess with Texas: Economic Freedom and the 82nd Texas Legislature

Moderated by Bill Peacock, Director, Center for Economic Freedom

- The Honorable Mark Strama, Member, Texas House of Representatives
- Don Baylor, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Public Policy Priorities
- Steve Moore, Editor and Senior Economics Writer, *The Wall Street Journal*
- Jeff Sandefer, Sandefer Capital Partners and TPPF Board Member

ObamaCare: What Now? The Future of Health Care Reform

Moderated by The Honorable Arlene Wohlgemuth, Executive Director and Director, Center for Health Care Policy

- The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst, Chair, Texas House Committee on Public Health
- Michael Cannon, Director of Health Policy Studies, CATO Institute
- Anne Dunkelberg, Associate Director, Center for Public Policy Priorities
- John Goodman, President and CEO, National Center for Policy Analysis

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS VI

Texas Water Rights: Property Interests or State Permits?

Moderated by Katharine Armstrong, Former Chair, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission

- The Honorable Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller
- The Honorable Bill Callegari, Vice Chairman, Texas House Committee on Natural Resources
- The Honorable Kathleen Hartnett White, Distinguished Senior Fellow-in-Residence and Director, Armstrong Center for Energy & the Environment

Budget Climate – Fair or Stormy?

Moderated by the Honorable Talmadge Heflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy

- The Honorable Craig Eiland, Member, Texas House Committee on Appropriations
- The Honorable Jim Pitts, Chairman, Texas House Committee on Appropriations
- The Honorable Royce West, Member, Texas Senate Committee on Finance
- The Honorable Tommy Williams, Member, Texas Senate Committee on Finance

12:15 p.m. Closing Lunch with Keynote Speech from Texas' 47th governor, The Honorable Rick Perry. Introductory remarks by Dr. William Bennett, nationally-syndicated radio host and former Reagan administration's Secretary of Education and "Drug Czar" under President George H.W. Bush.