

houston chronicle political endorsements

Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements: Shaping Texas Elections with Insight and Influence

houston chronicle political endorsements have long played a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape of Texas, particularly in the vibrant and diverse Houston area. As one of the state's most influential newspapers, the Houston Chronicle has established itself not only as a trusted source for local and national news but also as a key player in guiding voters through the complex world of elections. Understanding the significance and process behind these endorsements can offer valuable insights for voters, political observers, and candidates alike.

The Role of Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements in Texas Politics

Political endorsements from respected media outlets like the Houston Chronicle carry weight because they represent thorough analysis and editorial judgment rather than mere opinion. The Chronicle's endorsement process typically involves deep dives into candidates' records, platforms, and community impact, helping readers make informed decisions.

Why Endorsements Matter

Endorsements serve as a compass in the often confusing and crowded field of electoral choices. When the Houston Chronicle backs a candidate or a ballot measure, it's signaling to readers that the choice aligns with values such as good governance, transparency, and policies that benefit the broader community. For many voters, especially those less familiar with local candidates, these endorsements provide clarity and confidence at the polls.

Beyond individual voters, endorsements can influence the broader political conversation. Candidates highlighted by the Chronicle may gain increased media attention, fundraising opportunities, and a boost in credibility. Conversely, those not receiving endorsement might reassess their campaigns or public messaging.

How the Houston Chronicle Chooses Its Political Endorsements

The process behind houston chronicle political endorsements is methodical and involves a

team of editors and journalists who bring diverse perspectives to the table. Unlike superficial endorsements based on party loyalty, the Chronicle emphasizes candidate qualifications, experience, and policy positions.

Evaluation Criteria

Several key factors go into the endorsement decisions, including:

- **Candidate Track Record:** Past performance in public office or community leadership roles.
- **Policy Alignment:** How well a candidate's platform matches the newspaper's editorial stance and the interests of Houston's diverse population.
- **Community Impact:** The potential for positive change and responsiveness to constituent needs.
- **Integrity and Character:** Ethical considerations and the candidate's reputation.

This multifaceted approach ensures that endorsements are not swayed by party politics alone but are grounded in a comprehensive assessment of who would best serve the community.

The Editorial Endorsement Meeting

Before making endorsements public, the editorial board convenes to discuss their findings and debate the merits of various candidates. This collaborative environment encourages critical thinking and often brings to light nuances that a single journalist might overlook. The final endorsements reflect a consensus that aims to guide readers thoughtfully rather than push a partisan agenda.

Impact of Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements on Voter Behavior

In a sprawling metropolis like Houston, where elections can be competitive and voter turnout varies, endorsements can be a game-changer. Studies show that media endorsements can sway undecided voters and even mobilize those who might otherwise abstain from voting.

Engaging the Diverse Houston Electorate

Houston's population is a rich tapestry of cultures, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The Chronicle's endorsements often highlight issues relevant to this diversity—such as immigration policies, education reform, and economic development—making them resonate more deeply with readers.

Moreover, by endorsing candidates who demonstrate commitment to inclusivity and equity, the Houston Chronicle helps amplify voices that might be underrepresented in traditional political discourse. This focus can encourage broader participation and foster a more representative democracy.

Influence Beyond Local Politics

While the Chronicle primarily focuses on Texas and Houston-area races, its endorsements sometimes extend to statewide and even national elections. Given Houston's status as a major media market, these endorsements can ripple beyond city boundaries, impacting discussions across Texas and influencing political narratives in the broader South and Southwest regions.

Examples of Notable Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements

Over the years, the Houston Chronicle's political endorsements have highlighted a range of candidates who later went on to have significant political careers or enact meaningful change.

Supporting Progressive Change and Stability

In recent election cycles, the Chronicle has endorsed candidates who champion progressive causes such as criminal justice reform and environmental sustainability, while also backing incumbents who have demonstrated effective leadership and fiscal responsibility. This balance reflects the newspaper's commitment to both innovation and pragmatic governance.

Ballot Measures and Local Initiatives

Beyond individual candidates, the Houston Chronicle often weighs in on important ballot measures affecting everything from city infrastructure funding to public health initiatives. Their endorsements help voters understand the implications of these measures, which might otherwise seem technical or complex.

Tips for Voters Using Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements

For readers looking to make the most of the Houston Chronicle political endorsements, here are some practical tips:

- **Read Beyond the Endorsement:** The Chronicle usually provides detailed explanations for each endorsement. Take the time to understand the rationale behind their choices.
- **Compare Multiple Sources:** While the Chronicle is influential, cross-referencing endorsements from other local media or civic organizations can provide a fuller picture.
- **Research Candidates Independently:** Use endorsements as a starting point, but also look into candidates' websites, debates, and public records.
- **Consider Your Own Priorities:** Align endorsements with your personal values and concerns. What matters most to you in leadership?

The Future of Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements

As media consumption habits evolve, so too does the role of political endorsements. The Houston Chronicle is adapting by integrating digital platforms, offering interactive content, and engaging readers through social media to expand the reach and impact of their political insights.

The growing demand for transparency and accountability means that the Chronicle's endorsement process will likely become even more rigorous and participatory. Readers may see more opportunities to engage with editorial discussions or contribute their perspectives.

For anyone interested in Texas politics or local governance, watching how Houston Chronicle political endorsements develop offers a fascinating window into the intersection of media, democracy, and community engagement.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Houston Chronicle's role in political endorsements?

The Houston Chronicle provides political endorsements by evaluating candidates and ballot measures to guide readers in making informed voting decisions.

How does the Houston Chronicle decide which candidates to endorse?

The Houston Chronicle's editorial board reviews candidates' policies, records, and positions to determine endorsements that align with the newspaper's values and the community's interests.

Are Houston Chronicle political endorsements influential in local elections?

Yes, the Houston Chronicle is a major news outlet in Texas, and its endorsements can influence voter opinions and impact local and state elections.

Does the Houston Chronicle endorse candidates from all political parties?

The Houston Chronicle endorses candidates based on their qualifications and positions rather than party affiliation, supporting those who best serve the community's needs.

Where can I find the Houston Chronicle's political endorsements?

Political endorsements are typically published in the Houston Chronicle's editorial section, especially during election seasons, and are also available on their official website.

Has the Houston Chronicle faced criticism for its political endorsements?

Like many media outlets, the Houston Chronicle has faced criticism from some readers and political groups who disagree with its endorsements, but it maintains editorial independence in its decisions.

Do Houston Chronicle political endorsements cover both local and national elections?

The Houston Chronicle primarily focuses on local, state, and regional elections for its endorsements, but it may also endorse candidates in significant national races.

How often does the Houston Chronicle update its political endorsements?

The Houston Chronicle updates its political endorsements each election cycle, usually ahead of major local, state, and national elections.

Can readers suggest candidates for Houston Chronicle endorsements?

While readers can provide feedback and opinions, the Houston Chronicle's editorial board independently evaluates and decides on endorsements.

Are Houston Chronicle political endorsements nonpartisan?

The Houston Chronicle aims to provide nonpartisan endorsements by focusing on candidates' merits and policies rather than party loyalty.

Additional Resources

Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements: An Analytical Review of Influence and Impact

houston chronicle political endorsements have long played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and influencing electoral outcomes within Texas and beyond. As one of the state's most widely circulated newspapers, the Houston Chronicle carries significant weight in its political endorsements, often swaying readers' perceptions about candidates and ballot measures. This article delves into the history, methodology, and implications of the Houston Chronicle's political endorsements, offering a detailed, unbiased examination of their role in the contemporary political landscape.

The History and Evolution of Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements

The Houston Chronicle's tradition of political endorsements dates back decades, reflecting its commitment to providing voters with informed perspectives on key races and policy initiatives. Over time, the newspaper has adapted its endorsement process to meet the changing dynamics of politics and media consumption. Initially, endorsements were straightforward declarations of support for candidates deemed most qualified or aligned with the Chronicle's editorial values. Today, these endorsements often result from comprehensive vetting, including candidate interviews, policy analysis, and consultation with political experts.

The evolution also mirrors broader trends in journalism, where newspapers have had to balance editorial advocacy with maintaining reader trust amid increasing political polarization. The Houston Chronicle has often positioned its endorsements as a reflection

of pragmatic governance and community interests rather than partisan loyalty, a stance that resonates with its diverse readership.

Methodology Behind Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements

Understanding the process behind these endorsements is crucial for evaluating their credibility and impact. The Houston Chronicle typically employs a multi-step approach:

1. **Research and Candidate Evaluation:** Editorial boards and political reporters conduct thorough research into candidates' backgrounds, platforms, and prior public service records.
2. **Interviews and Debates:** Candidates are often interviewed to clarify their positions and assess their responsiveness to community concerns.
3. **Editorial Board Deliberations:** The editorial board convenes to discuss findings, compare candidates, and weigh each individual's strengths and weaknesses.
4. **Final Endorsement Decision:** After deliberation, the board votes on which candidate or measure to endorse, providing a detailed rationale published alongside the endorsement.

This process aims to maximize transparency and depth, ensuring that endorsements are not mere expressions of bias but well-reasoned recommendations designed to inform voters.

Impact and Influence of Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements

The Houston Chronicle's endorsements hold considerable sway in shaping voter behavior, especially in local and state elections where media coverage may be less intense than in national races. Studies on media influence suggest that newspaper endorsements can boost a candidate's visibility and lend legitimacy, particularly among undecided voters. In Texas, where political landscapes are often complex and nuanced, the Chronicle's endorsements serve as a trusted guide for readers navigating a crowded ballot.

Case Studies: Notable Endorsements and Election Outcomes

Examining specific instances where the Houston Chronicle has issued endorsements

reveals patterns in their influence:

- **2018 Texas Gubernatorial Race:** The Chronicle endorsed the Democratic candidate, emphasizing policy issues such as healthcare and education. While the incumbent won, the endorsement contributed to increased engagement and fundraising for the challenger.
- **Houston Mayoral Elections:** The Chronicle's endorsements in mayoral contests have often highlighted candidates' plans for urban development, infrastructure, and public safety, factors critical to Houston's growth. Endorsed candidates frequently leverage these endorsements in campaign material to signal credibility.
- **Local Ballot Measures:** The Chronicle has also taken positions on referenda involving taxation, zoning, and public transportation. Their endorsements often influence voter turnout and the passage rates of such measures.

These examples underscore the Chronicle's role not just as a news outlet but as a participant in the democratic process, shaping political dialogue through informed advocacy.

Criticism and Challenges Surrounding Newspaper Endorsements

Despite their influence, Houston Chronicle political endorsements are not without controversy. Critics argue that endorsements may reflect editorial biases or fail to adequately represent the diversity of perspectives within Houston's multifaceted population. Additionally, in an era of declining print readership and the rise of social media, the reach and relevance of traditional newspaper endorsements face ongoing challenges.

Balancing Objectivity and Advocacy

One of the persistent tensions lies in balancing the newspaper's role as an objective reporter of facts with its function as an advocate for certain candidates or policies. The Houston Chronicle has publicly acknowledged this challenge, striving to maintain transparency about its criteria and rationale for endorsements. This openness helps mitigate skepticism and reinforces trust among readers.

Adapting Endorsements for Digital Audiences

The digital transformation of news consumption has prompted the Houston Chronicle to rethink how it presents endorsements. Interactive digital content, social media campaigns,

and multimedia explanations accompany traditional editorial pieces, broadening accessibility and engagement. This evolution is crucial for maintaining the relevance and impact of political endorsements in a rapidly changing media environment.

The Role of Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements in Texas' Political Ecosystem

Given Texas' size and political diversity, the Houston Chronicle's endorsements serve an important function beyond mere opinion. They act as a barometer of local priorities and a forum for public discourse. By highlighting specific issues and candidates, these endorsements contribute to setting the agenda for political debates and encouraging civic participation.

Influence on Voter Turnout and Engagement

Research indicates that endorsements can motivate increased voter turnout by simplifying complex electoral choices. For many readers, the Houston Chronicle's political endorsements provide clarity amid a sea of campaign messaging and political advertising. This effect is especially pronounced in down-ballot races, where voters may have limited information.

Comparative Analysis with Other Media Endorsements in Texas

When compared to other Texas newspapers, such as the Dallas Morning News or Austin American-Statesman, the Houston Chronicle's endorsements often reflect regional priorities and demographic considerations unique to Houston and its metropolitan area. While all major Texas newspapers engage in political endorsements, the Chronicle's urban focus shapes its editorial stance, often emphasizing issues like immigration, energy policy, and urban infrastructure.

Conclusion: The Continuing Relevance of Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements

As political landscapes evolve, the Houston Chronicle's political endorsements remain a notable element in Texas' democratic process. Their thorough methodology, combined with the newspaper's wide reach, ensures these endorsements continue to inform and influence voters. While facing challenges inherent to modern media consumption and political polarization, the Chronicle's commitment to thoughtful political endorsements underscores their enduring role in shaping informed civic discourse.

Houston Chronicle Political Endorsements

houston chronicle political endorsements: Racial Coalition Building in Local Elections

Andrea Benjamin, 2017-06-16 This book examines racial and ethnic coalition building in local elections and considers Black and Latino political incorporation more broadly. Although many argue that Black and Latino voters have much to gain from alliances that advance shared interests, coalitions between the two groups have not always formed easily or been stable over time. Recent mayoral elections across the country show different patterns of out-group candidate support. This book seeks to explain these variations and the specific conditions under which Blacks and Latinos vote for the same candidate. Drawing on large-n observational data, survey experiments, and qualitative case studies, Benjamin develops a theory of co-ethnic endorsements, which points to the significance of elite cues from Black and Latino leaders. The book demonstrates that voters use elite co-ethnic endorsements to help inform their votes, that they do so particularly when race is salient in an election, and that this has real implications for representation and access to political benefits.

houston chronicle political endorsements: *My America Is Back* BJ Melton, 2017-12-22 This book chronicles my thought from the Trump campaign through the first 6 months of his Presidency. It's about electing Mr. Trump, but sprinkled among the thoughts, is a little humour, a joke or two, or three, and Dreams of the future....

houston chronicle political endorsements: *Congress, the Press, and Political Accountability*

R. Douglas Arnold, 2013-10-31 *Congress, the Press, and Political Accountability* is the first large-scale examination of how local media outlets cover members of the United States Congress. Douglas Arnold asks: do local newspapers provide the information citizens need in order to hold representatives accountable for their actions in office? In contrast with previous studies, which largely focused on the campaign period, he tests various hypotheses about the causes and consequences of media coverage by exploring coverage during an entire congressional session. Using three samples of local newspapers from across the country, Arnold analyzes all coverage over a two-year period--every news story, editorial, opinion column, letter, and list. First he investigates how twenty-five newspapers covered twenty-five local representatives; and next, how competing newspapers in six cities covered their corresponding legislators. Examination of an even larger sample, sixty-seven newspapers and 187 representatives, shows why some newspapers cover legislators more thoroughly than do other papers. Arnold then links the coverage data with a large public opinion survey to show that the volume of coverage affects citizens' awareness of representatives and challengers. The results show enormous variation in coverage. Some newspapers cover legislators frequently, thoroughly, and accessibly. Others--some of them famous for their national coverage--largely ignore local representatives. The analysis also confirms that only those incumbents or challengers in the most competitive races, and those who command huge sums of money, receive extensive coverage.

houston chronicle political endorsements: *Going Home* Richard F. Fenno, 2011-04-15

Thirty years ago there were nine African Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives. Today there are four times that number. In *Going Home*, the dean of congressional studies, Richard F. Fenno, explores what representation has meant—and means today—to black voters and to the politicians they have elected to office. Fenno follows the careers of four black representatives—Louis Stokes, Barbara Jordan, Chaka Fattah, and Stephanie Tubbs Jones—from their home districts to the halls of the Capitol. He finds that while these politicians had different visions of how they should represent their districts (in part based on their individual preferences, and in part based on the history of black politics in America), they shared crucial organizational and symbolic connections to their constituents. These connections, which draw on a sense of linked fates, are ones that only black representatives can provide to black constituents. His detailed portraits and incisive analyses will be important for anyone interested in the workings of Congress or in black politics.

houston chronicle political endorsements: *Presidential Elections* Nelson W. Polsby, Aaron

Wildavsky, Steven E. Schier, David A. Hopkins, 2023-07-18 Polsby and Wildavsky's classic text, now updated by Stephen Schier and David Hopkins, argues that the institutional rules of the presidential nomination and election processes, in combination with the behavior of the mass electorate, structure the strategic choices faced by politicians in powerful and foreseeable ways. We can make sense of the decisions made by different political actors—incumbents, challengers, Democrats, Republicans, consultants, party officials, activists, delegates, journalists, and voters—by understanding the ways in which their world is organized by incentives, regulations, events, resources, customs, and opportunities. Thoroughly revised and updated, this Sixteenth Edition provides everything students need to know about presidential elections going into the 2024 cycle.

houston chronicle political endorsements: The Hotline, 1997

houston chronicle political endorsements: *The Women of CourtWatch* Carole Bell Ford, 2010-01-01 Houston was a terrible place to divorce or seek child custody in the 1980s and early 1990s. Family court judges routinely rendered verdicts that damaged the interests of women and children. In some especially shocking cases, they even granted custody to fathers who had been accused of molesting their own children. Yet despite persistent allegations of cronyism, incompetence, sexism, racism, bribery, and fraud, the judges wielded such political power and influence that removing them seemed all but impossible. The family court system was clearly broken, but there appeared to be no way to fix it. This book recounts the inspiring and courageous story of women activists who came together to oppose Houston's family court judges and whose political action committee, CourtWatch, played a crucial role in defeating five of the judges in the 1994 judicial election. Carole Bell Ford draws on extensive interviews with Florence Kusnetz, the attorney who led the reform effort, and other CourtWatch veterans, as well as news accounts, to provide a full history of the formation, struggles, and successes of a women's grassroots organization that overcame powerful political interests to improve Houston's family courts. More than just a local story, however, this history of CourtWatch provides a model that can be used by activists in other communities in which legal and social institutions have gone astray. It also honors the heroism of Florence Kusnetz, whose commitment to the Jewish concept of tikkun olam (repairing and improving the world) brought her out of a comfortable retirement to fight for justice for women and children.

houston chronicle political endorsements: All the Way from Yoakum Marjorie Meyer Arsht, 2006 All the Way from Yoakum tells the story of the long, eventful life of a Jewish good girl from small-town Texas who became a remarkable woman of her time and a leading light in Houston and Texas politics. One of the founders of the modern Republican Party in Texas, Marjorie Meyer Arsht served as a state party committeewoman and was the first Jewish woman to run as a Republican for the state legislature. Becoming active in politics in the 1950s, she was closely involved in the early career of George H. W. Bush. A member of the prominent Texas family (Meyer, Cohen) that owned Foley Brothers department store and gave Cohen House to Rice University, she recalls the contentious mid-century division in the Jewish community over the issue of Zionism that split congregations and turned friends into bitter antagonists. Formerly president of the Temple Beth Israel Sisterhood, Arsht served as a national spokesperson for a major American anti-Zionist organization. When she turned seventy, Arsht was working as a speechwriter and high-level assistant in the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington while also serving as a regent of Texas Southern University, where she spearheaded a number of important reforms. In addition, she continued to run the small, independent energy development and investment company founded by her late husband. From her childhood as a member of one of the few Jewish families in small-town Yoakum, Texas, to her years of political activism and social involvement, she offers a moving account of an indomitable spirit, one that will provide both inspiration and an understanding of how the Republican Party came to be the dominant force in Texas politics.

houston chronicle political endorsements: Crucible of a Generation J. Kenneth Brody, 2017-08-03 Crucible of a Generation tells the story of the fifteen days surrounding the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor through the pages of eight leading American newspapers. Focusing on

publications such as The New York Times and the Chicago Tribune, J. Kenneth Brody paints a vivid picture of U.S. political culture and society at a pivotal moment in the nation's history. Brody considers the papers in full, from headlines to help wanted ads, in a text richly illustrated with archival images, wartime posters, and editorial cartoons. The book provides a compelling snapshot of the United States and the role of the media at a time of dramatic tension and global change.

houston chronicle political endorsements: American Presidents Year by Year Julie Nelson, 2015-03-10 This fascinating multi-volume set illuminates the panorama of American history through the personal and professional stories of the nation's presidents. Arranged chronologically, and covering George Washington to George W. Bush, it juxtaposes the lives of each year's current, former, and future living presidents against each other and the historical backdrop of their times. Each chapter opens with a summary of the year and describes the major issues and events the incumbent president faced. Separate sections within each chapter - Former Presidents and Future Presidents - detail important developments in the lives of past and future presidents month by month during that same year, highlighting political, social, and personal decisions that helped shape the course of American history.

houston chronicle political endorsements: Special Interest Terry M. Moe, 2011-04-01 Why are America's public schools falling so short of the mark in educating the nation's children? Why are they organized in ineffective ways that fly in the face of common sense, to the point that it is virtually impossible to get even the worst teachers out of the classroom? And why, after more than a quarter century of costly education reform, have the schools proven so resistant to change and so difficult to improve? In this path-breaking book, Terry M. Moe demonstrates that the answers to these questions have a great deal to do with teachers unions—which are by far the most powerful forces in American education and use their power to promote their own special interests at the expense of what is best for kids. Despite their importance, the teachers unions have barely been studied. *Special Interest* fills that gap with an extraordinary analysis that is at once brilliant and kaleidoscopic—shedding new light on their historical rise to power, the organizational foundations of that power, the ways it is exercised in collective bargaining and politics, and its vast consequences for American education. The bottom line is simple but devastating: as long as the teachers unions remain powerful, the nation's schools will never be organized to provide kids with the most effective education possible. Moe sees light at the end of the tunnel, however, due to two major transformations. One is political, the other technological, and the combination is destined to weaken the unions considerably in the coming years—loosening their special-interest grip and opening up a new era in which America's schools can finally be organized in the best interests of children.

houston chronicle political endorsements: The Republican Party of Texas Wayne Thorburn, 2021-06-01 The former executive director of the Texas GOP offers a “granular blow-by-blow account” of his party from Reconstruction to the 21st century (Publishers Weekly). On July 4, 1867, a group of men assembled in Houston to establish the Republican Party of Texas. Combatting entrenched statewide support for the Democratic Party and their own internal divisions, Republicans struggled to gain a foothold in the Lone Star State, which had sided with the Confederacy and aligned with the Democratic platform. In *The Republican Party of Texas*, Wayne Thorburn chronicles more than 150 years of the defeats and victories of the party that became the dominant political force in Texas in the modern era. Thorburn documents the organizational structure of the Texas GOP, drawing attention to prominent names, such as Harry Wurzbach and George W. Bush, alongside lesser-known community leaders who bolstered local support. The 1960s and 1970s proved a watershed era for Texas Republicans as they elected the first Republican governor and more state senators and congressional representatives than ever before. From decisions about candidates and shifting allegiances and political stances, to race-based divisions and strategic cooperation with leaders in the Democratic Party, Thorburn unearths the development of the GOP in Texas to understand the unique Texan conservatism that prevails today.

houston chronicle political endorsements: Government and Politics in the Lone Star State L. Tucker Gibson, Clay Robison, 1999 Reflecting the insights of authors who have written about,

taught, or participated in Texas government and politics for over 20 years, this text explores Texas government and its relationship to the people it serves and to the federal and local governments that form the American political system. Merging the writing styles of an academic and a professional newsman, this treatment of Texas Politics is scholarly and exceedingly readable.

houston chronicle political endorsements: Congressional Record United States. Congress, 1995

houston chronicle political endorsements: Ideologies of Globalization Mark Rupert, 2012-11-12 This book examines the key debates about globalization and provides a detailed and incisive analysis of the varied and often contradictory opposition to globalization within the United States. Subjects covered include: * the historical context of the development of globalization in the US in the post-war period * opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the General Agreement on Trade & Tariffs (GATT) & the World Trade Organisation (WTO) * the nationalist response to globalization from 'militia' groups and others on the extreme right * the populist backlash against globalization * recent moves by advocates of the free market to present 'globalization with a human face'.

houston chronicle political endorsements: Contemporary Mormonism Claudia L. Bushman, 2006-01-30 Much misunderstood, Mormonism had a colorful beginning in the 19th century, as a visionary named Joseph Smith founded and built a community of believers with their own unique faith. In the late-20th century, the church had to come to terms with its own growth and organization, as well as with the increasing pervasiveness of globalization, secularization, and cultural changes. Today Mormonism is one of the major religions in America, and continues to grow internationally. However, though the church itself remains strong, it is elusive to those of other faiths. Here, a seasoned author and third-generation Mormon sheds light on the everyday lives and practices of faithful Mormons. Bushman's readers will come away with a more thorough appreciation of what it means to be Mormon in the modern world. Much misunderstood, Mormonism had a colorful beginning in the 19th century, as a visionary named Joseph Smith founded and built a community of believers with their own unique faith. In the late-20th century, the church had to come to terms with its own growth and organization, as well as with the increasing pervasiveness of globalization, secularization, and cultural changes. Today Mormonism is one of the major religions in America, and one that continues to grow internationally. However, though the church itself remains strong, it is elusive to those of other faiths. Here, a seasoned author and third-generation Mormon sheds light on the everyday lives and practices of faithful Mormons. Bushman's readers will come away with a more thorough appreciation of what it means to be Mormon in the modern world. Following Brigham Young into the Great Basin and founding communities that have endured for over 100 years, Mormons have forged a rich history in this country even as they built communities around the world. But the origins of this faith and those who adhere to it remain mysterious to many in the United States. Bushman allows readers a vivid glimpse into the lives of Mormons—their beliefs, rituals, and practices, as well as their views on race, ethnicity, social class, gender, and sexual orientation. The voices of actual Mormons reveal much about their inspiration, devotion, patriotism, individualism, and conservatism. With its mythical history and unlikely success, many wonder what has made this religion endure through the years. Here, readers will find answers to their questions about what it means to be Mormon in contemporary America.

houston chronicle political endorsements: Mexico Newpak , 1997

houston chronicle political endorsements: Southern Politics in the 1990s Alexander P. Lamis, Associate Professor of Political Science Alexander P Lamis, 1999-08 During the 1990s, the Republican party surged to majority status in the South after two decades of struggling unevenly to become established in the formerly one-party Democratic section of the country. In this comprehensive, up-to-date study, seasoned observers tell the fascinating story of the GOP's remarkable advance at the regional level and in each of the eleven states of the former Confederacy, effectively capturing the current partisan dynamics at work throughout Dixie. In *Southern Politics in the 1990s* eleven teams of political scientists and journalists—all of them long-time observers of the

political scene in their own states—offer individual chapters that closely examine partisan and electoral developments in each southern state. Alexander P. Lamis frames the state discussions with introductory and concluding chapters that highlight the evolution of the two-party South and the political transformation the region as a whole underwent during the decade of the 1990s. Together, the authors show that the amazing Republican spurt was fueled by many factors, including the ongoing entrenchment of the partisan competition begun three decades earlier; the national Republican sweep of 1994 that affected all regions of the country equally; and the successful efforts of Republicans to paint the Democrats as hopelessly mired in a corrupt political system and themselves as untainted reformers who represent the future. However, as the separate state chapters illustrate, the pace of change differed from state to state. For example, South Carolina was an early Dixie leader in the GOP's growth in the 1990s, but Arkansas caught the wave only in the middle of the decade. Offering in-depth political analysis on both the state and the regional level, *Southern Politics in the 1990s* reveals that the 1990s revolution in southern politics gave the country, for the first time since the 1850s, a truly national party system. The book will prove essential to anyone interested in southern politics at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

houston chronicle political endorsements: *West's Federal Supplement* , 1996

houston chronicle political endorsements: **Judicial Politics in Texas** Kyle Cheek, Anthony Champagne, 2005 In recent years, judicial elections have changed dramatically. The elections themselves have become increasingly partisan, interest group involvement in judicial races has escalated, recent court decisions have freed judicial candidates to speak more openly than ever before about their judicial ideologies, and the tenor of judicial campaigns has departed significantly from what were once low-key, sleepy affairs. This book examines the evolution of the new rough-and-tumble politics of judicial elections by focusing on Texas, a bellwether for the new judicial selection politics in America. The Texas experience illustrates what can - and usually will - go wrong when judges are elected, and lays the path for meaningful reforms to stem the tide of the new politics of judicial elections.

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