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**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

NEW HOUSE SPEAKER: REPRESENTATIVE JOE STRAUS

After his last opponent announced his withdrawal from the race Monday night, the new Speaker of the Texas House will be Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio.

Information on the new Speaker, courtesy of Quorum Report:

His mother served on the State Republican Executive Committee in the 1960s. He grew up in the John Tower and George H.W. Bush Senate campaigns. He served in the Administrations of both Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. In the Bush I Administration Straus served under Commerce Secretary Rob Mosbacher as Deputy Director of the Business Liasion Office. Straus managed Lamar Smith's first congressional campaign when another San Antonian, Tom Loeffler, ran for Governor. Back in San Antonio, he was on the County Republican Executive Committee. When Governor Rick Perry appointed then State Rep. Elizabeth Ames Jones to the Railroad Commission in 2005, Straus ran and won the special election. He is currently in the insurance business.



Rep. Joe Straus

The final announcement came after a weekend of dramatic events. TIPRO staff actively monitored these events and are pleased to say that both TIPRO members and staff have strong relationships with the various candidates that emerged. The Speaker's race is strictly a matter for the House members to decide and we are committed to working with the next Speaker on behalf of independent producers and royalty owners.

How It Played Out

Before the holidays more than 10 candidates filed to run for Speaker and 3 major groups made announcements. Speaker Craddick's team announced that he still had the votes to win. A group of 11 Republicans known as the ABCs - Anybody But Craddick - announced that they had formed a coalition that had the votes to win. This group included many ABCs from last session plus a few. They set Friday the 2nd as the date they would select a single candidate from amongst themselves to challenge Craddick. Finally, a group of 64 Democrats (out of 74 total) announced their pledge to vote against Speaker Craddick but did not yet name a candidate they could all support. The group of 13 Democrats known as the Craddick Democrats because of their past support for Speaker Craddick did not make any formal announcement.

Over the holiday additional candidates filed to run, including 2 Craddick supporters, Dan Gattis (R), and Rep. John Smithee (R).

On Friday evening the ABCs met and selected in a surprise pick two-term Republican Joe Straus of San Antonio. They asked the Democrat block to join in supporting him. On Saturday the Democrats deliberated and several Craddick Democrats attended. Sunday night Speaker Craddick held a meeting of his supporters. He announced that he no longer had the votes to win and released them from their pledges. On Sunday night Rep. Straus announced the names of 80 supporters, exceeding the 76 required. Rep. Smithee announced he would file to run and gained support from many Craddick supporters.

Monday morning Rep. Straus announced a total of 92 supporters. Rep. Smithee continued to campaign. Straus's final announcement reached 103 committed votes of 150. In his statement Monday evening Rep. Smithee said, "The numbers became obvious. We had to get some of our people back, and we went the other way... I knew the odds were very long, so it was either surrender yesterday [Sunday] or try something. I've tried to do it in a respectful and courteous and professional way, and I hope that I've done that."