### CENTER for PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES



## LEGACY LUNCHEON

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

JW MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN AUSTIN, TX

110 E. 2ND STREET, AUSTIN, TX 78701

## WELCOME Ann Beeson, CPPP Chief Executive Officer

This room is full of change makers — advocates and business leaders, donors and lawmakers, accomplished experts and rising stars. Together, we can make Texas the best state for people and families.

Unfortunately, today too many Texans lack access to the conditions we all need to thrive—like a quality education, affordable health care, and a good job. CPPP strengthens public policy to expand opportunity and equity for Texans of all backgrounds. We expose current inequities and propose solutions so that every Texan can contribute to and share in the prosperity of our great state.



We know that public policy can change lives.

This year alone, our work improved the lives of millions of Texans through strategic and systemic policy change. Following years of analysis and advocacy to show why money matters in education, CPPP played a key role in passage of significant school finance reform for Texas' 5.4 million public school students. And thanks to our research and coalition efforts over several sessions, the Legislature took action to protect hundreds of thousands of Texans from surprise medical bills.

CPPP has a long history of advancing social justice in Texas. We are people who know, and people who care. We combine a fact-driven approach with strategic advocacy and a passion for helping those most in need. In 2020, we will celebrate our 35th anniversary — and our work has never been more urgent.

Today we will honor visionary Texans and celebrate our successes at the Capitol and beyond. We're delighted to be honoring Speaker Joe Straus, whose belief in data and facts, passion for public education, and commitment to civil discourse make our state stronger.

Our keynote speaker, John B. King, Jr., is another champion of public education and a fierce advocate for the high academic achievement of all students — particularly those of color or living in poverty.

And our Future of Texas honoree, Chris Harris, is an enthusiastic warrior for justice who uses data to advocate for much-needed criminal justice reforms.

Thank you for joining us. Your support for the Legacy Luncheon helps us change the lives of Texans through data-driven policy solutions, now more than ever.

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**#TXLEGACY** 

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## LEGACY LUNCHEON

SPECIAL GUESTS

McCallum High School Fine Arts Academy: First Edition

WELCOME

**Honorary Co-Chairs** 

INVOCATION

Pastor David McNitzky

LUNCH

CPPP VALUES AND VISION FOR TEXAS

Ann Beeson

FUTURE OF TEXAS AWARD PRESENTATION

Chris Harris

TEXAS LEGACY TRIBUTE VIDEO

TEXAS I FGACY AWARD PRESENTATION

The Honorable Joe Straus

Presented by The Honorable Jim Keffer

PUBLIC POLICY CHANGES LIVES

James Aldrete and Sima Ladjevardian

**KFYNOTF** 

John B. King, Jr.

Introduction by Chandra Villanueva,
CPPP Economic Opportunity Program Director

**CLOSING REMARKS** 

Ann Beeson

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Honorable Henry Cisneros Honorable Jim Keffer Honorable Leticia Van de Putte

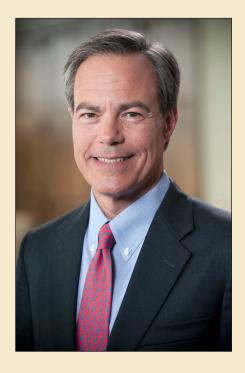
## SPEAKER JOE STRAUS

Joe Straus served as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives from 2009 until 2019. He was the first Speaker of the House from San Antonio in a century, and he is the longest-serving Republican Speaker in Texas history.

Widely praised for his focus on the core responsibilities of government and his constructive governing style, Speaker Straus supported private-sector growth and often identified public education as the state's best economic development tool. Under his leadership, the House pushed for more funding of public schools, improved career readiness, reduced testing and helped more students access needed special education services.

Speaker Straus put a spotlight on infrastructure—leading a successful campaign to fund the State Water Plan—and mental health reform. He created the Select House Committee on Mental Health, expanded services for Veterans, funded local programs, and repaired state mental health facilities. He also championed child protection by pushing to hire more than 1,000 Child Protective Services caseworkers.

In addition to policy achievements, Speaker Straus has championed an inclusive and pragmatic approach to governing that brings Texans



together to overcome challenges.
After leading a successful fight
against discriminatory legislation that
threatened severe economic harm, the
Dallas Morning News named Speaker
Straus Texan of the Year because he
"protected Texas from some of its
worst political impulses, prevented
serious damage to the economy and
brought together enough bipartisans
to check the far-right dominance in the
Republican Party."

Speaker Straus and his wife, Julie, live in San Antonio. They have two adult daughters.



FUTURE OF TEXAS AWARD

HONORING YOUNG LEADERS FIGHTING TO ENSURE THE BEST TEXAS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Chris Harris is a native Texan, proud son, pro basketball fanatic, hip-hop head, and passionate advocate working to transform the criminal legal system. He currently serves as a Data & Policy Analyst for Just Liberty, a bipartisan non-profit organization dedicated to comprehensive criminal justice reform in Texas, and as a Public Safety Commissioner representing District 1 in the City of Austin. Chris has led and contributed to winning campaigns aimed at limiting racial disparities, state violence, unnecessary arrests, ICE detentions, pre-trial incarceration, subpar indigent defense and further investment in police and prisons.



#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John B. King Jr. is the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close educational opportunity and achievement gaps. King served as U.S. Secretary of Education in the Obama administration. Prior to that role, King carried out the duties of Deputy Secretary, overseeing policies and programs related to pre-K–12 education, English learners, special education, innovation, and agency operations. King joined the department following his post as New York State Education Commissioner. King began his career as a high school social studies teacher and middle school principal.

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