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## Gulf Coast PHCC's 2010 Casino Night

**January 22, 2010**  
**Cadillac Bar**  
**Festivities Begin at 7 pm**

Our association's biggest event will be one to remember! Send your

staff, bring your friends and invite your spouse. You will enjoy great drinks, wonderful food, awesome gambling and great networking! Check out our web site at [www.gulfcoastphcc.org](http://www.gulfcoastphcc.org) to access the registration form. Then invite your co-workers, employees and spouse! We'll see you at the Casino!



## Thanks

To our Sponsors

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*Sponsorships are still available. If your company is interested in sponsoring, contact Laurie at [liones@gulfcoastphcc.org](mailto:liones@gulfcoastphcc.org). If you'd like to donate an auction item, contact Laurie as well.*



# Insider Intelligence

Exclusive  
Report for  
Texas  
Construction  
Association  
PAC  
Contributors

## Political Landscape: Statewide and Legislative Races

**Filing Dates:** Filing for office in Texas ends on Jan. 4. The primary election for both political parties is March 2, primary run-off date is Apr. 13, and the general election is Nov. 2.

All sorts of changes are already occurring - Kay Bailey Hutchison (KBH) announces she is not resigning her seat in the U.S. Senate before the March Primary. In response to KBH's decision not to resign, Democrat Bill White announces his candidacy for Governor. Democrat Tom Shieffer withdraws from the Governor's race.

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst decides to seek re-election in lieu of seeking the U.S Senate seat; no significant Republican primary opponent or Democratic opponent has emerged. With Lt. Gov. Dewhurst announcing re-election, Attorney General Greg Abbott decides not to run for Lt. Governor; he will seek re-election to the AG's office. No Democrat has announced.

With AG Abbott staying put, Rep. Dan Branch (R-Highland Park) decides to run for re-election to the Texas House. State Rep. Dan Gattis (R-Georgetown) decides against running for the State Senate to replace retiring State Senator Steve Ogden (R-College Station). Senator Ogden apparently has decided not to retire and instead will seek re-election. Gattis apparently will not seek re-election to the Texas House citing a desire to spend more time with family and his law practice. At least 4 candidates have announced their intentions to replace Gattis. Longtime Plano Representative Brian McCall (and Chair of the powerful House Calendars Committee) announces he will not seek re-election.

## Governor:

The race dominating the headlines is the Republican Primary race for Governor between Gov. Rick Perry and US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. Polls for the last few months have Gov. Perry leading by 11-12% (polling a sample of likely Republican primary voters). The latest UT/Texas Tribune poll had Perry at 42% and Hutchison at 30%. A third candidate, Debra Medina, polled 7% in the same poll (she is attracting many Ron Paul supporters).

None of the Democratic candidates are making much headway in the polls. None poll well when matched against the potential Republican candidates. No polls have been released showing Bill White's relative strength although future polls will likely have him near the front, if not leading. Also having \$6 million transferred from his Senate campaign funds likely makes him the frontrunner.

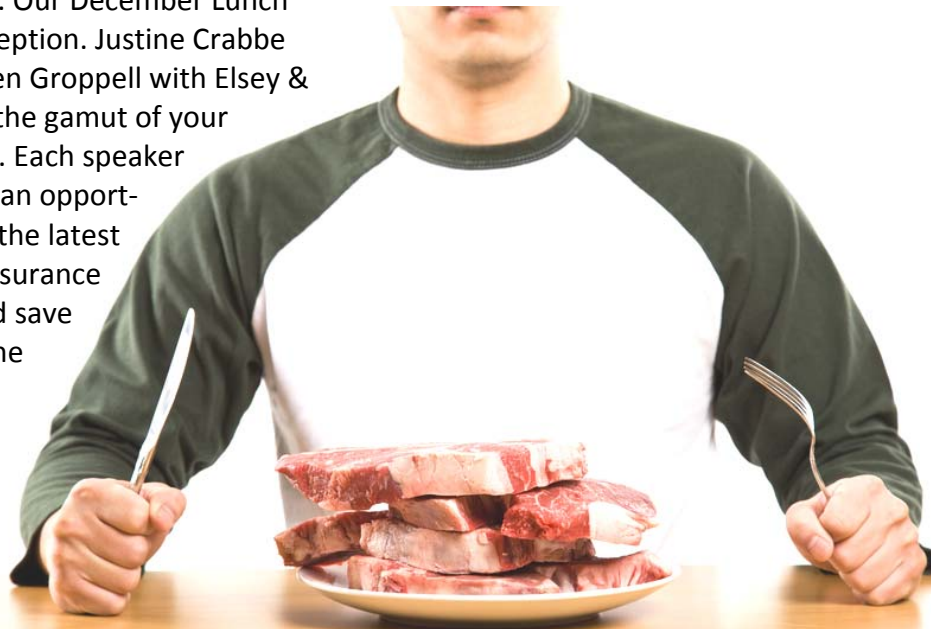
**US Senate:** With the recent announcement by Senator Hutchison that she does not intend to resign her seat until after the March primary, all the Senator wannabes are on hold. State Senator Florence Shapiro will file for re-election to the Texas Senate; Commissioners Michael Williams and Elizabeth Ames Jones will continue to wear their Railroad Commissioner hats; and former Secretary of State Roger Williams will continue, for now, as a private citizen. If Senator Hutchison does resign after the primary, expect a flurry of changes. Democratic hopeful John Sharp is also on hold.

**Comptroller:** Incumbent Republican Susan Coombs is expected to file for re-election. No significant opposition has surfaced.

For the full report on the different races across our state, email Laurie at [ljones@gulfcoastphcc.org](mailto:ljones@gulfcoastphcc.org).

## December Membership Lunch Recap

As always, we seek to provide value for your membership dollars. Our December Lunch meeting was no exception. Justine Crabbe with Aflac and Sharen Groppe with Elsey & Associates covered the gamut of your insurance questions. Each speaker provided attendees an opportunity to hear about the latest trends in industry insurance and ways each could save money. Check out the [Upcoming Events](#) page on our website for details about our great events!



## Gulf Coast PHCC Educates the Next Generation

Gulf Coast PHCC will participate in the Houston Hispanic Forum's Career and Education Day on January 9. Held at the George R. Brown Convention Center, this forum brings colleges, universities and potential employers with high school students about to enter the workforce. Our association participates as a way to educate potential employees about the wonderful opportunities in our industry.

Click here for [further info](#) about this exceptional event. If you are interested in operating the Gulf Coast PHCC booth, contact Ray Jones at [ray@ravenmechanical.com](mailto:ray@ravenmechanical.com).



## 2010 JOURNEYMAN Prep Course Schedule

Start the New Year off right...sign up for one of our 2010 Journeyman/Tradesman Prep Course. Qualified plumbers are in high demand. To continue to provide value to you, Gulf Coast PHCC continues to offer you an opportunity to prepare you or your employees for the upcoming Journeyman/Tradesman Test through our Prep Course. Taught by our highly qualified instructor, you will learn all aspects of the test and be prepared to pass it the first time! Sign up today!

[Click here](#) for further details or to register.

### 2010 Prep Course Dates

- February 20-21
- March 13-14
- April 10-11
- May 15-16
- June 12-13

## Domestic ABCs

The following is from the newsletter of Jeff Thredgold, keynote speaker at the 2010 Texas PHCC Convention, which will be held in the Woodlands in June:

This week's *Tea Leaf* is our semi-annual alphabetic view of the U.S. economy. Global ABCs will soon follow...

**A**merica—now pursuing one of the most aggressive moves toward the left (bigger and bigger government) ever. Unfortunately, the phrase “we’re from the government and we’re here to help you” still scares people to death

**B**udget Deficits—\$1,400,000,000,000 last year...about the same this year. Around \$1 trillion annually in coming years, which is simply unaffordable. Deficits in 2009-2010?...\$160,000,000 every 60 minutes

**C**onfidence—a very critical component for both businesses and consumers as a fragile U.S. economic expansion continues...

To see the rest of the article, go to his <http://www.thredgold.com/html/leafpdf.html> and click the December 16<sup>th</sup> edition.

Reprinted with permission from the "Tea Leaf" by Jeff Thredgold. Copyright, 2009, Thredgold Economic Associates, LLC. Jeff Thredgold will be the keynote speaker at the 2010 Texas PHCC Convention at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott in June. He will speak on "Your Money, Your World, Your Family – The Future."

## Energy Efficiency Is Here to Stay

In our industry and every area of our lives, becoming more energy efficient is the new goal.

Check out [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org); this web site is a state-by-state listing of the incentives for water and energy efficient installations. DSIRE stands for Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency and provides comprehensive info on state, local, utility and federal incentives and policies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. This site kept coming up in discussions at the National Convention; and your customers are likely looking at this site as well. Check it out today!

Thank You | [Morrison Supply Co.](#)

The Board of Directors warmly thanks **Morrison Supply Co.** for their generous donation to our association. **Morrison Supply** continues to provide a location and lunch for the Board each month; and for that, we say **THANK YOU!**



## PHCC Educational Foundation Contractor Resource Center

Need information on managing your business or help with a specific issue? This site has an extensive Business Management Library chock full of business articles and documents with info you need to know, as well as webinars and seminar info. This site also has worksheets to help determine your overhead expenses and pricing. They even allow you the ability to search different articles for specific info you need! This extremely useful site is just one more way PHCC provides you the education and info you need! Check it out today!

[Access Education Center Here](#)

## Attention Members

Send Us Your News!

If you have any new info about your company (great events, new milestones, etc.), [email your press release](#) and we'll try to include it in our newsletter.

In addition, *Houston Construction News* would also like your news! They would be delighted to include your press releases; it is a great way to promote your company and accomplishments.

Simply submit your press release to [Abby](#) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.



## 2009-2010 Board of Directors

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## Upcoming Events

- **January 22 – Casino Night**

Cadillac Bar is the location and January 22 is the night. Don't miss our largest networking event of the year.

- **February 11 – Monthly Lunch Meeting**

Join us for our monthly lunch where you can network with your peers and enjoy a great meal at the same time.

- **March 10 – Monthly Lunch Meeting**

Join us for our monthly lunch where you can network with your peers and enjoy a great meal at the same time.

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