



TBLC Vice Chairman Mark Brooker introducing opening keynote, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush.



Commissioner George P. Bush discussed how his office is supporting rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Harvey.



TBLC members gathered for briefings from Jason Schenker, Bill Miller, and Commissioner George P. Bush.



Gay Gaddis signs a copy of her book *Cowgirl Power* for Land Commissioner George P. Bush.



TBLC member Jason Schenker of Prestige Economics briefed TBLC members on the long and short term economic outlook.



Bill Miller of the Business Roundtable in D.C. shared his thoughts on tax cuts, the Trump administration, and 2018 elections.

On Tuesday, February 27th the TBLC convened its Spring Meeting in conjunction with the Council's 3rd Annual Policy Summit event at the Stephen F. Austin InterContinental hotel in Austin, TX. We were joined by Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush; economist Jason Schenker; and Bill Miller, Vice President of the Business Roundtable in Washington, D.C. The briefings were meant to bring clarity to the ever changing dynamics in our State and Federal governments and their effects on our economy.

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush opened up our meeting after an introduction from Houston Vice-Chair Mark Brooker. Commissioner Bush updated the Council on how his office has been tasked with rebuilding the Texas coast after Hurricane Harvey, noting that Texas will have to do it with only half of the Federal dollars that New Jersey/New York received after Hurricane Sandy.

Economist Jason Schenker then briefed the group on his mid-term and long-term outlook on the U.S. economy mentioning that while the tax cuts have spurred some growth, the spending to debt ratio is dangerously inverted. As President Trump discusses infrastructure investments and other spending, it's only a matter of time when the final straw breaks the camel's back.

Finally, we heard from Bill Miller, Vice President of the Business Roundtable in D.C. Miller shared with the Council some of BRT's priorities as well as his thoughts on the tax cuts, insider musings on the Trump Administration and how the 2018 elections impact the balance of power in Congress.

The meeting adjourned to join our guests at lunch featuring keynote remarks from Austin City Council Member Ellen Troxclair who discussed state versus local control and what is best for job growth. Prior to the keynote, Chairman Gay Gaddis gave special remarks about her recent book, *Cowgirl Power* and lunch ended with a book signing by Gaddis.