



P.O.V.

Season

17

Discussion Guide

Last Man Standing

Politics – Texas Style

A Film by Paul Stekler



www.pbs.org/pov



Letter from the Filmmaker

AUSTIN, 2004

Dear Colleague,

I've been making documentary films about American politics for two decades. For some reason, I've always been fascinated with politics. When I was seven, my parents found me out on a nearby corner of my New Jersey suburban neighborhood, stopping people as they walked by, asking them if they were for John F. Kennedy or Richard Nixon for president, and then trying to convince the JFK folks that Nixon was the one (well, my dad was a loyal Republican).

Filmmaking gave me a chance to present a very different view of politics than I was used to seeing on my post-Watergate, all-politics-is-bad TV. The politics that I knew – as a volunteer, a pollster, an analyst, and full-time political junkie – was full of people who were passionate about their beliefs and who also had fun (yes, fun) participating in the electoral process.

Campaigns had their surreal sides, fueled by very young folks who actually people most campaign staffs. Those campaigns are in constant states of dysfunction, each one trying to make it across the final line on election day, at least one vote ahead. And the candidates, while as flawed as any human beings, were flesh and blood and often very compelling characters, the stuff of good, and sometimes great, narrative.

I wanted everyone to know how important politics is, how important the stakes of who won and who lost are, and to realize just how entertaining, colorful, and dramatic it is as well. Politics matters. It determines if we go to war or not. It determines if abortion is legal or not. It determines which programs get funded and which do not. And for some of us, it defines the times in which we live.

Films about politics (as much as political candidates) need to appeal to people, in some way, to get them to pay attention. To entertain as well as enlighten. The best documentary films about American politics do just that. I hope that *Last Man Standing* carries on that tradition. And I hope that it provides you with a chance to increase civic engagement in your community.

Thanks for extending the impact,

Paul Stekler



Filmmaker Paul Stekler
Photo Courtesy of Paul Stekler



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Writer

LaTanya Bailey Jones
with contributions from Faith Rogow, Ph.D.

Producers

Cara Mertes
Executive Director, P.O.V.
Eliza Licht
Community Engagement Manager, P.O.V.
Theresa Riley
Director of P.O.V. Interactive
Design: Rafael Jiménez
Copyeditor: Amy Vinchesi

Thanks to those who contributed and/or reviewed this guide:

Nan Holmes
Special Projects Manager, KWBU
George L. Mehaffy
*Vice President, Academic Leadership and Change,
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
(AASCU)*
Paul Stekler
Filmmaker, Last Man Standing



Introduction

If the Texas politics of George W. Bush seem to be the blueprint for success in Washington, D.C. these days, what are they like back in the Lone Star state? That's the question Paul Stekler started with in making *Last Man Standing*. The hour-long documentary brings the viewer inside a 2002 political campaign for Texas state representative from the district that includes the hometown of former President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

This is not, however, simply a story about one race between a Republican and Democrat. The fiercely contested race illustrates the shift within Texas from a Democratic stronghold to a state in which all major offices are held by Republicans. The blow-by-blow details of the behind-the-scenes race culminating on voting day sheds light on what works in American politics today—and where our politics, in an increasingly diverse nation, might be going in the future.

The film also looks at a polarizing race for governor that pits President Bush's ascendant Republican Party against an historic multi-cultural Democratic ticket and includes astute observations from influential Texans: Karl Rove (close advisor to George W. Bush), former Texas governor Ann Richards, columnist Molly Ivins, political analyst Paul Begala, and former Cabinet member, Henry Cisneros.

Because *Last Man Standing* demystifies the political process, presents candidates as real flesh and blood human beings, and sets out the stakes in our electoral system, it is a wonderful outreach tool for anyone interested in raising awareness of or increasing interest in politics and voting.



Potential Partners

Key Issues

Last Man Standing is well suited for use in a variety of settings and is especially recommended for use with:

- **Your local PBS station**
- **Community organizations with a mission to promote education and learning such as P.O.V.'s national partners Elderhostel Learning in Retirement Centers, members of the Listen Up! Youth Media Network, or your local library**
- **University, college, or community college political science departments**
- **Campus party organizations, e.g.: Young Republicans and Democrats, Green Party, etc.**
- **High school participation in government, civics, or U.S. history classes**
- **Civic groups involved in voter registration or campaign finance reform**

Last Man Standing is an excellent tool for dialogue because it introduces real people rather than political caricatures, and goes beyond simplistic us-them portraits. It will be of special interest to people interested in exploring or working on the issues below:

- campaign finances**
- civic engagement**
- Democratic Party**
- demographics**
- diversity**
- electoral politics**
- ethics**
- media literacy / media and politics**
- political science**
- sociology**
- Republican Party**
- Texas and its role in national politics**
- voting**



Background Information

Texas

- Three of the last eight U.S. presidents, including the current president, have been from Texas.
- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Texas has a total population of 22 million people, making it the second most populous state in the U.S., and giving it 32 electoral votes.
- Of its total population, nearly a third of residents are Latino/Hispanic, 11.5% are African American, and 54% are white (non-Latino). If current demographic trends continue, the state could be “minority majority” within twenty years.

General Voting Trends

- The well-publicized decline of voter turnout in U.S. elections over the last 40 years has been especially pronounced in party primary elections. According to the Committee for the Study of the America Electorate (CSAE), voter turnout in statewide party primaries has dropped 50% from its peak in 1966. The average turnout in the 18 Democratic and Republican statewide primaries in the spring of 2002 was 16%.
- Turnout among senior citizens has increased since 1972, even as turnout dropped from 50% to 32% among citizens aged 18 to 24 and from 71% to 49% among citizens aged 25 to 44. (Center for Voting and Democracy)
- Only 36% of registered voters voted in the November 1998 congressional elections. (Center for Voting and Democracy)
- In the 2000 election, only 29% of eligible voters ages 18-24 turned out to vote. (The Associated Press, December 4, 2003)



Background Information

The Candidates

Rick Green's family moved to Wylie, Texas, when he was ten years old, so he is not a native Texan but did grow up in the state. At age 20, he was the youngest student in the University of Texas Law School. He founded a talent agency and video production company with TV sales of over \$500,000. He also started and ran a nutritional supplement company, building and training a national sales force with over 2,500 representatives to achieve nearly \$3,000,000 in retail sales.

In 1998, in his first campaign for public office, Green defeated the incumbent and was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. He was named Republican Freshman of the Year after the 1999 session for his successful bill to limit legal liability of gun makers and served a total of two terms.

In his final term, Green was under scrutiny for questionable ethics in several situations, including:

- lobbying at the state health department on behalf of Metabolife without disclosing his ties to the company.
- soliticing charitable contributions from lobbyists for the Torch of Freedom Foundation, which he founded while in office.
- securing state parole for a family friend who had been convicted of defrauding investors of \$30 million and who had given most of a \$400,000 check to the Green family.
- appearing in an infomercial that aired in California, sitting in his Capitol office and walking through the halls of state, for Focus Factor, a company that sells nutritional supplements to "supercharge your brain." When people in Texas became aware of the infomercial, Green asked that he be edited out.

Green is married to Kara Renea Green, and they have four young children. He currently practices corporate law with an emphasis on helping entrepreneurs start their own businesses. He also speaks on behalf of WallBuilders, a conservative Christian organization dedicated to the restoration of their view of the moral and religious foundation on which America was built.



Patrick Rose (left) and Rick Green (right), vying for the Texas House of Representatives
Photo courtesy of Mac McLure of the Collie News Group

Patrick Rose was born and raised in Dripping Springs, Texas, where he attended public school. He is a graduate of Princeton University and continues to study law at University of Texas. He is also a licensed realtor in his family's small business, Rose Real Estate, in Dripping Springs.

Rose is currently a representative in the Texas state legislature, representing House District 45, which includes Blanco, Caldwell and Hays Counties. *Texas Monthly*, July, 2003, named him Rookie of the Year for amending the House tort-reform bill to require a medical-malpractice insurance-rate rollback, adding a provision to the tuition-deregulation bill raising the amount to be set aside for scholarships, and withstanding pressure from both Republicans and Democrats gearing up to run against him in his swing district. Rose was also among more than 50 Democrats who boycotted the session for four days to block congressional redistricting.

The so-called 2002 Democratic Party "Dream Team" slate featured the first Mexican-American major party nominee for governor, Larado oilman Tony Sanchez, and the first African-American major party nominee for U.S. Senate from Texas, former Dallas Mayor *Ron Kirk*.



Using This Guide

This guide is designed to help you use *Last Man Standing* as the centerpiece of a community event. It contains suggestions for organizing an event as well as ideas for how to help participants think more deeply about the issues in the film. The discussion questions are designed for a very wide range of audiences. Rather than attempt to address them all, choose one or two that best meet the needs and interests of your group.

Planning an Event

In addition to showcasing documentary films as an art form, screenings of P.O.V. films can be used to present information, get people interested in taking action on an issue, provide opportunities for people from different groups or perspectives to exchange views, and/or create space for reflection. Using the questions below as a planning checklist will help ensure a high-quality/high-impact event.

- **Have you defined your goals?** With your partner(s), set realistic goals. Will you host a single event or engage in an ongoing project? Being clear about your goals will make it much easier to structure the event, target publicity, and evaluate results.
- **Does the way you are planning to structure the event fit your goals?** Do you need an outside facilitator, translator, or sign language interpreter? If your goal is to share information, are there local experts on the topic who should be present? How large an audience do you want? (Large groups are appropriate for information exchanges. Small groups allow for more intensive dialogue).
- **Have you arranged to involve all stakeholders?** It is especially important that people be allowed to speak for themselves. If your group is planning to take action that affects people other than those present, how will you give voice to those not in the room?
- **Is the event being held in a space where all participants will feel equally comfortable?** Is it wheelchair accessible? Is it in a part of town that's easy to reach by various kinds of transportation? If you are bringing together different constituencies, is it neutral territory? Does the physical configuration allow for the kind of discussion you hope to have?
- **Will the room setup help you meet your goals?** Is it comfortable? If you intend to have a discussion, can people see one another? Are there spaces to use for small breakout groups? Can everyone easily see the screen and hear the film?
- **Have you scheduled time to plan for action?** Planning next steps can help people leave the room feeling energized and optimistic, even when the discussion has been difficult. Action steps are especially important for people who already have a good deal of experience talking about the issue(s) on the table. For those who are new to the issue(s), just engaging in public discussion serves as an action step.



Using This Guide

Facilitating a Discussion

Controversial or unusual topics often make for excellent discussions. By their nature, those same topics also give rise to deep emotions and strongly held beliefs. As a facilitator, you can create an atmosphere where people feel safe, encouraged, and respected, making it more likely that they will be willing to share openly and honestly. Here's how:

Preparing Yourself

Identify your own hot-button issues. View the film before your event and give yourself time to reflect so you aren't dealing with raw emotions at the same time that you are trying to facilitate a discussion.

Be knowledgeable. You don't need to be an expert on the political process or Texas politics to facilitate a discussion, but knowing the basics can help you keep a discussion on track and gently correct misstatements of fact. In addition to the Background section above, you may want to take a look at the suggested websites in the Resource section on p.16.

Be clear about your role. You may find yourself taking on several roles for an event, e.g.: host, organizer, projectionist. If you are also planning to serve as facilitator, be sure that you can focus on that responsibility and avoid distractions during the discussion. Keep in mind that being a facilitator is not the same as being a teacher. A teacher's job is to convey specific information. In contrast, a facilitator remains neutral, helping move along the discussion without imposing their views on the dialogue.

Know your group. Issues can play out very differently for different groups of people. Is your group new to the issue or have they dealt with it before? Factors like geography, age, race, religion, and socioeconomic class can all have an impact on comfort levels, speaking styles, and prior knowledge. If you are bringing together different segments of your community, we strongly recommend hiring an experienced facilitator.

Finding a Facilitator

Some university professors, human resource professionals, clergy, and youth leaders may be specially trained in facilitation skills. In addition to these local resources, groups such as the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, or NCCJ may have or know of facilitators who work in this area.



Using This Guide

Preparing the Group

Consider how well group members know one another. If you are bringing together people who have never met, you may want to devote some time at the beginning of the event for introductions.

Agree to ground rules around language. Involve the group in establishing some basic rules to ensure respect and aid clarity. Typically such rules include no yelling or use of slurs and asking people to speak in the first person (“I think...”) rather than generalizing for others (“Everyone knows that...”).

For this film, it will be especially important to agree on appropriate terms for people whose first language is Spanish and to let people from that group self-identify rather than having others impose a term on them. The U.S. Census as well as several people in the film use *Hispanic*, so that is what this guide uses. However, because this general term can mask significant ethnic differences among Spanish speakers, many people find it inadequate. Preferences for particular terms vary by ethnicity and geographic region. People at your event may use Latino, Chicano, Tejano, or something else.

Ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be heard. Be clear about how people will take turns or indicate that they want to speak. Plan a strategy for preventing one or two people from dominating the discussion. If the group is large, are there plans to break into small groups or partners, or should attendance be limited?

Talk about the difference between dialogue and debate. In a debate, participants try to convince others that they are right. In a dialogue, participants try to understand each other and expand their thinking by sharing viewpoints and listening to each other actively. Remind people that they are engaged in a dialogue. This will be especially important in preventing a discussion from dissolving into partisan political debate or a rehash of history that can’t be changed, instead of an examination of political process or civic participation. Help people focus on what they can learn from looking at the events unfold rather than on proving or disproving old campaign claims or advocating for a particular party.

Encourage active listening. Ask the group to think of the event as being about listening, as well as discussing. Participants can be encouraged to listen for things that challenge as well as reinforce their own ideas. You may also consider asking people to practice formal “active listening,” where participants listen without interrupting the speaker, then re-phrase to see if they have heard correctly.

Remind participants that everyone sees through the lens of their own experience. Who we are influences how we interpret what we see. So everyone in the group may have a different view about the content and meaning of the film they have just seen, and all of their views may be accurate. It can help people to understand one another’s perspectives if people identify the evidence on which they base their opinion when they share their views.

Take care of yourself and group members. If the intensity level rises, pause to let everyone take a deep breath. You might also consider providing a safe space to perhaps “vent”, perhaps with a partner or in a small group of familiar faces. If you anticipate that your topic may upset people, be prepared to refer them to local support agencies and/or have local professionals present.



General Discussion Questions

Unless you think participants can't engage until they have had a break, don't encourage people to leave the room between the film and the discussion. If you save your break for an appropriate moment during the discussion, you won't lose the feeling of the film as you begin your dialogue.

One way to get a discussion going is to pose a general question, such as:

- **If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, who would you ask and what would you ask them?**
- **Did anything in this film surprise you? If so, what? Why was it surprising?**
- **What insights or new knowledge did you gain from this film?**
- **Two months from now, what do you think you will remember from this film and why?**



Tony Sanchez (speaking) and Ron Kirk (left), Democratic "Dream Team" candidates for governor and senator in the 2002 Texas State election

Photo courtesy of the Austin-American Statesman



Discussion Prompts

LOCAL ISSUES, NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

In the last three decades, Texas has experienced shifts in demographics and political affiliation that have implications well beyond the state's borders. Consider what people across the U.S. might learn from the particular issues that are raised in the campaign profiled in *Last Man Standing*.

Political Processes and Structure

- *Last Man Standing* ends by saying that “elections do matter” and that they are the most direct way to affect political policies. How do you feel about voting? Do you vote? Why or why not? Do you think your vote makes a difference? Do you think people who don't vote have a right to voice their opinion? Some people in the film said they were choosing between the lesser of two evils rather than choosing to vote for someone they really supported. How do you think this situation influences voting patterns?
- Texas was once dominated by the Democratic Party and is now dominated by the Republican Party. Is one political party dominant in your community? If so, how does that dominance affect the electoral process? Has your community faced similar changes in the dominance of one political party over another? If so, what do you think caused the shift?
- According to the narrator, Republican candidates in Texas had a financial advantage, and with corporate contributions, “Democrats were outspent almost 2 to 1.” What do you think about the role of “big money” and campaign contributions? How are elections affected by the amount of money a candidate can raise? How are elected officials affected by the amount of money they need to raise while they are in office?



Former Texas governor Ann Richards
Photo: Monica Walters

- Former Texas governor Ann Richards says in the documentary, “Big money’s always had a big role in politics. And it always will. I don’t care how many laws you pass. I’m all for campaign finance reform in whatever way you want to pass it, just to slow things down, if nothing else. If you can create an atmosphere in which you’ve got to learn new tricks to cheat, you know.” What do you think Richards means by “new tricks to cheat”? Are there any regulations you can think of that would

help those who do not have a lot of money gain influence equal to that of people, corporations, or organizations with money?

- Karl Rove and Paul Begala talk about whether Texas is a Republican state or a George Bush state. What do they mean? Why might the question be relevant to them?

Specific Campaign Issues

- According to the narrator in *Last Man Standing*, Green’s ethical problems became “the issue in the race”. Do you agree? What are some of the issues in political campaigns in your community? If you could pick the main issues, would your issues be the same or different from the ones you identified? Do the issues clarify or distract from the actual work you hope your official will do?
- Consider the issues listed on the next page. How does each candidate frame these issues? What specific words do they use and why do they choose those terms? Do their comments increase understanding? Do they frame issues in ways that portray their opponent’s positions fairly? How does the need to come up with short statements influence the way that candidates talk and voters think about the issues?



Discussion Prompts

- *Keeping the phrase "under God" in the pledge of allegiance* (Green implies that the court has ruled against saying the pledge at all, not just the words "under God", raising questions about the patriotism of those who oppose his view. Rose says he supports saying the pledge in school and does not comment on the phrase "under God").
- *Gun control* (both candidates say they are NRA members)
- *Health insurance for children* (Rose is accused of being a "socialist" for supporting it. Green is accused of opposing immunizations for children.)
- The narrator of *Last Man Standing* says, "[George W.] Bush's brand of Republican conservatism—less government and even fewer taxes—conquered Texas long before he took his act to Washington." The film also notes that Texas is 41st out of 50 states in per capita funding of public health, 46th in child care subsidies, and it has the highest percentage of uninsured children in the country. In addition, the state faces a multi-billion dollar deficit. Given this context, assess the candidates' position on taxes. (Rose says it is an issue of fairness and sharing the burden. Green says he trusts people, not government, to spend their own money). Who benefits and who is disadvantaged by each position? In your view, what accounts for the popularity of the "less government and even fewer taxes" brand of politics?
- Make a list of the characteristics that you think are important in a politician (i.e., things that you consider when determining who you would vote for). Then list the kinds of things that people in the film mention about Green and Rose. (Your list might include things like: physical appearance / being cute or good looking, age, being from the community, being Christian, political party affiliation, stance on specific issues, knowing that "real" chili doesn't have beans, etc). Compare the two lists. What do you notice?
- Rick Green is portrayed as devoutly religious. During a campaign appearance, his opponent Rose declared "I'm a Christian: I was baptized, raised and confirmed in the Drippings Springs United Methodist Church." Why are the religious views of the candidates an issue in this campaign? In your community, do candidates declare their religious affiliations as

part of defining who they are and what they bring to the voters? Is religious affiliation important to you in choosing a candidate? Why or why not? What do you think of "separation of church and state" as it relates to political campaigns?

- One of Rick Green's supporters says, "Myself, I'm a Christian, and I don't see how a Christian can be a Democrat." In your view, why does he see being a Democrat and being a Christian as mutually exclusive? Do you agree?
- Speaking to a church group, Green says, "There's a big difference, folks, in the radical Islamic faith that the followers of Osama bin Laden believe in and the Judeo-Christian values that our people share. You see, they serve a God that requires them to die and to kill in order to earn their way to paradise. We serve a God that was willing to die for us." This is clearly a distortion of mainstream Islamic belief. In the context of the campaign, what purpose does it serve to compare mainstream Christianity to an extremist interpretation of Islam?
- As Green concedes the election to Rose, he recommends that Rose read Proverbs 19:9. That text says, "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who utters lies will perish." In your view, why did Green recommend that particular passage to Rose? Was it an appropriate recommendation? Do you think Rose lied about Green? Is lying an inevitable part of the campaign process?

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

The film notes that part of the backdrop of the Green/Rose race was the rise of a new Texas that "didn't fit the old, cowboy movie script." The shift they are describing is an increase in the number of Hispanics who now make up approximately one-third of Texas' population. Consider the following issues raised by people in the film relating to demographics:

- Patrick Rose says, "Spanish is increasingly important. If you want to be a good representative, you better be able to speak it." In your view, should people who want to serve as political representatives of communities with large numbers of Hispanics be able to speak Spanish? Why or why not?



Discussion Prompts

- Political observer Paul Maslin says that, “demographics is destiny.” What do you think he means? Do you think he is correct? If demographics is political destiny, what is the likely political destiny of your community?
- In the film, Democrats are very focused on getting the Hispanic and African American vote. But historically, the percentage of communities of color who vote is low. If it were your job to convince people of color in your community to vote, what would you say to them? How would what you say differ from what someone of a different race or ethnicity might say?
- Phil Gramm describes the Democratic strategy of choosing a “multicultural ticket” as an attempt to “divide Texans based on race.” Do you agree that this is what Democrats were trying to do? Would you purposefully recruit Hispanics or African Americans to run for office? In your view, how important is it to have people running who reflect the race and ethnicity of the people they represent?

THE ROLE OF MEDIA

- The narrator of *Last Man Standing* says, “In a world of 24-hour news, campaigns often turn on events that somehow capture the voter’s attention. Whether it was through well-placed leaks or by coincidence, a new set of accusations suddenly became news just a month before the election.” This highlights the role of the media and publicity during a campaign. How did Rose and Green use the media during their campaign? Was that a factor in the race in your opinion?
- Patrick Rose received the endorsement of the *Austin American Statesman* newspaper. Why did Rose want the endorsement? In your community, do you pay attention to which candidate is being endorsed by your local newspaper? If so, why does it matter to you?
- We see Rose making a political campaign ad. In the ad, the announcer says, “State Representative Rick Green is under criminal investigation for pressuring a state agency on behalf of his legal client. This comes on the heels of Green helping get parole for a convicted felon who stole over \$30 million from innocent investors.” At the end of the ad, Rose says, “I’m

Patrick Rose. I’ll work only for you and the people of Texas.” In your opinion, are the charges Rose makes in the ad against Green relevant to the campaign? Why or why not? From what you see and what Green says in the film, do you think the charges are truthful?

- What do you think of political commercials run on television during campaigns in your community? Do you think negative ads, which make allegations against the opponent of the candidate running the ad, are effective? What do you think of ads that present a candidate’s qualifications and positions without referring to the opponent?
- When you think of Texas, what images come to mind? What is the source of your information? Compare your vision with what one resident recounts: “When I was growing up in Gruber, kids used to make fun of the Mexicans. We called them Mesicans [sic] and we had our belt buckles on, our big hats, and we rode our saddles and we were so ignorant. We didn’t realize that everything about the cowboy culture came from Mexico. The other thing that we were told when we were growing up was that John Wayne settled Texas. That was a lie, that was a big lie.” Yet the film also describes George W. Bush’s appeal in terms of him being perceived as a John Wayne style cowboy. Where did the image of the white, tough cowboy come from? Who benefits from perpetuation of this myth? Who is hurt by the myth?



Taking Action

- Brainstorm things that you and/or your group can do to help eligible voters in your community vote (e.g.: publicize the location of your polling place, organize car pools, make reminder phone calls, etc.). Find organizations in your community that advocate for civic participation (see Resources). Ask what help they need from you.
- Contact a candidate whose views you support and ask how you can help them get [re-] elected.
- Organize a fact-finding group to seek information about the positions of candidates running for election in your community. As a group you might attend speeches or debates, explore websites, visit a candidate's campaign headquarters, and/or read newspaper articles. Meet informally or over a meal to discuss what you learn and brainstorm ways to share accurate information with others in your community.
- Investigate what the ethics policies are that govern your state legislators and assess whether or not you think they are adequate. If not, suggest revisions and work with your representative to have the revisions incorporated into appropriate legislation and policy.



*Paul Stekler, Producer/Director,
and Sandra Guardado, Co-Producer/Editor
Photo courtesy of Marsha Miller*



Resources

Websites

P.O.V.'s Last Man Standing Website
www.pbs.org/pov/lastmanstanding

General Overview

Access the *Last Man Standing* website at www.pbs.org/pov to find out more about Texas politics, updates from the characters, interviews with the filmmaker and characters, opportunities to share your views, and much more.

The Great Election Grab

When does gerrymandering become a threat to democracy? In an article originally featured in *The New Yorker* magazine, Jeffrey Toobin examines the methods and motives of politicians who stop at nothing to reshape districts and sway voting patterns.

Texas Politics: Myth vs. Reality

Watch streaming video interviews with some of Texas' leading political pundits and luminaries — including former Texas governor Anne Richards, reporter Molly Ivins and strategist Karl Rove — as they try to shed light on the Texas political landscape.

Filmmaker Interview

"I want audiences to see that this came down to the very last ballot box, and if you vote, it matters." We interview Paul Stekler about his experiences making *Last Man Standing*.

Resources

Find links to articles, books and films about Texas politics, Texas history, more films by Paul Stekler, and links to other related PBS and NPR programs and websites.

What's Your P.O.V.?

P.O.V.'s online *Talking Back Tapestry* is a colorful, interactive representation of your feelings about **Last Man Standing**. Listen to other P.O.V. viewers talk about the film and add your thoughts by calling 1-800-688-4768. www.pbs.org/pov/talkingback.html



Resources

Texas

www.capitol.state.tx.us/

The official website of the Texas State Legislature. For specific statistics related to Texas and voting, see **www.gwu.edu/~action/states/tx.htm**.

Texas Political Junkie Sites

THE QUORUM REPORT

www.quorumreport.com

Harvey Kronberg has been reporting on Texas politics in the Quorum Report since 1983. It's the oldest and one of the most respected newsletters dedicated to Texas politics, and the site is updated daily with non-partisan political news and gossip. Scrutinizing the minutia of state and local politics, it's aimed at the politically involved and not the faint hearted.

CONGRESS.ORG'S GUIDE TO TEXAS POLITICS

<http://congress.org/congressorg/state/main/?state=TX>

A guide to Texas state elections, congress.org includes tools for researching candidates' stances and voting records, information about elected and appointed officials, and a guide to media organizations covering Texas politics.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS

www.texasgop.org

Already wedded to a party? Get involved in partisan politics and dig up the latest dirt on the Dems at the official website of the Republican Party of Texas.

TEXAS DEMOCRATS

www.txdemocrats.org

Swing the other way? Visit the website of the party of Patrick Rose to get involved with the Texas Democrats.

General Civic Engagement

PUBLIC CITIZEN

www.citizen.org

The website of Public Citizen, a non-profit public interest organization, includes a variety of resource materials and links related to civic engagement.

THE NATIONAL CIVIC LEAGUE

www.ncl.org/about/usefultools.html

The website of the National Civic League includes resources designed to help people increase the level of civic engagement in their communities.

PUBLIC AGENDA

www.publicagenda.org

This non-partisan organization focuses on public engagement by conducting research on public opinion. Their Issue Guides summarize key campaign issues, including all major positions and key facts and figures.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS

www.people-press.org

This website includes a wide range of well-respected research reports on media-related issues, including: *Evenly Divided and Increasingly Polarized: The 2004 Political Landscape*, available at: <http://people-press.org/reports/display.php3?ReportID=196>



Resources

Voter Registration and Elections

PROJECT VOTE SMART

www.vote-smart.org

Project Vote Smart profiles thousands of candidates and officials using five basic categories: biography, issue positions, voting records, campaign finances and performance evaluations.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

www.lwv.org

The website of the League of Women Voters includes lots of information about civic participation and encouraging people to vote, as well as links to major political parties and other organization focused on voting.

NATIONAL VOICE

www.NationalVoice.org

The website of National Voice includes a useful state-by-state reference to existing voter registration and civic engagement initiatives.

THE CENTER FOR VOTING DEMOCRACY

www.fairvote.org

The Center for Voting Democracy focuses on the process of running fair elections, offering resources on issues such as redistricting, voting equipment, and more.

Encouraging Young Voters

THE YOUTH VOTE COALITION

www.youthvote.org

The Youth Vote Coalition is a national nonpartisan coalition of diverse organizations dedicated to increasing political and civic participation among young people. The site includes a downloadable handbook of best practices to recruit young voters, articles, easy links to elected officials, and much more.

CIRCLE

www.civicyouth.org

A project of the University of Maryland and the Pew Charitable Trust, CIRCLE conducts research on civic participation by young people and provides a variety of resources, including a handy set of fact sheets on young voters.

ROCK THE VOTE

www.rockthevote.org

A helpful website for those working with college-age voters.



How to Buy the Film

To purchase *Last Man Standing* or to find out more about filmmaker Paul Stekler, go to <http://www.utexas.edu/coc/rtf/faculty/stekler/films.html>



Now entering its 17th season on PBS, P.O.V. is the first and longest-running series on television to feature the work of

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P.O.V. Interactive

www.pbs.org/pov

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American Documentary, Inc.

www.americandocumentary.org

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying, and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. Through two divisions, *P.O.V.* and *Active Voice*, AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture; developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, on line, and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback, to educational opportunities and community participation.

Front cover photo: Marsha Miller
Campaign flyers for Rick Green (Rep.)
and Patrick Rose (Dem.)

