



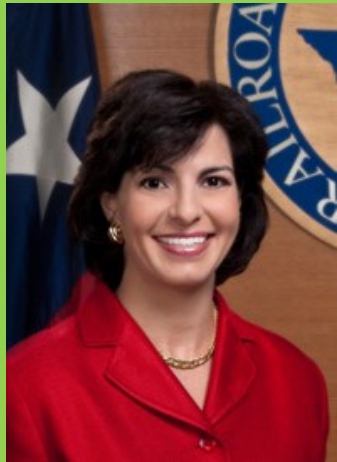
Next Meeting
 Tuesday
 May 21
The Hills Club
 \$15 Members
 \$ 20 Guests
RESERVATIONS:
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 NEW EMAIL!
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 or a director
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Meet our May 2013 Speaker

**Texas Railroad Commissioner
 Christi Craddick**

Christi Craddick was elected statewide by the people of Texas in November 2012 to serve a six-year term as Texas Railroad Commissioner. A native of Midland, Christi is an attorney specializing in oil and gas, water, tax issues, electric deregulation and environmental policy.



Craddick served as the chief political and legal advisor to the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Tom Craddick from 2002-2011, the first Republican Speaker in over 100 years.

In 1994-95, Craddick clerked at the law firm of Jackson Walker, L.L.P., formerly Small, Craig & Werkinthin, where she specialized in agricultural, electric deregulation, environmental and tax issues. In 1994, she worked in the legal department of the Railroad Commission of Texas and at the Third Court of Appeals. Craddick also clerked at the law firms of Scott Douglas & McConnico in Austin and Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson in Midland in 1993. In 1991, she served on the staff of U.S. Congressman Joe Barton.

Christi earned her Bachelor's Degree as a Plan II graduate and her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from The University of Texas at Austin. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas. Christi resides in Austin with her daughter, Catherine, and is an active member of St. Austin's Catholic Church.

SAVE THE DATE!!! The GOP GOLF Scramble
Is the sole fundraiser for the LTRC PAC to support Local Candidates/Contact Bill Thomas @ 496-2480
OCTOBER 14, 2013
Columbus Day



Stratfor's Michael Nayebi-Ouskou and our own Jason Buddin

Global intelligence firm, Stratfor, sent Michael Nayebi-Ouskou to the LTRC luncheon on May 16. Mr. Nayebi shared with us the last ten years of Middle Eastern violence that has taken place since the U.S. removed Iraq's, Sadaam Hussein and his Baath party.

The United States' interests in the Middle East remain the same as they were a decade ago when the Bush administration invaded Iraq, namely preventing terrorist attacks in the United States or on U.S. interests abroad, blocking any one country—be it Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt or Iran—from exercising too much influence and power, and making sure that oil from the region is able to flow freely and continue fueling the global economy. Though the so-called War on Terror no longer dominates Washington's global strategy, Islamist extremism remains a concern.

The American public viewed the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq in December 2011 as long overdue, and justifiably so. But the mere presence of those troops forced other actors in the region to behave more cautiously, and their withdrawal has limited the United States' agility in responding to jihadist threats or containing Iran's rise.

The growing number of attacks by suspected Sunni militants along the Syria-Iraq border has many countries concerned that spillover violence could threaten their own stability. The Arab monarchies in the Persian Gulf are split in their attempts to mitigate this threat, with some such as Saudi Arabia attempting to co-opt extremist groups and still others such as Qatar siding with relatively more moderate groups like the Muslim Brotherhood. Both are watching Turkey's rise with apprehension, carefully trying to avoid having an ascendant Iran be replaced by an ascendant Turkey. Relying on Turkey is part of a new U.S. foreign policy of less direct intervention worldwide, especially in the Middle East. Even the Iranians themselves could play an unwitting role in this strategy by making sure that no one country becomes too powerful a force in the region.

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