

General Session

Thursday, July 30, 2015

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

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The Politics of Texas and Their Impact on the Economy

presented by Dr. Jim Gaines and Ross Ramsey

What happens when you bring a housing economist and an expert on public policy and politics together for an hour? You get a look at the State of our State following the 84th Texas Legislative Session. How does the political landscape affect the housing industry and our economy? The answer to that question could be boring, but our presenters are far from dull! This is your only opportunity to hear from these dynamic speakers about Texas politics, the Texas economy and what to expect when recently passed legislation begins impacting our state and industry.



Dr. Jim Gaines is Research Economist, Housing Markets and Development, at the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University. Jim focuses on housing and land development issues. He has more than 30 years of experience in a broad array of professional real estate activities and has provided consulting services to numerous businesses, institutions, developers, and all levels of government organizations. He served as President of Rice Center, an urban research center affiliated with Rice University and was an associate professor of real estate and finance at the University of South Carolina.

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Ross Ramsey is executive editor and co-founder of The Texas Tribune, a non-partisan, non-profit media organization that promotes discourse on vital issues of statewide interest. Before joining the Tribune, Ross was editor and co-owner of Texas Weekly for 15 years. He did a 28-month stint in government as associate deputy comptroller for policy and director of communications with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Before that, he reported for the Houston Chronicle from its Austin bureau and for the Dallas Times Herald, first on the business desk in Dallas and later as its Austin bureau chief, and worked as a Dallas-based freelance business writer, writing for regional and national magazines and newspapers. Ross got his start in journalism in broadcasting, covering news for radio stations in Denton and Dallas.

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