



## Susan Combs Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

### A Brief Introduction of Susan Combs

- Comptroller Susan Combs serves as the state's treasurer, check writer, tax collector and revenue estimator, and also oversees state purchasing.
- While serving four years in the Texas Legislature, Combs authored the state's landmark private property rights legislation and introduced and passed government accountability reform.
- As the first woman elected Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Combs was the voice for farmers and ranchers and boosted rural economic development efforts.
- Elected Texas Comptroller in November 2006 and re-elected by an overwhelming majority in 2010, Combs has enacted sweeping reforms in her office:
  - Saving nearly \$11 million in her agency alone;
  - Returning more than \$165 million in unclaimed property to its rightful owners in fiscal 2010 thanks to a new streamlined effort; and
  - Launching the nation's most innovative transparency effort so taxpayers can see exactly how their money is being spent.
- More than 250 local government entities across Texas have earned a place in the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle, which recognizes financial transparency efforts.
- Committed to further securing the private data for citizens and businesses, Combs serves as a board member for the University of Texas Center for Identity, which assembles public- and private-sector leaders with an interest in anticipating and combating identity threats.
- **Her motto is, "Don't spend it if you can't defend it!"**
- Combs' Texas Transparency website hosts the "Where the Money Goes" and "Where the Money Comes From" tools and is a national model for open-books initiatives. More than 30 state and local entities across the country have contacted the Comptroller's office to learn about transparency initiatives.
- Combs leads the way for state and local governments looking to streamline their spending, identify greater efficiencies, minimize costs and maximize revenue sources — all while improving services for Texans.
- Combs launched the Keeping Texas First website this summer to track the economic impact of federal action on endangered species, air and water. Earlier this year, Combs released reports on the economic impacts of health care and obesity, detailing the spiraling costs of each and how they will affect Texas' future. And late last year, her groundbreaking Financial Allocation Study for Texas spotlighted cost efficiencies in Texas public schools and examined the relationship between school spending and academic excellence.
- Combs is a fourth generation Texan with a West Texas ranch that has been in her family for more than 120 years. Married for 35 years, she is the proud mother of three sons.