A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a city street. In the center, the dark silhouette of a man wearing a suit jacket and a fedora hat is seen from behind, looking towards the sky. The street is flanked by tall, modern skyscrapers with many windows. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall mood is one of mystery and power.

**THE**  
**50**  
**MOST**  
**POWERFUL**  
**PEOPLE**

"Very often, power and influence may not even be recognized by the people who have it," said John Roach, CEO of Roach Enterprises and chairman emeritus of Tandy Corp. "Powerful and influential people have drive and determination. They make things happen in different ways and in different parts of the community."

by Gail Bennison

We have long been blessed with the legacies of powerful people in Fort Worth—Charles D. Tandy, Amon Carter Sr., and John Justin, to name a few. They were the doers, the risk takers, the visionaries, the philanthropists and the builders of our communities. They led by example and were a positive influence to future leaders.

Power comes in a variety of forms and can be measured in numerous ways. Understanding power is crucial when determining who has it and who doesn't. Power is often perceived as influence and, while the two work hand in hand, they are very different. While not everyone with influence has power, anyone with power certainly has influence.

In order to compile a thorough and intelligent list of the 50 most powerful people in Tarrant and western counties, a 10-person panel consisting of *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine executives and editors, and a cross-section of distinguished members of the business community considered the following criteria: The power player must live or frequent a residence in Tarrant and western counties and have affected change in the last two years or spearheaded a project that has tremendously increased the quality of life for residents. Anyone with power must be powerful in the realm of business, politics or education, however, if the subject is not associated with these professional fields, then he/she must bring national limelight to the area. If a couple is listed, it is because one spouse is considered as equally powerful as the other.

Although the aforementioned criteria eliminated a few candidates, additional questions had to be answered when examining the remaining power players' eligibility: Who governs in the seats that are considered to be most powerful? Who prevails when there are disagreements regarding civic issues? Who has brought about positive and effective change and accomplished what many cannot by utilizing political strength, delegated authority and even perceived authority?

Many of the people on this list would consider themselves influential leaders perhaps, but not powerful. "The word 'powerful' can be positive or negative," said Marty Leonard, one of this year's 50 Most Powerful. "I hope I've lived my life as a positive influence. To whom much has been given, much is expected. I feel as if I've been blessed and have had the opportunity to make blessings for others."

From captains of industry, to educators, to leaders of religious congregations, the following people have brought countless blessings. Their power and resulting influence is far-reaching and will leave indelible footprints on a grateful community.

*[This list is in no way a ranking. The following names are listed alphabetically, and the numbers were used merely to assist readers when navigating their way through the biographies.]*

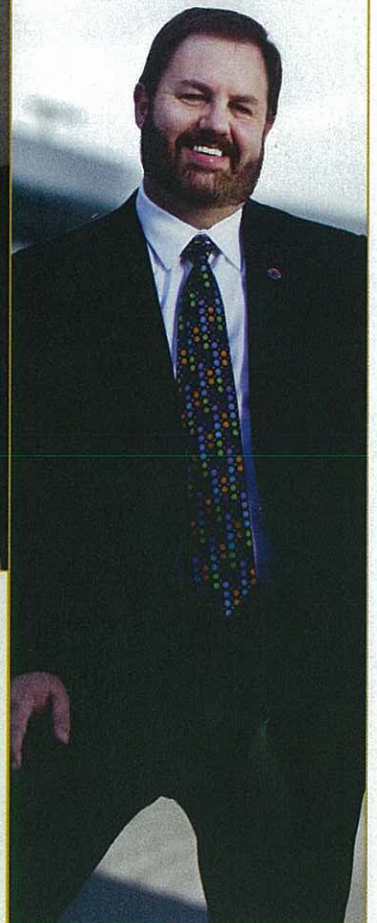


### EDDIE GOSSAGE

- President, General Manager
- Texas Motor Speedway
- Fort Worth

Under Gossage's leadership, Texas Motor Speedway has hosted the largest crowd in Texas sports history. He created the first Preferred Seat License and season ticket plans in motorsports, promoted some of the country's largest music festivals and staged the first-ever nighttime IndyCar race. Gossage serves on the board of directors for Speedway Children's Charities as well as the boards for the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau. Gossage was named the inaugural winner of the Indy Racing League's "Promoter of the Year" award in 2001.

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### ERIC FOX

- Senior Director of Government Relations
- Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
- Fort Worth

Fort Worth native Eric Fox is responsible for all government and legislative support activities for LM Aero, coordinating congressional support and obtaining Washington, D.C. constituent advocacy for key campaigns and maintaining overall Lockheed Martin activity integration. Fox previously served as associate staff member for the House Appropriations Committee while working for Congressman Henry Bonilla of Texas and served on the staffs of Sen. Conrad Burns of Montana and Gov. Don Sundquist of Tennessee. On the subject of power, Fox said, "If you think you are powerful, just try ordering someone else's dog around."

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