

THE
INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC FORUM
OF THE AMERICAS



PALM BEACH STRATEGIC FORUM

For Immediate Release

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**FORMER U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
OF TEXAS & GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT OF FLORIDA
TO SPEAK AT PALM BEACH STRATEGIC FORUM**
Live interview to take place on April 8

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. (March 12, 2013) – Former U.S. presidential candidate and current Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, along with Florida Governor Rick Scott, will speak at the third annual Palm Beach Strategic Forum on April 8 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Leigh Gallagher, assistant managing editor at Fortune magazine, will moderate the dialogue between the governors.

“We are very excited to hear from the leaders of the second and fourth largest states in the U.S.,” said Nicholas Rémillard, president and CEO of the International Economic Forum of the Americas and the Palm Beach Strategic Forum. “Both Texas and Florida are known for their expanded efforts to increase economic development, and the Forum will provide a unique opportunity to hear from both governors.”

For a complete roster of confirmed speakers, and updates to the list, please visit <http://forum-americas.org/palmbeach/2013/speakers>.

Governor of the nation’s second largest state, Rick Perry is Texas’ longest-serving governor. Perry graduated from Texas A&M University in 1972, and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1972 to 1977 flying C-130 tactical airlift aircraft.

From 1985 to 1991, he served in the Texas House of Representatives. Perry was elected commissioner of agriculture in 1990, serving two terms. As lieutenant governor, he worked with legislators to pass a balanced budget that included record tax cuts.

On December 21, 2000, Perry was sworn in as the 47th governor of Texas, and was elected to four-year terms in 2002, 2006 and 2010. Under Gov. Perry’s leadership, Texas consistently ranks as one of America’s best places for economic development and

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expansion, has led the nation in exports for a full decade, and been the nation's epicenter for job creation.

Florida's 45th governor, Rick Scott, graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University. After law school, Gov. Scott stayed in Dallas and worked for the city's largest law firm, Johnson & Swanson, primarily representing companies in the health care, oil and gas, and communications industries.

In 1987, Scott started Columbia Hospital Corporation. When he left Columbia in 1997, it was one of the most admired companies in the U.S. It had grown to be the world's largest health care corporation with more than 340 hospitals, 135 surgery centers, and 550 home health locations in 37 states and two foreign countries. Columbia employed more than 285,000 people, making it the seventh largest U.S. employer and the 12th largest employer worldwide.

Known as the "Jobs Governor" because of his 7-7-7 Plan to create 700,000 jobs in seven years, Governor Scott is working to eliminate job-killing regulation, holding state government accountable, and ensuring Florida has the best-educated workforce. His budget proposal shrinks state government by reducing state spending by over \$5 billion and returns \$2 billion directly to taxpayers.

Governors Perry and Scott are just two of the more than 70 global economic and political thought leaders who will discuss this year's theme, The Path to Economic Growth. During the Forum, key issues in the areas of finance, innovation, energy, and trade will be examined. The two-day event will take place April 8 and 9, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

About the Palm Beach Strategic Forum

The Palm Beach Strategic Forum is presented by the International Economic Forum of the Americas (IEFA). Its mission is to address the major governance challenges of the new world economic order.

The objective of the Palm Beach Strategic Forum is to foster a better understanding of opportunities and challenges at stake in the global market. The Forum also seeks to provide a platform for business meetings in a broad spectrum of sectors, including banking and finance, and to foster sustainable economic development.

For more information about the Palm Beach Strategic Forum, please visit www.forum-americas.org/palmbeach.

Media Credentials

Domestic and foreign journalists are invited to cover the entire proceedings of the Palm Beach Strategic Forum. **To attend the event, journalists, photographers, and media technical staff must register by contacting Carla Brown Lucas at CBLucas@BrownLucas.com, or +1 (772) 708-9626, by Wednesday, April 3, 2013.**

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