



Rick Perry

Texas Governor and Tea Party supporter who fiercely opposes abortion, gay marriage and backs limiting government

■ **Mar 4, 1950: *James Richard Perry*** born Paint Creek, Texas

■ **Education:** Graduates from Texas A&M University in 1972 with degree in animal science

■ **Career:** Commissioned in U.S. Air Force, flies C-130 transports in Middle East and Europe, 1972-77. Goes into business with father as cotton farmer

■ **Political career:** Elected to Texas House of Representatives as Democrat in 1984. Texas chairman of ***Al Gore's*** 1988 presidential bid. Joins Republicans in 1989, succeeds ***George W. Bush*** as Governor of Texas in 2000

■ **Religion:** Christian conservative

■ **Family:** Marries ***Anita Thigpen*** in 1982, couple have two children