



## Texas Disability Issues Forum

Monday, September 19, 2022

Austin, Texas + virtual

[TDIF.REVUPTexas.org](http://TDIF.REVUPTexas.org)

### **TDIF Survey: Attorney General**

1. The disability community lives by the motto “Nothing about us, without us.” We must have a seat at all decision-making tables that affects us, which is every table. What steps, if any, have you taken to make your campaign accessible for people with disabilities and to ensure that our perspectives are heard? What specific plans do you have to incorporate the voices of people with disabilities into your decision-making processes, if elected?
2. What role does the Attorney General's office have in ensuring that Texans with disabilities have the same access to voting (registering and casting a ballot) as Texans without disabilities?
3. The U.S. Supreme Court suggests that to be in compliance with the ADA's integration mandate, a state must demonstrate that it has a comprehensive, effectively working plan for placing qualified persons with disabilities in less restrictive settings, and that a waiting list for community services moves at a reasonable pace. Currently, there are approximately 170,000 unduplicated individuals waiting for services in their communities, some as long as a decade.
4. What steps would you take to ensure that Texas complies with its obligations under the ADA?
5. People with disabilities often fall through the cracks when they become involved with the criminal justice system. How will you work with the disability community and advocacy groups to correct this?
6. Some parts of Texas have a history of community opposition to creating affordable housing for people with disabilities and extremely low incomes. As a result, developments serving this group are shut out of affordable, accessible, integrated housing. What is the role of the Attorney General in ensuring that this housing development process is protected from discrimination so the state can meet its obligation to people with disabilities and federal fair housing laws?

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7. The Attorney General's office has two important roles, representing state agencies that are sued, and protecting the civil rights of Texans, including Texans with disabilities. As Attorney General, what would you do to balance these two roles?
8. Would you support the legalization of or decriminalization cannabis in Texas?
9. Do you support Medicaid expansion that has benefits to people with disabilities, community attendants, and their families? Please explain.
10. What steps should the State of Texas take to increase access to public and private transportation (i.e. bus, train, taxi, ride share companies) for urban and rural Texans with disabilities?
11. Do you support legislation to waive sovereign immunity in cases involving the state's violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act?
12. What will you do to enforce/implement state/federal disability rights laws like the ADA, Fair Housing Act, etc.?
13. What can be done to reduce the instances of gun violence in rural and urban Texas?
14. What additional policies and priorities, other than those already discussed above, do you plan to focus on to improve the lives of people with disabilities? If you have yet to develop them, what is your plan to learn about disability issues?