



Texas Disability Issues Forum

Monday, September 19, 2022

Austin, Texas + virtual

TDIF.REVUPTexas.org

TDIF Survey: Governor

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 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?
3. What action would you take to increase access to affordable, accessible, integrated housing for Texans with disabilities? Do you support increased funding for the Housing Trust Fund?
4. What steps would you take to ensure that Texans with disabilities have the same access to voting (registering and casting a ballot) as Texans without disabilities?
5. There are approximately 170,000 children, young adults, adults and seniors with disabilities waiting for services in their communities. What steps would you take to eliminate the current waiting lists for home and community based services?
6. Do you support Medicaid funding that favors home and community services over institutional settings (services/ supports that assist individuals in living in their own homes and communities instead of nursing facilities and other institutions)?
7. In the *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that requires states to eliminate unnecessary segregation of persons with disabilities and to ensure that persons with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. What more can the State of Texas do to implement this requirement?

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8. Do you support Medicaid expansion that has benefits to people with disabilities, community attendants, and their families? Please explain.
9. The unemployment rate of people with disabilities is higher than the general unemployment rate. What would you do to increase integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities?
10. Would you support the legalization of or decriminalization cannabis in Texas?
11. There is a critical shortage of community attendants/direct care workforce to provide services to seniors and Texans with disabilities who are living in their homes. Many believe that the current base wage of \$8.11 and no benefits are major reasons for the growing crisis in finding community attendants as well as the current high turnover rate. What would you do to raise wages and benefits to alleviate this crisis?
12. How will you insure that the letter and spirit of education laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are followed in a manner that decreases the segregation of students with disabilities, increases inclusion provides an appropriate education to all students with disabilities?
13. What is your position on school choice? Have you considered the ramifications of choice on students with disabilities?
14. Do you support directing resources to ensure state law enforcement is trained to appropriately interact with individuals with disabilities (including people who are non-verbal, who use communication devices, or who are Deaf) to prevent unnecessary incarcerations and injuries? If yes, how would you support/direct state law enforcement to use these resources?
15. Do you support legislation to waive sovereign immunity in cases involving the state's violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act?
16. What can be done to reduce the instances of gun violence in rural and urban Texas?
17. 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?