



# TEXAS

## CANDIDATE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL SURVEY

- 1. Legacy:** What legacy and/or contribution do you hope the disability community remembers you for?
- 2. Counsel:** When making decisions regarding services, programs and laws that could impact people with disabilities, who do you turn to for advice and counsel?
- 3. ADA:** The U.S. Supreme Court suggests that to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 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 130,000 unduplicated individuals waiting for services in their communities, some as long as a decade. What steps would you take to ensure that Texas is in compliance with its obligations under the ADA?
- 4. Prosecutorial Misconduct:** As Attorney General, what steps can and will you take to remedy prosecutorial misconduct and biases against people with disabilities who become involved in the criminal justice system?
- 5. Barriers to Justice:** People with disabilities who are suspects, witnesses or victims of a crime face substantial hurdles and barriers when they become involved in the criminal justice system. For example, a recent survey found that only 5 percent of serious crimes against people with disabilities were prosecuted compared to 70 percent of similar crimes against people without disabilities. What can and will you do as Attorney General to ensure that Texans with disabilities are supported to seek and obtain fair treatment and justice?
- 6. Housing:** What can and will you do as Attorney General to rigorously enforce the *Olmstead* decision and ensure that housing regulations in Texas do not discriminate against Texans with disabilities so that they can have affordable, accessible and integrated housing?
- 7. Special Education:** According to findings from the U.S. Department of Education, Texas implemented a limit on the number of children receiving special education services, which led to tens of thousands of children with disabilities not receiving the services for which they were eligible. What will you do to enforce the federal education laws and the rights of students with disabilities?



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- 8. Sexual Assault:** It is estimated that people with intellectual disabilities—women and men—are the victims of sexual assaults at a rate more than seven times the rate among those without disabilities. If elected what can and will you do as Attorney General to eliminate this disparity and improve the safety of those with intellectual disabilities?
- 9. Conflict of Interest:** The Attorney General’s office has two important, and sometimes conflicting, roles, representing state agencies that are sued, and protecting the civil rights of Texan, including Texans with disabilities. As Attorney General, what would you do to balance these two roles and ensure that your office doesn’t take legal positions that harm individuals with disabilities?
- 10. Sovereign Immunity:** If elected, would you support the state of Texas waiving sovereign immunity in cases involving violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?
- 11. Cannabis:** Would you support or oppose expanding the legal use of medical cannabis in Texas to cover more medical conditions?
- 12. Engagement:** A key slogan of the disability community is “nothing about us without us.” What do you think the disability community can do to more effectively engage elected officials and participate in the policy decisions made that affect their lives?
- 13. Consumer Protection:** If elected, what will you do to ensure that consumers with disabilities are served and protected with legal measures under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act and other consumer protection statutes?

