



## CANDIDATE FOR LT. GOVERNOR SURVEY

- 1. Counsel:** When making decisions regarding services, programs and laws that could impact people with disabilities, who do you turn to for advice and counsel?
- 2. Legacy:** What legacy and/or contribution do you hope the disability community remembers you for?
- 3. Emergency Preparedness:** What can the state do to improve emergency management and preparedness for people with disabilities?
- 4. Transportation:** What steps should the State of Texas take to increase access to public transportation for Texans with disabilities who live in rural areas? What about for urban areas?
- 5. Community Integration:** In the *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling 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, if anything, can the State of Texas do to implement this requirement?
- 6. Families & Caregivers:** What, if anything, do you think the State of Texas should do to assist families and caregivers of Texans with disabilities?
- 7. Housing:** What action, if any, 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?
- 8. Voting:** 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?
- 9. Special Education:** Texas implemented a limit on the number of children receiving special education services, which lead to tens of thousands of children with disabilities not receiving the services for which they were eligible. Do you support or oppose increased funding to ensure that Texas public schools and teachers have the resources and training necessary to meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities?
- 10. Employment First:** As an Employment First state, it is the policy of the state that earning a living wage through competitive employment in the general workforce is the priority and



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preferred outcome for working-age individuals with disabilities who receive public benefits. What steps can the State take to strengthen the goals of Employment First?

- 11. 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 decision makers and participate in the policy decisions that affect their lives?
- 12. Access to Services:** There are approximately 130,000 unduplicated Texans with disabilities waiting for services in their communities. These people are on waiting lists, which are also referred to as interest lists. Some people will wait as long as a decade or more to receive services. What steps would you take to reduce, at a reasonable pace, the number of people on the waiting lists for home and community services?
- 13. SSLCs:** Approximately 3,100 Texans with disabilities reside in the state’s 13 State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs). While SSLC residents account for only 0.2% of Texas’ disability population, nearly 40% of the money used to fund services for people with disabilities goes to SSLCs. Would you support or oppose creating a plan to consolidate or close SSLCs and to use those funds to expand community integration for Texans with disabilities?
- 14. Institutions:** While many people wait years to receive services in their community, there is no wait to enter an institution. This is sometimes referred to as institutional bias. Would you support creating a plan to eliminate the institutional bias in the provision of Long Term Services and Support (LTSS)? If so, how would you do so?
- 15. Community Attendants:** The Texas Workforce Commission predicts a critical shortage of community attendants to provide services to Texans with disabilities who are living in their homes. What steps would you take to alleviate this shortage? Many people believe that the current base wage of \$8 per hour is a major reason for both the growing shortage of community attendants and the high turnover rate for these workers. What, if anything, would you do to help raise wages and benefits?
- 16. Medicaid:** Do you support or oppose turning Medicaid into a system of block grants? If you support it, how would you implement such a program? If you oppose it, are there improvements you would support?
- 17. Pre-Existing Conditions:** If elected, would you support or oppose legislation prohibiting insurance companies conducting business in Texas from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions?



TEXAS

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- 18. Technology & Equipment:** What steps should the State take to ensure that Texans with disabilities have access to, and are informed of, new innovations in assistive technology and durable medical equipment?
- 19. ADA:** If elected, would you support or oppose legislation that would waive sovereign immunity in cases involving violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act?
- 20. Cannabis:** Would you support or oppose expanding the legal use of medical cannabis in Texas to cover more medical conditions?

