



**Governor Greg Abbott**

**Committee on People with Disabilities**

**Chair:** Joe Bontke, Houston

**Executive Director:** Angela English

**Members:**

**Aaron W. Bangor**  
Austin

**Rudy Becerra, Jr.**  
Nacogdoches

**Marilou Fowler**  
Katy

**Rames Gonzales, Jr**  
Palmview

**Faye Kuo**  
Austin

**Linda Millstone**  
Austin

**Margaret Larsen**  
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**David Ondich**  
Burleson

**Shawn Saladin**  
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**Marco Treviño**  
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***Texas Governor's Committee on  
People with Disabilities***

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**<http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities>**



**Our Network of Local Committees:**

GCPD regularly networks with  
Local Committees  
across the state  
to share innovative ideas,  
useful information, and best practices  
to improve the lives of ALL Texans.

**Our Combined Mission:**

To further opportunities  
for persons with disabilities  
to enjoy full and equal access  
to lives of independence, productivity,  
and self-determination.



## **What is the Governor's Committee?**

The Committee is composed of twelve gubernatorial appointed members, at least seven of whom must be persons with disabilities. The Committee is supported by a staff of five state employees. Officials from various Texas state agencies serve as advisory ex-officio members.

## **What does the Committee do?**

The Committee and staff serve as subject matter sources of information on the abilities, rights, problems, and needs of Texans with disabilities. They advise the Governor and the legislature on issues related to Texans with disabilities. Although the committee does not have enforcement legislation linked to its enabling statute in the Texas Human Resources Code, Chapter 115, it develops policy recommendations based on citizen input and research.

## **Does the Committee work with local committees and organizations?**

The Committee develops statewide networks of volunteer community-level committees to help promote dissemination of information and support the rights of Texans with disabilities. It provides information and technical assistance to public and private agencies and businesses to promote and facilitate disability rights laws.

## **What are the primary issue areas?**

### **Access**

Goal: To enhance full participation through increased access.

### **Communication and Awareness**

Goal: To promote universal use of accessible communication.

### **Education**

Goal: To promote full inclusion opportunities for people with disabilities in all aspects of the educational process.

### **Emergency Management**

Goal: To promote preparation efforts of Texans with disabilities and provide technical assistance on issues related to disability issues in disasters.

### **Health**

Goal: To promote access to health resources for people with disabilities.

### **Housing**

Goal: To increase availability of integrated housing options for people with disabilities.

### **Recreation**

Goal: To increase inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of recreational opportunities in Texas.

### **Transportation**

Goal: To promote the availability of accessible transportation for people with disabilities.

### **Veterans**

Goal: To promote a full array of services and opportunities for veterans with disabilities.

### **Workforce**

Goal: To support employment of people with disabilities.

## **Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities**

### **Outreach, Programs and Events**

#### **Local Committee Network**

GCPD networks with Mayor's Committees and other community organizations to share information and to partner on awards ceremonies and other events.

#### **Quarterly Calendar of Events**

Local committees share relevant event and training information for posting in the GCPD Quarterly Calendar of Events, posted online.

#### **Barbara Jordan Media Awards**

Local committees help with outreach for media and student nominations, as well as providing assistance in planning and outreach for the awards ceremony.

#### **Lex Frieden Employment Awards**

Nominations are often submitted by local committees familiar with deserving local employers; local committees also participate as hosts for the awards ceremony.

#### **NDEAM Poster**

Each winter, GCPD partners with local committees for outreach for the NDEAM Poster Art competition and distribution.