



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

To people who are blind, mobility and accessibility often create the most significant hurdles as they pursue happiness and fulfillment. Whereas people who are sighted often take mobility for granted, challenges abound for the blind as they navigate the world around them, but as a just, compassionate society, we must strive to ensure that all citizens are as fully integrated into their communities as possible. In Texas, we know that it is not our challenges that define us, but rather how we rise above them, and to this end, a simple white cane can dramatically improve the ability of those who are blind to use public spaces safely and, by extension, participate in society more fully.

Introduced nearly a century ago, a white cane identifies its user as a person who is blind, and states throughout the nation have since enacted laws that compel both drivers and pedestrians to exercise courtesy and caution in their vicinity. With the weight of law, a white cane provides substantial protection to those who are blind, and it enables them to venture into the world and seize their destiny. The white cane has therefore become a powerful symbol of freedom and empowerment for those who are blind, and it has bolstered their independence and autonomy immeasurably. Furthermore, a well-developed body of etiquette has emerged that dictates when, where, and in what manner able-bodied people should offer assistance to those who signify visual impairment with a white cane.

The white cane has no doubt been a profound force for good, and in recent decades, advocates and activists have made tremendous progress in pursuit of equality for people with disabilities. Nevertheless, much work remains if we are to ensure that no disability stands between Texans and their dreams. As a state, we wholeheartedly affirm that blindness does not hinder a person's capability, nor does it define a person's intrinsic worth. We must therefore do all we can to build a stronger, more inclusive society, and we must support the many civic groups and government entities that advocate on behalf of those who are blind.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the struggles faced daily by those who cannot see and about the responsibilities we all have to conduct ourselves in a safe, respectful manner in their presence. Our state is stronger, happier, and more prosperous integrating all citizens regardless of their disability status, and we must all abide by prescribed laws and protocols in order to provide the safety and security that the white cane represents.

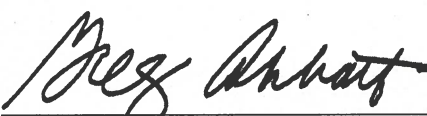
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2022, to be

## White Cane Day



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
4th day of October, 2022.

  
Governor of Texas