

STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Mobility and accessibility can pose significant challenges for people who are blind, but we know that every Texan has the power to rise above his circumstances and achieve his dreams. As members of a compassionate society, we ought to support the blind so that they can fully engage with their communities as neighbors, professionals, and leaders. Ultimately, it is not our challenges that define us, but rather how we rise above them. To that end, a white cane can help visually impaired people access public spaces and, moreover, participate in public life.

Introduced in 1931, the standardized white cane is, at once, a useful tool and an empowering symbol. The colored cane readily identifies its user as a blind person, and states throughout the nation require drivers and pedestrians to exercise heightened caution around people using a white cane. With the weight of law, a white cane offers substantial protection and thus enables the blind to make their way in the world safely and securely. The white cane, therefore, has become a powerful symbol of freedom and independence for the blind.

The white cane is both an instrument of positive change and a reflection of broader social movements. In the latter half of the twentieth century, the disability rights movement made tremendous headway in pursuit of equality, but let us not be content with the progress achieved thus far. Indeed, we must ensure that no disability has the final say in Texans' lives. During White Cane Day and throughout the year, may we all support the civic groups and government entities that advocate for those who are blind. By so doing, we will bring about a stronger, fairer, freer tomorrow in which every Texan—sighted or otherwise—can take a rightful place in the larger story of our people.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to educate themselves about the challenges that the blind face and about our obligation to conduct ourselves in a safe, courteous manner in their presence. Texas is strongest, happiest, and most prosperous when everyone can contribute, so we must uphold all rules and protocols that ensure the safety and security represented by the white cane.

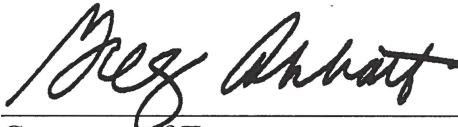
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2024, to be

White Cane Day



in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 4th day of September, 2024.


Governor of Texas