



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 |
| Heather Griffith
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| Margaret Larsen
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Our 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

Annual Programs and Events

Barbara Jordan Media Awards

The awards recognize outstanding work by individuals and organizations in the media who portray accurate and progressive portrayals of people with disabilities.

Lex Frieden Employment Awards

The award highlights efforts of employers to hire and retain employees with disabilities, and recognizes Best Practices affecting employees with disabilities.

NDEAM Poster

Each October the Committee produces a poster celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Art for the poster is selected by a submission process open to any Texas artist with a disability.

Issue Area Survey

At least once a year the Committee prepares and distributes a public survey that helps define needs and important issues related to Texans with disabilities. The survey can be taken online, by phone, or by mail.