



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 31, 2025

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

12:15 pm O'CLOCK

JAN 31 2025

Jane Nelson

Secretary of State

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Secretary of State
State Capitol, Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Secretary Nelson:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-55 relating to state agencies complying with the color-blind guarantee of our state and federal Constitutions by prohibiting all forms of government race discrimination.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Davidson

Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD:gsd

Attachment

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
January 31, 2025

EXECUTIVE ORDER GA 55

Relating to state agencies complying with the color-blind guarantee of our state and federal Constitutions by prohibiting all forms of government race discrimination.

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 3a of the Texas Constitution provides that “[e]quality under the law shall not be denied or abridged” because of race, adding that this provision “is self-operative”; and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution additionally provides that no state government may “deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws”; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States recently held in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, 600 U.S. 181, 202, 230 (2023), that “in view of the Constitution, in the eye of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant, ruling class of citizens” and that “all persons, whether colored or white, shall stand equal before the laws of the States”; and

WHEREAS, although the specific legal challenge in *Students for Fair Admissions* concerned race-based admissions decisions in higher education, the Supreme Court observed more broadly that “[o]ur Constitution is color-blind,” and “[e]liminating racial discrimination means eliminating all of it,” 600 U.S. at 206, 230; and

WHEREAS, these constitutional protections, therefore, require that state governments always treat people equally regardless of membership in any racial group, refusing to place a thumb on the scale for or against anyone based on race; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a concerted effort to invert this commitment to equal treatment through diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), critical race theory (CRT), affirmative action, and other divisive agendas; and

WHEREAS, such blatant efforts to divide people are just new forms of racism, often weaponized in reverse and rooted in the idea that a person may be inherently good or bad, the oppressed or the oppressor, based on racial identity; and

WHEREAS, by promoting ideas like inherent bias, collective guilt, racial superiority, cultural appropriation, and other similar notions, such racist efforts seek to establish creditor and debtor races, inherently antithetical to a society in which “all men are created equal”; and

WHEREAS, state governments may speak or communicate in a variety of ways, including through official statements, programs, policies, practices, expenditures, and employee conduct pursuant to their official duties; and

WHEREAS, no state agency may, consistent with the promise of our color-blind Constitutions, employ practices or communicate speech rooted in the unlawful idea that a person is inherently good or bad, blameworthy or innocent, or entitled or disentitled based on race;

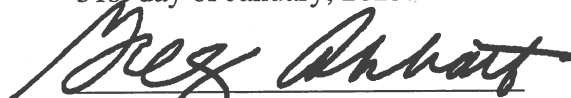
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NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Texas, do hereby direct all state agencies to comply with the color-blind guarantee of both the state and federal Constitutions, including by ensuring that all agency rules, policies, employment practices, communications, curricula, use of state funds, awarding of government benefits, and all other official actions treat people equally, regardless of race.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders in conflict or inconsistent with its terms and shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Governor.

Given under my hand this the
31st day of January, 2025.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:


JANE NELSON
Secretary of State

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