

Texas Disability Issues Forum



August 27, 2018

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (tentative)

AT&T Education and Conference Center

1900 University Avenue, Austin, Texas 78705

What is the Texas Disability Issues Forum?

The Texas Disability Issues Forum is an event which brings together:

- members of the Texas disability community,
- major candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Texas Attorney General, and U.S. Senator, and
- disability advocates to discuss current issues affecting the Texas disability community.

The purpose of this candidate forum is to give Texas voters an opportunity to hear candidates discuss the issues of importance to the disability community prior to the election. The candidates will answer questions curated from the Texas disability community during the moderated event. The forum follows a nonpartisan, unbiased, and impartial format in a series of one-on-one interviews.

Voting Matters

Policy matters to the disability community are more prominent in 2018 than in any election in memory. By engaging candidates, people with disabilities can increase their political power and influence election and policy outcomes at the local, state, and national levels. There are approximately 57 million Americans with disabilities representing 15% of the total voting population. However, in the 2012 election:

- 57% of people with disabilities did not vote
- 30% of people with disabilities said they wanted to vote but were unable to
- 72% of polling places were not accessible

About the Forum

The forum is a project of a broad collaboration of Texas disability organizations, covering all parts of our state. The first forum was held in 2014. A list of all previous organizers, co-hosts, and sponsors is available. The mission of the Texas Disability Issues Forum is to outreach, educate, and disseminate information to people with disabilities, family members, supporters, professionals, the general public, and policymakers on issues affecting the integration of people with disabilities of all ages into every aspect of community living.

The first Texas Disability Issues Forum in 2014:

- had over 300 people in attendance.
- involved 65 organizations as organizers, co-hosts and sponsors.
- was livestreamed with watch parties hosted statewide.
- received media coverage from multiple outlets. Ben Philpott of KUT served as moderator.