



The Candidates Speak!

September 24, 2014 will be a historic day for the Texas disability community.

That's when the major candidates for Texas' three highest offices—Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General—are invited to talk about public policy issues of interest to the Texas disability community. The Texas Disability Issues Forum (TDIF) takes place just six weeks before Election Day. It's not a debate; but a chance for the candidates to share their positions on critical issues and answer questions from an independent moderator. The forum is non-partisan.

- **A strong constituency.** There are more than four million Texans with disabilities—from birth to advanced age. The community is much larger counting family members, friends, advocates and others. Candidates are starting to recognize the disability community as an important constituency.
- **High-profile issues.** Matters important to the community are more prominent in 2014 than in any election in memory. Major Texas media including the San Antonio Express-News, Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, and Austin American-Statesman, have already spotlighted disability issues in top-of-the-ballot races.

The candidate line up to date:

As of August 20th, each of the Democratic candidates—Senators Wendy Davis, Leticia Van de Putte, and Sam Houston—have confirmed their attendance. Organizers continue to work with the campaigns of the Republican candidates—Attorney General Greg Abbott and Senators Dan Patrick and Ken Paxton.

Tickets are \$10. You must reserve them in advance. Groups traveling to Austin may be able to get financial assistance. Can't make it to the forum? No problem! It will be broadcast and live-streamed by Channel Austin. Go online for all the details: bit.ly/TexasDIF

Texas Disability Issues Forum

Wednesday – September 24, 2014
Radisson Austin Downtown
111 East Cesar Chavez

Day At-A-Glance

9:30 Welcome
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Candidate forum)
2:30 - 4 p.m. (Disability voting session)

Organizers:

ADAPT of Texas
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Disability Voting Action Project
Texas Parent to Parent
The Arc of Texas

Co-hosts (so far):

45+ organizations! (see reverse)

Need more info?

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bit.ly/TexasDIF

Meet the PROUD Sponsors of the Texas Disability Issues Forum!

(as of August 20, 2014)

TDIF Financial Sponsors

\$5,000—Platinum

Organize, Register, and Vote!

- Amerigroup
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Community Integration Now!

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- SeniorLink
- Texas Medical Association
- Texas Star Alliance
- United Healthcare

Silver—\$500

Nothing About Us without Us!

- Travis Medical

TDIF Co-host Organizations

Access Empowerment/Parking Mobility ♦ ADAPT of Texas ♦ American Council of the Blind of Texas ♦ Austin Resource Center for Independent Living (ARCIL) ♦ Austin Travis County Integral Care ♦ Autism Society of Greater Austin ♦ Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living ♦ Center on Disability & Development at Texas A&M ♦ Coalition of Texans with Disabilities ♦ Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living ♦ Community NOW! ♦ CORE Health Foundation ♦ Disability Ministries of Grace ♦ Disability Voting Action Project (DVAP) ♦ Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas (DSACT) ♦ Easter Seals Central Texas ♦ Employment Alliance for People with Disabilities ♦ Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas ♦ Guardianship Reform Advocates for the Disabled & Elderly (GRADE) ♦ Grupo Dignidad, Igualdad, y Oportunidad ♦ Helping the Aging, Needy and Disabled, Inc. (HAND Austin) ♦ Houston Center for Independent Living (HCIL) ♦ Imagine Art ♦ Knowbility ♦ Mary Lee Foundation ♦ National Association of Social Workers-Texas ♦ Paralyzed Veterans of America, Texas Chapter ♦ Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas (PACT) ♦ REACH Resources Centers on Independent Living ♦ RISE Center for Independent Living ♦ San Antonio Disability Advocates Association ♦ State Independent Living Council (SILC) ♦ Texans Care for Children ♦ Texas Advocates ♦ Texas Association of the Deaf ♦ Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL) ♦ Texas Association of Goodwills ♦ Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities ♦ Texas Counseling Association ♦ Texas Dental Hygienist Association ♦ Texas Parent to Parent ♦ Texas Physical Therapy Association ♦ Texas Rowing For All ♦ The Arc of Texas ♦ Valley Association for Independent Living (VAIL) ♦Volar CIL

