



## Texas Disability Issues Forum

September 19, 2022

Austin, Texas + virtual

[TDIF.REVUPTexas.org](http://TDIF.REVUPTexas.org)

### Unique Co-Hosting Opportunity: 2022 Texas Disability Issues Forum

REV UP Texas, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD), and many others are planning the 2022 Texas Disability Issues Forum (TDIF) to educate the community of people with disabilities about candidates for major statewide elected office. This one-day, non-partisan event will feature candidates for the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, Texas Attorney General, and Agriculture Commissioner. Candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties will be invited.

The forum will take place **September 19** at the **AT&T Conference Center in Austin**. The organizers offer an opportunity for your organization to be a named co-host.

#### The Event

TDIF organizers and other advocates and organizations invite your participation in the 2022 **Texas Disability Issues Candidates Forum**. We are moving forward with planning the event and are interested in engaging a broad base of groups with an interest in disability public policy. This is a defined project: to plan, promote, outreach, and execute a one-day forum with major party candidates before the November 2022 election. We invite you to consider what role you may be able to play.

**WHO:** We are inviting top-of-the-ballot Democrat and Republican candidates. We project an audience of more than 250 people with disabilities, family, friends, advocates and media. A much larger group will be watching a live stream, including many organized group watch parties throughout Texas. For those on-site in Austin, there will be a modest registration fee for admission, on-site parking, and lunch. We have approached the state's leading political publication, the **Texas Tribune**, to be our media partner and to use their network to promote the Forum (not yet confirmed).

**WHAT:** This will be a forum, not a debate, with candidates addressing their position on issues of interest to the community of people with disabilities, families, friends and advocates. The Texas Disability Issues Forum will provide an independent moderator. This will be a one-day event.

**WHERE:** The Forum will be in Austin. The AT&T Conference Center (1900 University Ave, Austin, TX 78705) is just north of the Capitol, on the edge of the University of Texas. The live stream is for real-time viewing anywhere.

**WHEN:** September 19, 2022 (confirmed)

**WHY:** The 2022 elections are critically important. The Texas disability community is sharing high concerns about state policy impacting them on voting rights, pandemic recovery for special education students, access to the community services that keep them independent and more.

*...the potential is there for the disability community to become **a powerful political constituency**. Nearly 57 million Americans have a disability, making the group the country's largest minority. Says Rutgers' [Douglas] Kruse. "Because people with disabilities are not particularly aligned with one party or the other, both parties have incentives to get them out to vote. -Time.com 2/26/18*

**NEXT:** The TDIF organizers are proceeding with planning. All believe that a long, comprehensive list of co-hosts will strengthen the proven broad and deep support of the Disability Issues Forum. In turn, this will help make the Forum a can't-miss event for the candidates and media.

## Tentative Forum Agenda

Details to follow!

### Co-Host Benefits

- Acknowledgment with your logo and website link on conference program and [TDIF.revuptexas.org](http://TDIF.revuptexas.org)
- Spotlight social media post on TDIF Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Recognition in media releases
- Recognition on site at the conference
- Distribution of informational materials of your choice to conference attendees

### Co-Host Responsibilities

- Complete our [co-host information Google form](#)
- Outreach and promotion to your local community through your regular channels, including promotion of the live stream and/or organizing watch parties.
- No planning responsibilities and no on-site responsibilities for your staff.
- No financial contributions to TDIF expenses required—organizers will have responsibility for expenses.

## Beyond TDIF

Use your Power after the Forum and become a REV UP Regional Partner! The goal of the REV UP campaign (Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!) is to get more people with disabilities and our supporters registered and voting. REV UP Regional Partners carry out this work in their local communities, with support from the REV UP campaign. Contact Bob Kafka for more about REV UP Regional Partners at 512/442-0252 [revuptx@gmail.com](mailto:revuptx@gmail.com).

**Questions?** Contact Bob Kafka 512/442-0252 [revuptx@gmail.com](mailto:revuptx@gmail.com) or  
Dennis Borel 512/478-3366 [dborel@txdisabilities.org](mailto:dborel@txdisabilities.org)