



TEXAS

# 2020 HEALTH CARE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE GUIDE



Health care [access and cost](#) remains one of the [most important problems facing America](#).

- The uninsured rate in Texas was [17.7 percent](#) in 2018 (about 5 million people).
- Texas's [unemployment rate jumped from 5.1% in March to 13% in May](#) on a seasonally adjusted basis, which likely has **severed millions of Texans from their employer sponsored insurance**. The unemployment rate was 8.6% in June after the state lifted its stay at home restrictions.
- As of July 30, 2020, a [disproportionate number of individuals dying in Texas are Hispanic or Black](#). Hispanic Texans account for 48% of COVID deaths, but make up about 40% of the state's population. Black Texans account for 14% of deaths, but 12% of the state's population.
- [Access to health care in rural areas](#) has only become more challenging during the pandemic and will likely have **lasting impacts on rural communities**. During the June-July surge in cases, some [rural Texas counties](#) have experienced greater increases in infection rates than those experienced in urban counties.
- **Seniors are at greatest risk**. As of June 30th, 682 nursing homes and 267 assisted living facilities had [confirmed residents or staff](#) as having COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the need for practical solutions that address both the immediate challenges and the long-term gaps in our health care systems to ensure Texans can access quality health care they can afford.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR CANDIDATES:

- Acknowledge the moment:** “Our country is at a pivotal moment. The pandemic, economic recession, and national discussion on race have created a renewed call for action. They have also magnified the critical problems that exist in our health care system.”
- Take an active stance:** “It is long past time to examine our systems and address gaps that have existed for decades. We must find solutions and common ground to build a health care system that serves everyone.”
- Commit to prioritize people's needs:** “I will put people's health care needs first and I'm already formalizing the ways I gather input and work with community and business leaders to put effective solutions in place.”
- Commit to both addressing disparities and finding common ground:** “The health care system, as it's currently structured, isn't working for far too many. I will work to address the lack of fairness and shared needs to build a health care system that works for all of us.”



Learn more about United States of Care at [unitedstatesofcare.org](https://unitedstatesofcare.org).

For more information or to seek assistance, contact USofCare at [Help@USofCare.org](mailto:Help@USofCare.org).