



JEREMY W. ODOM

for **LOUISIANA GOVERNOR**

New Leader. New Direction. New Louisiana.

Home and Community Based Services

1. As a Disabled Veteran, I live with disabilities on daily basis knowing that my disabilities make me no less of a person in everyday living. I truly believe that is important to realize that people with disabilities are people first and here in Louisiana, it's about time that we remember to put the people first again. It is a necessity of life that we provide our fellow Louisianans with the necessary support and resources they need to achieve a productive livelihood in our communities.
2. I believe our country made a great first step in passing the American with Disabilities Act. When I am elected Governor, my administration will take the next step by making sure that the necessary funding is made available to continue to support the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Office of Behavioral Health and the Office of Aging and Adult Services. One of the primary things that will need to be done is we need to accept the Federal Medicaid Expansion funds and put our Mental Health services back in the state budget. This is just the right thing to do and it's the smart thing to do as well.

Employment

3. Vocational Rehabilitation programs have proved to be profitable to our economy since their inception. As Governor, I will utilize the full force of my office to ensure that we continue to fund these programs in Louisiana. Under my administration, I am going to ensure that Louisiana makes full use of the federal allotment to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) by increasing the state budget to accommodate the federal requirements for the full allotment.

Housing

4. Let me first start off by affirming that I support Act 734 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature. When Louisiana elects me as Governor next month, SR120 is a bill that I plan to sign into law because I do support providing a dedicated source of funding for the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund.
5. I believe it will be prudent that this source of funding includes the support of development, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable housing that contains accessibility standards, preferably universal design accessibility standards. This is another critical element in making sure that we place the people back in the forefront of our great state.

Transportation

6. Louisiana has inadequate public transit services today and as Governor, I will support the expansion of transportation services provided in the state, even should it call for outsourcing to private vendors. However, it shall be a necessitated requirement for these vendors to adequately address the accessibility, usability, scheduling and coordinating issues of Louisianans with disabilities in order to receive state funding. Any community that already has operational transit services will be granted state funds to address these areas of concern.