

# JOHN GODWIN

FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 2

## An Accessible Tampa

***Tampa's strength has always been our inclusivity and diversity. Tampa is growing more than ever before, as it does so, we need to ensure that we are expanding upon these strengths and building a city that is accessible to everyone.***

We will make Tampa a city that is accessible to persons with disabilities—whether they be physical, sensory, developmental, or mental disabilities. There should not be separate forms of existence and interaction with our city and in our public spaces based upon an individual's ability—all residents should have the same amazing experience in our city.



## Being an accessible city will benefit everyone:

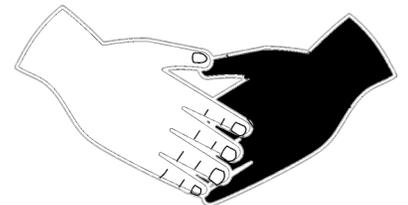
- The average person will outlive their ability to drive by 10 years, the majority of us will one day encounter mobility challenges. We need accessible transportation infrastructure.
- Accessibility technology enters the mainstream and benefits all of society. “Voice Command” technology—as used in Google Home, Siri, and Alexa—was first developed to be an assistive technology to help people whose needs were not met with a standard keyboard.
- Wheelchair accessible locations are also locations navigable by strollers, and assistive measures like curb cutouts for sidewalks increase safety for everyone.

## Being an accessible city will drive our economy and show respect for our veterans.

When major companies look to relocate, they’re looking for cities that are welcoming to all of their employees, including those with disabilities. To be the next destination of a Fortune 500 relocation, we need to make progress in being an accessible city. Additionally, with Tampa being a leading destination for veterans, we owe it to the men and women who served our country to be accessible to those of them who were disabled as a result of their service.

## An Engaged City

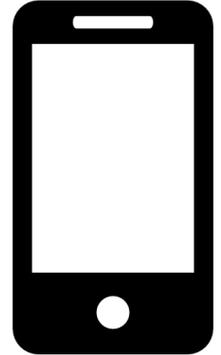
- **Partnerships:** We will establish official partnerships with organizations focused on the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure the inclusivity of all new policies and programs.
- **Accessibility Officer:** We will transform the “ADA Coordinator” position to be an “Accessibility Officer” position—broadening the role from one ensuring compliance to one driving reform and progress. The officer will work with businesses, buildings, facilities, programs, and services to help make sure Tampa is leading the way in accessibility.
- **ASL Translating and Closed Captioning:** We will make it a priority to have both an ASL translator and closed captioning at official city events.
- **Sports & Events:** We will do more than just focus on developing robust accessibility and services, we will take steps to drive a more inclusive and equitable city with things like sporting events, conferences, and conventions. Bringing the International Wheelchair Rugby Tournament and the Warrior Games to Tampa are exciting steps in this direction.



## A Smart City

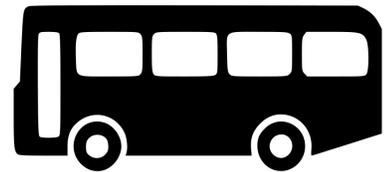
Technology is a key entrypoint to accessibility.

- **Sidewalk App:** We will partner with sidewalk accessibility mapping apps to ensure that people with mobility challenges have information on the continuity of sidewalks and presence of ramps.
- **Map-a-Thons:** We will organize “map-a-thons” to help digitally map accessibility—like grab bars, automatic doors, and sensory-friendly spaces—in our city. In addition to making the city easier to navigate, it can help the city and buildings identify where there are shortcomings.



## Transportation

- **Mass Transit:** We will develop an true mass transit system and have it be one that our entire city can rely upon.
  - **Streetcar:** We will modernize our current streetcar fleet and rails to get rid of the current high floor entrance to the vehicles and make the pedestrian crossings over the rails ADA compliant.
  - **Buses:** We will work to triple the size of our HART fleet to make the service more frequent and dependable for individuals reliant upon it.
- **Sidewalks:** We will prioritize having a connected, maintained, and obstruction-free sidewalk system.
  - **Disrepair:** Prior to expanding our existing sidewalk network, we must address the state of disrepair of existing sidewalks, which renders them inaccessible.
  - **Disconnectedness:** The disconnectedness of our sidewalks makes the system inaccessible/dangerous. Following repairing existing segments, our priority needs to be connecting those segments.
  - **Debris & Obstructions:** We will have a properly staffed code enforcement department that and ensure sidewalks are not obstructed by signs, garbage receptacles, parked vehicles, and other obstructions.



- **Electric Poles:** Too many of our sidewalks have electric pole in the middle of them, dividing them in half and making them inaccessible. We must work with TECO to remove every instance of this.
- **Pedestrian Crossings:** We need work to install auditory pedestrian crossing signals at intersections to support individuals with low vision.

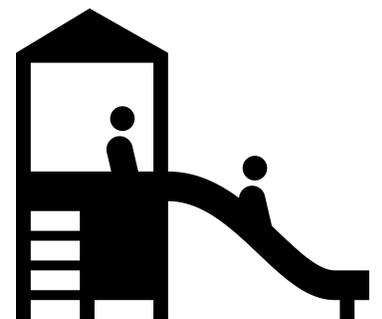
## Housing

- **Aging in Place:** 93% of older adults want to remain in a personal home. Aside from providing a robust mass transportation system, which enables individuals to age in place, we need to increase our supply of accessible housing.
  - **Accessible Housing:** We will reform Tampa's density bonus system to encourage developers to build fully-accessible dwellings.
  - **Accessibility Liaison in Planning Department:** We will create an Accessibility Liaison position within our planning department who will assist developers in increasing the accessibility of their developments.



## Parks & Playgrounds

- **Playgrounds:** Tampa's playgrounds are largely inaccessible. We will increase the accessibility of playgrounds across Tampa.
  - There is a long list of playgrounds the city says are accessible, but only have a single piece of equipment that meets that definition—we will change this so our play facilities do not segregate children based upon physical ability. We will also increase the transparency of how accessible our playgrounds are.
- **Parks**
  - Tampa recently built its first sensory friendly park, we need to build more so that we are providing accessibility to persons with autism, regardless of where they live.



Learn more about John Godwin at [VoteGodwin.com](http://VoteGodwin.com) and [Facebook.com/GodwinForTampa](https://www.facebook.com/GodwinForTampa)  
Contact his campaign at [John@VoteGodwin.com](mailto:John@VoteGodwin.com)