



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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Fair Housing is Everyone's Right

H-GAC Reminds Everyone to Stay Informed of Your Rights under the Fair Housing Acts

(HOUSTON, TX) – April is national Fair Housing Month, and the [Houston-Galveston Area Council](#) urges everyone, from home buyers and renters to local governments, developers and housing providers, to be aware of the rights and rules under the Fair Housing acts.

The [Texas Fair Housing Act](#) and the [Federal Fair Housing Act \(Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968\)](#) protect Texans from discriminatory housing practices in the sale, rental and financing of homes as well as in the purchase of insurance. Protection from discrimination in these acts are based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, or familial status.

According to the Fair Housing Act, real estate advertisements may not exclude anyone protected under the law. Sellers or landlords should make homes available, negotiate prices, and provide the same services for everyone listed in the Fair Housing Act. Also, mortgage lenders are required to follow the law when making loans, setting repayment terms, and appraising property. Fair housing rights ensure people can exercise their right to fair housing without threats, coercion, or intimidation.

To learn more about the Federal Fair Housing Act visit the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website at www.hud.gov/fairhousing. Information on the Texas Fair Housing Act is available from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/fair-housing/index.htm>.

People who believe their rights have been violated can learn more about filing a complaint under either the Federal or State Fair Housing acts at: <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/fair-housing/complaint-how-to.htm>.

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H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit h-gac.com.