



Whereas

on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law with strong bipartisan support, representing a historic commitment to the values of liberty, individual dignity, and equal opportunity for millions of Americans living with disabilities; and

Whereas

this legislation built upon important protections already established by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 — particularly Section 504 — and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which ensures that every child has the right to a quality education tailored to their needs, regardless of ability; and

Whereas

these laws reflect the principles that each individual is created with purpose, that families should be supported in raising their children with care and respect, and that communities thrive when everyone is given the opportunity to contribute; and

Whereas

according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in three Tennesseans experiences some form of disability, which — when adjusted for population — represents approximately 25,000 Johnson City residents; and

Whereas

during the 2023–2024 school year, nearly 8,000 students in Johnson City and Washington County utilized special education services, as reported by the Tennessee Department of Education, demonstrating the continued importance of inclusive, individualized support for learners of all abilities; and

Whereas

the ADA and the protections that preceded it have empowered people with disabilities to live, learn, and work with greater independence, fostering a culture of inclusion and productivity that strengthens our schools, our businesses, and our communities.

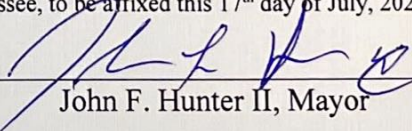
Now, Therefore, I, John F. Hunter II, Mayor of the City of Johnson City, Tennessee, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2025

Americans with Disabilities Act 35th Anniversary Day

in Johnson City, and call upon all residents, churches, schools, businesses, and civic organizations to join in recognizing the contributions of individuals with disabilities, honoring their families and caregivers, and reaffirming our community's commitment to fairness, accessibility, and the potential of every person.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Johnson City, Tennessee, to be affixed this 17th day of July, 2025.


John F. Hunter II, Mayor