

## CÉSAR J. BLANCO

THE 89<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION*Friends and Neighbors:*

*It is an honor and privilege to serve the hard-working people of El Paso, Big Bend, and the Permian Basin in the Texas Senate. In my third term, I remained focused on the kitchen-table issues that matter most to families across West Texas: delivering meaningful results by putting people before politics.*

*This session, we made real progress: passing 34 bills to support working families, strengthen our economy, and improve quality of life across our region. We delivered economic relief through property tax cuts, expanded access to childcare and healthcare, raised teacher pay, and secured historic new investments in public schools. We brought over \$146 million in state funding home to support local priorities, including water infrastructure, job creation, and public safety.*

*We also passed legislation to protect small businesses from cyberattacks, support manufacturing growth, promote renewable energy, and enhance public safety in the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.*

*While our work at the Capitol is important, our top priority remains serving you — our constituents. Our district office in El Paso is here to help with any state agency issues and hosts regular community events, including Back-to-School Backpack Giveaways, Tax Prep Clinics, Turkey Giveaways, Citizenship Workshops, Job Fairs for Veterans, Toys for Tots, and more.*

*This session's victories lay the groundwork for a healthier, stronger, and more resilient future for El Paso and West Texas. I am proud of what we accomplished and I'm committed to keeping up the fight for our families and communities.*

*Thank you for your continued support. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and learning more about what we delivered this session and what we are still working on.*

*In your service,*



César J. Blanco  
Texas Senator  
District 29

## C O N T A C T   S E N A T O R   B L A N C O

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## MAJOR STATE HIGHLIGHTS



*Senator Blanco reads to a class of students at Scotsdale Elementary School.*

### SUPPORTING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This session, I proudly cosponsored House Bill 2, a major public education bill that addresses teacher shortages, rising school costs, and student safety. Here's what HB 2 delivers:

#### **Teacher Pay**

Raises base pay for teachers statewide, with even more support for small and rural school districts, helping us recruit and retain great educators in our public schools.

#### **Staff Pay**

Provides raises for school support staff, like cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and classroom aides, recognizing the essential role they play in our children's education.

#### **Pay Allotment for Basic Costs**

Increases the allotment for basic costs, giving districts more resources to cover rising costs, from classroom supplies to electricity bills.

#### **School Safety**

Provides dedicated state funding to help districts upgrade safety infrastructure and hire school security personnel.

#### **Free Pre-K**

Expands access to free, full-day pre-K for teachers' children, giving more Texas kids a strong start and helping working families afford early education.

### INVESTING IN TEXAS WATER SUPPLY

In Far West Texas, we know water is life. But aging infrastructure, shrinking supplies, and growing demand are putting serious pressure on our communities.

That's why I co-authored Senate Bill 7 to invest **\$1 billion annually** into fixing old pipes, repairing treatment plants, and developing new water sources, especially in rural and underserved areas.

This is a long-term investment in water security for our farmers, ranchers, and families!

### ENHANCING CHILDCARE ACCESS

Reliable childcare is essential for working families. This session, I co-authored and helped pass:

**HB 4903 to Cut Red Tape for Families** by bringing state agencies together to fix outdated childcare rules, making it easier for providers to serve families.

**SB 462 to Help Childcare Workers Access Care** by moving childcare workers' kids to the front of the line for assistance, supporting those who care for our children.

**SB 1265 to Support Working Parents** by giving West Texas employers new tools, tax credits, and resources to help working parents find the care they need.

### IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

#### **Protecting the Life of the Mother**

I co-authored SB 31 to give doctors the legal clarity they need to act fast in emergencies and protect the life of the mother. No mother should be denied care in a life-threatening pregnancy complication because of legal confusion.

#### **Fighting Dementia**

I was proud to co-author SB 5 to create the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT), a **\$3 billion**, 10-year investment to improve care, find new treatments, and make Texas a leader in the fight against dementia.

#### **Expanding Access to Telehealth Care**

I proudly sponsored HB 1052 to make sure your care follows you, not the other way around. Starting Sept. 1, if you live in Texas and your doctor practices here, your telehealth visits will be covered, even if you're traveling out of state. That's a big win for rural Texans, seniors, caregivers, and anyone who depends on virtual care.



*Senator Blanco leads a press conference on Senate Bill 9-1-1, the HEAL Texans Act to expand access to quality healthcare.*

## STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Entering the 89th Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature had a surplus of \$24 billion, I’m proud to report that the State Budget (SB 1) appropriates \$338 Billion, making bold and historic investments for the future of Texas while putting money back into the pockets of working families, including \$51 Billion for property tax relief; more than \$2.6 Billion for water security; \$13.6 billion for public education; \$5.1 billion for mental health services; \$30.4 billion for higher education and workforce development; \$3.3 billion for child care programs; and \$5 billion toward improving access to new reliable energy.

### ★ FIGHTING FOR OUR FAIR SHARE ★

SENATE DISTRICT 29 FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS SECURED BY SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO

#### Higher Education

- University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP): **\$344 Million**
  - Mining Engineering Program: **\$10 Million**
  - UTEP-NASA Collaboration: **\$8 Million**
  - Pharmacy Program Extension: **\$6.2 Million**
- Texas Tech El Paso: **\$177.3 Million**
  - Dental Clinic Education Support: **\$3 Million**
- Sul Ross State University (SRSU): **\$38.1 Million**
  - Academic Program Development: **\$5 Million**
  - Borderlands Research Institute: **\$8 Million**

#### Local Economic Development & Tourism

- Grants to Promote Border Economic Development: **\$200 Thousand (\$800 Thousand to Date)**
- Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants for Defense Communities (Fort Bliss and El Paso): **\$30 Million**
- Grants for Micro-Businesses for Disaster Recovery: **\$3 Million**
- Wylar Aerial Tramway Renovations: **\$7 Million (\$27 Million to Date)**
- Franklin Mountains State Park - Water Well Construction: **\$100 Thousand**
- Hueco Tanks State Park Capital Improvements: **\$26.5 Million (\$28.5 Million to Date)**
- Chinati Mountains State Natural Area- **\$2 Million**
- McDonald Observatory: **\$7.2 Million**
- Big Bend Ranch State Park Maintenance: **\$50 Thousand**
- Texas Parks Information Technology Upgrades: **\$1.5 Million**
- Rio Vista Farm Historic Preservation: **\$2 Million**
- El Paso Food Bank: **\$5 Million**
- Interstate 10 Deck Park Plaza Project: **\$10 Million**

#### Healthcare Delivery and Access

- New El Paso Cancer Center: **\$65 Million**
- Expanded Capacity for Mental Health Services and Inpatient Facilities: **\$50 Million**

#### Education & Workforce Development

- Texas Innovative Adult Career Education Grant Program (Project Arriba): **\$4.3 Million**
- Texas Academic Innovation & Mentoring (Boys & Girls Clubs): **\$4.3 Million**
- Colonia Set-Aside Program Allocation for Technology and Computer Access to Residents of Colonias in El Paso: **\$1.5 Million**



Senator Blanco meets with an El Paso resident to hear directly about healthcare, affordability, and other key legislative concerns for seniors.

#### Transportation & Trade

- Center for International Intelligent Transportation in El Paso: **\$1.6 Million**

#### Regional Water and Air Protection

- El Paso Surface Water Augmentation Project: **\$14 Million**
- Rio Grande Compact Commission: **\$441 Thousand**
- Pecos River Compact Commission: **\$273 Thousand**
- Leaking Water Wells Program to Plug Abandoned P-13 Oil Wells: **\$10 Million**

## DELIVERING TAX RELIEF TO TEXAS HOMEOWNERS

Property taxes are one of the top concerns I hear about from families across El Paso and West Texas. That’s why this session I co-authored a major property tax relief package to put money back in your pocket and help more Texans stay in their homes.

We passed legislation to raise the homestead exemption to **\$140,000** for most homeowners and **\$200,000** for

seniors and Texans with disabilities, saving families **\$484 to \$938** a year. Over **200,000** West Texans will benefit, and nearly one-third of all homeowners could see their school property tax bills drop to zero.

We also secured **\$2.7 billion** to protect school funding through 2030, so property tax relief doesn’t come at the expense of our kids’ education.





## SENATOR BLANCO'S LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

### CREATING WORKFORCE & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Many young adults in West Texas want to work or go back to school but don't have a clear path forward. Most of them don't lack talent. They lack opportunity.

I was proud to author and pass SB 1143, which helps workforce boards reconnect these young people with job training, GED programs, and job placement support. To build a strong workforce, we can't leave young people behind. This bill gives local boards better tools to support them and track what works so we can continue supporting young adults in Texas.

### PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES FROM CYBER ATTACKS

Small businesses are the backbone of Texas, but they face growing threats from costly cyberattacks. I authored and passed SB 2610, the Cybersecurity Safe Harbor Act, to help these businesses protect themselves.

This bill encourages small and medium-sized businesses to adopt proven cybersecurity practices by offering legal protection if they suffer a breach despite following those steps. By empowering local businesses to safeguard their data and operations, SB 2610 helps keep Texas a great place to start and grow a business.

### IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH FOR VETERANS

#### *Reducing Funding Barriers to Strengthen Services*

SB 897 lowers local funding match requirements so veteran mental health programs can stay open and serve more people.

#### *Keeping Veterans at the Decision-Making Table*

SB 1580 requires every local mental health board to include a veteran, ensuring those with lived experience help guide care.

These laws mean more access, fewer barriers, and veterans leading the way in mental health services.

### BETTER RELIEF FOR FARMERS & RANCHERS

Last session, I was proud to create the Landowner Compensation Program to help farmers and ranchers recover from property damage caused by border-related crime. This year, I passed SB 2601 to strengthen the program, expanding who can receive help, what damage is covered, and protecting landowners.

### PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

As energy demand grows, we need to invest in solutions that are clean, reliable, and made for Texas. This session, I helped pass two bills that support geothermal energy, an abundant, local source that's right beneath our feet.

#### *Empowering Local Investment in Clean Energy*

HB 4370 allows local utility and water districts to invest in geothermal systems, cutting energy costs for homeowners, easing pressure on the grid, and creating local jobs.

#### *Reclaiming Orphaned Wells for Renewable Use*

SB 1762 lets responsible operators repurpose abandoned oil and gas wells for geothermal energy, boosting energy reliability and reducing environmental risk.

### PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACROSS WEST TEXAS

#### *Modernizing Manufacturing*

SB 2925 helps small and mid-sized manufacturers adopt modern technology, stay competitive, and create local jobs. A new task force will craft smart strategies to strengthen manufacturing, positioning El Paso and West Texas to be a leader in innovation.

#### *Unlocking Stalled Development*

SB 1579 clears a path for El Paso County communities to redevelop long-neglected unplatted lots. It gives local governments new tools to turn abandoned land into housing, infrastructure, and economic growth.

### ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO

Right now, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo is the only federally recognized Texas tribe without authority to commission peace officers. SB 906 changes that by allowing the tribe to hire peace officers who can enforce state laws and keep the community safe.

I'm proud to stand with Ysleta del Sur Pueblo to strengthen their sovereignty and protect their people.

### STANDING UP FOR ENERGY JOBS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

#### *Reducing Abandoned Wells*

SB 1150 requires oil and gas companies in Texas to either plug or restart wells that have been inactive for 15 years or more to reduce environmental and safety risks from abandoned wells.

#### *Combating Oil Theft*

Senate Bill 494 creates a dedicated task force to combat oil theft, protecting industry revenues and securing livelihoods for energy workers.

### PROTECTING PRESIDIO'S WATER FUTURE

SB 3044 ensures the cities of Marfa and Presidio have a voice in managing their critical groundwater resources by granting each a seat on the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District board. Local representation allows the community to directly influence decisions that affect farms, families, and the region's future. This bill empowers Presidio and Marfa residents to help protect and manage the water that sustains their livelihoods and the long-term health of the region.

### DESIGNATING EL PASO AS THE BOOT CAPITAL OF TEXAS

El Paso is home to some of the world's most renowned boot makers—Lucchese, BlackJack Boots, Stallion Boot Co., Rocketbuster, Caboots, Tony Lama, and more. These family-owned businesses have preserved craftsmanship passed down through generations, making El Paso the premier destination for high-quality, handmade Western boots.

I'm proud to have carried this legacy forward by officially designating El Paso as the Boot Capital of Texas. This honor celebrates the hardworking community that has made our city a symbol of quality, tradition, and borderland pride!

## DISTRICT WORK & CONSTITUENT SERVICES

## CÉSAR IN THE COMMUNITY

Assisting the constituents of Senate District 29 is extremely important to our office. In addition to our office's direct constituent services for various state-related issues, our office is committed to delivering community service events to provide essential support to residents in need. As of August 2025, our office has directly hosted 26 community-based service events and community meetings this calendar year, including an electronic disposal, back-to-school backpack giveaways, a state resource fair, box-fan giveaways, and participated in 70 community-led community forums/ informational sessions on topics ranging from health and mental healthcare access, small business development, economic security, border security, transportation, and legislative updates.

In the past year, along with the support of critical community partners, our office has successfully:

- Provided over **100** box fans to senior citizens in Far West Texas to beat the heat;
- Raised over **\$40,500** in monetary and in-kind donations to provide over **2,700** backpacks to 6 elementary schools in El Paso, Presidio, and Jeff Davis Counties;
- Distributed **260** turkeys to needy families during Thanksgiving; and
- Collected over **500** toys to help less fortunate children experience the joy of Christmas.

We still have several events in the works for later this year, such as our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizenship Workshop, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway & Canned Food Drive, a Veterans' Job Fair, and our Toys for Tots donation drive, to name a few.

To stay up to date on our community service events, mobile office hours, and town halls, sign up for our SD29 newsletter using the QR code below!



***Senator Blanco places a turkey in a constituent's car during his annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway.***



***Senator Blanco hands out a free backpack at his annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway.***

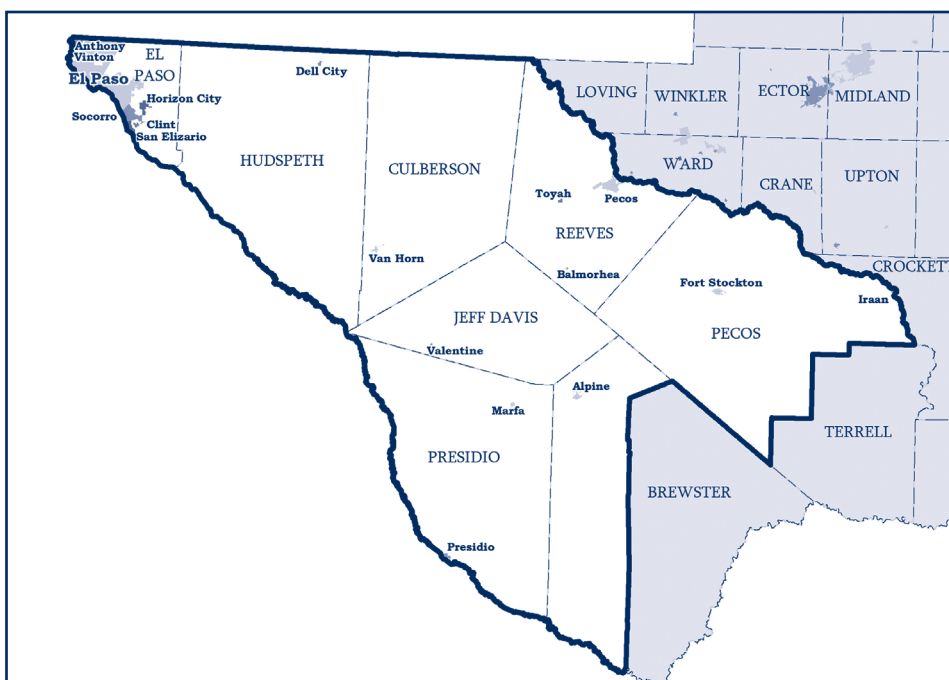


*How may we help you?*

- **Need assistance with a state agency?**
- **Want a flag flown for a SD29 constituent for a special occasion?**
- **Want to honor a constituent or business with a resolution or proclamation for an important milestone, anniversary, or special occasion?**
- **Have questions on a specific bill?**
- **Have an idea for a bill or change to state law?**

**To make a request, email us at [District29.Blanco@senate.texas.gov](mailto:District29.Blanco@senate.texas.gov)  
or call 915-577-0029 or visit <https://senate.texas.gov/member.php?d=29>.**

# DISTRICT 29



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para leer en español.**





# SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO

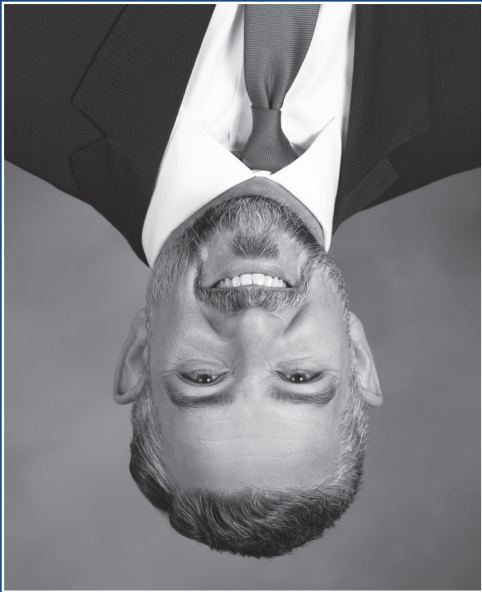
SENATE DISTRICT 29



## Capitol Report

*Proudly Serving the people of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, and Reeves counties in the Texas Senate.*

THE TEXAS SENATE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, RELIGION, AGE OR DISABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES.



## Senator César J. Blanco

District 29

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## ABOUT CÉSAR J. BLANCO

Senator Blanco is active in the community as a member of the American Legion, Chair of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RCOG), the Medical Center of Americas (MCA), and Secretary of National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund Board of Directors. César lives in El Paso with his wife Lili, his daughter Amelia, and their dogs Lulu and Skipper (Skip).



Senator César J. Blanco proudly represents the people of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, and Reeves counties in the Texas Senate.

César was raised in El Paso, and after high school, he continued his family's tradition of military service in the U.S. Navy. He graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso and continued his public service by working for three Members of Congress representing El Paso and West Texas.

César was first elected to the Texas Senate in 2020. Senator Blanco currently serves on the distinguished Senate Committees on Business & Commerce, Health & Human Services; Natural Resources; and Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs. He is also a member of the Senate Select Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Flooding, the Sunset Advisory Commission, and serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus. Prior to being elected to the Texas Senate, César also served in the Texas House of Representatives for 6 years and was named a Best Legislator by Texas Monthly in his freshman session.