



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 26, 2023

Contact: Taylor Sanchez

915.276.3872

Taylor.sanchez@senate.texas.gov

Senator César J. Blanco Announces Major Funding Secured For El Paso in State Budget

Austin, Texas – Today, the Texas Senate adopted the conference committee reports for House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 30, the General Appropriations Act, and the Supplemental Appropriations Act, respectively. The state budget makes historic and bold investments in property tax cuts, mental health, state parks, colleges and universities, the state’s energy grid, broadband, and water infrastructure. Similarly, the supplemental appropriations act makes additional investments in the current fiscal year to create a new higher education endowment for research universities, school safety grants, state employee pay raises, enhanced retirement benefits for teachers, mental health hospitals, border security, flood mitigation and water infrastructure, Medicaid costs, state debt reduction, and other items.

Senator César J. Blanco voted for and applauded the passage of the appropriations acts, which included major funding victories for El Paso and Far West Texas.

Senator César J. Blanco issued the following statement:

“This state budget makes big and bold investments, in not just our state’s future and economy, but also El Paso’s.

“I am most proud of the local funding priorities we secured in the state budget for El Paso and Far West Texas this session including **\$50 million** for the El Paso State Psychiatric Hospital; **\$65 million** to establish a comprehensive cancer center in El Paso; **\$10 million** for a new regional public safety headquarters; **\$10 million** more to repair the Wyler Aerial Tramway; **\$5 million** for improvements at Hueco Tanks; **\$10 million** more for litigation to secure our fair share of water from the Rio Grande; **\$4 million** to repair and renovate Magoffin Historic Home; **\$1 million** for intervention for at-risk youth in El Paso; **\$250 thousand** for an El Paso Law School feasibility study; **\$200 thousand** grant for border economic development efforts; **\$420 million** in total funding for UTEP and TTUHSCEP, including **\$36 million** in new funding; and continued spending authority for **\$32 million** to implement intelligent transportation systems at El Paso ports of entry. The budget also includes **\$17.6 billion** to cut property taxes.”

“This level of funding is a major victory for El Paso this session and paves the way for a healthier, wealthier, and brighter future for our community and families.”

###