



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 26, 2023

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Senator César J. Blanco Announces Major Funding Secured For Far West Texas 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 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 Far West Texas’.

“I am most proud of the local funding priorities we secured in the state budget for Far West Texas this session including **\$26 million** for Sul Ross State University; **\$36 million** for property damage repairs caused by increased border-related crimes; **\$40 million** for the Permian Basin Behavioral Health Center; **\$10 million** to plug leaking P-13 water wells in Pecos County; **\$10 million** in grants for local border security, including the humane processing of undocumented migrants; **\$10 million** for a home-delivered meal grant program for elderly and disabled Texans; **\$1 million** for Balmorhea State Park; **\$2 million** to convert a TxDOT facility to a DPS facility in Pecos County; **\$10 million** for litigation to secure our fair share of water from the Rio Grande; **\$3 million** for volunteer fire departments around the border; **\$5 million** in grants for micro-businesses; and **\$50 thousand** for longhorn management at Big Bend Ranch State Park. Other rural priorities funded in the budget, include **\$1.625 billion** for water infrastructure; **\$178 million** for rural hospitals; **\$330 million** in grants for rural county law enforcement; **\$500 million** for broadband; and, **\$45 million** for the Texas Historical Courthouse grants.

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

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