



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

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Historic Property Tax Relief and Teacher Pay Raises Passes Texas Senate

Austin, Texas – Today, on the first day of the Second Called Special Session of the 88th Texas Legislature, the Texas Senate approved Senate Bill 1 and Senate Joint Resolution 1 co-authored by Senator César J. Blanco. The bill and resolution provide \$18 billion in property tax relief and \$3.2 billion to increase salaries for public school teachers across Texas.

“El Paso and West Texas families are struggling with skyrocketing local property taxes. It’s the number one complaint I hear from working families and homeowners. That’s why I am proud to co-author and help pass SB 1 and SJR 1 to provide homeowners with the largest property tax cut in Texas history,” said Senator Blanco. “Under this bill, homeowners will see an average of \$1,200 to \$1,400 in lasting property tax relief. That’s real money back in the pockets of hard-working families and homeowners. We need to get this done!”

Senate Bill 1 will raise the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000 for homeowners. There are approximately 60,000 homes in El Paso and West Texas that could pay zero dollars in local school taxes with the new \$100,000 homestead exemption. Additionally, SB1 and SJR 1 will allocate \$12 billion to pay-down local school district taxes and provide nearly \$5 million for local school districts in Senate District 29. Moreover, this bill will double the franchise tax exemption, effectively eliminating the state’s franchise tax for over 67,000 small businesses.

Senator Blanco also joint-authored an amendment added to SJR 1 to provide a one-time supplemental payment of \$2,000 for every full-time Texas public school teacher. If a teacher teaches in a small or rural district with less than 20,000 students, they will receive a one-time supplemental payment of \$6,000 to help close the salary gap between urban and rural teachers. Senator Blanco previously co-authored legislation to provide a \$15,000 pay raise across the board for every full-time public school teacher.

Senator Blanco also added, “Teachers are the backbone of our public schools, but for years, teachers have been asked to do more with less. According to the National Education Association, Texas ranks 26th in teacher pay, paying \$7,500 below the national average. While teachers deserve far more than these modest raises, doing nothing is not an option. This bill is a step in the right direction to help address the teacher shortages in rural and underserved communities by attracting and retaining teachers with better pay.”

SB1 and SJR 1 now go to the House for approval.

For further information, please contact Taylor Sanchez at 915-276-3872 or Taylor.Sanchez@senate.texas.gov.

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Senator César J. Blanco is a US Navy Veteran and proudly represents the people of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, and Reeves counties in the Texas Senate. In the 88th Texas Legislature, Senator Blanco serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Health & Human Services; Natural Resources & Economic Development; Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs; Veteran Affairs; and Border Security. He has been named a Best Legislator by Texas Monthly Magazine.